

RIT



University Magazine

Spring 2022

Protectors of a diverse history

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Solving the global
chip shortage

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RIT University Magazine

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Embracing the future



RIT Dubai President Yousef Al Assaf, left, and RIT President David Munson, right, showcase the new RIT Dubai campus to Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai.

Fellow RIT Tigers: Our university has so much to celebrate!

An abbreviated list includes:

- High demand for RIT undergraduate programs with a record number of applications for our upcoming fall class. We are seeing a higher-quality pool of applicants (based on GPAs, rank in class, leadership traits, etc.), as well as stronger interest from women and underrepresented populations as we head into the fall. This follows two straight years of record enrollments as we top more than 19,700 undergraduate and graduate students, including our overseas campuses.

- Expansion of our Ph.D. portfolio. Today, RIT enrolls about 300 Ph.D. students in 11 Ph.D. programs. Doctoral programs in business administration and cognitive science are under review and a Ph.D. in physics is next in line.

- Forging ahead with the largest construction projects in our history, outside the move to the Henrietta campus in 1968. This includes: athletic facility improvements (the first phase for baseball, softball, and track and field debuted this spring); the Student Hall for Exploration and Development (the SHED will open in fall 2023); a near-doubling of the footprint for Saunders College of Business (opens fall 2023); a performing arts complex (debuts in 2024); and ongoing updates for the College of Art and Design.

- A stunning new campus for RIT Dubai, as well as the celebration of a 25th anniversary for RIT Croatia at its locations in the cities of Dubrovnik and Zagreb.

This truly is an extraordinary time for RIT with our amazing community of creators and innovators. And the outside world is noticing. A recent report by

Moody's Investors Service gave RIT high marks for its strategic positioning in the competitive higher education landscape and noted the COVID-19 pandemic "has had very limited impact on RIT's fiscal operations."

Yet our work to build a great student-centered research university perpetually continues. We strive for the following:

- Distinctiveness: This includes novel degree programs and co-curricular experiences, particularly at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design.

- Goodness: Economic mobility for all of our students and a large portfolio of cutting-edge research projects that matter to everyday people, across the globe.

- Excellence: We seek to advance the exceptional in everything we do from education to athletic competitions to the performing arts to cybersecurity competitions.

RIT has created an ecosystem that embraces and designs the future. I am reminded of this each year when I see the exhibits created by our students and faculty for the Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival. This year's displays were again exceptional. RIT Tigers are shaping the future through ideas that inspire, inform, and improve lives.

You have my deepest appreciation and gratitude for all that we are accomplishing as a university family.

Proudly yours,

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

38 Powering the Future

RIT is educating engineers to help solve the global chip shortage.

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Cover photo

Leah Green '20 (museum studies) is pursuing community-focused work that highlights Black history.

Cover photo by Scott Hamilton

On Campus

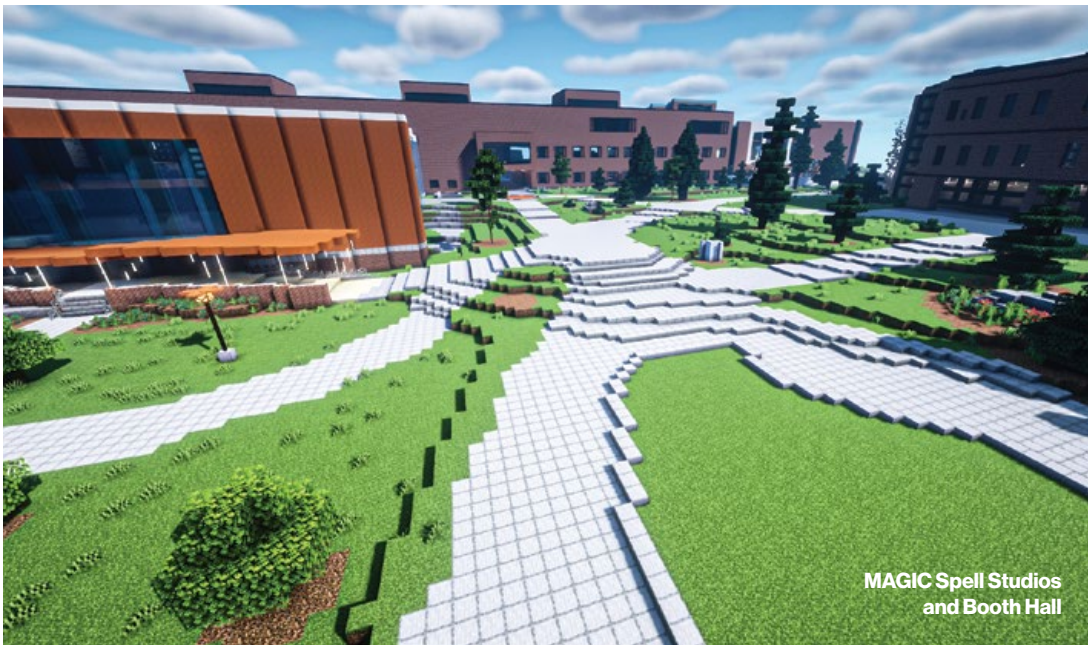
Recreating campus

Volunteers have been coming together to build a digital version of RIT's campus in *Minecraft*, the best-selling video game of all time. Students use math and creativity to make *Minecraft* RIT as exact as possible.





Global Village



MAGIC Spell Studios
and Booth Hall



Clark Gymnasium

Welcome to *Minecraft* campus

Brick by brick—that's how members of RIT's Electronic Gaming Society have built a digital version of the RIT campus in the video game *Minecraft*.

When the coronavirus pandemic moved things online, students turned to *Minecraft* as a way to stay connected with their universities. At RIT, the student-run casual game club has brought together more than 700 people to digitally rebuild *The Sentinel* sculpture, tunnels, and the rest of RIT at an exact 2:1 scale—both inside and out.

As the real-life university continues to grow each semester, *Minecraft* builders assemble every week to make digital updates and add new buildings.

The *Minecraft* campus has even hosted an RIT commencement and a Humans vs. Zombies event.

Right now, anyone can explore the digital campus on their own by joining the *Minecraft* server using the IP mc.server-egsrit.com. In the future, they hope to have tour guides who can guide people through the digital campus.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA



- ▲ At 443 feet tall with 30 floors, Innovation Square, formerly Xerox Tower, is the tallest building in Rochester.
- ▶ Emma Foster, a fourth-year interior design major, was one of the first RIT students to move in to Innovation Square last August.

Photos by A. Sue Weisler

Innovation Square introduces students to downtown living

Some communities are known as college towns, but developers are hoping downtown Rochester becomes a college city, as they offer high-rise housing for students from several area colleges, including RIT.

At 443 feet tall with 30 floors, Innovation Square, formerly Xerox Tower at 100 S. Clinton Ave., is the tallest building in Rochester.

Evan Gallina, manager for Gallina Development Corporation, which purchased the building in September 2020, wants college students eager for an urban lifestyle to occupy a good portion of the building, allowing them to meet others their age and live close to where they may find employment.

Innovation Square currently has five floors of housing, each with a dozen two- and three-bedroom apartments.

They plan to have 15 floors of student housing ready for the start of the 2022 fall semester.

"We're hoping to have 450 students here by then. That's our aim," Gallina said.

"We're targeting upperclassmen and graduate students."

All of the apartments are fully furnished, which make them an attractive option for students wanting to live off campus, especially for international students.

Although similar projects have been done in other cities by a single, large university offering urban housing, Gallina said this project is unique in that it will engage students primarily from six area colleges: RIT, University of Rochester, St. John Fisher, Nazareth, SUNY Brockport, and SUNY Geneseo.

Amenities include 24-hour security, a café, 24-hour fitness center, a 24-hour lounge with pool tables, shuffleboard, and large-screen televisions. And there are plans for a gaming lounge on the 22nd floor.

Emma Foster was one of the first RIT students to move in to Innovation Square at the end of August. It is the first off-campus apartment the fourth-year interior design major from Amherst, Maine, has had.

"It's quite the treat," Foster said. "I honestly didn't even come to downtown before now. You can live anywhere off campus you want, but this is only for students. If I didn't live here, I wouldn't have made any friends from other colleges."

Gallina believes getting younger people engaged in downtown activities will help the city's urban revival, as well as encourage more of them to stay in the region after they graduate.

Robert Duffy '93 (applied arts and sciences), president and CEO of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, said there have been discussions about colleges bringing students downtown for years, but this is the first manifestation of that.

"I think students will be fighting to get rooms there at some point. I guarantee you, in two or three years, they will be turning students away," he said. "It will be at capacity."

Greg Livadas



Faheem Masood, president and CEO of ESL Federal Credit Union, joined RIT leadership on March 8 to announce a naming rights partnership for the ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute.

A. Sue Weisler

New name for **cyber institute**

RIT's world-class home for cybersecurity has a new name. In March, ESL Federal Credit Union and RIT announced an exclusive naming rights partnership for the ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute (ESL GCI).

ESL made a \$3 million commitment to help the university in addressing the importance of cybersecurity as a discipline and profession, and how it affects people around the world. The donation is part of a continuing \$1 billion blended fundraising campaign, titled Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness.

The institute was formed in 2020, with the goal of making RIT one of the best places in the world for cybersecurity education, training, and research.

RIT experts are developing future technologies, protocols, and human understanding needed to address the global cybersecurity crisis, while also helping meet the demand for computing security and artificial intelligence professionals.

"As Greater Rochester becomes a hub

for careers in these sectors, ESL believes in supporting the institutions and programs that are educating and creating the next generation of professionals and leaders," said Faheem Masood, president and CEO of ESL.

In 2020, ESL GCI opened the doors to its brand new 52,000-square-foot building, adjoining the university's computing college. In addition to state-of-the-art computer labs, teaching spaces, and a conference center, the institute is home to the Cyber Range and Training Center—a virtual and physical lab that allows people to simulate network cyberattacks and

problem-solving scenarios.

"We are excited to partner with ESL and very appreciative of their support," said Ersin Uzun, Katherine Johnson Endowed Executive Director of ESL GCI.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA



Boris Sapozhnikov

RIT's ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute opened a state-of-the-art facility on campus in 2020, equipped with computer labs, research spaces, and a training center.

What's new

Hockey scholarships

RIT can offer scholarships to its Division I men's and women's hockey student-athletes. The proposal was passed at the NCAA convention in January.

Multi-divisional intercollegiate athletic programs like RIT, which sponsors 22 Division III teams along with two Division I hockey teams, were previously not allowed to apply all Division I legislation to its Division I teams, including the ability to award athletic grant-in-aid to its players based on a 2004 bylaw.

However, with the vote overwhelmingly passing by a 388-18-39 margin, the Tigers are now on the same footing as the rest of its peers with 18 scholarships available to each hockey team.

"This legislation will have a profound effect on the lives of our student-athletes and what our teams can accomplish," said Executive Director of Athletics Jacqueline Nicholson.

Media center

Entrepreneur and New York Business Hall of Fame leader James Hammer donated \$1 million to RIT to create the Hammer Family Packaging and Graphic Media Center at the university.

The gift will fund a comprehensive, dedicated space for advancing research and learning in emerging packaging and print applications.

Award winner

Chemical Engineering Assistant Professor Poornima Padmanabhan received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award.

The five-year, \$478,476 award was given to discover how chiral structures—or mirror-image, entangled molecules—function, a process essential to understanding how different cell types are formulated in biochemical development.

The concepts can provide information about how synthetic materials can be further developed for use in the pharmaceutical industry, in agriculture or food analysis, and in the development of novel materials to enhance sensing and imaging applications.

Ready for delivery

From left, Ted Van Horne '99, Associate Professor Mary Golden, and Alexa Boyd '18 show off the vehicle that was five years in the making.

Christian Perry



The transport ambulance is designed to travel both the roads and the mountainous terrain of Honduras.

Boris Sapozhnikov

Project delivers on enhancing neonatal

Five years in the making, RIT's Hope for Honduras initiative—working collaboratively with a team of partners, sponsors, and contributors—has delivered on its promise to help improve access to quality medical care for some of the most vulnerable in Honduras.

The transport ambulance equipped with lifesaving medical equipment is designed to travel both the roads and terrain of the country. The vehicle will be donated to Cruz Roja Hondureña by RIT.

In partnership with Hospital Escuela,

Honduras' largest public hospital, it will serve the community in the capital city of Tegucigalpa and the surrounding region.

"It has truly been my honor to work collaboratively with so many talented and selfless individuals to address a humanitarian issue as important as reducing infant mortality," said Mary Golden, associate professor, interior design program chair in the School of Design, and director of Hope for Honduras.

Golden helped identify the challenges of caregiving for premature and critically

ill newborns in Honduras during a trip to the country with Little Angels of Honduras founder Christian Perry and Hospital Escuela NICU Chief Dr. Alejandro Young.

RIT faculty and a contingent of 2017-2018 capstone students from interior design, industrial design, and electrical, mechanical, and biomedical engineering programs worked collaboratively on the conceptual designs for the ambulance.

The group also worked with Ted Van Horne '99 (applied arts and sciences), chief operating officer at Global Medical



What's inside
The renovated rear compartment includes life-saving medical equipment and supplies with carriers for two critically ill newborns and two medical providers.



Watch a video about the project
<https://bit.ly/HopeForHonduras>

care in Honduras

Response, and his team at NextFleet in Mineral Wells, Texas.

"It was amazing to see the students so passionate," Van Horne said. "I just found such a desire to help and work more with RIT as a proud alumnus."

In addition to sponsor GMR, Honduran partners included Cruz Roja Hondureña and Hospital Escuela. The Van Horne Family Foundation's donations, along with contributors ACETECH, Innovative Vehicle Solutions, Herman Miller, Ferno, Intervol, Mermaid Manufacturing, and several pri-

vate donors made the project possible.

Alexa Boyd '18 (interior design) was among the senior capstone students who first began working on the project.

"I wanted to believe that design had a greater purpose," Boyd said. "This has been an extremely emotional and rewarding experience in every possible way."

Golden said she'll work with Cruz Roja Hondureña, Hospital Escuela, and GMR during the first year of the vehicle's deployment to create a longitudinal study that will validate the ambulance's efficacy and proof

of concept. The goal is to collect data to inform future iterations of the vehicle.

"Igniting the design process at RIT created a unique research opportunity that engaged multidisciplinary students in a real-world project with real-world implications," Golden said. "The completion of the vehicle embodies the best of design for good and reinforces the possibilities for change when we cross disciplines, boundaries, and cultures."

Rich Kiley

About Students

1



HAIR

Hair, the iconic 1968 Broadway musical, exploded as a symbol of generational defiance. Among today's generation, hair is a vehicle for self-expression and independence. Spotted across campus are vivid colors, selectively bleached strands, oversized afros, complicated braids, and carefully sculpted mohawks, mullets, and etched designs.

1. Joy Anderson, a fourth-year film and animation major from Washington, D.C., made this braided wig inspired by African-American beauty culture that celebrates hair, braids, and style changes. **2. Quinn Kolt**, a fifth-year applied mathematics and computer science double major from Solon, Ohio, does a color change every year. **3. Noah Flanders**, a second-year game design and development major from Saratoga Springs, N.Y., sports a bleached blonde afro. **4. Emily Luna**, a first-year graphic design student from Rochester, has a cousin who is a hairdresser and did her hair.

5. Zyan Kerr, a second-year mechanical engineering technology student from Brooklyn, N.Y., adorns her hair with dozens of wooden beads.

6. Daniel Amburgey, a first-year chemistry student from Cincinnati, started getting creative with his hair in fifth grade when his school hosted a Crazy Hair Day. **7. Ren Staggs**, a first-year engineering student from Oklahoma City, mixes her own colors and dyes her own hair once or twice a month. She started the rat tail a couple years ago and is watching how long it can get. **8. Alexander Sygowski**, a first-year electrical engineering student from Newark, Del., hasn't had his natural color since eighth grade. He likes to match his hair and outfits for special events. **9. It took Marie-Anne "Macha" Conde**, a second-year illustration student from Haiti, six hours to create this look. **10. Trinity Jenkins**, a second-year chemistry student from Maryland, trained in classical ballet since she was 2 and natural hair was the rule. She decided that college was the right time to dye her hair and incorporate braids. **11. As a form of self-expression, Lindsay Dobson**, a third-year fine art photography student from Chicago, started dyeing and bleaching her own hair with every imaginable color. **12. Bryce Wyckoff**, a first-year statistics major from Perrysburg, Ohio, changes his hair color every three months for fun.

A. Sue Weisler

3



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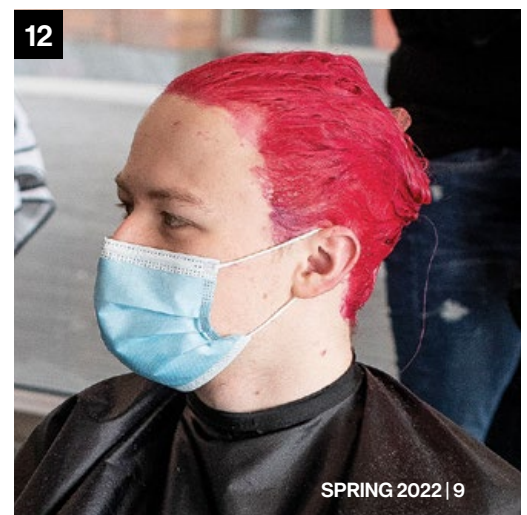
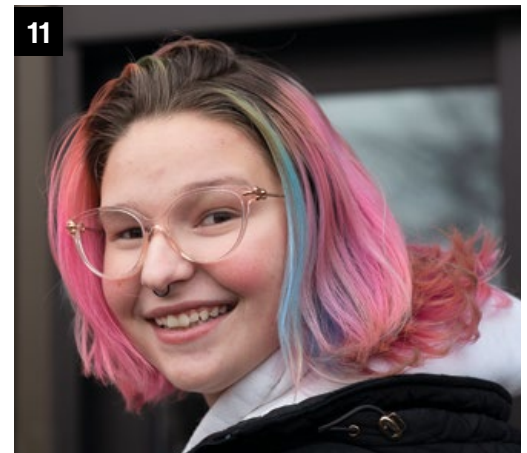


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2







On a mission

An RIT student dresses as Batman to raise awareness of the homeless population. He keeps his identity a secret so the focus isn't on him.

HERO FOR THE HOMELESS

An industrial design student from California who dresses as Batman is continuing his good deeds in downtown Rochester.

The student, who prefers to remain anonymous so the attention is focused more on the issue of homelessness, began his work in 2018 while a high school student. Known as the Batman of San Jose, he would pass out water, food, clothes, and feminine hygiene products to the homeless there.

He's been featured in many media stories, was mentioned on *Good Morning America*, and was guest speaker at a Rotary meeting in Oregon.

He continues his outreach efforts in downtown Rochester, buying his supplies from Walmart from donations he's

received from some of his more than 5,000 Instagram followers.

And he has used some of his time at RIT to make a mask with a 3D printer to go with the body armor he wears on his field trips.

"It's a great communication tool. People will shout, 'Hey Batman,' and 'Where's the Batmobile?'"

But homelessness is such a big problem, not a single person can combat it. That's why he hopes other people will be inspired to help the homeless in their communities.

"I know I'm not going to solve every issue, but I'm showing that other people can do something too," he said. "All you have to have is the will to act."

Greg Livadas



The student, who is from San Jose, Calif., hands out food, water, clothing, and other needs to Rochester's homeless.

Elizabeth Lamark

Ben Thompson

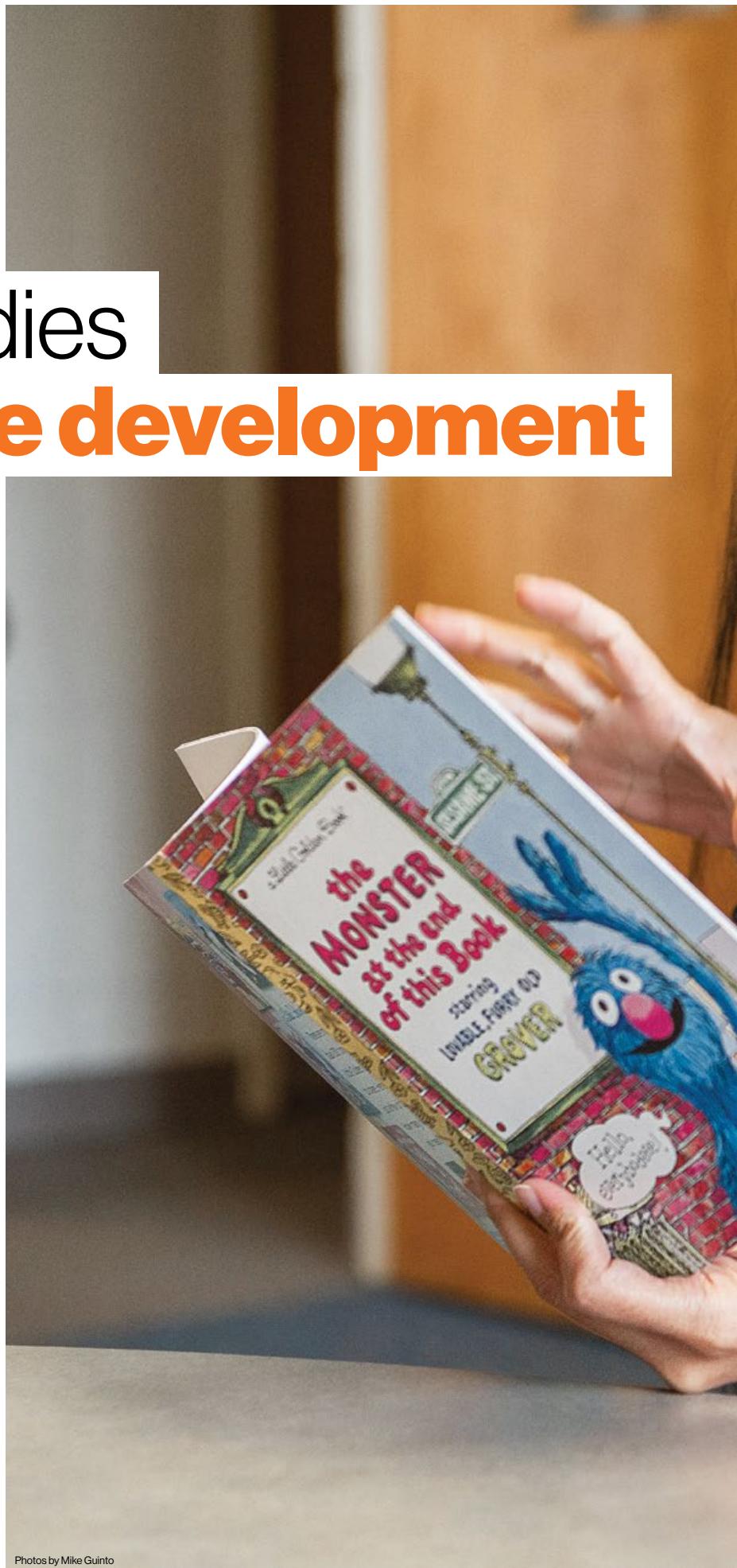
New lab studies **cognitive development** in children



Rain Bosworth, an assistant professor and experimental psychologist at NTID, leads research at the PLAY Lab, which focuses on how deafness and sign language impact cognition in deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing children ages 5 months to 5 years old.

Rain Bosworth, who was diagnosed as deaf as a child, grew up surrounded by a loving hearing family. Her lifelong experience in this environment has become the driving force behind her research into how deaf youth acquire language and communicate even when they are unable to hear the spoken language around them.

Bosworth, an assistant professor and experimental psychologist at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, has created a new research lab that will help scientists learn more about cognition, language, and perception in infants and young children.



Photos by Mike Guinto



NTID PLAY Lab

A new research lab aims to improve the way deaf and hard-of-hearing children are taught.

Master's student **Adrita Arefin**, pictured with her daughter, is working on an eye tracking study of babies.





Photos by Mike Guirto

Bosworth and her team will gather behavioral measurements through offering children enjoyable tasks such as toy assembly, game play, fine motor skill testing, American Sign Language story watching, and word knowledge.



Bosworth is an expert in eye tracking, which allows for the study of children's visual attention through measurement of eye movements and duration of eye gaze. Measuring what objects or images on a screen capture a child's attention can tell researchers about what the child is thinking.

NTID's PLAY (Perception, Language, and Attention in Youth) Lab, which officially opened on the campus of Rochester School for the Deaf in January 2022, is providing parents and educators with valuable information about how deafness and sign language impact cognition. The goal is to improve the way deaf and hard-of-hearing children are taught.

Bosworth, who leads the research at the PLAY Lab, focuses mainly on deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing children ages 5 months to 5 years old. She and her team will gather behavioral measurements through offering the children enjoyable tasks such as toy assembly, game play, fine motor skill testing, American Sign Language (ASL) story watching, and word knowledge. Bosworth is also an expert in eye tracking, which she says allows researchers to study a child's visual attention through measurement of eye movements and duration of eye gaze.

"All of these methods together may help us determine what deaf and hard-of-hearing children know and understand," Bosworth said. "If they don't know or understand something, they may not look directly at it for very long. Measuring what objects or images on a screen capture their attention tells us about what the child is thinking."

Bosworth has always loved the field of visual cognition, a branch of experimental psychology. Her early work studied deaf adults who were fluent in ASL and who had never used assistive devices such as hearing aids. Bosworth was curious if these adults had enhanced vision because of their reliance on vision and not sound.

"I learned that the brain will compensate and develop particular strengths that work best in an individual's environment," she said. "These don't always manifest as 'enhanced' vision, but rather 'different' visual abilities."

She now aims to study deaf babies where she strives to understand how deafness and sign language impact visual cognition during development.

"All babies are born with visual strengths that help them automatically attend to the important language cues in their environment," she said. "Babies also have an innate desire to develop relationships with other people. Language comes from that."

As to the partnership between RIT/NTID and Rochester School for the Deaf, Bosworth said that she is hoping to give back to the school and the larger community by finding ways to assist teachers and parents. She is also providing training opportunities to research assistants and post-doctoral students.

"The PLAY Lab is an amazing place and space where we can not only engage teachers and students who are eager to learn, but also parents, who have been fascinated by the research thus far," she said.

Vienna McGrain '12 MS

72 paths to a well-rounded student

Benson Haley
Major: Computer science
Immersion: Theater arts

...is an
actor

badminton enthusiast

bookworm

clarinetist

Tae Kwon Do aficionado

dreamer

French speaker

gymnast

white hat hacker

martial artist

musician

night owl

optimist

pianist

programmer

singer

thinker

vegetarian

web designer

writer

Immersion courses

allow deeper
learning for
students
with multiple
interests

When he graduated from high school in East Greenbush, N.Y., Benson Haley was looking for a university that allowed him to simultaneously pursue computer science as a profession and explore his passion for theater. Meanwhile, in Lake Ariel, Pa., Sinclair Ogof wanted a university that could accommodate her two-pronged academic interests in public policy and climate change.

Both students are realizing their goals through RIT's immersion program, which requires students to take a series of 200- and 300-level general education classes in an area outside their major.

While many colleges and universities require general education courses, RIT's immersion requirement takes it a step further. Beyond the typical writing, math, science, social science, global studies, art, and ethics requirements, students are asked to fulfill an additional nine credits in a topic of interest. The intended result is to produce well-rounded students who have gained broader, more diverse perspectives.

“

It is really important for who you are as a person to be reflected in your studies.

Peyton D'Anthony

”

Once called concentrations, this has been an RIT requirement for decades. The concept was strengthened, however, in 2012 when RIT revised its general education program and created immersions.

There are now 72 immersions available for students to choose from in topics varying from archeology to comic studies to geographic information systems. Each year, offerings are updated to keep up with current trends and the needs of students on campus. This year, RIT added seven new immersions.

Elizabeth Hane, faculty associate to the provost for general education, was on the committee that revamped the program. A key component, she said, is that a student's major is not able to dictate the immersion they take. The choice is completely up to them.

“Immersion provide an opportunity for our students to have this broadening experience and enhance their education within an area they would not have had the opportunity to explore otherwise,” she said. “The whole general education experience is important, but I think immersions in particular are important because of the

Peyton D'Anthony

Majors: Modern languages and culture, and international and global studies

Immersion: Women's and gender studies

...is an

explorer

Mario Kart champion

future researcher

independent thinker

extrovert

adventurer

nap enthusiast

beach lover

language nerd

busy bee

storyteller

optimist

sister

fish mom

music lover

Bills fan

foodie

planner



“

The climate change immersion gives me both **hard and soft science** experience.

Sinclair Ogof

”

advanced nature of the courses and the fact that it's three courses in a single topic area so students get a bit of depth.”

Haley, a first-year computer science major, decided to use the opportunity to pursue a personal passion.

“I was interested in computers from a pretty early age,” he said. “I’m one of the people who enjoys creating things more than just doing things. I think computer science is a good field for that. But, I’ve also always really enjoyed theater. It’s one of the reasons I’m here at RIT, because of theater arts being a thing.”

Last semester, Haley participated in RIT/NTID’s production of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, which counted as one credit toward his theater arts immersion. This semester, he is taking a fundamentals of acting course.

Haley doesn’t necessarily plan to combine his major and immersion professionally. For him, it’s an opportunity to major

Sinclair Ogof

Majors: Public policy and environmental studies

Immersion: Climate change

...is an

avid volunteer

book nerd

sorority sister

Earth ambassador

leader

cat mom

freelance writer

oldies music lover

tree hugger

amateur photographer

hiker

postcard collector

conversationalist

blanket enthusiast

kayaker

obsessed organizer

windows-down,
music-blasting driver



in something professionally advantageous while pursuing a passion that is personally fulfilling.

Ogof, a second-year public policy and environmental studies double major who is supported by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, is taking a different approach. Her professional goal is to marry public policy and environmental science for a career in local government or nonprofit work endorsing environmental policy.

She chose an immersion called climate change: an interdisciplinary problem. This immersion brings together faculty across the environmental science, mathematics, chemistry, and public policy departments to introduce students

to scientific, technological, and social issues surrounding global environmental climate change.

"I noticed this immersion took a little bit of the environmental science, the hard science, and environmental studies, which is more of the social science, and it combines

the two together," she said.

"I really like that because I can easily show future employers that I have both."

Students are encouraged to customize their education through the immersion requirement. How they choose to use those credits is up to them, and the university continues to add new options every year.

The seven new immersions added this academic year are queer and transgender studies; Black studies; deaf leadership; diversity, inclusion, and dialogue; free culture and free and open source computing; ecology and evolutionary biology; and cellular and molecular biology.

"Our department chairs and faculty help us keep a finger on the pulse of the campus and identify needs in general education and immersions," said

Hane. "We add about five or six each year."

Peyton

D'Anthony, a second-year

modern languages and culture and international and global studies double major from Ripley, N.Y., has taken some of the classes associated with the new queer and transgender studies immersion.

In her first year, D'Anthony's academic advisor placed her in a Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) studies class to fulfill an ethics general education requirement. She fell in love with it instantly.

Not only did she enjoy the topic and relevancy to her long-term goal of eventually working for the United Nations, but D'Anthony found a safe space and a place to make connections with others like her.

"The class was full of people who were there to learn but were also there to make connections with people. I met one of my best friends at RIT in that class. And it did really help me sort through my own sexuality and gender identity. So it really solidified that for me."

At the time, the queer and transgender studies immersion wasn't available yet, but D'Anthony was inspired to continue taking courses on the subject and pursue a women's and gender studies immersion and minor. She is ecstatic that the new immersion exists now.

"RIT is a large school with a ton of people with different identities and sexualities, and those who come from different backgrounds and even countries," she said. "I think this immersion will not only make the LGBTQ+ community on campus stronger, but will in a way legitimize their identities. It is really important for who you are as a person to be reflected in your studies."

Shelly Meyer

Protectors of a diverse history

Alumni are redefining museum studies for all voices

The field of museum studies is changing. Not only are the people working in nationwide cultural institutions becoming more diverse, but the narratives told within those institutions are more inclusive and equity-focused.

RIT's museum studies program, led by Program Director Juilee Decker, aims to accelerate this momentum.

"Our faculty and, in turn, our students and alumni recognize that crafting and sharing stories representing diverse perspectives is a critical method for understanding our communities, one another, and ourselves," Decker said. "Our program strives to provide opportunities for students to engage in inclusive and equity-focused coursework and experiential learning opportunities."

In recent years, the program also has seen an increase in alumni who pursue careers in places that are deeply committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Kayla Jackson '18 and Leah Green '20 are two examples. Both are pursuing community-focused work that highlights Black history in their area.

Following are their stories.





Changing a field

Kayla Jackson '18, left, and Leah Green '20 are both pursuing community-focused work that highlights Black history in their area.



Lost history

Jackson is working to preserve the history of the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul, Minn.

Caitlin Abrams

Kayla Jackson '18

When she learned about the murder of George Floyd, Kayla Jackson was compelled to make a difference. She joined AmeriCorps and moved to St. Paul, Minn., to fulfill a term of service helping children in the area learn to read.

When her term ended in the summer of 2021, Jackson, who by this time had lived in Missouri, California, and three upstate New York cities, decided to stay in St. Paul.

"This area has a very close-knit, vibrant Black community—and I say Black because not every Black person identifies as African or American," she said. "I connected with people here."

Jackson got a job as archivist at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, helping to preserve the history of the Rondo neighborhood. Rondo once housed 85 percent of the city's Black population before the state seized their homes and destroyed the neighborhood to make way for Interstate 94 in the 1950s. When that happened, much of St. Paul's Black history was either destroyed or moved.

The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center started the Community Archive Project in 2016 to preserve Rondo's history. Community members are asked to donate photos, artifacts, and documents to be preserved in the archive.

The project was volunteer-based as part of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's programs to support community-based archives. It's Jackson's job to process, organize, and digitize the materials to preserve and make them accessible to the community. Virtual and in-person exhibits, as well as an online catalogue database containing more than 3,000 searchable objects, are planned to be made available to the public this spring.

Reflecting on the importance of this work, Jackson explained that often in marginalized communities, especially the Black community, there is a lack of trust in museums.

"So the histories are told through a very white lens, and the materials that museums collect are only a fraction of what the multi-faceted Black experience is. There are so many Black people I know who have beautiful photographs that are truly one-of-a-kind but they don't feel comfortable

giving them to a museum, so they are kept at home in less than ideal conditions for long-term preservation."

Some of the historic materials in the archive include a signed portrait of journalist and civil rights advocate Ida B. Wells, and handwritten journals from the Ladies Aid Society of Pilgrim Baptist Church, which include descriptions of speeches made by Nellie G. Francis, a suffragist, civic leader, and civil rights activist.

There is also a photo of an interracial couple on their wedding day, taken a decade before the historic *Loving v. Virginia* case, and a photo of a Black teenage man kissing a white teenage woman on the cheek a year after the murder of Emmett Till.

Some are simply family photos or pictures of friends spending time together. All of these photos are important, Jackson said.

"I know for me, I didn't get to see a lot of pictures of Black people, and if I did, they were in chains or enslaved. These photos are different. It's important to see photos of Black people simply existing."

Now, it's Jackson's goal to make sure others can share in this experience. By preserving and digitizing these historical documents, she is effectively restoring the lost history of the Black community in St. Paul.

Getting to this point wasn't easy, though, she said. As a Black woman working in a role traditionally held by people who don't look like her, Jackson ran into barriers.

There were times during her job search in which her expertise was immediately doubted despite her education and extensive experience. Jackson views her work at Hallie Q. Brown as a proving ground and hopes to encourage other aspiring archivists of color to explore the field.

"There aren't many Black archivists, so I'm a bit of an anomaly in this field. But representation matters. It's important that children are able to see people who look like them in these roles. It's also crucial that Black people and people of color are present when history is being told or preserved from the outset, so we can tell our own stories."



Wedding day

This photo of an interracial couple was taken a decade before *Loving v. Virginia*.



Kiss

This photo of a Black teenage man kissing a white teenage woman was taken a year after the murder of Emmett Till in 1955.

Images courtesy of Hallie Q. Brown Community Archives.

Leah Green '20

As a kid growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Leah Green often visited the Brooklyn Museum with her mom and dad. She enjoyed those visits, but noticed that the art she saw and the stories being told weren't depicting people who look like her.

As a young Black girl growing up in a neighborhood predominantly comprised of people of color, she wondered why the artists she knew in her community weren't being represented.

When she took a career center quiz as a first-year student at RIT and was matched to the museum studies program, Green's interest was piqued.

"I love museums but it just didn't connect in my head that that's something I could do as a career. I started to think about how there aren't many museums that cater to the communities that they're in, and I think it's so important to make museums more accessible and less intimidating to their communities. So that's been my mission."

Green is already making an impact as a genealogy specialist for the Rochester Public Library's Local History and Genealogy department. She specializes in African-American genealogy, helping patrons find information about their ancestry.

She's also taken on two side projects. First as a project manager for the Pathstone Foundation's Anti-Racist Curriculum Project, an initiative committed to providing K-12 students and educators with instructional resources about the local history of structural racism and civil rights in Monroe County.

Green supervises a team of RIT and University of Rochester students who are building a prototype interactive website that will house and organize anti-racist curriculum materials. They are working on a project called Resistance Mapping, a digital portal into space-based racism and resistance in Rochester. When they're finished, these map-based modules will visually depict the effects of redlining in the community and the areas that resisted these changes, Green said.

"I moved from Brooklyn to Rochester as a child and went through the Rochester City School

District system," she continued, "and I had a passion for this project because I wasn't really taught about what happened here in Rochester. I knew about redlining, but I didn't know that there were communities like the 19th Ward and others that fought back and tried to preserve the neighborhood and keep their culture."

Green is also working as the collections and curatorial lead for an upcoming exhibit by Rochester's Teen Empowerment Youth History Ambassadors, called "Clarissa Uprooted: Youth and Elders Uncover the Story of Black Rochester."

The exhibit, scheduled to open at RIT's City Art Space in June, will uncover the hidden story of Clarissa Street, a cultural and residential district that was created in part by redlining. Green's job is to collect oral histories, newspaper clippings, and other materials to tell the story of how the community thrived due to resilience and resistance only to be displaced by Interstate 490 and urban renewal in the 1960s.

Green hopes that her work in the Rochester community will help make museum studies less intimidating and more accessible, she said.

"Museums are here to serve the community and that involves everybody, not just a certain group of people who have always been interested in museums. I know a lot of my peers were like 'I don't understand how you're even doing that. It's so catered toward rich, white people,' and I would say to them 'no, it doesn't have to be. If you have access to it, you can understand how it can connect with you and you can change that.' I think that that's really important."

Shelly Meyer



Clarissa Street

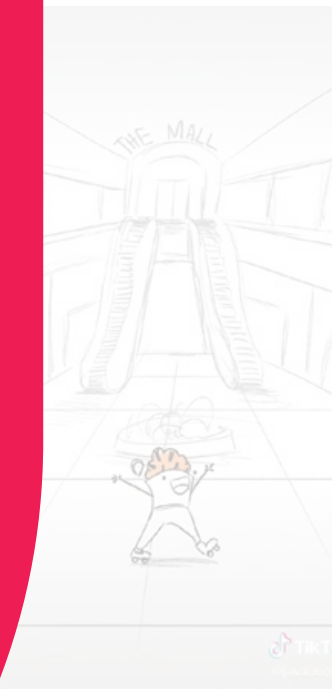
An upcoming exhibit will uncover the hidden story of a Rochester neighborhood created, in part, by redlining.



Preserving history

Green is on a mission to make museums more accessible and less intimidating.

A. Sue Weisler





Trending on TikTok

Social media influencers share their passion and expertise

TikTok has become one of the most popular social media apps to hit the market in a decade. It found a captive audience when the world went into lockdown at the beginning of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Ever since, billions of social media users have found both community and entertainment in the vertical short videos that are central to TikTok's format. Viewers watch just about anything on the app—from dance challenges to cute animals to educational demonstrations.

Often at the vanguard of innovation and technology, RIT alumni are among the early adopters of TikTok. Both Annabel Sammons '19 (environmental sustain-

ability, health, and safety), MS (environmental, health, and safety management) and Andrew Athias '17 (management information systems), were early adopters of TikTok, joining in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Others, like Ilana Schwartz '14 (film and animation) and Madeline Rile Smith '20 MFA (glass), were among the mass influx of users in the early days of the pandemic.

With a combined nearly 1 million followers and 25 million "likes" between them, these alumni are establishing themselves as social media influencers. Graduates have found a way to share their expertise, passion, and creativity with an enthusiastic and rapidly growing audience.

About TikTok

- 1 billion monthly active users
- App downloaded 3 billion times
- Originally called Musical.ly, where users could create 10-15 second music videos
- Follow RIT on TikTok: @rittigers
57.1K Followers
956.8K Likes



belspies

Bel's Pies

Follow

388K Followers **9.3M** Likes



Annabel Sammons

'19 (environmental sustainability, health, and safety), MS (environmental, health, and safety management)

- Environmental engineer at Westwood Professional Services
- Rochester, N.Y.
- On TikTok: @belspies

Baking with friends

Annabel Sammons credits her younger sister for introducing her to TikTok and insisting she make videos to share her love for baking pies.

Sammons took the bait, made a pie, and posted her first video. After a family hike the next day, she was curious to know if anyone had watched her video.

"I checked my phone and I had 100,000 views," Sammons said. "I was like, 'Oh—this is kind of cool.'"

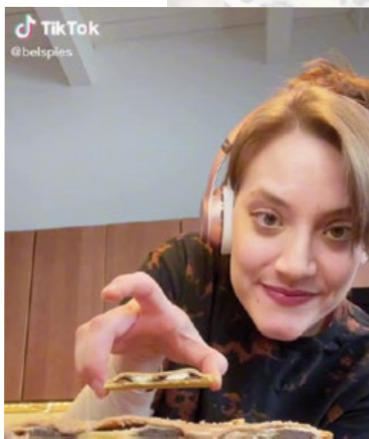
Sammons, who now counts famous chef Gordon Ramsay among her followers, uses baking to improve her mental health. She shares upbeat videos that highlight her pies, various dinner recipes, and the fun results of baking challenges submitted by her followers. Last year, she created Ten Days of Thanksgiving Pies, a wildly popular series in which she challenged herself to make a pie a day for the 10 days leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday.

"People were immediately engaged with the first video, and they were waiting for the next one," Sammons said. During the series, her followers sent her photos of the pies they made using her recipes.

Sammons said her time as an orientation leader at RIT helped her find success on social media. It encouraged her to be more personable and engage with people.

Sammons also uses her TikTok platform to bring awareness to mental health issues. In 2022, she is rebooting Letters of Love, a hand-written letter campaign to connect with her followers both online and in real life. People who follow Sammons can request a letter through her TikTok channel.

"I have many days that I would love a hand-written letter," she said. "I know how incredible it feels, and being able to give that feeling to somebody else is magical."





Finding humor

Ilana Schwartz, an animator for Walt Disney Television, found TikTok to be a great venue to share her animated series “Drinks.” It features a variety of cup and glass-shaped characters brought to life in her clean line-drawing style.

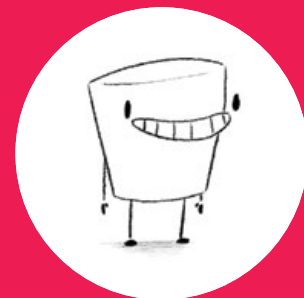
In her TikToks, Schwartz takes inspiration from audio clips she finds funny that are posted on social media by other people. “If I’m laughing, I know other people are going to find it funny too. So I take the audio and I put my own spin on it.”

Schwartz uses, and still loves, the TV Paint animation software she learned as a student at RIT, which is also where “Javadoodles” was born. To relax between classes, Schwartz would draw characters on her empty Java Wally’s coffee cups.

“I would draw my favorite cartoons or characters on these cups and I would leave them around campus and post them on social media,” she said. Her doodles on coffee cups inspired a fellow student to brainstorm the name Javadoodles. “Since then it has been my alter ego and my identity. I don’t know if I’m a brand or a person at this point.”

In 2017, Schwartz gained notoriety for her coffee cup art on Katy Perry’s 96-hour livestream and the *Today* show. Currently, she is further developing her “Drinks” characters into a full series, which she hopes to license for streaming or broadcast.

Schwartz finds the process of animation therapeutic, even though it can take 15 hours to create a 60-second animation. “I’m drawing and drawing, and it’s so much work,” she said. “The best part is that I get to play it back for the first time and watch it by myself. If I am laughing at my own work, then I know I did something right.”



javadoodles

Javadoodles

Follow

172K Followers

2.1M Likes



Ilana Schwartz

'14 (film and animation)

- Graphics artist at Walt Disney Television
- Burbank, Calif.
- On TikTok: @javadoodles



madhotglass
Madeline

Follow

268K Followers 13.1M Likes



Madeline Rile Smith

- '20 MFA (glass)
- Adjunct professor, glass artist, and educator
- Philadelphia
- On TikTok: @madhotglass

A touch of glass

Long active on Instagram, glass artist and educator Madeline Rile Smith found a new and enthusiastic audience on TikTok, where her videos demonstrating her skills with a hot torch have garnered millions of views.

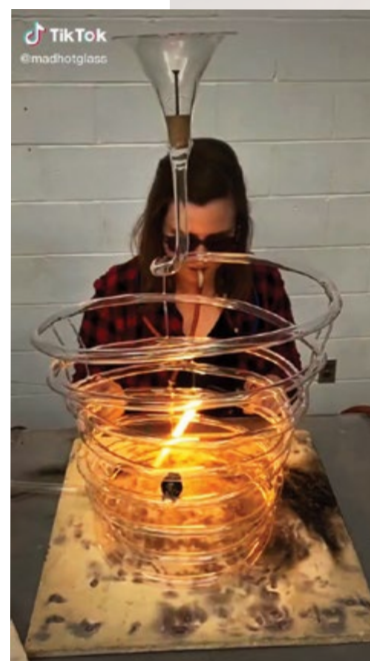
Rile Smith, who joined TikTok in the summer of 2020 shortly after discovering another user had pirated one of her videos, quickly realized the platform's power to introduce glass work to new audiences. Part of her success is due to an invitation by TikTok to participate in its two-month program designed to make the platform more educational.

"They gave some advice on how to make videos, optimize them, and work with the algorithm—but a lot was trial and error at first," said Rile Smith, who saw a solid increase in both views and engagement with her videos after the first few months.

"I had some videos that really blew up and it was really surreal and unexpected," she said. "It is exciting to just know that more people than you'll ever meet in your entire life are seeing something you've done."

In her videos, Rile Smith shares her love of glassworking and demonstrates her skill range in the medium. She specializes in flameworking, a unique style of glasswork that shapes and molds glass using a stationary flame torch that is powered by propane and oxygen. Her stream also has videos of objects made by her glassworking students, as well as videos made in response to challenges or ideas suggested by her followers.

"Glass is a magical, mysterious thing to most people," she said. "A lot of people maybe have seen one person blowing glass in their life. They have very little exposure to it, so I love the idea that I can bring awareness of this art form and expose people to it who are just happening upon it while scrolling on TikTok."





Sweet tooth

Andrew Athias has found his niche in social media. As a super fan of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, his videos celebrate his favorite candy and showcase his lively sense of humor.

Athias joined TikTok in late 2018, shortly after the platform was made available in the U.S. That same year, he competed in a contest hosted by Hershey's searching for the biggest fan of Reese's candy. With the help of a friend from RIT, Athias produced and entered a fun music video that captured his infatuation with all things Reese's. He didn't win (granted, his competition was a young girl named Reese E. Cupp), but Athias' video went viral and helped him win a similar contest held by the quick-mart chain Wawa.

Athias says his interest in social media began at RIT, where he was the social media manager for the men's a capella group Eight Beat Measure.

"The creativity of it comes naturally to me," he said. "I am always thinking of how to create content, make videos, edit photos, and upload the kind of content that each platform wants."

His presence on social media helped him land a job as the social media content producer for a construction company. A supervisor found Athias' TikTok account and reached out via direct message with a job offer. Since joining the company, Athias has learned how to fly a drone to make flyover videos of large-scale construction projects.

"I never thought I would become the Reese's guy," Athias said. "Growing up, I loved to sit and watch commercials, especially Super Bowl commercials. Now, I get to make my own commercials. I get to be the Steven Spielberg that I always wanted to be."

Krista Niles



the_reeses_guy
The Reese's Guy

Follow

55.4K Followers 669K Likes



Andrew Athias

'17 (management information systems)

- Social media and digital marketing coordinator at Silvi Materials
- Philadelphia
- On TikTok: @the_reeses_guy

CYBERSECURITY **EXPERTS WANTED:**

ALL CAN APPLY

RIT is helping sanitation workers and
golf pros break into new careers





After five years working with the highway department and as a garbage truck driver, Garrett Morken wanted to trade in his bright yellow safety vest for something new.

Like millions of Americans, the past couple of years have challenged Morken to re-evaluate his life. He didn't want to live paycheck to paycheck anymore. He was ready for a career change.

In less than a year, he was able to make that happen.

After taking RIT's Cybersecurity Bootcamp, Morken was trained and ready to start an entirely new career in cybersecurity. Today, as an operations consultant at Security Risk Advisors in Rochester, he's learning new things, he's saving money, and he's helping to fight cybercrime.

"Signing up for the bootcamp was probably one of the biggest turning points in my life," said Morken. "I was tired of the physical labor and wanted to find a career instead of just a job. Now, I'm with a company that wants me to grow as an employee and as a person."

Morken is one of about 100 people who have completed RIT's Cybersecurity Bootcamp since it started in the summer of 2020. Unlike a traditional degree program that can take years to complete, the bootcamp lasts 15 weeks—or 30 weeks part-time. It's also offered completely online.

RIT's bootcamp prepares professionals from all backgrounds and abilities—

including those who don't know code—for critical entry-level cybersecurity jobs. Those jobs can start with an average annual salary of about \$60,000.

That's good news for the millions of Americans switching careers as part of what's been called the Great Resignation or the Great Reshuffle. It's also good news for every organization looking to hire more cybersecurity workers. This need comes at a time when cybercrime continues to grow, but there are 2.7 million unfilled cyber jobs globally.

"And to help fill this job gap, we have to think differently about who our cyber professionals are and where they come from," said Viviane Stover, RIT's Cyber Range producer and business director, who administers the bootcamp. "Hackers are diverse and come from different backgrounds, so if we're going to outsmart them, our cyber professionals should be investigative minds who come from diverse backgrounds, too."

The bootcamp is part of RIT's ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute—a new on-campus facility that is making the university a top site for cybersecurity training, education, and research. What makes RIT's bootcamp unique, compared to other cybersecurity crash courses, is its focus on hands-on learning, professional development, and building a community within each cohort.

"It was almost like a cybersecurity trade school, in that I didn't need prerequisites in English, math, or any coding experience," said Morken. "You literally go in on the first day and start learning skills for the job that you'll actually be doing in the real world."

Garrett Morken



Previous employment:

< Sanitation worker >

Education:

< RIT Cybersecurity Bootcamp >

Current employment:

< Operations consultant at Security Risk Advisors >
< Rochester, N.Y. >



Learning to do the job

It was a seemingly normal email that first got Christopher Bruns interested in cybersecurity.

After college, he was working as a golf professional at a country club in Florida, teaching lessons and running events. He opened an attachment in the email and his whole computer became encrypted.

"It was a ransomware attack and I got phished," said Bruns. "It was a hard lesson to learn, but ever since then I've had a real interest in cybersecurity."

a new career."

On the first day, bootcamp students are "hired" by a company called Brick Wall Cyber. The company isn't real, but all the infrastructure behind it certainly is.

Students work with large virtual networks of computers and must support security operations for 24 mock Rochester companies. Students get to work together, as they interact with role players who call in and email to make each scenario more realistic. They discuss the latest news in the cybersecurity world and work on career preparation, including résumé writing, interviewing, and networking.

Throughout the program, students take on a series of different roles in the company—

lecturer who helped design the bootcamp. "Applied learning like this is going to win every day."

The bootcamp's curriculum aligns with the National Institute of Standards and Technology-developed National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education framework for cybersecurity jobs. Participants learn skills in Windows/Linux/Unix security fundamentals, information systems auditing and compliance, and Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) tools for detection and response, among others.

After completing the bootcamp, Bruns went the next step to earn special certifications to build up his résumé and apply for jobs. A few months later, he was hired

as a cybersecurity program analyst at enterprise cybersecurity provider Sedara in downtown Buffalo, N.Y. He said that he now makes 50 percent more than he used to at his old golf job.

"In two years, I'll be making enough to achieve my dream of being a member of a nice country club," said Bruns. "I'm also interested in learning more, so I can develop a new focus on offensive security and ethical hacking."

Dilip Singh, vice president of cyber operations at Sedara, has

already hired two bootcamp graduates for entry-level positions at his company.

"There is absolutely a need for these employees in our industry right now and you can see it with the number of job openings that will sit vacant for months on end," said Singh. "I'm looking to hire people with practical knowledge who can come in ready to hit the ground running, which bootcamp grads can do."

Christopher Bruns

Previous employment:

< Golf professional >

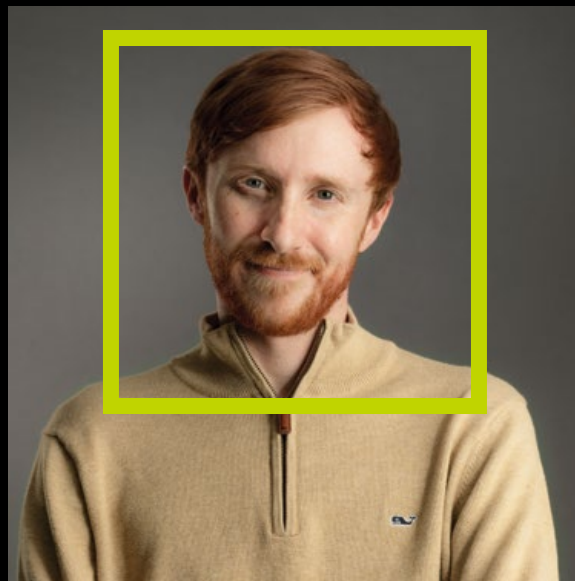
Education:

< RIT Cybersecurity Bootcamp >

Current employment:

< Cybersecurity program analyst at Sedara >

< Buffalo, N.Y. >



Bruns continued to work at the country club until he was laid off in March 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. He wasn't happy with his job and he wasn't making a lot of money, so instead he decided to follow his passion for cybersecurity.

"I learned about the bootcamp and how immersive it was going to be," said Bruns. "I saw it as a \$10,000 investment in myself, because I knew it would help me break into

from fielding tickets on the IT helpdesk to investigating security vulnerabilities in the company's security operations center. In the end, students must help defend against a full-scale cyberattack.

"This bootcamp is based in reality and it gives students context and meaning behind what they're learning," said Rick Mislan '91 (professional and technical communications), a management information systems

“

“In two years, I’ll be making enough to achieve my dream of being a member of a nice country club.”

Photos by Scott Hamilton



A. Sue Weisler

Cybersecurity Bootcamp at a glance

How long does it take?

15 weeks full-time, 30 weeks part-time.

How much does it cost?

\$10,000.

What skills are taught?

General IT and security engineering, network security, cloud security, and incident response. The bootcamp also focuses on career development and building a community.

What about the computing security bachelor’s degree?

The four-year degree program is for students who want to gain broader technical experience, learn about more specializations within cybersecurity, and get a deeper understanding through general education courses. The degree also requires students to complete two co-op experiences and prepares them to rapidly move into senior-level positions with higher wages.

When are the bootcamps offered?

There are six cohorts throughout the year, with full-time and part-time options.

Learn more at rit.edu/cybersecurity/cybersecurity-bootcamp



“It was really helpful to work in an all-deaf group that shared the same language.”

RIT has offered six bootcamp cohorts so far, including two taught with American Sign Language interpreters. The specialty cohorts aim to broaden participation of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in the cybersecurity workforce.

Grace Yukawa '19 (mechanical engineering) took part in the first ASL cohort. After graduating from RIT/NTID amidst the coronavirus pandemic, she had trouble interviewing and finding a job in her hometown of Seattle. When she learned about the bootcamp, she thought that cybersecurity could be a good career shift if she needed to work remotely.

“It was really helpful to work in an all-deaf group that shared the same language,” said Yukawa. “We learned how to setup firewalls in specific ports and all about

command lines and access controls.”

Yukawa was eventually offered a job in her field as a product engineer at the Seattle-based medical technology company Simulab. While she now designs simulators for the healthcare industry, she said that the cyber skills she learned are still useful and she will always have security on her mind for products she helps create.

Ultimately, bootcamp organizers and employers see the program as a new talent pipeline that will help meet critical needs in the cybersecurity industry. Jobs that traditionally only go to those with four-year computing degrees can now be filled by professionals from more diverse backgrounds and populations.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Grace Yukawa



Previous employment:

< Student >

Education:

< BS Mechanical Engineering >

< RIT Cybersecurity Bootcamp, ASL Cohort >

Current Employment:

< Product engineer at Simulab >

< Seattle >



Rick Dahms



Elizabeth Lamark

RIT Certified

Bridging the gap between learning and the job economy

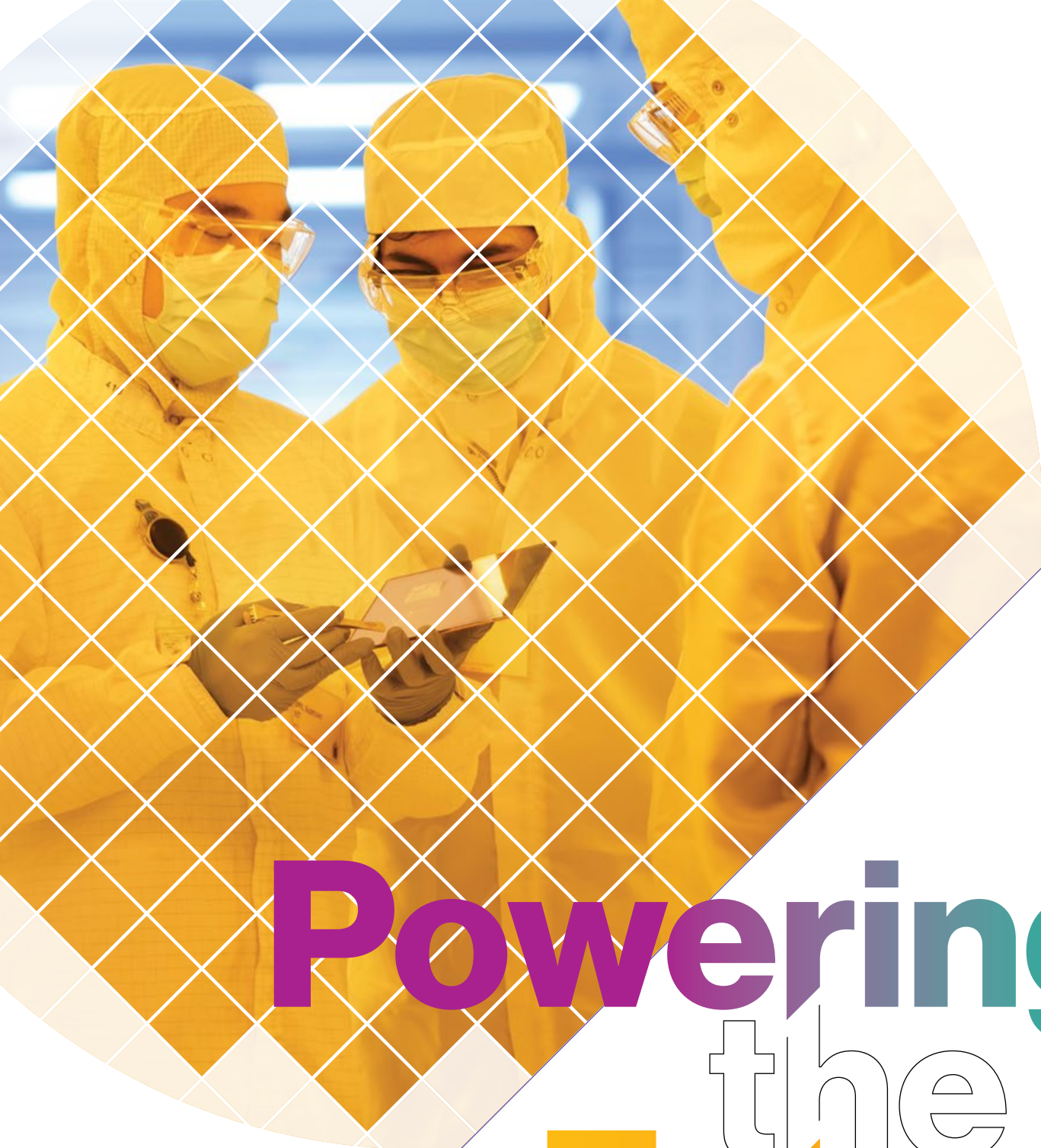
In this changing job market, a growing number of people need new skills so they can enter the workforce, maintain their current jobs, switch jobs, or advance their careers. This population is not necessarily looking to pursue a multi-year degree. Instead, they need shorter-term training and development.

To help fill this need, **RIT Certified** is developing a new portfolio of continuing education courses, certificate programs, and learner-centered pathways. These offerings will serve as a bridge between learners and in-demand professional skills—and between employers and qualified, well-matched talent.

“RIT Certified is a key partner to employers, ensuring better measures to assess talent as they recruit, so they can hire individuals who hit the ground running from day one,” said Ian Mortimer, vice president for Enrollment Management and associate provost for RIT Certified.

RIT Certified’s non-credit certificates are validated by industry partners, ensuring that they’re aligned with employer needs. ESL GCI’s Cybersecurity Bootcamp and RIT Certified are just two examples of RIT’s longstanding commitment to serving the workforce and employers alike.

RIT Certified will begin offering courses and programs in Summer 2022. To learn more, go to rit.edu/certified.



Powering the Future

Teaching Assistant William Huang, left, explains wafer patterning concepts to first-year microelectronic engineering student Adheesh Ankolekar.

Scott Hamilton

RIT educates engineers to help solve global chip shortage

Microelectronic engineering students buzz around the RIT clean-room applying specialized chemicals on semiconductor wafers. It is the first of many precisely controlled steps needed to convert the wafer into computer chips, tech used in today's electronic devices.

For Adheesh Ankolekar, a first-year student in the program, it is the first phase of a career that is coming to fruition at RIT.

"I don't really know anything—yet—but there is nowhere else I'd rather be right now," he said.

Shayan Gholizadeh, well into his microsystems engineering doctoral program, uses the same technology to develop nanomembranes for tissue engineering and drug testing.

Both Ankolekar and Gholizadeh represent points on a pathway transforming students into process engineers and nanotechnology researchers who are in high demand in the semiconductor industry.

Computer chips, sometimes referred to as semiconductor devices, microelectronics, or integrated circuits, are elemental blocks in today's electronics. They are used to power nearly every digital electronic device, appliances, and automobiles.

Supply chain disruptions and a strong demand for consumer electronics during

the pandemic led to a global chip shortage. The shortage has highlighted the need to strengthen the domestic semiconductor industry and has put a new emphasis on microelectronic engineering education.

But this is not new at RIT.

The university's connection to the semiconductor industry was established 40 years ago when it launched the first microelectronic engineering degree program in the country. Since then, RIT has graduated more than 1,500 engineers trained to make semiconductor devices.

Even more of those engineers integrate this important technology into next generation devices—from energy efficient products to biomedical sensors—that are enabling artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced biomedical therapies.

"One of the key trends in the semiconductor industry is growth, and a growing concern that current manufacturing facilities cannot keep up with demand," said Doreen Edwards, dean of RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering. "We've all heard about the chip shortage and the desire to bring more semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S. When this happens, there is going to be a growing need for qualified employees. This is where RIT and the Kate Gleason College can help."

A circular portrait of Santosh Kurinec, a woman with dark hair, smiling. The background of the portrait is a gradient of purple and blue. The text "National Impact" is overlaid on the left side of the portrait.

National Impact

Santosh Kurinec, a professor of microelectronic engineering, will represent RIT on the American Semiconductor Academy, a national initiative that will help solve the computer chip shortage.

Consisting of academic, corporate, and government agency representatives from across the country, the academy is tasked with improving manufacturing processes and increasing a skilled workforce. According to the Semiconductor Industry Association, U.S. semiconductor companies have 47 percent of the global chips sales market, but only 12 percent are manufactured in the U.S.

"The time has come that we should tell our young people that they can build integrated circuits, that we cannot rely on all imports anymore," said Kurinec, an expert in CMOS technology (a fabrication design process) and photovoltaics. "We have to do our own research, development, and manufacturing."

The first year

The path starts in the first-year microelectronic engineering courses where students learn how to build semiconductors—the brains inside today's electronics.

They step into a cleanroom environment where semiconductor wafers, some the size of dinner plates, are produced through a complex process of patterning. Each wafer holds multiple small but extremely powerful computer chips that have intricate collections of transistors, wiring, and high-tech sensors.

"You learn the right way to build the semiconductor devices," said Ankolekar, who came to RIT from Pittsford, N.Y., where he was a 3M Young Scientist Challenge state merit winner. "Computer chips are everywhere, and this class is a good way to see the different applications and how companies are using computer chips."

Faculty ensure that microelectronic lab work is hands-on from the first day. It is also common for first-year students to interact with doctoral candidates like William Huang, a teaching assistant (TA), who led Ankolekar and his classmates in a semiconductor processing lab.

"My role as a TA is to explain how microchips are made and why certain processes are done in a certain way while providing hands-on opportunities for the students to incorporate theoretical and practical knowledge," said Huang '19 (microelectronic engineering), '19 MS (materials science and engineering). He also helps train other researchers to be certified to use cleanroom equipment.

As an undergraduate, Huang held internships at Element Six Technologies and Adzara BioSystems before returning to RIT to pursue a Ph.D. in microsystems engineering.

Sean Rommel, professor and microelectronic engineering program director, said companies reach out to RIT for both internships and full-time positions.

Some of those jobs are with companies producing consumer electronics; others are in the defense, automotive, and energy sectors.

Graduates are finding positions with companies that manufacture solar panels and devices for smart cities. Others are making an impact in health care building preventive devices.

"They know about our program, its depth and the hands-on nature of the coursework," Rommel said. "Companies see this experience as an asset. At some of these companies, you are in a cleanroom like ours. I hear from students that their work resembles this experience."

Semiconductors in health care

Gholizadeh is part the newest area of microelectronic engineering education at RIT—tissue engineering. He is working with associate professor of biomedical engineering Thomas Gaborski, a leading researcher of nanomembranes.

By testing and refining prototype platforms called nanomembranes, they are helping scientists gain an in-depth understanding of how and why a disease, such as Alzheimer's, starts well before its onset.

"You can provide a treatment strategy that allows for a much better prognosis of this disease, a better quality of life, and higher life expectancy," he said.

Typically made up of organic or inorganic materials, nanomembranes can be silicon dioxide—essentially glass at nanoscale—and silicon nitride. Gholizadeh works on organic polymeric membranes, substances that are biocompatible and approved for coating implants. Gaborski's team uses lithography and other microfabrication techniques to make the nanomembranes.

Conventional porous membranes are commercially available yet have low porosity and low yield. They are not optically transparent, so imaging through them is essentially not possible or very hard to achieve, said Gholizadeh.

"Our membranes are 10 times thinner than conventional membranes, a closer representation of the human body," he said.

RIT's Semiconductor Microsystems and Fabrication Laboratory is being renamed RIT NanoLabs to reflect how the university is expanding into this area of biomedical research as well as integrated photonics, smart manufacturing, quantum computing, and other advances to the Internet of Things.

RIT is also updating and expanding its cleanroom. Changes will include upgrades to filtration and air handling systems, the addition of new wet processing stations to prevent cross contamination, and the creation of 5,000 square feet of research space focused on biomedical applications.

How Computer Chips are Made and Used



Materials

Semiconductors are a class of materials used to make integrated circuits, sensors, and LEDs, for example.

Materials include silicon, gallium nitride, and gallium arsenide.

Wafers are thin slices of a semiconductor material.



Devices

Semiconductor devices, like transistors and diodes, are made by depositing layers of material on wafers and selectively etching them to create specific patterns.

When the devices are connected through patterned features on a wafer, they are often called integrated circuits.



Systems

Wafers are cut into blocks, called die, and then are packaged and attached to circuit boards.

Packaged, integrated circuits are called chips and are used in most modern electronic products.



Applications

Technology/sectors that need faster, energy efficient chips:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Computing
- Transportation
- Smart City Technology
- Health Care
- Wireless Communication
- Manufacturing
- Internet of Things

The updates and new focus excite students such as Ankolekar. It's too early in his education for him to say what area of microelectronic engineering he'll focus on, but he likes having options.

"The program is a good fit for me because our college takes an exploratory approach to making computer chips," he said. "I'll be able to apply this to something I am passionate about."

Michelle Cometa '00



Doctoral student Shayan Gholizadeh looks at a frozen cell inventory kept in liquid nitrogen in one of the biomedical engineering laboratories.

Scott Hamilton



What do you do with a MicroE degree?

Here are five notable alumni working in a range of fields.

Space

When the robotic helicopter Ingenuity took flight during NASA's Perseverance Rover mission in July 2020, it proved controlled flight was possible in the mysterious atmosphere of Mars.

Chelsea Mackos '09 (microelectronic engineering), '11 MS (materials science), was part of the SolAero Technologies team that helped build solar panels for the helicopter that has since performed more than 20 fact-finding missions.

As director of operations for SolAero, Mackos uses her process engineering experience to coordinate the development and production of solar equipment in the company's photovoltaic lab.

Mackos has been at SolAero in New Mexico since 2012.

Sensor technology

David Borkholder '92 (microelectronic engineering) developed Black-Box Biometrics, which helped measure blasts causing brain trauma in soldiers in wartime. Borkholder and his team also developed Linx IAS, a similar technology used to help parents, coaches, and players understand concussion-causing impacts. Currently, Borkholder is the chief technology officer at Casana and co-developer of The Heart Seat, a monitoring device designed to collect patient data unobtrusively about heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels, and cardiac information. He is also the Bausch and Lomb Professor of Microsystems Engineering at RIT.

Computer chips

As deputy director of research and development at Global Foundries, **Keith Tabakman '03** (microelectronic engineering) oversees computer chip and wafer operations process improvements. Global Foundries, the fourth largest semiconductor manufacturer in the world, produces computer chips for the global marketplace. Tabakman helped develop advanced CMOS technology (a fabrication design process) to meet the increased demand for manufacturing more computer chips needed in multiple industries.

Patent specialist

Leonard Chang '07 (microelectronic engineering) helps inventors patent new technologies and ideas. The intellectual property/patent specialist with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C., uses his microelectronic engineering background to assess the potential viability of others' tech devices.

Cloud engineer

Rishmithaa Sivakanthan '20 (microelectronic engineering) made an impression as an intern at Micron where she used skills acquired from the RIT semiconductor fabrication lab to help improve yield and efficiency among different process areas at the company. She was hired by the company in 2020 as a cloud engineer with DRAM (Dynamic Random-Access Memory) Engineering Group.

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Debbie Lesser '19 MS

uses her extensive training in medical interpreting to express the appropriate tone and emotion when helping deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing patients and health care providers communicate clearly with one another.

Alumna facilitates crucial conversations as medical interpreter

Certified Medical
Interpreter
Debbie Lesser
MS, C/CT, QMHI

Debbie Lesser is a catalyst, facilitating crucial conversations taking place in often highly sensitive situations.

As a certified medical interpreter for one of the largest health systems in the United States, she assists deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing patients and health care providers in communicating with one another regarding everything from mental health crises to detailed complex medical procedures.

"I've worked as a professional interpreter in many industries, including the cruise and theater industries," said Lesser, who earned a certificate in health care interpreting in 2013 and a master's degree in the same field in 2019, both from RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. "I got involved with health care interpreting and absolutely fell in love with it. I'm able to make a real difference in the level of care for our patients and help them navigate through very delicate situations."

Today, Lesser oversees a team of six ASL-English interpreters, 18 Spanish-English interpreters, and one Mandarin-English interpreter, all of whom provide in-patient and ambulatory interpreting and other language access services for Wellstar Health System in Atlanta and the surrounding area. In any given month, team members are deployed to assist hundreds of limited English-proficient patients throughout 11 hospitals, 17 urgent care centers, nine cancer centers, three hospice centers, and more than 300 physician practices.

According to Zippia, an online career resource site, there are more than 19,700 medical interpreters employed in the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a growth rate of 24 percent over the next decade, faster than the average for all occupations.

NTID's certificate program and master's degree in health care interpreting has stayed current in the profession with educational design and course content, said Robyn Dean, assistant professor in NTID's Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Education.

Dean said the strengths of the program lie in addressing the varying medical contexts that interpreters are called into and the range of communication needs of deaf individuals—from deaf medical providers to deaf patients. Dean's courses particularly focus on developing interpreters' perceptual and judgment skills, their understanding of medical settings, cultural issues, and the communication aims of patients and providers.

"Our program employs a problem-based learning approach; we start with a practical case, a contextualized interpreted situation, and build the knowledge that interpreters would need from that context, as a means of enhancing their ethical sensitivity and judgment," she said. "Just as medical

"As medical interpreters, so much of what we do involves assessing the intricate communication dynamics among patients, family members, caregivers, and health care professionals."

In one instance, Lesser interpreted for several interactions over several months



Photo by Seth Young/Wellstar Health System

I'm able to make
a real difference
in the level of care
for our patients.

Debbie Lesser



providers develop clinical skills, the closer you can bring medical interpreters to the unique medical contexts they typically work in, the more effective they will be."

Interpreting, like social work, is a practice profession, according to Lesser, meaning that the interpreter must have the ability to think critically about their work and make moment-to-moment decisions based on the unique circumstances of each encounter. While supervision is an expectation in other practice professions, she said, interpreting hasn't yet incorporated this valuable tool as a standard in the field.

between a nurse and a deaf caregiver, who was in denial of her mother's need for palliative and hospice care.

"If someone doesn't understand what's being said, or the gravity of a situation, for example, it is our job to work collaboratively with the health care provider to ensure that communication is clear. That includes expressing the right tone and emotion. Not everyone is equipped to handle these types of situations."

Lesser said a foundation of the RIT program emphasizes the need for supervision and case conferencing, where students have the opportunity to talk to each other about complicated cases, to evaluate the efficacy of decisions made, and to consider the ethical implications of those decisions. She has drawn on that foundation in her current job.

"This type of peer supervisory feedback takes judgment off of the interpreter as an individual and focuses on the work at hand," she said. "RIT has given me a fantastic foundation and has allowed me to provide this kind of valuable support to my team."

Vienna McGrain '12 MS



Alex Kipman '01 leads thousands of people on Microsoft's mixed-reality team—including many RIT alumni. With the team, Kipman is working to create mixed-reality devices that allow people to have real collaborative experiences.

A. Sue Weisler

Kipman turns science fiction into science fact

Alex Kipman claims to be the world's laziest human being.

"That's what makes a good engineer," said Kipman '01 (software engineering). "The first person that was too lazy to go from point A to point B invented the wheel."

As a technical fellow at Microsoft, Kipman has used his so-called laziness to invent a few groundbreaking things, including the Kinect motion-sensing input device and the HoloLens products. He was named National Inventor of the Year in 2012.

The Kinect revolutionized personal entertainment in 2010, giving Xbox players and Windows users the ability to turn their gestures and body movements into a controller. With the HoloLens—the world's first fully self-contained augmented reality headset—people can now see holograms and manipulate them over the real world.

However, to Kipman, each of his inventions is just one small step in creating the future human platform.

Growing up in Brazil, Kipman fell in love

with computing while playing his Atari 2600. He dreamed of going to school in the United States and applied to a bunch of universities with "IT" at the end of their names. What hooked him to RIT was a brand new degree program in software engineering—the first in the nation—and its focus on working in teams.

In his early years at Microsoft, Kipman worked tirelessly on Windows Vista—an operating system that was ultimately not well received by consumers. He was mad at himself for forgetting about his passion.

During a visit to his family farm in Brazil, he sought to find his purpose. It was a turning point in his life.

"I thought about the fundamental part of being human, which is to pass on information and tell stories around the fire," Kipman said. "As a species, we don't pass on knowledge (like how to build a bridge) through DNA—we do it through stories. But, one problem with telling stories around the fire is that it requires you to be there at that specific time and place."

Kipman sees technology as a superpower that allows people to displace space and time. For example, people can use their phone to watch a video that was filmed days ago in a different country. He sees a future where absolutely nothing is limited by space and time.

"I like to imagine a situation where you are on Mars, I've been dead for 100 years, and we can still experience a typical in-person conversation," said Kipman. "It's not a question of if—it's a question of when this can happen."

Kipman says that all his work pushes toward this inevitable future. To do these big projects, he emphasizes the importance of having a large, diverse team.

"In the 1980s, you could build an Apple IIe with just two people in a garage—but you can't do that with Kinect or HoloLens," Kipman said. "It's important to learn how to work in teams, because it will allow you to do even more ambitious things."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Tea business bubbling for alumni entrepreneurs

Chinese tea culture, with its rich history existing since before the third century, has always been a lifelong passion for Tian Tian and Zining Chen.

The graduates of RIT's advertising and public relations program (2017) and master's in entrepreneurship program (2019), yearned to share their culture in a new and exciting way—by founding Taichi Bubble Tea.

The Rochester-based chain, which specializes in the unique drink that commonly consists of tea accompanied by chewy tapioca balls, or boba, has been rapidly expanding across the United States, with 13 stores in Chicago; Atlanta; Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Annapolis, Md., to name a few. More locations are in the works.

Chen, who is from China, said that the bubble tea franchise actually evolved from their first venture, which brought the authentic Poke bowl and sushi burrito experience to Rochester.

"We were on the lookout for branding opportunities and wanted to make sure we kept up with the latest trends in major cities," he said. "At the time, the sushi burrito and Poke bowl created a lot of buzz in New York City, but no one was doing this in upstate New York."

Their first franchise store, under the Taichi brand, opened in Buffalo, N.Y., in 2017.

In 2018, they opened a location in the bustling College Town area of Rochester, where they also introduced the community to traditional Japanese Ramen.

At the same time, bubble tea was becoming popular in Asia, and Chen realized the earning potential of bringing the product to U.S. markets, specifically on the East Coast.

"There were a few Chinese restaurants that sold bubble tea on the side, but none were dedicated to the specialty," he explained.

Chen and his team, which consists of several RIT alumni, introduced the drink to Rochester, and the future continues to look bright. Chen is also pursuing a second master's degree in marketing analytics in order to move toward data-driven methods to help his business grow.

"Data-driven analytics is where the world is heading, and I want to make sure the Taichi brand grows with it," he said. "When we started the brand, we were only undergraduate students, and we had to learn to cope with multiple responsibilities from an early age."

Zining Chen, left, and Tian Tian opened Taichi Bubble Tea. The Rochester-based chain has expanded to stores across the country.



A. Sue Weisler

Tian said that their team has learned something new every step of the way, but the biggest takeaway is the importance of time management and the lessons they learned while at RIT.

"I think what RIT offers its students is very practical, and I've been able to use what I learned in class, specifically market-

ing and advertising, and apply it to Taichi right away," Tian said.

"I'm really happy about where Taichi is today, but I won't call it a success just yet. We have a long way to go and we're working on it."

Rochelle Allan '22



Sherry Dadgar '08 MS (bioinformatics) launched PMCDx in 2020 with a goal of delivering advanced clinical genomic diagnostic testing to patients and their physicians. In less than a year, PMCDx became profitable and has more than 20 employees.

Lacey Johnson

Dadgar works to make medicine personal

Sherry Dadgar '08 MS (bioinformatics) wants the future of medicine to empower patients. Dadgar, a clinical assistant professor of medicine at George Washington University, launched her company, Personalized Medicine Care Diagnostics (PMCDx), in 2020 with a goal of delivering advanced clinical genomic diagnostic testing to patients and their physicians.

A clinical geneticist by training, Dadgar saw issues with the dollar-driven way the health care industry develops test panels for disorders. She envisioned providing low-cost molecular diagnostic laboratory testing so that physicians can provide care based on their patients' personal genetics and genomics characteristics.

"The intention is to improve precision medicine and make data from our underlying genetic signature accessible to individuals when the information can be actionable," said Dadgar. "Genetic testing may not seem cost effective in the short term to health insurance companies, but in the long term both patients and payers will benefit

from tailored therapies."

Dadgar said pharmacogenomics testing could minimize a medication's side effects and maximize its effectiveness, and the applications could range from prescribing complex oncology medications to identifying the right over-the-counter pain medication. Studying genomes can also help identify risks for genetic disorders and provide family management insight. She said genetic testing could even facilitate lifestyle modifications such as personalizing daily caffeine use.

She believes RIT's bioinformatics master's program—which combines biotechnology, computer programming, and computational mathematics—played a big role in preparing her to lead PMCDx. She said the programming-heavy curriculum was a challenge coming from a biological sciences background, but it helped her to create a bridge between two disciplines.

"There's always a challenge in the cross-talk between geneticists and people from IT backgrounds, so having both skills helped

me not only obtain and perform at my previous job as a lab director, but also leading my own company."

After graduating, Dadgar served as a lead bioinformaticist at the Department of Health Policy and Epidemiology at Harvard University. She then pursued her Ph.D. in molecular medicine at George Washington University and later moved on to a clinical genetics fellowship program at the National Human Genome Research Institute. She joined George Washington faculty in 2016.

She said she felt fortunate to enroll in a cutting-edge master's program because there is a big demand for people with the skillset it produces.

"There's a lack of bioinformatics expertise globally and we need more bioinformatics programs to be launched," said Dadgar. "Humans are producing massive omics-driven data requiring qualified experts who know how to analyze these data and utilize them in clinical applications."

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS

Giving That Grows

The Ralph Armstrong Men's Lacrosse Fund

David BS '78 and **Lisa Sheble** have always had a genuine passion for entrepreneurship, athletics, and helping people. For this Tiger couple, making a bequest commitment to support the growth and success of RIT's athletic programs was a natural next step. "I give back because I recognize the commitment that RIT makes inside and out of the classroom each year," said the retired entrepreneur and former sports photographer. "We wanted to do our part to support and invest in this future success."

The couple's gift to RIT, through their retirement plans, will support The Ralph Armstrong Men's Lacrosse Fund. "Lisa and I give back because we are thrilled with the success of the team and the commitment to excellence," Dave said. "Setting up the bequest with RIT was very easy—we hope to help and inspire others."

A bequest is easy to create and helps secure the future of RIT. Download our free guide at legacyrit.org. Like Dave and Lisa, you too can support a program you care about. Contact RIT's Office of Planned Giving at plannedgiving@rit.edu to learn more, or call: **Hal Burrall** at 585-475-3106 or **Tamra Werner BS '91, MS '21** at 585-475-5979.

legacyrit.org

RIT | Ellingson Society



I give back because I couldn't think of a single reason why I shouldn't be involved with RIT Men's Lacrosse. As a former player, I know that being a student-athlete is a full-time job that requires commitment and support from many people for continued success."

—David Sheble BS '78

Graphic Arts and Photography

Alumni Awards

College honors

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented annually by each of RIT's nine colleges, the School of Individualized Study, and the Graduate School to alumni who have performed at the highest levels of their profession or who have contributed to the advancement and leadership of civic, philanthropic, or service organizations. It is the highest award an RIT college can bestow upon its alumni. The 2021-2022 recipients were honored during ceremonies throughout the spring. Learn more at rit.edu/alumni/alumni-awards.

College of Art and Design



Erin Sarofsky BFA '98, MFA '00

Graphic design, computer graphics design
Executive creative director and owner, Sarofsky Corporation

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"I was one of those students that wanted to take classes outside of my core discipline, and RIT made that possible. Having all those perspectives infused me, not necessarily with expertise (because we all know a few classes doesn't make someone an expert), but with a curiosity—the ability to communicate about other disciplines—and gave me an open mind, not just about art but also how technology could influence it."

What is your career highlight to date?

"My first Marvel film main title, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, was the biggest moment in my career. It represents not only a huge creative opportunity, but also the years of hard work it takes to get to that point. I love that main title because it is minimal, beautiful, and so rooted in design. My studio still receives calls asking us to create projects using that piece as a reference. And I believe we will forever."

College of Engineering Technology



Jason Aymerich BS '00

Packaging science
President, JN White

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"'Learning by Doing' isn't just a slogan at RIT, it is a way of life. There is no substitute for hands-on experience, and RIT provided plenty. I was always the kid that took all of my toys apart (didn't always get them back together) and the thought of getting college credit for that appealed to me. In all seriousness, there isn't any better demonstration of engineering principles than to build and break things in the lab. Feared by some, Shock and Dynamics was one of my favorite classes."

What is your favorite RIT memory?

"Creating meaningful relationships with my peers. We had a sense of comradery and purpose as we moved through the program. We worked in teams and solved problems by volleying ideas back and forth. This was unfamiliar to me, as most of my experience prior was solving problems individually. I remember feeling somewhat unconfident until I got my first co-op and realized that what I had learned was not only relevant, but practical."

College of Health Sciences and Technology



Ted Van Horne BS '99

Applied arts and sciences, Health systems administration
Chief Operating Officer, Global Medical Response

What is your favorite RIT memory?

"In 1991, while volunteering for RIT Ambulance, I was able to accompany President Carter when he was meeting with students and faculty. Our discussions about his naval service, which was similar to my father's period of service, philanthropy, and service to community made a tremendous, positive impression on me."

What is your career highlight to date?

"Managing through the COVID pandemic has been the biggest responsibility I have ever had. One period was especially intensive. We had to organize and deploy more than 2,000 paramedics and 600 ambulances to New York City and New Jersey during the beginning months of the pandemic. With very little notice, and candidly no playbook, we had responsibility for all these people who were heading into the unknown. I knew one thing for certain, that they were all counting on me to make good decisions and watch over them. I look on that time with tremendous pride for these first responders."

College of Liberal Arts



Kristine I. Simmons BS '90

Professional and technical communication

Vice president, Government Affairs, Partnership for Public Service

What is your career highlight to date?

"One moment of my time in public service will stay with me always. In the spring of 2002, when I was working at the White House, I was privileged to meet the families of the heroes of Flight 93, individuals who sacrificed their lives to prevent one of the 9/11 hijacked planes from reaching the White House or the Capitol. Near the end of that emotional and humbling visit, the mother of one of the Flight 93 passengers turned to the assembled White House staff and said, 'If they died trying to save you, they would be so pleased to see what beautiful people you are.' I will never forget it and I remain deeply honored to have met them."

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"RIT exposed me to creative and accomplished people who inspired me to learn and grow. My experience as a student leader taught me to listen, collaborate, and manage projects, and gave me confidence and relationships that propelled my career."

College of Science



Laurie E. Axelrod BS '86

Medical informatics

Co-founder and CEO, Wheelhouse Group Inc.

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"The work experiences, intermingled with the academics, taught me how to apply what I was learning to real-world challenges. Professional internships weren't a huge thing when I went to college. Most kids came home for the summers and worked in our beach town. I was working at real companies doing real work. When I graduated, I was not only employable, but I was also confident that I knew how to be successful in the workplace."

What experiences as an RIT alumna have you found most meaningful?

"A few years ago, I hosted a dinner in my home for accepted students and some area alumni. It was great to see the talent that RIT is attracting, and I enjoyed getting to know the students and their reasons for choosing RIT."

Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences



Franklyn Athias BS '85

Computer science

Chief Technology Officer and senior vice president, Xfinity Mobile Retail Convergence (xMRC)

What's one fond memory from your time at RIT?

"Without a doubt, the opportunity to spend the summer prior to classes beginning as a part of the HEOP was transformational. HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) allowed me the time I needed to adjust to college and to become acclimated with Rochester. Coming from Brooklyn and leaving my tight-knit family behind presented challenges. I am forever grateful for the solid foundation this program provided, not the least of which was a roommate and a number of lifelong friends."

How is giving back core to what you do?

"I am a firm believer that while you're giving, you're also getting. Having the opportunity to build teams at Xfinity afforded me the opportunity to build the most diverse teams. In addition, my volunteer work teaching coding to young people at the Second Antioch Baptist Church and through danceLogic in Philadelphia enabled me to give some of my time and talent. In doing so, young people saw someone who looked like them succeeding in technology."

Kate Gleason College of Engineering



Robert Spina, Ph.D., MS '89

Electrical engineering

Chief Technology Officer, Bowhead Specialty Insurance

What is your favorite RIT memory?

"I was at Kodak while I was working on my master's degree, so I would say the faculty. Always high caliber and approachable. Of course, my years as an electrical engineering assistant professor are my favorite work years. I really enjoyed working with the students and all of their enthusiasm and passion."

How did RIT help prepare you for success?

"This was my first exposure to structured research. Most of my career has been the transitioning of advanced research projects into commercial products. I think the practical knowledge coupled with the understanding of the research goals has been a big help to my career."

What experiences as an RIT alumnus have you found most meaningful?

"Mentoring students and alumni that have an entrepreneurial spirit. Offering up what knowledge I can as they navigate an idea into a product and then a company."

National Technical Institute for the Deaf



Christine Sun Kim BS '02

Applied science and technology
Artist

What is your favorite RIT memory?

"Midnight trips to Wegmans and strolls in Mount Hope Cemetery."

What is your career highlight to date?

"The 2013 TED fellowship and participating in the Whitney Biennial 2019 show."

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"I made lifelong friendships. It's all about connecting and communicating. These are the very skills I needed to succeed. RIT was the beginning of my adulthood."

Who among RIT faculty and staff did you have the most impactful interaction with?

"Marlene Elliott, my interpreter for my elective art class during my last year. She showed me how much value art has and how necessary it is in our lives."

Saunders College of Business



Hope Drummond BS '91

Business administration
Founder,
Dreamseeds Children's Program
RIT Trustee

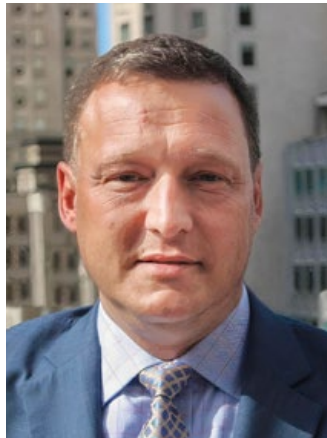
How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"The analytical tools used in the business school have prepared me to think strategically. I enjoyed the courses and have utilized what I learned throughout my professional and volunteer career. The sales and marketing classes were especially beneficial."

What does being an RIT alumna mean to you?

"When I attended RIT, the school was well known regionally, but not as much nationally. Over the last 25 years, the school has experienced incredible growth. RIT is now recognized nationally as a top-tier university in areas of business, engineering, and computer science. Saunders College of Business is ranked among the top 100 business schools and has gained greater recognition and prestige. This makes me incredibly proud to be associated with RIT."

School of Individualized Study



Jean-Marc (J.M.) Allain BS '03

Applied arts and sciences
Managing general partner,
JA Pro Services

What is your favorite RIT memory?

"I was one of the first fully on-line students at RIT. The faculty members were so great. I was traveling frequently for work all over the world and they literally sent me boxes of VHS tapes of classes and lectures to watch and then complete assignments. It was cutting edge at the time. I felt like a pioneer."

How did RIT help to prepare you for success?

"I went straight to work when I was coming out of high school and worked my way up quickly. I realized I needed a degree if I wanted to continue moving forward. I could have just paid for a degree from one of these 'diploma mills' and done very little to improve myself. I wanted a real degree from a top-tier university that would be willing to work with my situation through distance learning—raising a family, traveling for work, etc. RIT was willing to do that. I was able to successfully complete my degree, which helped me succeed both personally and professionally."

Graduate School



Ryan Bowen BS '08, MS '13, Ph.D. '16

Computer engineering, microsystems engineering
Chief Technology Officer at NRGXP

What is your career highlight to date?

"Having one of the products that I led research and development for become a finalist at the 2018 SXSW Conference (2018 Interactive Innovation Awards Finalists in Wearable Tech). This product, NIGHTWATCH, is a wearable technology for horses that helps detect the onset of distress by monitoring their behavior and biometrics. A portion of my research in my dissertation was used in the technology. My research involved designing machine-learning algorithms for identifying and classifying potential equine distress via motion data collected via the NIGHTWATCH device."

What does being an RIT alumnus mean to you?

"Being an alumnus is extremely important because it is your chance to contribute back to the university and its students. It could be helping a student to network and find that first job out of college. Or it even could be showing your spirit at a hockey game. In short, being an alumnus means giving back and that is what myself and my wife try to do as much as possible."

Bal and Anita Dixit honored as Outstanding Alumni



Bal and Anita Dixit were honored for their ongoing support of the university and career achievements with the Outstanding Alumni award, the highest honor bestowed upon alumni by RIT.

Joseph Bellavia

Sudhakar G. “Bal” Dixit ’74 (MBA) and his wife, Anita ’91 (career and human resource development) have achieved so much side by side—both personally and professionally—that it’s only fitting the couple were recognized together at RIT’s 2022 commencement.

The Dixits were honored for their ongoing support of the university and career achievements with the 2021-2022 Outstanding Alumni award—the highest honor bestowed upon alumni in recognition of service to RIT and its growth.

“It was a total surprise,” Bal beamed. “I never could have achieved my success without the education I received at RIT.”

“We were blown away, very humbled, this is a great honor,” Anita added.

A lifelong innovator in the field of materials science, Bal is the founder and chairman of Newtex Industries, a Victor, N.Y.-based global leader and pioneer in the production of advanced fabrics and engineered systems for thermal management and fire protection and containment. He established the company in 1978 after inventing the fire protection industry’s first safe and commercially viable alternative to asbestos (Zetex fiberglass fabric), and led the company as CEO until 2006.

Under Bal’s leadership, Newtex became

the only fully integrated provider of woven materials and fabric-based systems that protect against heat and fire. Anita held various roles at Newtex, including director, secretary, and treasurer after graduating from RIT. Bal has credited her as a major factor in the success of the business.

In 2018, a lab inside RIT’s Golisano Institute for Sustainability, made possible by a \$2 million gift commitment from Bal and Anita, began providing research and testing on fire-resistant materials and systems.

Today, the Bal Dixit Laboratory for Advanced Materials and Fire Protection Research performs industry testing, research, and analysis on fire-resistant materials for product manufacturers or sellers of protective clothing, fabrics, and coatings that require flammability, heat resistance, smoke composition, and other advanced testing.

The RIT lab, a longtime dream of the Katol, India, native, works with companies seeking custom thermal testing and product development.

In addition to continuing his role as an emeritus member of the RIT Board of Trustees, Bal’s past work includes the Saunders College of Business Dean’s Council and Advisory Board. He received the Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award from RIT in 1992.

Anita served on RIT Women’s Council from 2011 to 2015, including as program co-chair.

Outside of his leadership role with Newtex, Bal has been an active member of the Rochester community. He has served on the boards of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Rochester General Hospital, and the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Upstate New York Export Council, and is a past board chairman of the Buffalo branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. He was inducted into the Rochester Business Hall of Fame in 2003.

Anita previously served as a member of the board of directors of the Lifetime Assistance Foundation Inc., which works to foster independence, dignity, and respect for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition to the Rochester Regional Health Gala committee, Anita also served on the board of directors of the United Nations Association of Rochester, a nonprofit organization that promotes civic debate and discussion of global, social, and economic issues.

“RIT has given us both the tools and the confidence to do what we’ve accomplished, and we’re humbled to receive so much in return,” Anita said.

Rich Kiley

Class Notes

Abbreviations

CAST

College of Applied Science and Technology (now CET)

CAD

College of Art and Design

CCE

College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)

CET

College of Engineering Technology

CHST

College of Health Sciences and Technology

CIAS

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (now CAD)

CLA

College of Liberal Arts

COS

College of Science

FAA

Fine and Applied Arts (now CAD)

GAP

Graphic Arts and Photography (now CAD)

GCCIS

Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

KGCOE

Kate Gleason College of Engineering

NTID

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

SOIS

School of Individualized Study

SCB

Saunders College of Business

SVP

NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

About Class Notes

Class Notes are edited for space, clarity, and style. Share information by going to rit.edu/alumni/class-notes.

1958

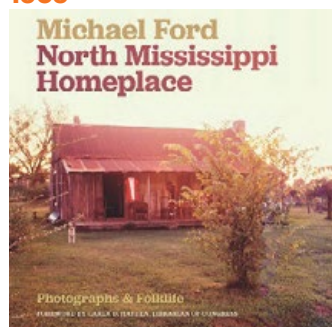


Conrad Huskey '58 (KGCOE) retired after a career committed to the aerospace industry and Department of Defense programs. He was inducted into the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum—National Aviation and Space Exploration Wall of Honor. He lives in Garnet Valley, Pa.

1961

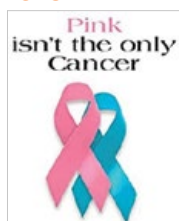
Frank Cicha '61 (GAP) recently moved from Rochester to Ocala, Fla., after his wife of 24 years, Judy Van Hillyer, passed away.

1969



Michael Ford '69 (GAP) had a book published by The Library of Congress. *North Mississippi Homeplace* juxtaposes the rural Mississippi of the 1970s and the mid-2010s with Ford's personal reflections drawn from his journals, interviews, and archival notes. A documentary can be found at vimeo.com/showcase/5894223.

1975



Bob Dawley '75 (SCB) has published a book detailing his experience with prostate cancer. *Pink isn't the only Cancer*, written

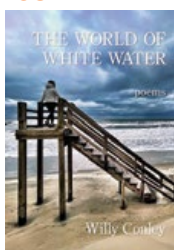
under the pen name Bob N. Roberts, covers his experience from initial diagnosis through treatments. The book is available on Amazon.

1978



Dave Sheble '78 (GAP) met up with a group of RIT alumni at SoFi Stadium on Dec. 12, 2021. The group proudly wore their RIT masks while cheering on the New York Giants against the hometown Los Angeles Chargers. From left to right: **Patrick Roche**, **Greg Appel '75 (SCB)**, **Dave Sheble '78 (GAP)**, and **Dean Reinmund '76 (GAP)**.

1981



Willy Conley '81 (GAP)

recently had his sixth book published, *The World of White Water*. Conley also retired after 30 years as

a professor of theater arts at Gallaudet University.

1982



Daniel Holmes '82 (GAP) has accepted a position as chief prosecutor for the city of Artesia, N.M. He has served as a trial attorney for the 13th Judicial District District Attorney's Office and deputy district attorney for the 8th Judicial District DA. He continues to enjoy hiking and the great outdoors of New Mexico and surrounding states.

1983



Jim Liptack '83 (KGCOE)

recently retired after 32 years of science teaching at Wilton High School in

Wilton, Conn. He taught chemistry, physical science, and physics and was also the women's volleyball team coach for 25 years. He serves as the overseer of trail maintenance of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.



Michael Lambert '83 (SCB) was promoted to senior director/head of solution design for

Sabre Travel Solutions. He works with more than 60 airlines worldwide and leads a team of cross-functional process and technical experts.

1984



Teresa Benatti '84 (CAST)

announced her engagement. She and her fiancé both live on Long Island, N.Y.

John Keeler '84 (SCB) will retire as president of Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards at the end of this year. He joined Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards as company president in February 2009. He was instrumental in the acquisition of Widmer Wine Cellars (now Hazlitt Red Cat Cellars) from Constellation Brands and the founding of East Coast Crush & Co-Pack in Naples, N.Y.

1985

Taylor Zimmer '85 (GAP) is trustee of Solitude Farmz, which is now an exclusive Opus Peace Educator in the state of New York for medical caregivers, veterans, and soul injury.

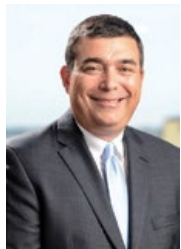
1987



Kenneth Corpus '87 (CAST) is president and CEO of Computer Works Pro Inc., which was honored with the Webster Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for 2021.

Rebecca (White) Henry '87 (FAA) was hired as regional marketing director for Colorado Spirit, a FEMA-funded, state-led emotional outreach program in response to COVID-19.

1988



Michael Sciotti '88 (CLA) is among 38 attorneys from Barclay Damon selected to the 2021 Upstate New York Super Lawyers

list. Based in the firm's Syracuse office, Sciotti is an advisor, trainer, and litigator to hundreds of employers on labor and employment matters.

1989



Irianto Safari '89 (CAST) published several ebooks on renewable energy including wind, solar, and waste-to-energy. These beginner-level books are aimed at technologists, smart building and city enthusiasts, designers, and builders. They are available by searching "energy" at bukumini.com.



Leslie D. Wilson '89 (CAST), '92 MS (CAST) attended a mini-reunion of alumni who were in the New York State Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). HEOP alumni who attended included **Ernest Wilson '90 MS (COS)**, **Franklyn Athias '85 (GCCIS)**, **Mike Avilez '86 (CAST)**, and **David Benitez '94 (SCB)**. **Tracy Saunders '84 (SCB)** also attended.

1990

Kimberly (Conti) DeGroot '90 (SCB) works for Ruthian Investment Fund LLC, which has raised more than \$1 million for real estate investing in three years and has three properties.

1991

Mia Mueller '91 (FAA) is excited to be back at RIT as the web and graphic designer for the Golisano Institute for Sustainability.

1993



Matthew Larkin '93 (CLA) is among 38 attorneys from Barclay Damon selected to the 2021 Upstate New York Super Lawyers

list. Based in the firm's Syracuse office, Larkin is Barclay Damon's torts and products liability defense practice area chair.

1995



Renee Fleming '95 (SCB) has been promoted to vice president of 1st Source Bank in South Bend, Ind. Fleming joined the bank more

than 20 years ago and manages a complex book of accounts.

1996



Danielle Cardamone '96 (COS) is among 38 attorneys from Barclay Damon selected to the 2021 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.



Timothy Cosgriff '96 MS (CAST) displayed two works in the annual holiday exhibit at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester. His

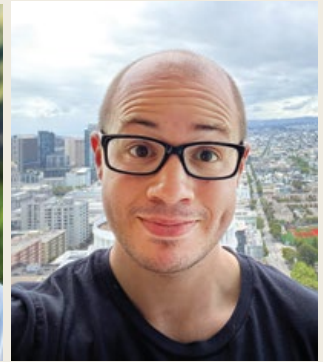
gingerbread creation, "Paddington with Big Ben" also features his photography work. Cosgriff also exhibited a holiday wreath made from china and glass processed in a rock tumbler to have a washed beach-find look.

1999



Robert Jackson '99 (CAST) for the second half of 2021 was a featured self-published author with his three book

RIT trailblazers make the 'Forbes' 30 Under 30 list



RIT alumni Jackie Wiley '16, left, and Dylan Ayrey '15 were named on the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list for 2022.

Two RIT alumni—and a third just shy of the age cut-off—were named on the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list for 2022. The prestigious *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list identified the brightest young innovators set to define the next decade.

Jackie Wiley '16 (game design and development) was honored as an advocate for representation and diversity in video games. Dylan Ayrey '15 (computer engineering) was named for developing the TruffleHog cybersecurity tool and founding a company that aims to improve cloud security. Ayrey co-founded the company with Dustin Decker '15 (mechanical engineering technology).

"It was super exciting to see our names and hard work featured on this list," said Ayrey. "I also had a little bit of imposter syndrome seeing my name next to Miley Cyrus."

Ayrey and Decker have known each other since their first year at RIT. Ayrey created TruffleHog one day in 2017, while sitting on the couch at Decker's apartment. The open source tool scans computer network environments for secrets like private keys and credentials, so people can protect their data before a breach occurs.

In 2021, Ayrey and Decker left their full-time jobs and launched Truffle Security. The company helps businesses optimize their use of

TruffleHog. As of 2021, the company had more than \$15 million in funding.

"It's not something I ever imagined happening," said Decker, who was two-and-a-half months shy of the 30-year-old cut-off for the *Forbes* list. "I'm really proud of what we have built in such a short period of time and the trajectory we are having."

Wiley started playing *World of Warcraft* (WoW) when she was 11 years old. Now, she is a quest designer for WoW at Blizzard Entertainment. Wiley and a co-worker gained notoriety for leading the implementation of WoW's first openly transgender character, Pelagos.

"WoW has always had a way for people to represent themselves, but it wasn't nearly enough," said Wiley. "It's a fantasy world and there is no reason for bias against anyone for who they are or who they love."

At Blizzard, Wiley also wants to help change the gaming industry culture. She said that since she started, her quest design team has gone from only having a few women to now being made up of almost half women.

"Oftentimes, in the games industry, people aren't treated right and that bothers me," said Wiley. "I don't hesitate to speak up and help lift others up."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Tiger Love

Lindsay (Burtner) Mindler '09 and Andy Mindler '09 met at RIT. They live in California with their son, Lincoln.

Bay Area couple enjoying success by design

When it comes to their close relationship and successful design careers, it would be tough to draw it up any better for Lindsay and Andy Mindler '09 (both new media design), who each attended Churchville-Chili High School, near Rochester, but had never spoken until attending RIT.

"We just so happened to join the same major at the same time," Lindsay recalled. "We walked into our first drawing class at RIT, where we recognized each other and quickly became friends."



The Mindlers, pictured here at Halloween in 2008, started dating in 2007.



Drawn to the university for its unique focus on technology, the arts, and design, both saw new media design as the perfect blend of 3D, motion, and code to fuel their diverse design interests. The couple started dating at RIT in 2007 and married in 2011.

Since moving to the West Coast, both Lindsay and Andy have carved out successful design careers, joining an ever-growing throng of new media and other RIT design alumni living and working in the Bay Area.

After starting out at two agencies and a tech start-up, Lindsay joined the image sharing and social media juggernaut Pinterest, leading virtually every design team over five years before being tabbed for the San Francisco company's head of design role last September.

"I feel so honored to get to lead some of the most talented and wonderful people I've ever had the privilege of working with, including a number of RIT new media design alumni," she said.

Andy also began at digital ad agencies—"leveraging my 3D and motion skills for clients that other designers didn't have," he said—before achieving his ultimate goal to break into the game industry when he joined the UI (user interface) team at Visual Concepts in Novato, Calif.

After working on three of the video game developer's *NBA 2K* series of games, he moved to an area game start-up before taking two years to be a stay-at-home dad for the couple's son, Lincoln. He has since returned to Visual Concepts to work on the last two *NBA 2K* games.

Outside of work, the couple enjoys exploring area playgrounds and going on hikes with their son, now 4. Lindsay also enjoys taking on interior design projects for the couple's home, among other personal projects. Andy is writing and self-publishing his own children's book, creating his own games, and even inventing things to 3D print.

The couple also continues to maintain a strong connection to the new media design program in RIT's College of Art and Design.

"A lot of people from the program live in the Bay Area, so we are fortunate to get to see them pretty regularly and even have play dates so our kids can play together," Lindsay said.

Rich Kiley

titles: *Looking Out from Within: A Journey Into a Poetic Landscape, A Family Like Me*, and *I Like the Me You See*. He self-published through his company, Bobby James & Co. Media. All of his books are available at bjamesandco.com.

Jason Adlowitz '99 (CIAS) owned his own company for more than 12 years and took a full-time job with Thermo Fisher Scientific.

2001

Mariya Lyubman '01 (SCB) took a role as the head of people at Truavis, the leading pharmacy benefits platform for reducing costs and improving access for prescription medications.

2003

John Moree '03 (CIAS) started a job as technical assistant II at Columbia-Greene Community College. He is teaching a residential building codes class in spring 2022.

2004



JoAnne Ryan '04 MS (CAST) is the current president and CEO for the Rochester Ronald McDonald House Charities and a member of the Bishop Kearney Board of Trustees, a member of the RIT MHA Advisory Board, and the board chair of Webster Comfort Care Home.

2008



Megan (Fritts) Critelli '08 (CIAS), '18 MS (SOIS) and **Anthony Critelli '14 (GCCIS), '19 MS (GCCIS)** were married on May 29, 2021. They met at RIT and started dating a few years later. They were surrounded by many RIT alumni and current staff at their wedding.

2009

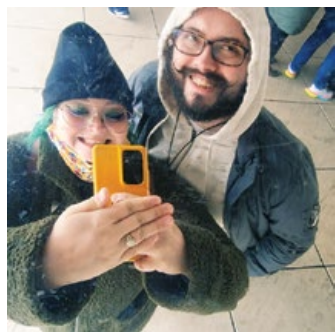


Aaron McGrath '09 (CIAS) self-published his first comic book. *The Rite* is a short horror comic about three lost adventurers finding a hidden darkness in the shadows of the desert. Copies are available for sale at madebymcgrath.com.

2011



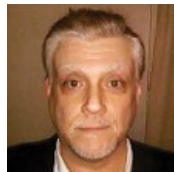
Matthew Reed '11 (GCCIS), '12 MBA (SCB) married Florencia Yannuzzi in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Nov. 19, 2021. In attendance were former Tigers **Alexander Shick '11 (GCCIS)** and **Anthony Pecorino**.



Mercedes Ulaszewski '11 (CIAS) was promoted in August 2021 to senior graphic designer at the Rochester City School District. In November while in Chicago, she and her long-time partner, Ory Ballenger, got engaged.

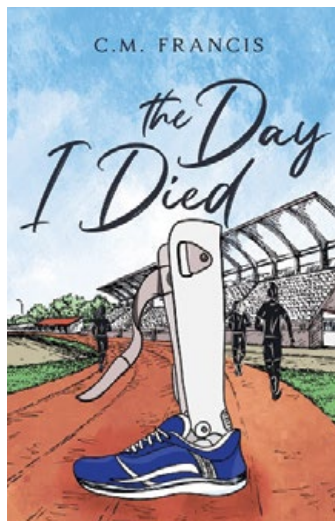
2012

Anna Hazelwood '12 (CIAS), '19 MS (SOIS) joined Eagleview in August 2021 as a project manager.



Branden Jaquays '12 (CIAS) is back behind the camera lens after a 10-year hiatus. He is providing live game camera operation for the Rochester Americans and Utica Comets AHL hockey teams, as well as the Rochester Knighthawks professional lacrosse team and Utica City football club.

2013



Catherine Francis '13 (CIAS) has published a young adult book, *The Day I Died*, based on her real-life experiences. The book or ebook can be purchased on Amazon.



Katherine Schlag '13 (CHST) and **Ian Dominick '13 (KGCOE)** started dating while at RIT and are happy to announce they were married on May 8, 2021, surrounded by family, friends, and fellow Tigers.

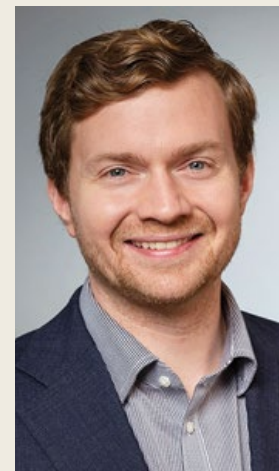
2014



Alex Agyemang '14 (CAST), '17 ME (KGCOE) was promoted to director, supply chain management strategy, at Savannah

River Nuclear Solutions. Agyemang has been employed with SRNS for the last 12 years with increasing responsibilities.

Schneider leads Alumni Association



Nick Schneider '10 became the Alumni Association Board president on Jan. 1.

Nick Schneider '10 (mechanical engineering), '10 MS (mechanical engineering) assumed the role of RIT Alumni Association Board of Directors president on Jan. 1.

Schneider, a Buffalo, N.Y., native who resides in Cambridge, Mass., has been a member of RIT's Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2008 when he was a student representative. He joined the board full time as an alumnus in 2010.

During this time, he has taken on leadership roles and has participated in many university committees, including the RIT Presidential Search committee and the Strategic Planning committee.

Schneider is a principal at Boston Consulting Group, where he is a lead in the company's technology, media, and telecommunication sector. Prior to this, he worked at an artificial intelligence legal tech start-up company. Schneider also earned a Ph.D. in nanotechnology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tiger Cubs



1 Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS (CLA)
and his wife, Chelsey, welcomed their second daughter, Nora, in July 2021.

2 Rachelle (Danno) Latona '09 (CAST)
and Lawrence Latona welcomed a son into the world in May 2021. Big sister London Rose and little brother Levi Theodore are adjusting well to being lifelong best friends.

3 Brittany Purcell '16 (GCCIS) and her husband, Michael Hite, brought a new Tiger into the world. Scarlett Rose Hite was born in October 2021.

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a desire to help our students.

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RIT | Alumni Association



Michael Richos '14 (CIAS) and **Taylor Baird '15 (COS)** were married on Nov. 6, 2021, in Vernon, N.Y. They started dating while at RIT. They were surrounded by many RIT alumni and close family members at their wedding.

2015

Kholod Alsahali '15 (SCB), '16 MS (SCB) recently obtained her Ph.D. from University of East Anglia. Her thesis title was *The Evolution and the Determinants of the Choice of Assurers for Sustainability Report*.



Courtney (Getman) Braeger '15 (KGCOE) and Steven Braeger were married in the mountains of Utah with friends and family present. Several RIT alumni made the journey to celebrate with them.



Bill Gerken '15 (CLA) has joined The Coppola Firm in Buffalo, N.Y. He is a litigator, focusing his practice on matters involving civil litigation. Additionally, Gerken has presented a course on childhood sexual abuse to other attorneys through the Erie County Bar Association.

Maureen MacGregor '15 (CIAS) was promoted from a contractor position to a tenured mid-level photographer position at American Greetings in Cleveland.

Alumna takes passion for sustainable architecture to Vermont

Catherine C. Lange '16 M.Arch (architecture) developed a passion for sustainable architecture when she learned the impact the world's built environment has on climate change, and that buildings designed to limit humanity's impact on the planet's resources offer a real and pressing opportunity to combat the climate crisis.

"Forty percent of the world's GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions come from buildings—the majority of that from operating energy," she said.

Since graduating from RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability, Lange's career path has taken her to Vermont, where she is an architect at Freeman French Freeman (FFF), a Burlington, Vt., firm founded in 1937 by pioneering female architect Ruth Freeman.

Today, FFF designs many of the Green Mountain State's largest, most complex—and yes, sustainable—buildings.

In 2020, Lange helped the firm join the 2030 Challenge, committing to design all projects to be net zero carbon by the year 2030. "We have published a Sustainability Action Plan, which outlines how we plan to meet that goal, and why it is imperative that we achieve it."

Since arriving in 2017, Lange has worked on a number of the firm's most high-profile projects, including an urban, mixed-use building in Burlington; a hotel and recreation center in South Burlington; and the Greater Burlington YMCA, among others.

She was promoted to associate principal in 2019, joining FFF's fifth generation of ownership and becoming the first woman owner since its founding 85 years ago.

Lange also has become actively involved in the local community and state, including volunteering with the board of directors for the state American Institute of Architects (AIA) chapter, where she now serves as president.

"In this role, I am setting



Architect Catherine Lange '16 enjoys spending time outdoors hiking the picturesque Green Mountains.

the direction for AIA Vermont; my priorities for the year are climate and social justice," said Lange, who was AIA New York State "Student of the Year" at RIT in 2015.

Lange also served as a non-voting member of RIT M.Arch's recent National Architectural Accreditation Board's (NAAB) continuing accreditation site visit, held (virtually) in March 2020. The program, established in 2011, received high laudatory remarks and met two items "with distinction" while receiving a full

eight-year reaccreditation.

"What I love about RIT's architecture program is its core belief that there is no longer value in architecture that is not sustainable. At RIT, we were learning the science of sustainability, and were able to immediately put it into practice in our studio courses," she said. "This integration was so beneficial to learning, as we were able to reinforce the connection between buildings and climate on a daily basis."

Rich Kiley

Joseph Martyniuk '15 MS (CAST) was recently promoted to senior product manager for tech within the human resources system of Amazon. He now has the ability to build-out technical teams to solve problems within Amazon to accommodate their rapid growth.



Alyxandra Sherwood '15 MS (CLA) finished the 2021 Boston Marathon as part of team 261 Fearless.

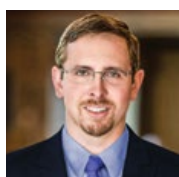
2016



Chelsea Coates '16 (GCCIS) and **Ryan Biederbeck '16 (CAST)** got married on Sept. 5, 2021, in South Wales, N.Y. There were 18 Tiger alumni in attendance. They are grateful to RIT for bringing them together.



Marion Marston '16 (SOIS) is the published author of *BLUE*, a book of poetry.



W. Frazier Pruitt '16 (CAST) was recognized as one of ASQ's 40 under 40. In addition to his work at Southco Inc. as quality assurance supervisor and his role as vice chair at the Rochester Section of ASQ, Pruitt is an ASQ-certified Six Sigma black belt and quality engineer.



Victoria Savka '16 (CIAS), '18 MST (CIAS) is pursuing her passion as an illustrator, storyteller, and ceramic artist. She has shown in exhibits internationally and has work available in select stores and venues throughout the country. She has been featured on *Artist in Focus* through PBS. She works and teaches in Auburn, N.Y. Learn more at victoriasavka.com.

2017



Sarah Baris '17 (SCB) and **Stephen Silkey '16 (COS)** exchanged marriage vows on Dec. 9, 2019, which was their 10-year anniversary of dating. They met while attending Bishop Grimes Junior/High School in East Syracuse, N.Y. The wedding party included several RIT alumni and many alumni attended the celebration.



Natalia Dempsey '17 (CLA) and **Szymon Nagawiecki '18 (CAST)** were married on Sept. 18, 2021. They met on Natalia's first day at RIT as a transfer student. They were surrounded by friends, family, and fellow Tigers at their wedding.



Jessica Ramage '17 (CLA) and **Brody Smith '15 (KGCOE)** were married on Aug. 14, 2021, in Mystic, Conn., and had more than 20 RIT alumni in attendance.

Sara Pilson '17 (COS) joined the Garden City office of Goldberg Segalla, a national civil litigation firm. She earned her juris doctor at Fordham University School of Law.

2018

Sarmad Al Lawati '18 (CLA) had photographs featured with several different major news outlets, including CNN. He can be followed on Instagram: @sarmadallawati.



Jenn Palmer '18 (KGCOE), '18 ME (KGCOE) and **Peter Desrosiers '18 (GCCIS)** were married on Aug. 27, 2021, in front of family and friends. They met while working at new student orientation at RIT, became good friends, and later started dating. They were surrounded by RIT alumni with graduation class representation ranging from 1986 through 2020.

2019



Caroline Davis '19 (CHST) was inducted into Pi Theta Epsilon at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. PTE invites occupational therapy students who are in the top 35 percent of their cohort to apply to be a member. The application included an academic essay, evidence of leadership experiences and academic accomplishments, and another short essay.



Katherine (McIndoe) D'Onofrio '19 (CAD), '22 MST (CAD) and **Michael D'Onofrio '19 (CAD)** were married on Oct. 15, 2021. They met during RIT orientation for their program, advertising photography, and soon began dating. They were surrounded by friends, family, and fellow RIT Tigers at their wedding.

Michael Quinto '19 MFA (CAD) began working for NASA.

2021

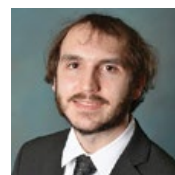


Ben Garvey '21 (SOIS) is working full-time on his start-up company, Great Lakes

Gaming, an esports event organizer and production company. Great Lakes Gaming will be opening its first facility in downtown Rochester this fall at Innovation Square.



Dylan Hollender '21 (CAD), Ryan Hollender '19 (KGCOE), and their parents brought Tiger love to the Princeton hockey games over the 2021 Thanksgiving weekend.



Zachary O'Neill '21 (SCB) joined Dannible & McKee LLP, a certified public

accounting and consulting firm, as an audit staff accountant. He is also a volunteer at St. Margaret's Church in Mattydale and lives in North Syracuse, N.Y.

In Memoriam

Alumni

1940

W. Eugenia (Grant) Mazzara '40 (SCB) May 1, 2021
Jean (Peterson) Troutner '40 (SCB) Dec. 16, 2021

1941

Carl Greene '41 (KGCOE) Sept. 14, 2021

1942

Donald Ross '42 (KGCOE) Dec. 6, 2021

1943

Harold Atkins '43 (GAP) July 9, 2021

1945

Frank Spreter '45 (KGCOE) May 31, 2021

1947

John Stage '47 (GAP) Oct. 28, 2021

1948

Patricia (Siller) Hall '48 MFA (FAA) Sept. 17, 2021

1949

Herbert Cushman '49 (CCE) April 23, 2021
Francis Grimaldi '49 (GAP) March 2, 2021
Robert Heindl '49 (KGCOE) April 24, 2021
Patricia (Wayman) Hider '49 (FAA) March 5, 2021
Walter Kornrich '49 (FAA) March 11, 2021
Dorothy (Jeffer) Pearson '49 (GAP) Oct. 15, 2021
Nancy (May) Roff '49 (SCB) June 28, 2021

1950

Bernice (Kalish) Gunther '50 (SCB) Dec. 5, 2021
Robert Hewes '50 (CCE) May 30, 2021
Robert Sanborn '50 (GAP) Oct. 6, 2021
Richard Steubing '50 (KGCOE) Dec. 7, 2021

1951

Robert Gresens '51 (KGCOE) Feb. 27, 2021

Joan (Lang) Gresens '51 (FAA) July 3, 2021
Charles Joy '51 (SCB) Aug. 9, 2021
Jeanne (King) Leavitt '51 (SCB) Oct. 26, 2021
Betty (Wright) Lewis '51 (FAA) Nov. 11, 2021
Kathryn (Leafstone) Reber '51 (SCB) April 14, 2021
James Tarr '51 (GAP) May 1, 2021

1952

Mary (Lynch) Buechi '52 (SCB) Sept. 8, 2021
Lucy (La Rosa) Ciresi '52 (SCB) April 19, 2021
Milton Goldberg '52 (GAP) Sept. 28, 2021
Patricia (Wood) Harrison '52 (SCB) March 26, 2021
Fred Lewalter '52 (CCE) Nov. 9, 2021
William Sabia '52 (FAA) Feb. 3, 2021
John Schmidt '52 (FAA) Aug. 16, 2021

1953

S. Nancy (Drake) Lucas '53 (FAA) Aug. 21, 2021
Joseph Metzger '53 (GAP) Nov. 21, 2021
Arnold Rauscher '53 (KGCOE) Oct. 21, 2021

1954

Alice (Herendeen) Brouse '54 (SCB) July 17, 2021
Thurman Moxley '54 (CCE) Sept. 24, 2021
Arthur Schuth '54 (CCE) July 7, 2021

1955

Donald Avery '55 (KGCOE) Aug. 15, 2021
Marcus Bonsignore '55 (CCE) June 3, 2021
Jesse Maffuid '55 (KGCOE) Nov. 28, 2021
Myron Nodecker '55 (KGCOE) April 19, 2021

1956

Hugh Bellen '56 (KGCOE) Aug. 28, 2021
Chester Daniels '56 MS (GAP) March 12, 2021
Robert Lorenzen '56 (GAP) Oct. 30, 2021

1957

James Duncan '57 (KGCOE) July 12, 2021
Randolph Horine '57 (GAP) Oct. 24, 2021
Harvey Schauer '57 (FAA) Nov. 26, 2021
Paul Shepard '57 (CCE) May 27, 2021

1958

Joan (Nickel) Cannon '58 (SCB) May 10, 2021
Robert Erskine '58 (CCE) Aug. 16, 2021
John Fitzgerald '58 (CCE) July 31, 2021
Shirley (Moore) Homesy '58 (FAA), '75 (FAA) Oct. 23, 2021
Clifford King '58 (SCB) Oct. 21, 2021
David Labrake '58 (GAP) Oct. 28, 2021
Donelda Labrake '58 (FAA) April 17, 2021
Donald Lenhard '58 (GAP) Nov. 24, 2021
Martin Lipsky '58 (SCB) July 9, 2021
Donald McCaughey '58 (FAA) June 26, 2021
James McNally '58 (KGCOE) Oct. 20, 2021
Paul Mye '58 (GAP) July 26, 2021
Charles Prey '58 (KGCOE) Sept. 25, 2021
James Reynolds '58 (KGCOE) April 15, 2021

1959

Peter Bunnell '59 (GAP) Sept. 20, 2021
William Chapman '59 (GAP) July 12, 2021
Richard Compo '59 (SCB) Sept. 5, 2021
Louis Damico '59 (SCB) June 28, 2021
Joseph Mamo '59 (CCE) May 30, 2021
Daniel Radzinski '59 (KGCOE) Oct. 21, 2021
Lawrence Robinson '59 (KGCOE) June 19, 2021
William Salzer '59 (KGCOE) July 28, 2021
Diane (Hollowell) Stigler '59 (COS) June 19, 2021
Darwin Turner '59 (CCE) Nov. 20, 2021

1960

John Christoffel '60 (KGCOE) June 4, 2021
David Crane '60 (KGCOE) Nov. 9, 2021
Norman Gruschow '60 MS (COS) May 27, 2021
Daniel Mortell '60 (FAA) July 19, 2021
Morton Polsky '60 (SCB) Aug. 14, 2021
Ronald Stewart '60 (GAP) June 27, 2021

1961

Fredrick Anderson '61 (KGCOE) June 16, 2021
Joan (Flynn) Fleckenstein '61 (FAA) Oct. 26, 2021

William Halldow '61 (KGCOE), '71 MBA (SCB) April 19, 2021
James Johnson '61 (GAP) Sept. 11, 2021
Sonya (Hanville) Kelly '61 (SCB) May 21, 2021
Kay Kramer '61 (GAP) April 2, 2021
Ronald Mehlenbacher '61 (GAP) May 15, 2021
Albert Nunn '61 (KGCOE) April 19, 2021
Richard Springs '61 (GAP) Aug. 17, 2021
Douglas Stone '61 (KGCOE) Sept. 1, 2021
Harry Woody '61 (CCE) Dec. 5, 2021

1962

Oliver Gray '62 (FAA) May 20, 2021
Richard Irland '62 (SCB) Nov. 27, 2021
Vaughan Judd '62 (SCB) Sept. 30, 2021
Stephen Langer '62 (GAP) March 19, 2021
Ronald Maeder '62 (CCE) Dec. 3, 2021
Kenneth Reynolds '62 (KGCOE) Nov. 26, 2021

1963

Joseph Ballone '63 (CCE) July 27, 2021
Bernard Bernstein '63 MFA (FAA) July 28, 2021
Nicholas Lysenko '63 (KGCOE) March 10, 2021
Myron Rapkin '63 (COS) Aug. 29, 2021
Paul Sanelli '63 (SCB) May 3, 2021
Joseph Vella '63 (CCE) July 9, 2021

1964

Robert Fervan '64 (GAP) May 9, 2021
Elizabeth (Trinchini) Grieco '64 (CCE) July 16, 2021
James Haven '64 (KGCOE) April 5, 2021
John Langdon '64 (KGCOE) Sept. 12, 2021
Barbara (Hammond) McHorney '64 (SCB) Nov. 11, 2021

1965

Eric Bellmann '65 MFA (FAA) Oct. 16, 2021
William Diesel '65 (CCE) Sept. 22, 2021
Francesco Fiorentino '65 (CCE) Nov. 7, 2021
Henry Kuhn '65 (GAP) Feb. 14, 2021
Monte Lavine '65 (FAA) Nov. 19, 2021

John Laymac '65 (SCB) Dec. 21, 2021
Jane Miller '65 MFA (FAA) May 20, 2021
David Smith '65 (GAP) May 18, 2021
Wendy (Stevenson) Spector '65 (FAA) Oct. 27, 2021

1966

Daniel Litwak '66 (COS) April 3, 2021
Bruce Mayer '66 (SCB) Dec. 17, 2021

1967

James Backus '67 (CCE) June 4, 2021
Roger Converse '67 MS (KGCOE) July 1, 2021
John (Wynkoop) Kosta '67 (GAP), '68 (SCB) Oct. 25, 2021
Paul Linford '67 (GAP) Sept. 1, 2021
James Moxon '67 (CCE) July 22, 2021
Robert Murray '67 (KGCOE) Oct. 12, 2021
Margery (Schutts) Sheldon '67 MFA (FAA) Jan. 25, 2021
Lawrence St. John '67 (FAA) June 28, 2021
Guy Welch '67 MS (GAP) Feb. 15, 2021

1968

Kenneth Bliss '68 MFA (FAA) Aug. 31, 2021
Paul Desnoyers '68 (KGCOE) Aug. 7, 2021
Joseph Dinoto '68 (CCE) March 9, 2021
Glenn Guhman '68 (COS) Aug. 1, 2021
Franklin Reese '68 (CCE) July 6, 2021
Jeffrey Rosenberg '68 (GAP) November 2021
William Strom '68 (SCB) July 2, 2021
Frank Thomas '68 (CCE) July 19, 2021

1969

James Antalek '69 (KGCOE) Sept. 26, 2021
Richard Clawson '69 (SCB) June 15, 2021
Donald Crellin '69 (CCE) May 12, 2021
Peter Darling '69 (KGCOE) March 24, 2021
Leo Doyle '69 MFA (FAA) Aug. 12, 2021
Alan Dunham '69 (GAP) Aug. 6, 2021
James Hazen '69 (SCB) July 22, 2021
David Lacava '69 (CCE) Aug. 23, 2021

Louis Ligouri '69 (SCB)
July 1, 2021
David Pellett '69 (SCB)
June 12, 2021
James Simpson '69
(SCB) Sept. 17, 2021
Arthur Vitoch '69 (FAA)
Dec. 8, 2021
Robert Wensley '69
(KGCOE) Oct. 3, 2021

1970

Mark Altbier '70 (GAP)
July 8, 2021
John Armenia '70 (SCB)
Oct. 1, 2021
Mary (Sdoia) Bianchi '70
(COS) Nov. 24, 2021
Gary Bookmiller '70
(SCB) Oct. 1, 2021
Fredrich Hoehn '70 (CCE)
Aug. 26, 2021
Paul Knipper '70
(KGCOE) March 15, 2021
Edward Kozlowski '70
(CCE) Dec. 15, 2021
Bernard Lynch '70 (CCE)
Nov. 19, 2021
Julie Marzano '70 (COS)
Aug. 16, 2021
Philip Perry '70 (COS)
Nov. 5, 2021
Ivan Rohrer '70 (GAP)
Nov. 30, 2021

1971

Donald Angevine '71
(CCE) Aug. 28, 2021
Roger Barnaby '71 (GAP)
Sept. 3, 2021
Margaret (Cooper) Cohen
'71 (SCB) June 7, 2021
William Fancher '71
(KGCOE) June 27, 2021
Gary Hale '71 (CCE)
Nov. 30, 2021
Bernard Laramie '71
(GAP) Sept. 9, 2021
Henry Latus '71 (CCE)
Aug. 16, 2021
Franklyn Rheume '71
(KGCOE) Oct. 25, 2021
Charles Strickland '71
(CCE) Feb. 5, 2021
James Vandamme '71
(CCE) Oct. 15, 2021
David Vanzandt '71 (SCB)
Oct. 19, 2021
Otto Welzmueller '71
(CCE) July 4, 2021

1972

Michael Alekson '72 MS
(SCB) March 20, 2021
John Babcock '72 (SCB)
March 29, 2021
W. Baker '72 MS (CAST)
May 31, 2021
Paul Bigwarfe '72 (CCE)
Dec. 10, 2021
Michael Brooks '72 (GAP)
Dec. 18, 2021

William Fisher '72 MS
(KGCOE) Oct. 12, 2021
John Jarvis '72 (KGCOE)
Oct. 16, 2021
Richard Ochs '72 (SCB)
May 13, 2021
Theodore Vaccarella '72
MS (SCB) March 13, 2021

1973

Orville Adler '73 (KGCOE)
May 7, 2021
Michael Adler '73
(KGCOE) May 28, 2021
Steve Buczeko '73 (SCB)
Sept. 5, 2021
David Coleman '73
(KGCOE) June 22, 2021
Richard Fernquist '73
(CCE) May 23, 2021
John Fiegel '73 (KGCOE)
May 11, 2021
Wilbert Huffman '73
(CCE) Oct. 16, 2021
Charles Inzinna '73 (CCE)
Sept. 22, 2021
Warren Keuffel '73 (GAP)
Sept. 5, 2021
Kenneth LaRose '73
(NTID) Oct. 14, 2021
John North '73 (CCE)
Sept. 15, 2021
John Pyle '73 (GAP)
Aug. 8, 2021
Stephen Smith '73 (GAP)
Feb. 25, 2021
Robert Whipple '73 (CCE)
Aug. 21, 2021
Donald Wilson '73 (SCB)
Oct. 16, 2021

1974

Dale Borkhuis '74 (CCE)
Feb. 27, 2021
Richard Eschler '74 (FAA)
April 1, 2021
Terrence Footer '74 MS
(SCB) Dec. 9, 2021
Alexander Lemanski '74
(KGCOE) Nov. 23, 2021
Alan Keady '74 (CCE)
March 20, 2021
Charles Koerner '74 (CLA)
Aug. 26, 2021
Robert Maser '74 (CCE)
June 19, 2021
William Mather '74 (NTID)
Nov. 1, 2021
Margo Wheeler '74 MFA
(FAA) May 2, 2021

1975

John Davis '75 (CCE)
April 1, 2021
Louis Diponzio '75 (CCE)
June 12, 2021
David Duemmel '75 (CCE)
Sept. 16, 2021
John Green '75 (FAA)
July 29, 2021
Thomas Gross '75 (SCB)
Dec. 12, 2021

Joseph Incardona '75
(SCB) June 15, 2021
Joseph Moffett '75 (SCB)
Aug. 5, 2021
Joan O'Connell '75 (CCE)
Aug. 27, 2021
Hugh Toner '75 (GAP)
Oct. 2, 2021
Rodney Vanhorn '75
(GAP) June 27, 2021
Terry West '75 (CCE)
May 7, 2021

1976

Richard Clauss '76
(CAST) May 21, 2021
Edward Dick '76 (CAST)
June 28, 2021
John Gardner '76 (CLA)
May 1, 2021
Richard Hammond '76
(CAST) Nov. 8, 2021
James Jensen '76 MS
(CCE) June 14, 2021
Ricardo Juskiewicz '76
(GAP) November 2021
Lawrence Marconi '76
(CCE) Sept. 1, 2021
Robert Merla '76 (SCB)
April 10, 2021
Francis Miller '76 (GAP)
Dec. 7, 2021
Philip Ronzo '76 (CCE)
Dec. 22, 2021
Robert Weeks '76 MS
(SCB) March 12, 2021

1977

Andrew Bessette '77
(CCE) Oct. 23, 2021
Linda Cotsworth '77
(CCE) May 22, 2021
Ching Da '77 (GAP)
Jan. 11, 2021
Catharine (Monoki)
DiLella '77 MST (FAA),
'78 MFA (FAA)
July 6, 2021
John Dill '77 (CCE)
April 23, 2021
Cindi Hare '77 (CLA)
July 27, 2021
Jack Lukens '77 (CCE)
July 3, 2021
James Mead '77 (CCE)
July 13, 2021
Wai Ng '77 (NTID)
May 23, 2021
Robert Odasz '77 (CCE)
April 2, 2021
Thomas Trammel '77
(CCE) July 1, 2021
Martha Young '77 (CLA)
Oct. 16, 2021

1978

Deborah Botticelli '78
(FAA) Oct. 15, 2021
James Dimassimo '78
(SCB) Aug. 10, 2021
Jonathan Eastman '78
(KGCOE) Nov. 17, 2021

George Greene
'78 (KGCOE)
March 27, 2021
Susan (Chandler) Hill '78
(SCB), '85 MBA (SCB)
Nov. 9, 2021
Elissa Olsen '78 (CAST)
July 8, 2021
Thomas Penny '78 (SCB)
June 20, 2021
James Petrelli '78 (CCE)
May 28, 2021

1979

Mark Crouse '79 (GAP)
Sept. 19, 2021
Martin Erway '79 (CCE)
Dec. 7, 2021
Roy Libby '79 (CCE)
May 3, 2021
Dennis Manasco '79
(GAP) Oct. 30, 2021
Gene Salerno '79 (FAA)
March 28, 2021
Elizabeth (Dubiel)
Wayman '79 (COS), '17
MS (CLA) Oct. 18, 2021
Barry Welch '79 (CCE)
Nov. 5, 2021
Grant Wideman '79 (CCE)
Nov. 12, 2021

1980

Bradford Gray '80 (SCB)
April 15, 2021
Steven Karol '80 (CCE)
Oct. 28, 2021
Francis Lospitalier '80
(KGCOE) July 15, 2021
Alfred Pietzold '80 (KG-
COE), '85 MS (KGCOE)
March 23, 2021
Girard Snajder '80 (CCE)
Aug. 1, 2021

1981

Walter Bush '81 (CAST)
Nov. 27, 2021
David Cumbo '81 (CCE)
Oct. 11, 2021
Nancy Dimmick '81 (GAP)
April 24, 2021
Joseph Enfonde '81
(CCE) Nov. 7, 2021
George Marshall '81 MS
(KGCOE) Nov. 23, 2021
Mary (Sweeney) Maziarski
'81 (CAST) Nov. 6, 2021
Richard Metzger '81
(CAST) March 14, 2021
Robert Peake '81 (CAST)
Oct. 28, 2021

1982

Francis Chatelle '82
(CCE) Oct. 2, 2021
Gary Kolodziejczyk '82
(CCE) July 16, 2021
Kevin Leonard '82 MS
(SCB) Aug. 21, 2021
Timothy MacKey '82
(NTID) Aug. 25, 2021

Diane Muar '82 (CCE)
Oct. 24, 2021
Robert Pennell '82 (NTID)
July 10, 2021
Alexander Szydluk '82 MS
(GAP) March 8, 2021
Eddie Williams '82 (CCE)
July 13, 2021

1983

James Jones '83 (CCE),
'96 (SCB) Aug. 25, 2021
Francis Lospitalier '83
(KGCOE) July 15, 2021
Mark Miranda '83 (CAST)
May 28, 2021
Mauro Petrella '83 (SCB)
March 3, 2021
Barbara (Saia) Westfall
'83 (SCB) Oct. 26, 2021

1984

Beth Allegranza-
Mcphilly '84 (GAP) Aug.
10, 2021
Tat Chan '84 (KGCOE)
Dec. 8, 2021
Thomas Jessick '84
(CCE) Sept. 3, 2021
Casimer Lopata '84 MS
(CAST) May 1, 2021

1985

David Dupor '85 (NTID),
'85 (GAP) April 27, 2021
Robert Kelly '85 (KGCOE)
Sept. 4, 2021
Michael Street '85 (CAST)
March 24, 2021
Paul Valenti '85 (CAST)
Nov. 12, 2021
Lori Vaskalis '85 (FAA)
Oct. 16, 2021

1986

Guy Fuhrman '86 (NTID)
April 6, 2021
Nancy Hargrave '86
(NTID) March 23, 2021
Gregory Mostoller '86
(CAST) May 5, 2021
Walter Springer Jr. '86
(SCB) Aug. 11, 2021

1987

Louise Visco '87 (SCB)
Dec. 15, 2021
Robin Wallace '87 (CCE)
Oct. 5, 2021

1988

David Drexler '88 (CCE)
Dec. 5, 2021
Timothy Ernst '88 (CCE)
April 15, 2021
George Flood '88 (CAST),
'02 MS (KGCOE)
June 28, 2021
Diane Laforce '88 (CCE)
June 2, 2021
Steven Locaputo '88
(CAST) April 28, 2021

Dean Neubauer '88 MS (CCE) April 14, 2021
Wayne Shaffer '88 (CCE) May 4, 2021
Christa (Ingraham) Shiffer '88 (NTID) Dec. 8, 2021

1989
William Swetman '89 (CAST) Sept. 12, 2021

1990
David Cooper '90 (FAA) Sept. 9, 2021
Cynthia (Coomber) Mitchell '90 (SCB) May 4, 2021
John Vito '90 MS (SCB) July 7, 2021

1991
Christian Elfers '91 (CAST) May 17, 2021
Timothy Pierce '91 (FAA) June 20, 2021

1992
Sharon Day '92 (CAST) November 2021
Edwin Fretwell '92 (CAST) June 15, 2021
John Spare '92 MS (CAST) Aug. 1, 2021
John Torres '92 (SCB), '00 MS (CAST) Nov. 25, 2021

1993
Benson Bunk '93 (CAST) Oct. 1, 2021
Charles Forselius '93 (SCB) Oct. 28, 2021
Michael Foy '93 (SCB) March 16, 2021
James Gieber '93 (CAST) Oct. 2, 2021
Eileen Kissel '93 (CAST) Aug. 28, 2021
Robert Sloan '93 (CCE) March 12, 2021
Michael Vanderburgh '93 (CAST) Aug. 25, 2021

1994
Stephen Shellhammer '94 (CAST) May 30, 2021
Mark Teoli '94 (CAST) Nov. 30, 2021
Robert Wilsea '94 (SCB) September 2021

1995
Newton Munson '95 MS (SCB) Oct. 13, 2021

1996
Beverly (Waller) Braun '96 MS (COS) June 2021

1997
Michael Bell '97 (CAST) Oct. 6, 2021
Steven Donner '97 (SCB) April 12, 2021

Jeffery Finlayson '97 (CIAS), '99 MST (CIAS) March 17, 2021
Linda Guest '97 (CAST) Aug. 2, 2021
Nathan Hurle '97 (KGCOE) July 18, 2021
Bruce Letzelter '97 (CIAS), '05 MS (CIAS) Dec. 7, 2021
David Ottosen '97 (NTID) Aug. 7, 2021
Vincent Pigula '97 MS (CAST) Oct. 5, 2021
Mike Stringer '97 (CAST) May 19, 2021

1998
Alan Baldeck '98 (CAST) October 2021
Kimberly Bliss '98 (COS) March 27, 2021
Charles Derr '98 (CAST) Aug. 30, 2021

1999
Stephen Sopp '99 (CAST) May 9, 2021

2000
Bruce Tyo '00 (CAST) March 31, 2021

2001
Matthew Luce '01 (KGCOE) Sept. 20, 2021
Dennis Peterson '01 (CAST) Dec. 9, 2021
Ronald Wrobel '01 (NTID) May 10, 2021

2002
Stevie Brown '02 (CIAS) Dec. 4, 2021
John Conway '02 (GCCIS) Sept. 21, 2021
Janice (Turgeon) Keleman '02 (CAST) June 6, 2021

2004
Kimberly Cooks '04 (CAST) Aug. 6, 2021

2005
Jocelyn Banyard '05 (CAST) July 22, 2021
Robert Minemier '05 MS (GCCIS) Nov. 17, 2021

2006
Zachary Landau '06 (GCCIS) April 7, 2021
James Macchiano '06 (CIAS), '09 MBA (SCB) Dec. 23, 2021
Bo Mahaney '06 (CAST) April 23, 2021

2007
Patricia Smith '07 MS (SCB) May 7, 2021

2008
Paul Guenther '08 (GCCIS) April 24, 2021
Jessica Sweeney '08 (NTID) April 6, 2021

2009
Benjamin Colvin '09 (CAST) Dec. 8, 2021
Bryan Eldridge '09 (GCCIS) Oct. 21, 2021
Caitlin La Plante '09 (CLA) June 18, 2021

2010
Danielle Lehman '10 (CAST) March 2021
Chor Vang '10 (NTID) Nov. 10, 2021

2014
Raymond Zheng '14 (KGCOE) July 30, 2021

2016
Zachary Whitman '16 (GCCIS), '16 MS (GCCIS) Nov. 8, 2021

2017
Zachary Dickman '17 (KGCOE) Sept. 17, 2021

2020
Michael Brice '20 (GCCIS) April 14, 2021

Faculty and Staff

Retired staff member
Beatrice Anderson, Dec. 27, 2021

Retired staff member
Helen Autovino, Aug. 4, 2020

Retired NTID faculty member
Beverly Price DeNard, Dec. 12, 2021

Retired staff member
Charles Dispenza, Dec. 22, 2021

Employee **Donald Gray,** June 16, 2021

Retired NTID faculty member
Jane Jackson, Aug. 31, 2021

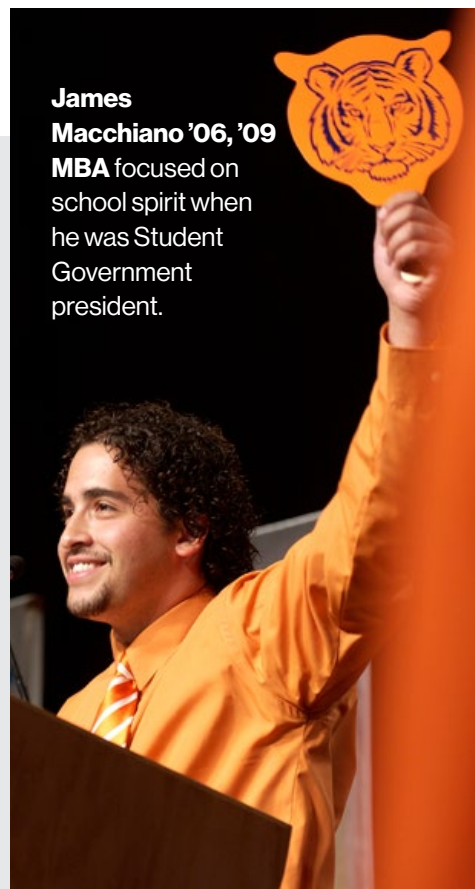
Retired faculty member
James D. Jensen, June 14, 2021.

Former chair of the Fine Art Department **Thomas R. Lightfoot,** Dec. 10, 2021

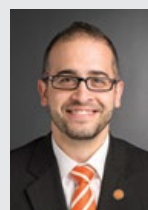
Retired librarian **Sarah Reynolds,** Sept. 11, 2021

Retired faculty member
Charles Wiegand, Nov. 16, 2021

James Macchiano '06, '09 MBA focused on school spirit when he was Student Government president.



A. Sue Weisler



Former Student Government President James Macchiano '06 (film and animation), '09 MBA died on Dec. 23, 2021, after a battle with brain cancer.

Macchiano served as director of the Multicultural Center for Academic Success (MCAS) in the Division of Diversity and Inclusion (DDI) since August 2016. In that role, he helped introduce MCAS Advocates, MCAS Library at RIT Libraries, and Deans' List receptions, and the DDI's Celebration of Excellence, as well as strengthening MCAS Family Meetings, the RIT Summer Experience (formally Summer Bridge), and processes for student financial support and assistance.

Before his role as director of MCAS, he served as director of reunions and affinity programs in RIT's Office of Alumni Relations. As Student Government president from 2005-2006, he focused on school spirit and making better use of the RIT colors.

He is survived by his wife, Emily '08 (applied arts and sciences), and three children.

RIT Croatia celebrates its 25th anniversary

Željko Tutnjevi

RIT's efforts to offer education on a global scale began in earnest 25 years ago when it launched a presence in Dubrovnik, the historic city on the Adriatic Sea in southern Croatia.

At the time, launching a campus in Croatia was a risky proposition since the region was recovering from violent upheaval during the Yugoslav wars. At the encouragement of the U.S. Department of State, the Republic of Croatia's Ministry of Science, Education, and Sports asked RIT's School of International Hospitality and Service Innovation about launching a program to help revitalize the country's tourism industry.

With support from RIT President Al Simone and Provost Stan McKenzie, the school spent two years developing a program from the ground up and launched what was then-called the American College of Management and Technology in 1997.

"We were there when it was in ruins," said Fran Domoy, former hospitality program director who led efforts to establish the campus. "The hotel properties were burned out and rockets were fired into nearly every building in the Dubrovnik area. We felt the pain in the early days of what had to be accomplished not only to build an education program, but to rebuild

the infrastructure of Dubrovnik. It was an honor to be part of that evolution."

Domoy said RIT quickly found there was a strong appetite for an American-style education, particularly one with a strong co-op program. Although campus administration projected the program would begin with 75 students, enrollment quickly jumped to 175 students in the first year and climbed to nearly 600 not long after that.

"In the early days, RIT played an important role in bringing hope and new opportunities for a generation that had been greatly affected by the Yugoslav wars and the transition to a market economy," said James Myers, associate provost for international education and global programs and one of the first RIT faculty members in Croatia. "We should take great pride in the multitude of ways our university and its alumni have shaped the economy and contributed to the stability of Croatia and the surrounding region."

To date, more than 2,600 alumni from 40 countries have earned degrees at RIT Croatia. Domoy said he will never forget the delight on the faces of those attending ACMT's first graduation ceremony.

"You had families that sold properties and scraped to raise money to send their

Celebration

RIT launched its first global campus in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 25 years ago. RIT Croatia moved to its current Dubrovnik location in 2005 and celebrated with fireworks during the dedication ceremony.

sons and daughters to college," said Domoy. "It was a huge sacrifice on their part and at the first graduation ceremony that was held there, the families were overjoyed that their son or daughter had a degree and a job offer."

The success of the campus led RIT Croatia to open a second location in the capital city Zagreb in 2011, and RIT has also launched campuses across the world in Kosovo, Dubai, and China. Today, RIT enrolls more than 850 students across the two Croatian locations and nearly 3,000 students at all global campuses combined.

"A lot of people have asked me what is the 'secret sauce' for RIT Croatia's success over all of these years," said RIT Croatia President and Dean Don Hudspeth, who has been with the campus from the start. "The truth is, we have always focused on the learning experience and personal growth experience of our students, and to better prepare them for life. Aligning our processes to help students discover their passion and future careers, and supporting them in achieving their professional goals and dreams, this has been, and continues to be, the backbone of everything we do."

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS



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Student

When RIT students have a big dream, they build it—together.

RIT's Baja Racing team fosters engineering development for any student interested in furthering personal growth. Our Tigers construct a vehicle from scratch and cheer each other on—all the way to the finish line. A top 10 for over a decade, RIT Baja won first place overall at Baja SAE racing in Tucson, Arizona, last May.



Family

Franklyn Athias BS '85, left, poses with his sons, **Jared BFA '17** and **Andrew BS '18**. "We all graduated and are successful in our careers," said Franklyn (computer science), who is senior vice president at Comcast Cable. "I've been very lucky over the years and can say I won the lottery working for Comcast. I have to say if it wasn't for attending RIT, this probably would not have happened." Jared now works at Amazon as a 3D artist and Andrew is a social media and marketing coordinator for Silvi Materials.



Mentor

In 2015, four RIT students were brought together by mentor **Dr. Hans Schmitthenner (Dr. Hans)**. Today, they are four success stories. **Chelsea Weidman Burke BS '15** became a science writer and a clinical study coordinator; **Taylor Barrett BS '15** is a visiting Assistant Professor of Biochemistry; **Lauren Heese BS '16** works as an Analytical Development Associate; **Stephanie Beach-Molony BS '15** is working as a Research Information Analyst.

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BRICK CITY
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**HOMECOMING
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something amazing
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Save the date, Tigers.

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