



















# New performing arts scholarship attracts top students to RIT...

#### RIT's strategic plan calls for the university to develop the leading performing arts program in the nation for non-majors to attract the most talented and creative people.

That goal was helped this year by nearly 150 new students who received performing arts partial scholarships. Of those, 94 were for vocal or instrumental music; 22 for musical theater; 14 for dance; 10 for acting; and 8 for technical production. Students submitted video applications, which were reviewed by faculty members. Meet the seven students on the cover.

#### 1 Shubhang Mehrotra,

a computing engineering major from Bareilly, India, has been singing on stage for nearly 13 years and has been playing guitar for about five years. "Music for me is a way of connecting, not just with myself, but with all these amazing people. Whenever I am feeling anything, I pick up my guitar and strum away my feelings. I get sort of depressed on the days I can't sing or play the guitar."

#### 2 Josh Gudesblat

a percussionist from Downingtown, Pa., is studying mechanical engineering and is in the RIT Pep Band and RIT Philharmonic Orchestra. "The RIT scholarship honestly was a big factor," he said about coming to RIT. "It not only allows me to continue my music, but encourages me to do it."

#### **3** Quincy Myles Jr.,

a computing exploration major from Cheektowaga, N.Y., began playing the trumpet in sixth grade. He also enjoyed musical theater in high school. He is in the RIT Jazz Ensemble, RIT Singers, and RIT Players. "I just feel that I can't stop doing it. I just love sharing my talents and creativity with people."

4 Ndidi Chimah, a hospitality and tourism management major from Owings Mills, Md., has been acting for about 10 years and plans to audition for a play in the spring. "I like acting because it allows me to leave my life and live the life of someone else. I get to fully embody this new person. I am no longer me anymore for the time being and I love that. Acting makes me feel happy because it makes me feel calm. It makes me feel energetic. Acting fuels me."

#### **5** Nicole Tsigaras,

a photography exploration major from Allendale, N.J., has been classically trained in ballet since she was 5 years old. She wanted to continue dancing in college, but not a lot of colleges offered opportunities for her to continue ballet. RIT's wellness classes do, and she's a member of Vis Viva Dance Company. "I've been doing it so long, I consider it my fun time."

#### 6 Chenyang Lin,

a computer science major and animation major from from Pittsfield, Mass., has been playing the violin since he was 8 years old. He enjoys playing in the RIT Orchestra and RIT Chamber Orchestra. "It's a way for me to escape stress."

#### Cassie Volkin, a film

Madison, Ala., plays saxophone in the RIT Pep Band and may join the concert band and take private lessons. "I like being able to just make something without any prep work and not having to find a place to put it afterwards. It's spontaneous and you're completely in the moment."

# ...where they find opportunities, and...

From musical theater, classical orchestra, jazz, pep band, dancing, and singing, there's a wide array of performing arts opportunities for students at RIT. Students also get involved behind the scenes, with set design, sound, and lighting crews. There are 27 theater, dance, music, or other

performing arts groups on campus, including a Gospel ensemble and seven a cappella groups. RIT also has productions at its National Technical Institute for the Deaf, where performances are done in sign language and simultaneously voiced. Roughly 2,000 students participate in RIT-recognized

performance groups and activities each year, and 95 percent of them are enrolled in colleges other than liberal arts. Student performers come from all nine RIT colleges. Since 2011, 438 RIT students have graduated with a minor, immersion, or certificate in a performing arts field.

#### Stay tuned

We expect to have more announcements involving the performing arts this year.



## ...role models

- land You, the opener for the 2019-2020 College of Liberal Arts/ National Technical Institute for the Deaf joint theatrical season, was entered into the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.
- Members of the **RIT Jazz Ensemble** typically play big band music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Woody Herman as well as contemporary music from groups such as Spyro Gyra.
- Emma Foster, left, a second-year interior design student from Orrington, Maine, and Abigail Smith, a secondyear ASL-English interpretation student from Cincinnati, performed in Leaves of Poetry in February 2019.
- G The RIT Philharmonic **Orchestra** performs three concerts a year of standard orchestral repertoire from the 16th century to the present. Students also can play in a variety of chamber music ensembles.
- H AI-Pollo, a play by David Munnell, senior lecturer and theater program director for the Department of Performing Arts and Visual Culture, was a science-fiction spin on Oedipus Rex and employed augmented and mixed reality.

# RIT

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

Rochester Institute of Technology

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John Trierweiler
Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer

Bob Finnerty '07 Chief Communications Officer

**Editor** Mindy Mozer **Design Director**Jeff Arbegast '93

Photography Editor Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito '07 **Lead Photographers**Elizabeth Lamark '00
A. Sue Weisler '93

**Copy Editor** Marie Lang **Lead Researcher** Luke Auburn '09, '15

#### **Photographers**

Nora C. Babbitt Matteo Bracco Caroline Brodt Erin Gallagher Mike Guinto Eakin Howard Jennifer Leahy Eli Liang Dylan Toombs

#### **Writers**

Luke Auburn '09, '15 Scott Bureau '11, '16 Michelle Cometa '00 Susan Gawlowicz '95 Rich Kiley Greg Livadas Vienna McGrain '12 Ellen Rosen Felicia Swartzenberg '19

#### **Print Production**

Brenda Monahan

#### Office of the President

One Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5608 585-475-2396 munson@rit.edu

#### **Marketing and Communications**

22 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5608 585-475-5064 RITnews@rit.edu

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# Pursuit of the extraordinary, the novel, the unexpected

e are a university with technology in our name, and you may know us for our world-class engineering, computing, and technology programs. But there's so much more.

We're home to nationally ranked art

and design majors. We offer more courses in the humanities and social sciences than most liberal arts colleges. Our business programs encourage entrepreneurial thinking and innovation by leveraging technology. Opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at our National Technical Institute for the Deaf are unmatched by any university in the world. And we have a rich

history of unique academic combinations specifically designed to respond to an ever-evolving marketplace.

RIT, founded in the 19th century, is one of the top universities in the nation working at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design. We pride ourselves on preparing our graduates to be citizens of the world and to bring goodness at every turn. That means preparing our students not just for jobs and careers, but also for life. In the RIT context, "innovation" takes on a rich meaning. Along with creativity and originality, it is about inventing the tools, processes, and systems that will make things better than they are.

How are we accomplishing this?

Our students like to dream it and do it. They are not content with just theory and abstract ideas. A few examples: RIT's MAGIC Spell Studios focuses on education, product development, and commercialization in the areas of film and animation, electronic games, and virtual reality.

We are constructing a new Global Cybersecurity Institute that will be a premier center for cybersecurity education, research, and service to corporations and governments. The institute will contain state-of-the-art simulation

facilities to produce highly educated and experienced professionals who are positioned to solve the world's most critical cybersecurity problems—both now and in the future.

We are striving to develop the leading performing arts program in the nation for non-majors to attract the most talented and creative people. Here, we're offering performing arts partial scholarships to attract students who want to

continue their passions along with their chosen field of study.

We are also making progress on a new Innovative Maker and Learning Complex, which will be the largest single construction project on campus in 50 years. Expected to open in 2022, this facility will have a huge makerspace, active-learning classrooms, and elements of the performing arts.

RIT is a place where you can exercise your multiple talents, satisfy your thirst for learning and for doing, and experiment along the way.

We're always on to something. And we're having fun!

Sincerely,



David C. Munson, Jr., President munson@rit.edu Twitter: @RITPresident

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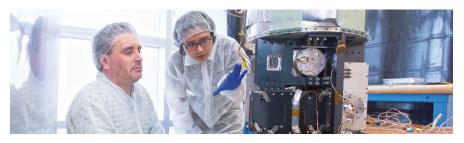
A new Global Cybersecurity Institute will increase enrollment, advance research, and create more opportunities for industry and government collaboration.















# Dreams take flight at RIT

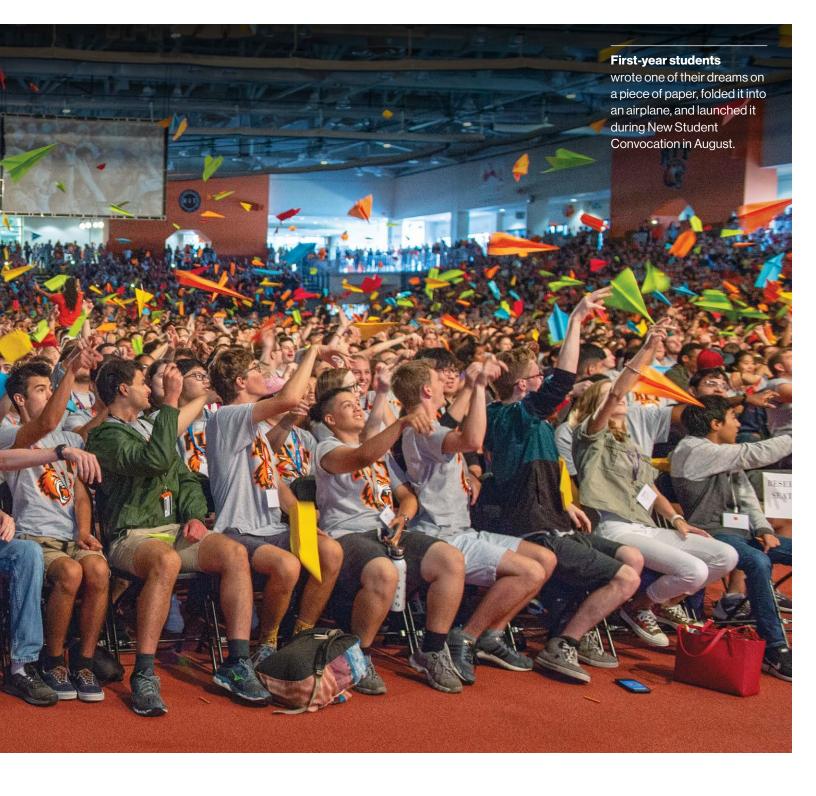
bout 4,300 first-year, transfer, and graduate students began pursuing their dreams on RIT's main campus last fall. They joined an increasingly diverse community of nearly 19,000 students enrolled in more than 200 programs of study across nine colleges and two degreegranting units.

The university's two biggest colleges are Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, with nearly 4,600 students, and Kate Gleason College of Engineering, with more than 3,600 students.

Global enrollment in RIT's international programs has contributed to much of RIT's growth in the past decade. RIT's international

campuses in Croatia, Dubai, Kosovo, and China are home to 2,438 students, more than double the count from 2010.

More than 2,000 underrepresented minority students—African American, Latin American, and Native American—are enrolled at the main campus. Students come here from all 50 states and more than 100



countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

Women make up about one-third of the main campus student population and continue to make strides in RIT's STEM programs. There are more than 2.5 times as many women studying in Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences today than there were in 2010. Kate Gleason College of Engineering has nearly doubled the number of women since 2010.

RIT continues to grow its Ph.D. programs at a rapid pace. Last fall, RIT welcomed a record 90 new Ph.D. students to the campus. The university now has 373 Ph.D. students enrolled in eight academic pro-

grams, up from 154 Ph.D. students in 2010.

Nearly 3,150 graduate students are enrolled at all campuses. RIT's largest graduate programs are its MS in computer science (419 students), MS in electrical engineering (127 students), Master of Business Administration (120 students), and MS in professional studies (112 students).

# Scholarship makes grad school possible

hen Unique Fair-Smith '19 completed his degree in illustration last spring, he was proficient in a wide variety of painting techniques—watercolor, wash, acrylic, oil, digital, and others. But the Rochester native wanted to take time to further develop his portfolio and refine his skillset before pursuing a career in the editorial or comic book industries.

"When I found out about the Davitt scholarship, I realized this would be a good opportunity for me to do exactly that in a much more critical and academic setting," said Fair-Smith.

He is now pursuing his master's degree in fine arts studio and is one of the first two recipients of the Mark and Maureen Davitt Graduate Education Endowed Scholarship. This new endowed scholarship was established with a \$500,000 gift to the university by Mark and Maureen Davitt to help graduates from the Rochester City School District pursue advanced degrees.

Fair-Smith said the MFA program is helping him to further develop his artistic voice and realize his vision of creating art focused on people of color, the LGBTQ community, and others that are underrepresented in the arts.

Meanwhile, Tymoni Correa-Buntley '17 (journalism), also a Davitt Scholar, is pursuing her master's degree in professional studies.

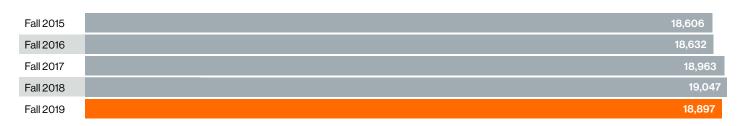
She said that she has "always felt like I could do more to support young people in communities who are impacted by gun violence and a failing criminal justice system. This scholarship gives me a chance to go further than just telling people's stories. I hope to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and provide solutions."



# Who's learning

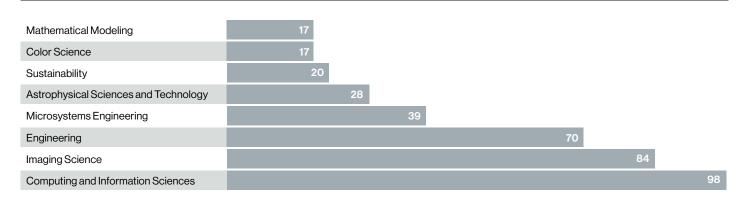
While RIT's overall enrollment has remained steady over the past five years, the university is growing its Ph.D. programs at a rapid pace. The university now has 373 Ph.D. students, up from 154 in 2010.

#### Fall 2019 enrollment from all RIT campuses



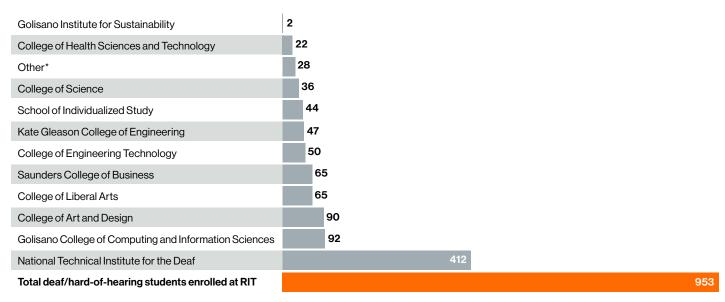
#### Fall 2019 Ph.D. enrollment

RIT's 2025 strategic plan calls for the expansion and development of new Ph.D. programs.



#### Fall 2019 deaf/hard-of-hearing enrollment by college

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf is the world's first and largest technological college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. More than 400 deaf and hard-of-hearing students are enrolled in NTID degree programs and even more are enrolled across RIT's other colleges and degree-granting units.



<sup>\*</sup>Other includes non-degree, University Exploration, and College Restoration Program.





# section section technology, the arts, and design

R IT continues to move ahead by taking stock of its academic strengths while looking for new opportunities to enhance the academic experience for its students.

Guiding those efforts is the 2025 Strategic Plan: Greatness Through Difference, which is keenly focused on student success and academic quality, including a commitment to enroll a diverse mix of multitalented students, recruiting and retaining world class faculty, and embracing alumni.

Another guiding principle is RIT's unique position as a university offering education at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design. The 2018 opening of MAGIC Spell Studios, for example, brought together multiple academic programs with project-based curriculum and faculty research into all kinds of digital media. Also, the College of Art and Design opened its City Art Space, an exhibition and event venue in downtown Rochester.

Meanwhile, substantial work is underway to bolster liberal arts and performing arts offerings at RIT, including new lecturer positions to support the performing arts and a variety of partnerships that will enhance student opportunities for experiential and classroom learning.

In the College of Health Sciences and Technology, the RIT-Accelerated

Scholars Program with Upstate Medical University is paving a path for the next generation of physicians.

It's a bridge program that guarantees qualified RIT undergraduates admission to the Upstate Doctor of Allopathic Medicine program. To date, six students have been accepted into the program.

Each RIT college has a set of experiential and engaged learning programs.

RIT's National Academy of **Engineering Grand Challenges** Scholars Program is one of the only Grand Challenges programs in the nation that systematically incorporates liberal arts instruction. A joint program between engineering and liberal arts, the program plans to expand to the College of Engineering Technology and Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Also, a joint initiative between computing and liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences programs incorporates introductory computer science directly into liberal arts studies.

About 2,600 first-year students this year also are participating in RIT365. In 115 sections of the class's first semester, students engaged in learning opportunities based on themes they ranked by preference: creativity, entrepreneurship, technology and society, well-being, innovation, and global citizenship.

## Museum partnerships enhance education

andyn Hatch, a fourthyear museum studies major from Elmira, N.Y., participated in a unique, handson experiential learning project at the Genesee Country Village & Museum.

As part of the "3D Hands" team, Hatch helped 3D-print hands for the clothing mannequins used in the museum's Wehle Gallery.

"The partnerships RIT has with local museums allow our students to not only kinesthetically apply classroom knowledge, but also construct meaning in a more personalized way," Hatch said. "These experiences lead students down potential career paths and help

them grow as individuals. It's a pretty potent combination of constructivist learning and practical work experience."

The endowed partnership with Genesee Country Village & Museum—which was established in September by a gift from RIT alumnus Philip Wehrheim '66 (business) and his wife, Anne—isn't the only way students connect with the Rochester community.

RIT students have worked with the Strong National Museum of Play, the Rochester Museum and Science Center, the Rochester Public Library, and other institutions on internships and projects.



Landyn Hatch, a fourth-year museum studies major, helped 3D-print hands for the mannequins at Genesee Country Village & Museum. The endowed partnership with the museum is one of many ways RIT students connect with the Rochester community.

## Fellowship helps students explore entrepreneurship

Before transferring into the School of Individualized Study (SOIS), Zack Evans, a third-year student, was ready to drop out of college to concentrate on expanding the network of his shipping fulfillment business. However, after talking with James Hall, dean of University Studies and executive director of SOIS, Evans found an alternative that would benefit his business and college career: The Gap Year Entrepreneurial Fellowship.

The fellowship allows SOIS students to take time off from school to focus on personal business ventures while still working toward their degrees.

"We want to bring the most talented and most creative students to the Rochester community, and to RIT, and send them the message that the passions and dreams that they have can be pursued here," said Hall. "Sometimes that means opening up space for them to drive the particular innovations that they're invested in."

The fellowship was made possible as part of a \$50 million donation made by RIT alumnus Austin McChord, founder of Datto. It began in 2018 when Brandon Hudson, a fourth-year SOIS student, took a gap year to focus on growing his HVAC systems company, Seerwise. Since then, four new students, including Evans, have been accepted.

Amanda Zaremski, a fourth-year student and CEO of WinutRx, used her gap year to learn more about health care, technology, and the intersection between the two to help improve her mobile nutrition and medication tracking tool.

Jeremiah Gryczka owns his own media production company, Mountain House Media, and used his gap year experience to create a commercial campaign









From left to right, students Zack Evans, Amanda Zaremski, Jeremiah Gryczka, and Sam Cammarata received the Gap Year Entrepreneurial Fellowship. The fellowship allows students to take time off from school to focus on personal business ventures. The fellowship was created in 2018.

to advertise the company.

Sam Cammarata, a fourthyear student and co-founder and co-owner of Aesthetician Labs, used the experience to focus on expanding the gaming company's portfolio and connecting with mobile game publishers.

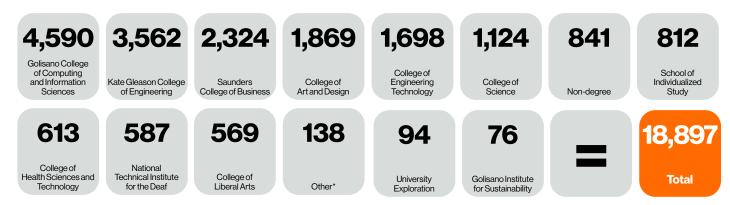
Cammarata, Gryczka, and Zaremski completed their gap year experience in August 2019. Evans will finish his gap year in May 2020.

# **Areas of study**

RIT students are enrolled in more than 200 programs of study across nine colleges and two degree-granting units.

#### Fall 2019 enrollment by college

Includes international campuses, online, and graduate students.



<sup>\*</sup>Includes students enrolled in the College Restoration Program, English Language Center, and certain study abroad programs.

#### Fall 2019 degree programs with highest enrollment at RIT's main campus

Software Engineering (BS)	551	
Electrical Engineering (BS)	564	
Mechanical Engineering (BS)	770	
Game Design and Development (BS)	772	
Computer Science (BS)		984

#### **Growing online**

The number of online offerings is growing at RIT, which means many learners can gain an RIT education from anywhere in the world. RIT has 36 credit-bearing online programs and a partnership with massive open online course provider edX, called "RITx." Each online learning experience is driven by employer demand—from cybersecurity and project management to health care finance and mechatronics engineering.



1,200,823

RIT has more than 1 million total enrollments and growing in RITx offerings on edX. (RITx offerings launched in 2016.)



585

RIT offers more than 585 online course sections for on-campus and online programs.



196

RIT has enrolled learners from more than 196 countries and regions in multiple runs of 26 RITx offerings.



19

Nineteen master's degree programs are offered fully online, including humancomputer interaction and imaging science.

# Learning by doing is a hallmark of an RIT education

he university's distinguished cooperative education program, in which students are paid while gaining real-work experience related to their field, is one type of experiential learning. But there are many other opportunities on and off campus, including membership in one of the more than 300 recognized clubs, exploring a project in a lab, performing in a musical or theatrical ensemble, or even taking a wellness class. Here are some ways RIT students learned by doing in the past year.

- Computer gaming is not only educational, it can be profitable. RIT Esports has about 160 students playing in 15 different competitive esports. The teams have won more than \$50,000 in prize money and multiple national championships. In May, RIT was among the nation's top 20 teams invited to compete at the first-ever ESPN Collegiate Esports Championship. Four RIT students won \$7,500 in tuition scholarships playing Hearthstone.
- RIT was in the driver's seat
  when it hosted its sixth Baja
  SAE Rochester World Challenge in June. The defending
  world champions placed
  10th overall among 100 collegiate race teams that took
  on a daunting motocross
  field and four challenging
  days of competition, racing
  yehicles they built.
- Three biomedical sciences students got a first-hand look at a major global health issue, applying their

- classroom learning to the real world. Professor Bolaji Thomas led a two-week trip in late spring to his native Nigeria, where the students saw how tropical diseases such as malaria are treated, and how they affect the afflicted communities and the people who care for them.
- History came alive for six recent motion picture science graduates who helped mark the golden anniversary of Woodstock with a series of videos for a museum exhibit at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.
- RIT students are learning to be the nation's next generation of defenders against cyber attacks. Our cyber defense team, perennial contenders at regional and national competitions, took home third place at the 2019 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, held April 23-25 in Orlando. The Tigers won the national competition in 2013, beating nine regional winners.





# Cooperative education

In 2019, nearly 5,000 students completed co-ops at more than 2,000 companies. Here are a few of their stories.

#### **Facebook**

Konce Quispe, from Queens, N.Y., says her dream is to "connect the world and give all people equal access to technology." Doing a co-op at Facebook, a company built with the intention of connecting people, was the perfect opportunity for her.

Last summer, the third-year computer science student worked as a software engineer intern at Facebook in Menlo Park, Calif. Her main projects involved making the website more accessible by developing and expanding options for keyboard shortcuts.

"RIT's student body is composed of many students with disabilities, which has given me insight into how differently abled people interact with technology in personal, educational, and professional settings. This contributed greatly to the decisions I made regarding the user interface for my project," said Quispe, explaining how her time at RIT helped increase her knowledge of accessible design practices.

Spending time on the Facebook campus gave Quispe a lot of experience in decision making and communicating ideas. However, her most memorable experience from her co-op didn't involve her professional work.

"Once I literally ran into Sheryl Sandberg in a micro kitchen and almost knocked her over," she said, explaining an embarrassing encounter with the chief operating officer of Facebook. "I guess even the COO of a billion-dollar company needs a snack sometimes."





#### **Tesla**

Kristina Klishko, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student from San Diego, spent her summer in Fremont, Calif., working for Tesla. Founded in 2003, the company is known for innovations in the automobile and sustainable energy industries and its promotion of electric-powered vehicles. This

technological element is what drew Klishko to apply for a co-op with the company.

"Tesla is a really good example of a company that is technically part of an older industry, but is using very modern technology. This is a great company to work for, and I would love to work there in the future," said Klishko.

During her time working as a seats quality engineering, data analysis, and dimensional engineering intern for the company, Klishko realized that she needed more than just her mechanical engineering skills. To be more successful in her position, she put her self-starter RIT Tiger attitude to work.

"I realized that working in

the mechanical engineering industry still requires a significant amount of programming knowledge. I had to teach myself SQL and Python on the job," said Klishko.
"Thankfully, I also realized that I have an affinity for programming. After I graduate, I would like to stay involved with the tech industry."



#### Google

Jarod Farchione, a fourth-year management information systems student, applied his knowledge of business to the technological sector for his co-op. Over the summer, Farchione worked as an account strategist intern at the Google campus in Mountain View, Calif.

"Eighty percent of the company are engineers, but the 20 percent that does everything else still has a very important function," said Farchione. "Everything is driven by the software, but you have to keep clients working in that ecosystem happy or they will just stop spending money on Google ads."

Farchione, from Columbia, S.C., was in charge of helping clients grow their business by optimizing their advertising efforts through Google. He was personally in charge of 120 clients.

Farchione was most proud of his work with one smallbusiness client from San Francisco. The client was ready to give up on Google ads because she wasn't seeing a return on her investment.

But Farchione helped the company set up a new campaign that increased consumer awareness.

"The client sent me an email on my last day of work and she said, 'Jarod, I've had about \$25,000 in new business that came directly from the campaign we set up.' It's really meaningful that I was able to do that when I was a 20-year-old intern."



#### Tiffany & Co.

Instead of having breakfast at Tiffany's, Kibaek Sung '19 MFA (metals and jewelry design) got to work with the chefs in the jewelry-crafting kitchen during his co-op with the world-renowned luxury jewelry company.

During his summer co-op at Tiffany & Co., Sung worked as a silversmith. While working with a specialized Tiffany hollowware silversmith team, he helped craft trophies for major U.S. sports leagues, including the MLB, NBA, NFL, and others. His most recent work assignment was to make the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy, which is awarded annually to the winners of the NBA finals.

"When I started at Tiffany's, I was very excited because I had the opportunity to work with professional people in a famous company," said Sung, who is from Seoul, South Korea. "Every day, I could feel myself grow and move forward with my craftsmanship skills, and that is the best thing about working there."

#### Honda Aircraft Co.

Whether it's planes, trains, or automobiles, Allison Fink is fascinated by how machines work. To pursue her passion, the fifth-year manufacturing engineering technology student traveled to Greensboro, N.C., to work at Honda Aircraft Co. as a manufacturing engineering and production support intern for the summer.

Fink, from Greece, N.Y., worked on four main projects at Honda, which varied from creating a training program for the laser projection system to developing new and more efficient ways of painting the flight controls.

"This co-op really helped to confirm that I enjoy working on the production floor," said Fink. "I know now that if I have the option to choose between sitting at a cubicle or having a desk on the floor, I will always choose being on the manufac-

One of her favorite parts of her co-op was attending customer deliveries. The new jet

would be placed on a turn table and employees from all departments would attend to applaud the customer as they walked in.

"I really enjoyed being present at the deliveries because it gave the associates a chance to see

the result of their hard work. The customer also gets to say a few words and it was always interesting to hear what adventures the jets will be used for," said Fink.



#### Student life



#### Teaching wellness as a way of life

RIT students have been required to take wellness courses since the 1970s as a way to keep active and healthy, with a goal of having students appreciate a healthy lifestyle that will last long after they graduate. RIT is one of a few universities that requires all undergraduates on its main campus to complete two wellness courses before they can graduate.

From archery to Zumba, more than 180 wellness options are offered to students to promote holistic wellness with most offerings targeting physical, mental, and social wellness. Courses vary from traditional indoor cycling, swimming, dance, golf, lifeguarding, yoga,

kickboxing, bowling, and yard games, to stress management and financial fitness. Music classes were added last spring, including a steel drum band.

Classes are usually held two times a week and follow the same meeting patterns as an academic class. Students receive a passing or failing grade. Attendance is taken, and specific learning outcomes are outlined for students to achieve in each course, be it an improvement of motor, cognitive, or social skills.

Eighty-five percent of students surveyed last year said they were incorporating wellness concepts into their lives.

#### Thousands of students engaged in 300 recognized clubs

There are some 300 clubs recognized by the Center for Campus Life on the RIT campus, designed to enhance student life by promoting social interaction, leadership development, and school spirit.

Categories include performing arts, art and design, civic engagement, leadership, sports and recreation, multicultural, fraternities and sororities, and special interests.

Recently formed clubs include Caring Hearts for RIT Cats, which helps feed feral cats; the reincarnation of Doves, which focuses on



About 100 collegiate race teams participated in the Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge, which was hosted by RIT Baja in June.

domestic violence issues for women and the deaf community; and a club for innovators and entrepreneurs.



Mia White is one of 650 varsity student-athletes at RIT. White was named the 2019 Liberty League Women's Soccer Player of the Year.

#### Athletes soar at RIT

RIT Athletics continues to lead on the field, court, and ice. And in the classroom.

RIT has two Division I teams—men's hockey and women's hockey—and 22 Division III teams that compete in the Liberty League.

RIT's student-athletes have an overall GPA of 3.4. About 230 athletes were selected to the Liberty League All-Academic Team.

Mia White, a fourth-year

business accounting major from Littleton, Colo., is on the All-Academic Team and one of more than 20 National Technical Institute for the Deaf-supported athletes.

White, a forward on the women's soccer team, also is a member of the U.S. Deaf Women's National Soccer Team, which will be competing in the Deaf World Cup in South Korea in September.







The RIT China campus is located in Weihai, which is in the Shandong province on China's southeast coast, and is dubbed "Garden City."

More than 100 graduates made up the first class of students to earn BS degrees in management information systems from RIT China.

First class graduates from

RIT China





Presidents of both RIT and Beijing Jiaotong University Weihai were present at the commencement ceremony.



RIT China opened in 2015 and now boasts enrollment of more than 450 students.



Students received dual degrees from RIT's Saunders College of Business and Beijing Jiaotong University Weihai.

Rit's campus in Weihai, China, held its first commencement ceremony in 2019, recognizing the initial class of students to earn BS degrees in management information systems.

Courses at RIT China are jointly offered by RIT's Saunders College of Business and the Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) School of Economics and Management, allowing students to earn a dual degree from RIT and BJTU.

Jiawei Xing, one of the 103 graduates who received his diploma at the Weihai campus on June 23, called the event "ceremonious and memorable."

He said it was an honor to be a part of the first graduating class and he was excited that the presidents of both universities could be present at the event to certify the new graduates.

RIT China opened in 2015 and now boasts enrollment of more than 450 students.

Xing and several of his classmates have continued their studies in graduate school at the main RIT campus.

He is currently pursuing his MS in computational finance

in Rochester and is excited to build on the momentum from his undergraduate studies.

"The program will take me one year to complete and I will enter the career market early to gain experience quickly," he said. "Additionally, after coming here as a global scholar during my undergraduate study, I really enjoyed the academic atmosphere here."



RIT Dubai's new campus at the Dubai Silicon Oasis will accommodate up to 4,000 students and will open in two phases. The first phase is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020 and the second phase will be done around 2025. Above is an architectural rendering.

#### **RIT Dubai**

RIT Dubai aspires to be the region's university of choice for engineering, computing, and business students.

To achieve that, RIT Dubai is building an approximately \$136 million new campus that will spread over an area of 129,000 square meters. The project will be completed over two phases: The first phase is expected to be completed in the spring of 2020 and the second phase will be done around 2025.

The campus will have defined themes that make it smart, sustainable, connected, and innovative. The campus is set to house the School of Electrical Engineering and Computing, the School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the School of Science and Liberal Arts, and the School of Business and Management. It will also feature an innovation center that is open to partners and organizations to use.

RIT Dubai was established in 2005 and has nearly 800 students. The new campus will have room for 4,000 students.

#### **RIT Croatia**

Nearly 900 students are enrolled in the RIT campuses located in Dubrovnik and Zagreb, and RIT Croatia also continues to be a leader in global experiential education for students from the Rochester campus.

Last year, 10 percent of RIT study abroad students participated in unique academic programs and immersive cultural experiences in Croatia.

RIT students can seamlessly enroll for a full academic semester at any of RIT's global campuses, and RIT Croatia offers specialized summer study-tour programs that reflect the distinctiveness of the country and surrounding region.

The summer psychology program includes a study-tour in Croatia, Austria, and Germany; communication in Dubrovnik includes a study-tour in Croatia and Greece; and ecology of the Dalmatian Coast includes a sailing study-tour of the coastal islands in the Adriatic Sea.

The Dubrovnik campus opened in 1997 and Zagreb opened in 2011.

#### **RIT Kosovo**

This year, RIT Kosovo established the Research Center for Human Rights to promote and advance interdisciplinary research in the field of human rights.

RIT Kosovo, located in the capital city of Prishtina, was founded in 2003 and now enrolls more than 400 students.

The center will provide a valuable service to the community and a means to encourage and empower vulnerable and marginalized groups to improve their position in society. It also aims to support rule of law and good governance in a democratic and multiethnic society.

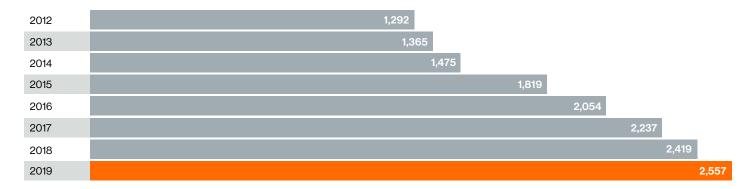
The Research Center for Human Rights will serve as an academic platform to bring together faculty, students, researchers, policy makers, and the general public to critically discuss and design public policies to ensure they conform with international human rights standards.

# **Going global**

Last year, RIT had a record number of students enrolled at its global campuses and had more students studying abroad than ever before. Several students were able to study abroad through prestigious programs including the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the German Academic Exchange Service Research Internships in Science and Engineering program (DAAD RISE), the Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad, and the Chateaubriand Fellowship program.

#### Students studying at RIT's global campuses

Enrollment at RIT's global campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai, and Kosovo has nearly doubled since the fall of the 2012-13 academic year.



#### Participation in RIT study abroad programs

RIT students can study abroad by taking classes at one of RIT's global campuses or by participating in faculty-led programs, affiliate programs from other universities, exchanges, or international research.



#### Top study abroad destinations in 2018-19

Last year, 464 students participated in study abroad programs. That is up from 304 students five years ago.



# Sponsored research

# garners \$74 million

R IT had its second best year ever in acquiring sponsored research funding and a record year for research expenditures in fiscal year 2019.

RIT received 366 new awards totaling \$74 million in funding, and expenditures grew to an estimated \$58 million. RIT now has 353 principal investigators associated with active research awards.

Among the funding sources, RIT received \$35 million from federal agencies and \$11.1 million from New York state. From federal agencies, there was \$11.5 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$8 million from the Department of Defense, \$6.1 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (most of that from the National Institutes of Health), and \$2.1 million from NASA.

The university submitted 731 research proposals, totaling \$250 million this past fiscal year.

"These results reflect RIT's success in executing a strategic plan that includes a focus on growing its reputation as a research university," said Ryne Raffaelle, RIT's vice president for research and associate provost.

"RIT is now a Carnegie R2 research university, and the increasing engagement in research among faculty across the university demonstrates our success in executing this plan."

#### Also this fiscal year:

- · Ben Zwickl, assistant professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, and Ifeoma Nwogu, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, received CA-REER Awards from NSF. The prestigious CAREER Awards are offered to support faculty who are early in their careers and exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. Zwickl's grant will be used to study how lab-based, project-based, and work-based learning environments can teach sophisticated problem-solving skills not attainable in lecture courses. And Nwogu was awarded for her proposal, "CAREER: A Computational Approach to the Study of Behavior and Social Interaction."
- Linwei Wang, a new recipient
   of the prestigious Presiden tial Early Career Award for
   Scientists and Engineers,
   was awarded \$3 million
   from NIH to research non invasive personalized health
   care for heart diseases. She
   is an associate professor of
   computing and information
   sciences.

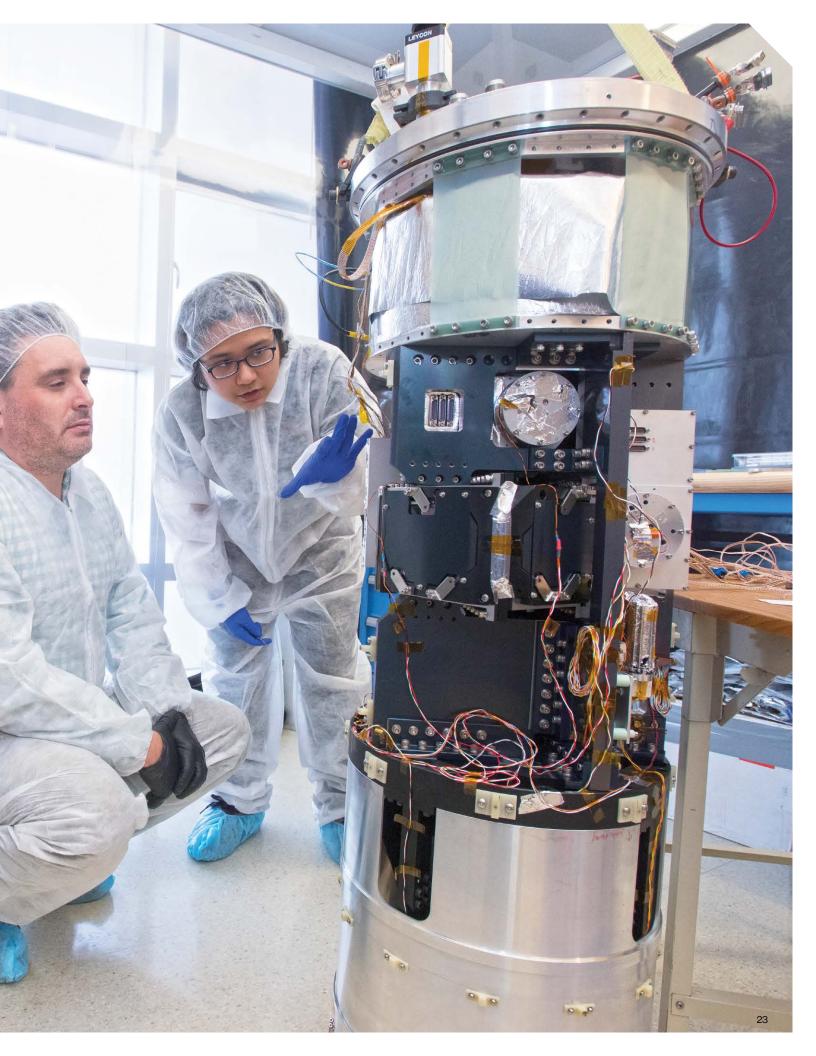
#### Michael Zemcov,

assistant professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, left, and **Chi Nguyen**, an astrophysical sciences and technology Ph.D. student from Vietnam, work on an observational cosmology project called the Cosmic Infrared Background ExpeRiment-2 (CIBER-2).

#### The CIBER-2 team,

led by Zemcov, will launch an experiment above the atmosphere in February to better understand extragalactic background light, which traces back to the formation of the first stars in the universe.





## **Linguistic diversity**

Peter Hauser has spent the past two decades studying how deaf people develop, learn, grow, and live.

Today, he is at the helm of a new project— a research-based incubator—where junior faculty at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf can work together to understand the role of cultural and linguistic diversity in deaf people's lives.

Hauser leads NTID's Research Center on Culture and Language, designed to fill a noticeable gap in deaf culture studies. The center is home to research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and NTID.

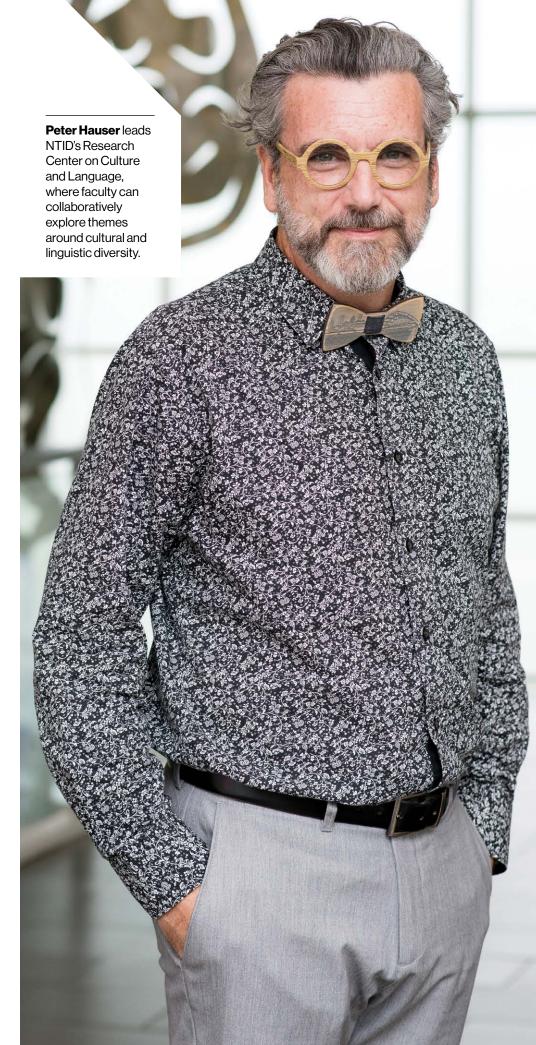
One example is a project led by Joseph Hill, assistant professor and director of the Deaf Studies Lab, one of several labs within the Research Center on Culture and Language. He is studying variations and perceptions of American Sign Language (ASL).

Hill's goal is to foster linkages between academia and the public in a way that enhances ASL and interpreting instruction, design, and evaluation based on evidence.

Researchers working in the center's Deaf Health Lab are taking a broader look at deaf individuals' health, health literacy, and how deaf and hard-of-hearing people navigate the health care system and manage their health online. Another study is examining deaf women's pregnancies and child rearing, which incorporates community-based participation in the research.

Back in the 2000s, Hauser was the firstever practicing deaf neuropsychologist to work alongside physicians in diagnosing conditions such as learning disabilities, attention disorders, dementia, and depression in deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. After years of writing grants to secure funding and conducting his own research, Hauser created NTID's Center on Cognition and Language in 2016—the only center of its kind in the world led by a deaf director and staffed primarily by deaf researchers.

"It's important to us to have the deaf community involved in the design of these research projects," Hauser said. "When the data comes in, it will be shared with an advisory board that is made up of members of the community. Our approach is 'nothing about us, without us."





#### **Food waste**

Croatia in recent years, bringing with it direct economic benefits but also challenging the preservation of the natural systems that make the Adriatic Coast region so attractive to visitors.

Callie Babbitt, an associate professor in RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS), is using a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to study sustainable solutions addressing the growing challenge of food waste management along Croatia's Adriatic Coast.

"While the region enjoys the economic benefits from tourism, new concerns have emerged about long-term resource consumption, pollution, and waste," Babbitt said.
"Food waste is a significant part of the challenge since it comprises the largest fraction—about 30 percent—of municipal waste in Croatia."

According to a 2017 report by Croatia's Ministry of Environment and Energy, approximately 400,000 tons of food waste were generated in 2015 from households, restaurants, grocers, and manufacturers. The report also noted disproportionately high per-capita waste production in coastal tourism "hot spots." Less than 6 percent of food waste—typically discarded in landfills—is recycled in Croatia.

Babbitt's research has three main goals: understanding the connection between tourism and food waste, evaluating opportunities for converting this waste stream to energy or bio-based products, and identifying potential barriers to broad adoption of sustainable solutions.

It also is leveraging the relationship between RIT's main campus in Rochester with its international campuses in Zagreb and Dubrovnik, Croatia. Babbitt's research findings are being disseminated to students, faculty, and the broader academic community and documented through public science writing as well as social media to

increase understanding.

The GIS associate professor has managed more than \$2 million in sponsored research at RIT. Her previous honors have included a National Science Foundation CAREER Award and the AT&T Technology and Environment Award.

She is one of more than 800 U.S. citizens who will teach, conduct research, and/or provide expertise abroad for the 2019-2020 academic year through the Fulbright program. Award recipients are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields.



### **Heart mapping**

inwei Wang is blurring the lines of artificial intelligence and biomedicine research so that heart surgeons can see more clearly.

The associate professor in RIT's computing and information sciences Ph.D. program is leading an international group of researchers and clinicians developing computational systems for creating individualized 3D imaging of a patient's heart. With these 3D heart models, clinicians now have a noninvasive way to study their patients, helping improve patient care for cardiac arrhythmia and other heart diseases.

"Clinicians want to see how arrhythmia affects the heart physically, which unfortunately means using a catheter as opposed to just an EKG or MRI scan," said Wang. "With our digital imaging, surgeons can spend hours studying a model of the patient's heart, better preparing them before and after the procedure—all without negatively affecting the patient."

At the center of Wang's \$3 million project, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is her research that uses artificial intelligence to discover new and better ways of understanding physics. Using the

findings, Wang is integrating that data into her models to make imaging that is more accurate than ever.

"I'm interested in the bilateral connection between physics and data—in using data to improve physics-based modeling and learning physics from data," said Wang. "Being able to apply what we learn to helping patients and addressing the challenges that clinicians face is motivating for me."

In 2019, Wang's work brought her to Washington, D.C., to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology.

As director of RIT's Computational Biomedicine Laboratory, Wang said that multidisciplinary collaboration is a signature part of her research and how she trains the nine Ph.D. students working in her lab.

Collaborating with experts in patientspecific cardiac modeling and highperformance computing, Wang and her team have been developing novel uncertainty quantification techniques that—leveraging advances in active machine learning—enable the propagation of uncertainty from the data used to model elements and develop future predictions.

Wang said this will help address the variability in personalized virtual organ models and help remove the major roadblock to widespread adoption of these models in decision support.

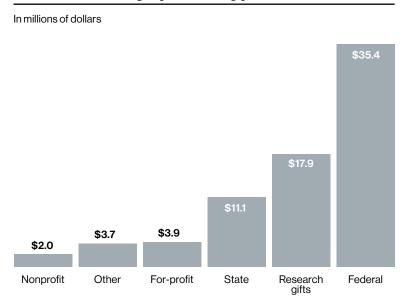
The team is also collaborating with clinicians to integrate physics knowledge into the development of machine learning methods, including learning to disentangle physiological factors of inter-subject variations from clinical data. Using this method, the team will develop a computer tool that can provide real-time automatic guidance during the ablation procedure.

"Dr. Wang is a pleasure to work with—we are collaborating to find new ways to understand and image the short circuits in the heart which can cause dangerous heart rhythms," said Dr. John Sapp, professor of medicine at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada. "If we can identify where the short circuits are, we may be able to find ways to fix them."

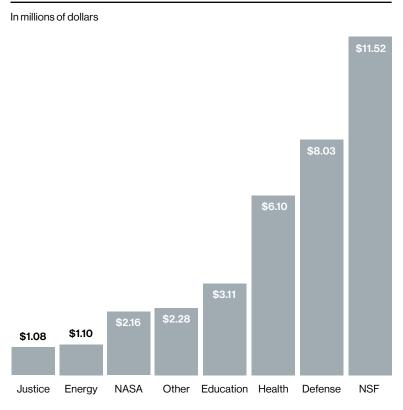
# Research portfolio

RIT is now listed as a "high research activity institution" or "R2" under the updated Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning. RIT's sponsored research portfolio awarded in fiscal year 2019 is \$74 million.

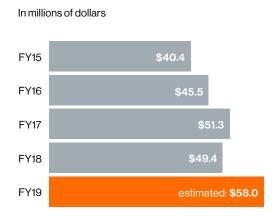
#### FY19 awards by sponsor type



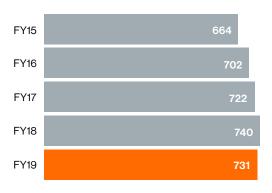
#### FY19 federal awards by agency



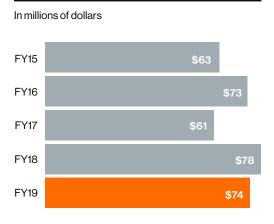
#### **Research expenditures**



#### **Research proposals**



#### Sponsored research awards



# Building the future of

here's an overwhelming shortage of trained computing security professionals around the world. RIT is working to change that.

By establishing a new Global Cybersecurity Institute (GCI), the university will increase enrollment in cybersecurity, advance research, and create more opportunities for industry and government collaboration. The institute will be housed in a state-of-the-art facility on campus, expected to open this fall.

"We're bringing together academia, federal agencies, and industry to help tackle the world's most pressing cybersecurity questions and problems," said Steve Hoover, former CTO of Xerox and CEO of PARC, who was named the Katherine Johnson Executive Director of GCI.

The three-story, 45,000-square-foot facility will include a Cybersecurity Learning Experience Center, five research labs, student lounges, instructional labs, faculty offices, and a Cyber Range—a lab where network cyber-attacks can be simulated.

In the institute, experts will offer certification programs for professionals looking to sharpen their cybersecurity skills or make career changes. Cybersecurity researchers will take interdisciplinary approaches to study in the core areas of health care, energy, defense, and financial services.

With GCI, the university's nationally recognized computing security degree programs will also have space to expand. RIT plans to grow the undergraduate program by 25 percent, while the graduate program will double.

The facility is being made possible in part with designated funding from a donation made by RIT alumnus Austin McChord and a \$5 million grant from New York state, awarded competitively through its Higher Education Capital Matching Grant Program.





Construction of the new facility began over the summer.



The building connects to Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.







Throughout the winter and spring, computing infrastructure will be added.



The completed building, shown here in a rendering, is expected to open this fall.

### New makerspace will bring creativity to campus center



The Innovative Maker and Learning Complex will be built here, connecting the Student Alumni Union with Wallace Library. The building, estimated to open in 2022, will be a hub for innovation.

A n ambitious initiative along the Quarter Mile will transform RIT into a maker's paradise, where the arts and technology converge and ideas percolate freely.

The Innovative Maker and Learning Complex, an unofficial name for now, will have a footprint of more than 100,000 square feet.

The facility will occupy the grassy slope overlooking the south side of campus.

It will connect the Student Alumni Union with the Wallace Library and create a new nexus point on campus.

"We realized many years ago that if we want a 24/7, lively, urbanistic-feeling community, it's up to us to build it," said James Yarrington, RIT university architect and director of planning and design services.

Envisioned by RIT President David Munson as the new epicenter on campus, the complex will reverberate daily with the hum of the Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival.

The details are still in flux, but an emphasis on visible workspaces will showcase creative projects and collaborations currently hidden behind brick walls.

Transparent spaces will highlight student project teams and demonstration studios for the arts. Also to be included are a black-box theater and large flexible classrooms for group activities.

In addition, the project will include redesign of parts of the library and limited renovations to the student union.

Construction costs will exceed \$100 million, making it the largest undertaking since building the Henrietta campus, which opened in 1968.

The facility will be funded, in part, by \$17.5 million from RIT trustee and alumnus Austin McChord, part of his record \$50 million gift to RIT in 2017.

Boston-based architect William Rawn Associates will design the project, and Rochester firm HBT Architects will handle construction details and specifications.

The grand opening is estimated for fall 2022.

## Gift will help fund business expansion

Max Lowenthal Hall, home of Saunders College of Business, thanks to a recent gift from the college's namesake.

On Oct. 29, E. Philip Saunders, president and CEO of Saunders Management Co. and a longtime supporter of RIT, announced a \$7.5 million gift to the business college. The latest gift brings his total giving to the university to more than \$25 million.

The gift will help add space to the college for innovative research in business disciplines, multidisciplinary student and faculty work, and experiential learning projects. The expansion will include learning laboratories, collaborative student spaces, and room for hospitality and service innovation degree programs.

Plans are also underway to construct event spaces that will accommodate

business conferences and speakers.

In July, majors in hospitality and tourism management and graduate majors in hospitality and tourism management, service leadership and innovation, and human resource development, as well as advanced certificates in organizational learning and service leadership and innovation, transitioned into Saunders College from the College of Engineering Technology. As a result of the transition, the programs contributed to a 10 percent growth in enrollment for Saunders College.

"Phil Saunders helped initiate this unprecedented period of progress when he placed his trust in us by attaching his name to our business college in 2006," said Saunders College Dean Jacqueline Mozrall. "Our reputation continues to grow along with the quality of our programs, students, faculty, and staff."



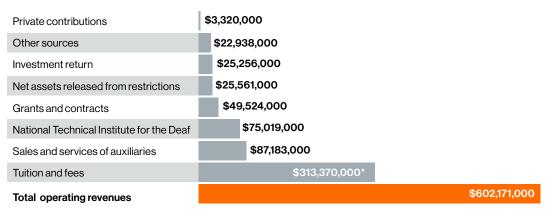
E. Philip Saunders announced a \$7.5 million gift to Saunders College of Business, bringing his total giving to RIT to more than \$25 million.

# Financially sound and growing

RIT's future success depends upon strong financial results and a growing endowment.

#### **Operating revenues**

Fiscal year 2019



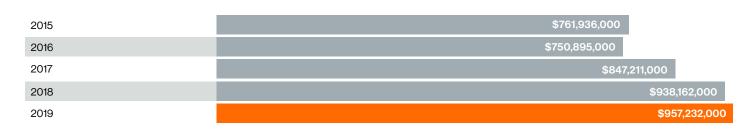
<sup>\*\$533,295,000</sup> less \$219,925,000 in financial aid and scholarships.

#### **Operating expenses**

Fiscal year 2019

Public service	\$18,813,000	
Research	\$47,471,000	
Institutional support	\$49,276,000	
Student services	\$50,688,000	
Academic support	\$62,005,000	
Auxiliary enterprises	\$87,513,000	
Instruction	\$267,025,000	
Total operating expenses		

#### Total endowment by fiscal year (as of June 30 each year)

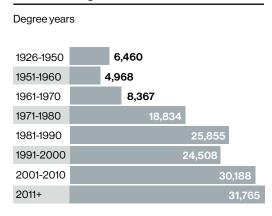


\$582,791,000

# **Alumni**

RIT has more than 135,000 living alumni, and they are active in chapters across the U.S. and around the globe.

#### **Alumni by decade**



#### Where alumni live globally

Top 20 locations

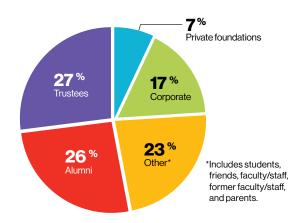
Germany	58
United Kingdom	59
Republic of Montenegro	68
Kazakhstan	74
Turkey	90
Korea, Republic of	90
Saudi Arabia	95
Thailand	108
Japan	111
Bosnia and Herzegovina	123
Malaysia	135
Taiwan, Province of China	148
Czech Republic	178
China	222
United Arab Emirates	259
Dominican Republic	366
Canada	386
India	652
Kosovo	1,104
Croatia	1,670

#### Alumni population by chapter

Cincinnati/Dayton	597
Houston	631
Utica/Rome	830
Detroit	839
Cleveland/Akron	884
Pittsburgh	923
Dallas/Ft. Worth	959
Austin/San Antonio	1,035
Charlotte	1,073
Phoenix	1,198
San Diego	1,339
Atlanta	1,352
Raleigh/Durham	1,384
Seattle	1,435
Colorado	1,483
Los Angeles	1,562
South Florida	1,611
Chicago	1,636
Albany	2,534
Bay Area	2,606
Philadelphia	2,950
Central Florida	3,275
Syracuse	3,329
Buffalo	3,633
Boston	5,398
Washington, D.C.	5,666
New York City	8,846
Rochester	38,470

#### **Giving by source**

Total philanthropic giving in fiscal year 2019: \$34,622,206



# **Transforming RIT**

ransforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness has raised a total of \$673 million, two-thirds of the \$1 billion campaign goal.

The unique campaign, which was publicly launched in July 2018, uses a blended approach. The campaign seeks support from a variety of investors, including alumni and friends, government and corporate partners, and research foundations and agencies.

Jeff Benck '88 (mechanical engineering) is one of many people who have helped support this campaign.

Benck has given back in many ways, including starting the Raleigh, N.C., alumni chapter, serving on various advisory boards for Kate Gleason College of Engineering, and serving as a member of the President's Roundtable.

"I've always supported things that I was passionate about. I try to direct my giving where I have a connection," he said. "I also support institutions where I spent time and energy so that people who follow after me can have a better experience."

For the past three years, Benck has also given financial support to students from

Kate Gleason College of Engineering working on their multidisciplinary senior design projects. Additionally, he helped fund renovations for the men's locker rooms on campus, as he was part of the basketball team when he was a student.

The blended campaign impacts every area of the university. The four pillars are: attracting exceptional talent, enhancing the student experience, improving the world through research and discovery, and leading future special initiatives.

Here are two ways that campaign gifts have impacted students:



#### **Attracting exceptional talent**

Without the help of scholarships, Roxette Burgos, a third-year electrical engineering major from Buffalo, N.Y., may not have been able to finish her degree.

"There was a semester where my mother had to work overtime for weeks because I couldn't pay off the balance on my account. I didn't know whether or not I would be able to come back," she said.

"This is why I appreciate everything the donors have done for all the students. Because of (donors), I'll be the first in my family to graduate from college."

#### **Enhancing the student experience**



Looking to gain more experience, Caroline Brodt, a second-year advertising photography student, traveled from her hometown of Centerville, Mass., to Cuba.

As part of a Photography in Cuba intensive workshop run by faculty in the College of Art and Design photography program, Brodt traveled to Old Havana, Playa Larga, and Trinidad to learn more about Cuban culture through photography.





A scholarship helped her afford the workshop experience.

"My favorite memory from the trip was interacting with the locals and capturing their colorful lifestyle. The energy that pours out into the streets amongst family and friends reveals the celebration of life that is highly valued there," said Brodt. "This photography trip changed my life."



Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Rochester, N.Y. Permit 626

# Creativity on display



#### **A Free Festival For Everyone**

## Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival

is the university's signature event, a showcase that annually attracts 30,000 visitors to campus.

#### When

Saturday, April 25 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

#### What you'll see

Nearly 400 interactive presentations, exhibits, research projects, hands-on demonstrations, and live performances displaying the ingenuity of students, faculty, and staff.

#### **Learn more**

www.rit.edu/imagine

What will we think of next?

