



# RIT

**University Magazine**

Fall 2022

# ESPORTS

**MORE THAN A GAME**

**Also inside:**

Pursuing the promise  
of Title IX

Preserving Black ASL



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### Executive Editors

Bob Finnerty '07 MS  
John Trierweiler

### Editor

Mindy Mozer

### Assistant Editor

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

### Photographers

Elizabeth Lamark '00  
A. Sue Weisler '93 MS

### Writers

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS  
Michelle Cometa '00  
Susan Gawlowicz '95  
Rich Kiley  
Greg Livadas  
Vienna McGrain '12 MS  
Felicia Swartzenberg '19

### Copy Editor

Marie Lang

### Print Production

Brenda Monahan

### Creative Director

Joseph Bellavia '01, '18 MFA

### Art Director

Jeff Arbegast '93 MS

### Photo Editor

Scott Hamilton '89

### Graphic Design

Megan Bastian '05  
Annie Browar '07  
Alex Tong '99

### Contributing Editors

Phillip D. Castleberry,  
University Advancement

Vanessa J. Herman,  
Government and  
Community Relations

Jon Rodibaugh '12 MBA,  
University Advancement

Cindy Sobieraj,

University Advancement

### Marketing and Communications

125 Tech Park Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623  
Email: [umag@rit.edu](mailto:umag@rit.edu)

### Office of Alumni Relations

Crossroads 41 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623-5603  
Voice: 585-475-ALUM, Toll Free: 866-RIT-ALUM  
TTY: 585-475-2764, Fax: 585-475-5308  
Email: [ritalum@rit.edu](mailto:ritalum@rit.edu)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Flipping the narrative with research and discovery



A. Sue Weisler

**RIT President David Munson congratulated the Class of 2022 during convocation last May.**

War, climate change, social unrest, economic woes—it is stressful keeping up with the flow of global news these days.

We can be consumed by the dark headlines. Or, we can flip the narrative by eagerly working on solutions. The world needs collaborative thinkers who can identify and solve the most pressing and vexing global problems of our times.

RIT faculty and students are involved in applied research and discovery taking place in a range of areas in each of our colleges and institutes. They are looking at problems in electronic waste, cyber-security, microchip supply, artificial intelligence, accessibility, health care, public policy, and more. We even have faculty observing the expanses of the universe with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

Embracing challenges brings out the best in RIT. The university is coming off a record year in sponsored research awards, attaining \$92 million, which surpasses our previous high of \$82 million. Key research areas include all of those mentioned above plus nanotechnology, imaging science, and the life sciences.

Many of these research awards were funded by national agencies such as the National Science Foundation (\$13.5 million), the Department of Defense (\$8.6 million), National Institutes of Health (\$6.7 million), and both NASA and the Department of Energy (\$2.5 million each).

We also set a new record for the value of proposals submitted this past year at \$265 million. This is another sure sign that we continue to mature as a research

university and is a testament to our growth and trajectory.

RIT's priority to build doctoral research programs is integral to the university's future. These programs attract top-tier faculty, who generate research funding and support teams of graduate student researchers, who create and innovate.

Today, RIT enrolls more than 300 Ph.D. students in 11 Ph.D. programs. And we will be adding three more doctoral programs shortly:

- Saunders College of Business will offer a Ph.D. in business administration, marking the university's inaugural doctoral program outside of the STEM disciplines.
- The College of Liberal Arts will introduce a doctoral degree in cognitive science, housed in the Department of Psychology. This is a joint program with four other colleges at RIT.
- A Ph.D. in physics in the College of Science will be next as we continue to build our portfolio.

The growth in research has helped fuel "Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness." The \$1 billion blended campaign is seeking support from a variety of investors, including alumni and friends, government and corporate partners, and research foundations and agencies. This summer, we surpassed a major milestone when the campaign exceeded \$900 million. We now are in the homestretch.

There is more work to be done, but we are helping transform the world by transforming RIT.

Optimistically yours,

David C. Munson Jr., President  
[munson@rit.edu](mailto:munson@rit.edu)  
Twitter: @RITPresident

P.S.: You can help change the narrative by switching the channel. Follow [rit.edu/news](http://rit.edu/news) and you will see how RIT is always on to something to create a brighter future.



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Behind today's students stand the RIT women who paved the way.

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RIT researchers are teaching STEM skills through animals.

### Cover photo

Anthony Talion, a biomedical sciences major, is part of the growing collegiate esports community.

Cover photo by Scott Hamilton



## On Campus







## Career fair returns

Roughly 4,000 RIT students and alumni came to RIT's university-wide career fair in September in search of co-ops, internships, or full-time employment.

Recruiters from nearly 230 companies, including Bose, Lockheed Martin, L3Harris, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, and Toyota were present. The career fair returned to its original format for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

RIT's co-op program is one of the oldest in the nation, beginning in 1912. More than 5,000 RIT students typically complete a co-op each year.



## New leadership begins



Diane Slusarski

**T**wo new deans started at RIT over the summer.

Diane Slusarski began Aug. 1 as associate provost and dean of the Graduate School.

Slusarski joined RIT from the

University of Iowa after more than two decades in the Department of Biology, including five years as the first female chair in the department's 165-year history.

She was in charge of a large department that encompasses basic and applied research disciplines in ecology and evolution, cell and developmental biology, genetics and biotechnology, neurobiology, and an interdisciplinary graduate program in genetics.



Matt Huenerfauth

Matt Huenerfauth became dean of the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences on July 1.

Huenerfauth, who is an expert in computing accessibility, had served as chair of

RIT's School of Information (iSchool) for the past two years.

Huenerfauth joined RIT in 2014, after serving as associate dean for the Division of Math and Natural Sciences at City University of New York (CUNY) Queens College. At RIT, he created the Center for Accessibility and Inclusion Research (CAIR), where he and a team of student and faculty researchers investigate technologies to make technology accessible for all users, including people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, people who are blind or with low vision, and older adults.



Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

Jazz ensemble Midnight Waves performed at the Rochester Fringe Festival. More than 30 performances at the annual festival were connected to RIT.

## Haskell named director of the School of Performing Arts



Erica Haskell

**E**rica Haskell started in July as the inaugural director of the university's new School of Performing Arts.

Haskell came to RIT from the University of New Haven, where she served as assistant dean of

the College of Arts and Sciences, chair of the Division of Performing Arts, Oskar Schindler Humanities Endowed Professor, and faculty member of ethnomusicology. She was selected as school director following a nationwide search.

"Her impressive background as a scholar of ethnomusicology, coupled with her experiences in the music industry and as an administrator at a well-respected university, make her exceptionally well-suited for the role of inaugural director of the School of Performing Arts," said Anna Stenport, dean of RIT's College of Liberal Arts.

The School of Performing Arts is housed within RIT's College of Liberal Arts. RIT is leveraging unique diversity strengths in the new school in collabora-

tion with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, which has its own highly regarded performing arts department and offers several annual theater and dance productions, as well as set and costume design and lighting and sound opportunities for students.

More students are involved in performing arts at RIT than ever before. The latest incoming class includes a record 482 new students who received Performing Arts Scholarships. There are more than 1,350 Performing Arts Scholars from the past four years.

Haskell said she hopes to increase the diversity and frequency of performances on campus, provide more varied opportunities for students to perform off-campus, and enhance the digital streaming and documentation capabilities for sharing students' work.

"The idea of building something new is inspiring to me," she said. "I'm really impressed with the faculty who are already at RIT and the work that they're doing, and it's exciting to think of what we can build together with the ongoing input of RIT students."

Felicia Swartzenberg '19



# Gift establishes two new endowed professorships



Jeffrey Harris '75 and his partner, Joyce Pratt, donated \$2 million to help RIT establish two new endowed professorships in the College of Science.

RIT will establish two new endowed professorships in the College of Science thanks to a \$2 million donation from Jeffrey Harris '75 (photographic science and instrumentation) and his partner, Joyce Pratt.

RIT matched their donation with \$4 million in funding as part of a \$20 million challenge to encourage alumni, parents, and friends of the university to support faculty recruitment, retention, and research critical to RIT's priorities and trajectory.

As part of Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness—RIT's \$1 billion blended fundraising effort—this challenge will create 10 endowed professorships. When donors give \$1 million to create an endowed professorship, RIT will match with \$2 million in institutional funding for a total endowed value of \$3 million. Harris and Pratt know that endowed professorships are one of the highest honors in academia and help recognize exceptional

educators who transform the lives of their students.

"There is a close relationship between having superior faculty and producing highly-achieving students," said Harris. "These professorships can help RIT continue to attract and retain world-class faculty who lead graduate and undergraduate students in the classroom and in research projects that extend and reaffirm learning outcomes."

Harris is the 21st chairperson of RIT's Board of Trustees. He thrived in the experiential nature of RIT's imaging science program, which led him to a career advancing national security programs in both government and industry. Harris and Pratt named the new professorships in honor of his parents, Gerald W. Harris and Jane King Harris, who helped him to find a major that perfectly matched his passion for photography and imaging technology.

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS

## What's new

### Diversity champion

RIT received two prestigious awards from the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

*INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine designated RIT as a 2022 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award recipient and a 2022 Diversity Champion. This marks the ninth year in a row RIT has been named a HEED Award recipient and eighth consecutive year as a Diversity Champion.

As a recipient of the annual HEED Award—a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion—RIT was featured, along with 102 other recipients, in the November 2022 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

### Among the best

Innovation, value, co-op education, and excellence in undergraduate teaching are among the categories in which RIT is highly ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In the 2022-2023 edition, RIT jumped to 105 out of 440 schools in the "National Universities" category, which includes the nation's best research universities. RIT also ranked 11th among top schools' cooperative education or internship programs and 41st among "Most Innovative Schools."

### Veteran success

RIT is making it easier for military veterans and their families to attend college by opening the Office of Veteran Student Success.

"Our goal is to bring anything military and veteran related under one umbrella, offering any support they would need in one place," said Chad Van Gorder, the new center's director. While RIT has long offered support to veterans, this is the first time a central office and space has been dedicated to support them.

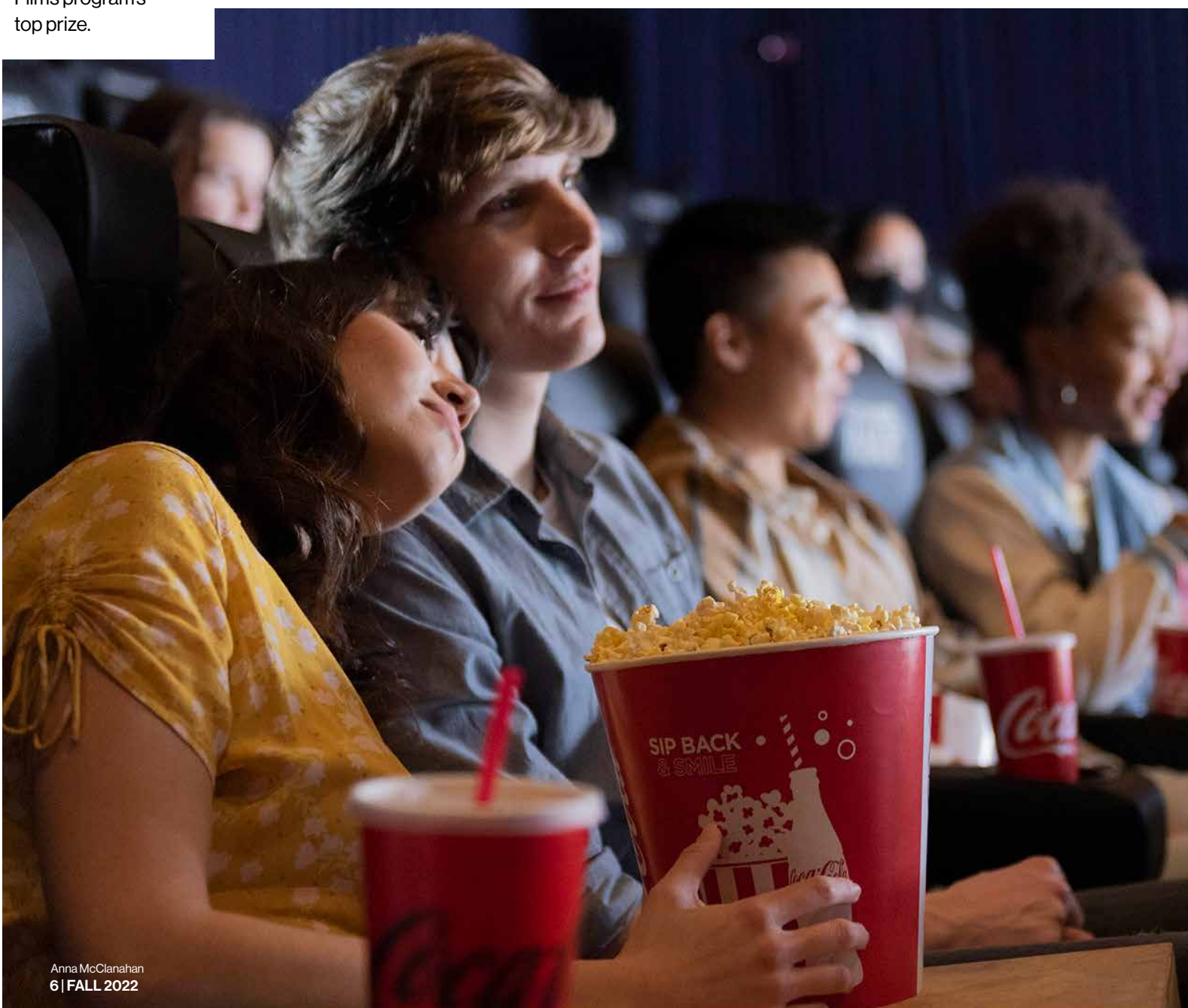


## About Students



### Winner

A short film produced by students won the Coca-Cola Refreshing Films program's top prize.







### Production

Anna McClanahan, a second-year film and animation student, directed the film.

Film strip image by Pietro Jeng

### Theme

*Say Cheese* is a flirtatious tale about a hearing college student, played by Weston Young, attempting to woo his crush, a Deaf classmate named Jessie, played by Victoria Pon '21 (psychology).

# Student film hits theaters nationwide



Kashif Ahmed Bin Arif

From left: Film and animation MFA student Gabriel Ponte-Fleary (producer), Anna McClanahan (director), and Shanti Thakur, RIT School of Film and Animation director, pose on the set of *Say Cheese*.

A commercial produced by students from RIT and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf began showing in theaters nationwide in July.

The short film, *Say Cheese*, was awarded the grand prize in the Coca-Cola Refreshing Films (CCRF) program.

Anna McClanahan, a second-year film and animation: production option student, and Gabriel Ponte-Fleary, a film and animation MFA student, co-wrote and produced the film. Watching their work on the big screen, with an audience, has reignited the excitement over their win, according to both students.

"Seeing the film in theaters was really amazing because everyone who got to work on it gets to see their hard work on the big screen. It's very surreal," said McClanahan. "I even heard the audience laughing in the theater while watching it, so it's good to know we were successful."

*Say Cheese* is partly based on McClanahan's experiences at RIT, including her performances in joint hearing, Deaf, and hard-of-hearing productions for NTID's Department of Performing Arts.

The commercial portrays a meet-cute story about Chris—a male, hearing college student—attempting to ask his female, Deaf classmate named Jessie to the movies. Chris, an American Sign Language novice, clumsily signs a visually similar sequence of words, instead asking her if she wants to go to a "cheese." This wins Jessie over and the two head to the theater for their first date.

To create the film, McClanahan and Ponte-Fleary worked with students, faculty, and staff in RIT's School of Film and Animation and NTID. This cross-cultural collaboration resulted in Deaf and hard-of-hearing representation that is authentic and genuine, both in front of the lens and behind the camera.

"In this film, we wanted to focus on how love is a universal force that can break language barriers, and we wanted to show that any kind of relationship between Deaf and hearing individuals is possible," Ponte-Fleary said.

The film can be seen at [CocaColaRefreshingFilms.com](https://CocaColaRefreshingFilms.com).

**Felicia Swartzenberg '19**



# Twice is nice

**T**he RIT men's lacrosse team has done it again. The team won its second-straight NCAA Division III national title on May 29, beating Union College 12-10.

"There are only six programs that have ever won back-to-back championships, so it is a really special moment for this team, for our program, and the university," said Head Coach Jake Coon. "It was a great year. We love playing for RIT. It's a special place."

This was the lacrosse team's fourth national championship appearance, advancing to the final game in 2013, 2017, and 2021. Last year, RIT beat Salisbury in a double overtime thriller to clinch the university's first-ever national title in lacrosse.

"To be honest, it is hard to put into words," said Team Captain Quinn Commandant '22 (finance) about the championship. "It was hard to put into words last year; it is just as hard this year. It feels incredible. It is unbelievable."

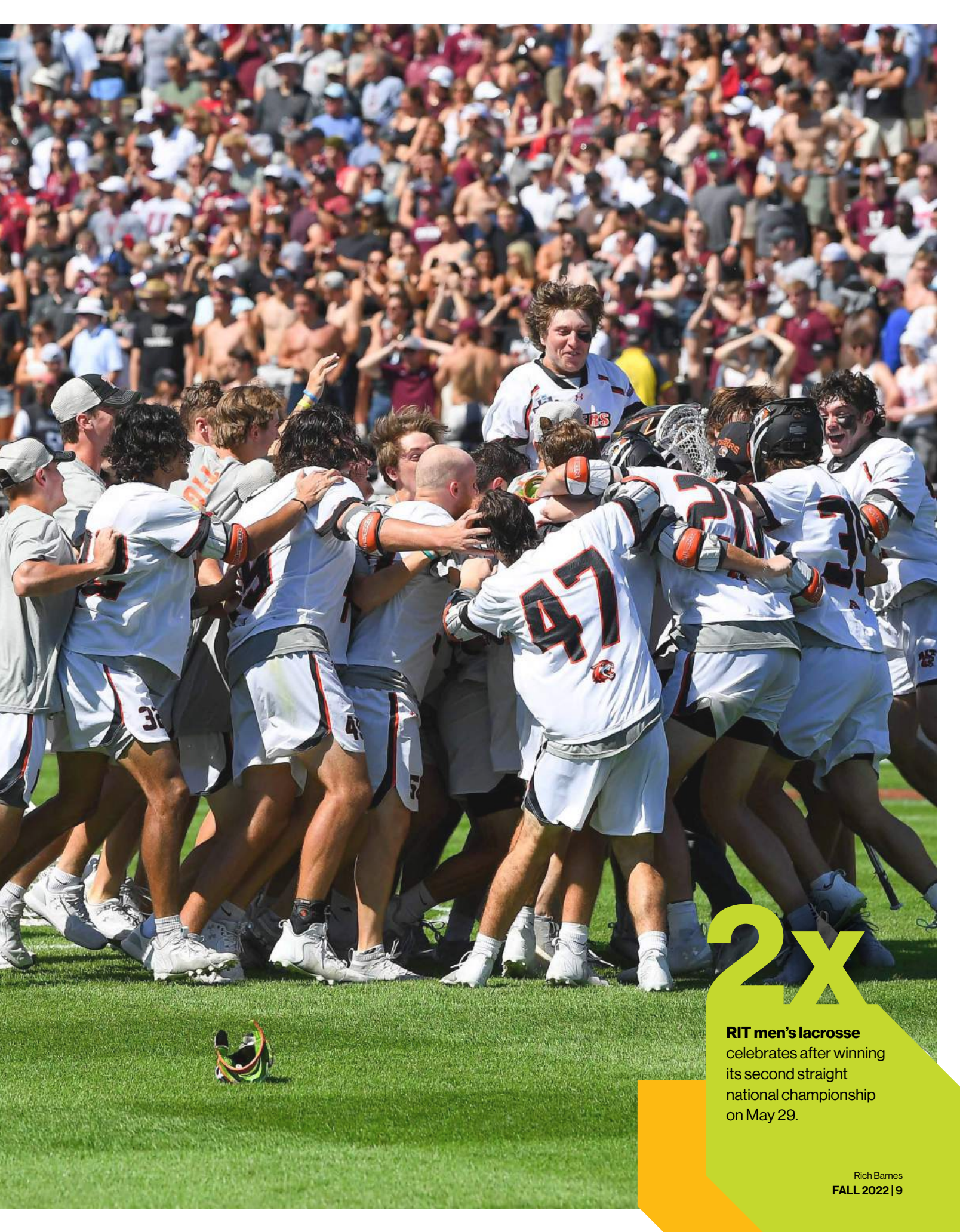
Jackie Nicholson, RIT Executive Director of Athletics, congratulated the team and its coaches on their victory.

"Given the pandemic challenges over the last two years, this is truly a monumental moment for these young men and our coaching staff," she said.

Men's lacrosse isn't the only RIT sport to have won a national championship. The men's hockey team won a Division II national championship in 1983 and a Division III crown in 1985. The women's hockey team won a Division III national championship in 2012.







2x

**RIT men's lacrosse**  
celebrates after winning  
its second straight  
national championship  
on May 29.



**NTID researcher helps preserve rich history of**

# BLACK ASL



When David Player '19 (sociology/anthropology) was a student at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf in 2015, he became fascinated with how race, identity, and language, specifically sign language, are tightly connected and influenced by geographic and social factors like governmental and educational policies.

Today, Player, a master's degree candidate at the University of New Mexico, attributes his passion for sociolinguistics to his work alongside Joseph Hill, the NTID researcher who lit the spark within Player to develop his own unique research studying the sign language of New Mexican Deaf communities.

"People often feel proud of their language and their identity—and the same goes for the Deaf community," said Player. "But there are some variations of American Sign Language that have received almost no attention, and we're working hard to get those recognized."

For years, Hill, assistant dean of NTID Faculty Recruitment and Retention and an associate professor in the Department of ASL and Interpreting Education, has studied how the segregation of southern Black Deaf Americans, along with their history and culture, has impacted the linguistics of today's Black Deaf youth. Hill hopes his research will continue to uncover and preserve Black American Sign Language.

"Just as there are differences among languages like English, Spanish, and Mandarin, there are significant differences among sign languages," Hill said. "And many people don't realize that Black American Sign Language is different than the American Sign Language that many white people use."

Hill's research begins with the state-sanctioned separation of Black Deaf students and white Deaf students who couldn't interact and, subsequently, developed their own ways of communicating with each other.

But, when Black Deaf students and white Deaf students merged and eventually became interwoven into the mainstream educational system, the fusion not only created language barriers between races, but the unique features of Black ASL started disappearing as young people lost touch with their ancestors' and elder peers' distinct use of Black sign, its dialect, and its nuances.

Alumnus David Player is developing sociolinguistics research based on his previous work at NTID.



Karen Kuehn

Associate Professor Joseph Hill is making an impact by studying the linguistic and community aspects of Black American Sign Language.



Elizabeth Lamark



Black Deaf students learn together prior to the desegregation of Black and white schools.



From *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL*



From *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL* companion video

Students board a bus bound for the Institute for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Colored Youth, which was founded in 1887 in Austin. Today, the school is merged with the Texas School for the Deaf, a state-operated primary and secondary school for Deaf children.

Hill offers this example. In Louisiana, the older generation of Black ASL signers referred to the days of the week by counting down with their fingers. For example, five is for Monday, four is for Tuesday... to the closed fist for Saturday, and the praying hands for Sunday. However, the younger generation of Black Deaf signers instead uses the mainstream variety of ASL, in which the signs have an initial sign letter of each day, such as 'M' for Monday, 'T' for Tuesday, and 'H' for Thursday. The difference for Sunday is the open palm in a circular or downward movement.

Hill and his research team interviewed Black Deaf people in southern states, observing sign language, facial expressions, and movements.

"Black ASL is real—and often hidden—and needs to be uncovered, which is our purpose," said Hill, who is also co-author of *The Hidden*

*Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure*, and one of the associate producers of "Signing Black in America," the 14th documentary film in the Language and Life Project series, released by PBS in 2019. "When I became involved in this research as a young Ph.D. student myself, I discovered that this area presented a rare opportunity to be transformative. It's special."

Hill isn't the only one who thinks his work is special.

"Professor Hill's research was eye-opening for me," said Player. "His work with the Black ASL Project broadened my understanding of sociolinguistics in sign language, which is still not fully researched by sign language linguist scholars as much as it should be. I hope I can do the same for New Mexican Deaf communities as he did for those of us living in Black Deaf communities."

Ceil Lucas, professor emerita of linguistics at Gallaudet University, and a Black ASL project leader, was Hill's mentor on the Black ASL project.

"During our time working together and, even since then, Joseph has continually challenged me and has further underscored the importance of this research. His understanding and, more importantly, his desire to capture and preserve a lost language is both noteworthy and inspirational."

Hill hopes he and others like Lucas and Player can be advocates for Black Deaf communities everywhere.

"My goal was to tell the stories of Black Deaf Americans and their rich history and culture," Hill said. "Black Deaf people should be proud of their identity, their experiences, and their language. This is about resiliency through generations."

**Vienna McGrain '12 MS**



# STAY ENGAGED

## WITH YOUR **RIT** FAMILY

### 1 Stay Connected

Connect with fellow Tigers through the Alumni Association on social media. Share your personal or professional news by posting your class notes online and in the *RIT University Magazine*. And don't forget to update your contact information at [rit.edu/alumni/update](https://rit.edu/alumni/update). Visit [rit.edu/alumni](https://rit.edu/alumni) to learn more.

### 2 Get Involved

Attend an alumni event, come back to campus and reconnect, cheer on your favorite RIT athletic teams, mentor a student through **Tigers Connect**, join us at **Brick City Weekend** or **Imagine RIT**. Learn more at [rit.edu/alumni](https://rit.edu/alumni).

### 3 Give Back

Boost the value of YOUR degree by **making an unrestricted gift to RIT**—at any level—to help increase RIT's alumni participation rate and national rankings. Be a **Loyal Tiger** with two or more years of consecutive giving, and RIT will recognize you each calendar year with increased recognition in milestone years. Make your gift at [rit.edu/TigersGiveBack](https://rit.edu/TigersGiveBack).

Become a **Sentinel Society** member and play a pivotal role in providing unrestricted gifts that fund RIT's most pressing needs. Members of the Sentinel Society are recognized for a five-year pledge at varying levels. For more information, visit [rit.edu/sentinel](https://rit.edu/sentinel).

### 4 Be Proud

Strengthen the RIT community by recruiting a new student and submit an **Alumni Referral Award**, which provides a \$1,000/year scholarship. Hire a student for a co-op or an alum for a full-time position in your organization.

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Transforming **RIT**  
The Campaign for **Greatness**

**RIT**

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# ESPORTS

## MORE THAN A GAME

Students find community, opportunities, and school pride through competitive video gaming





Daiya Robinson, left, Cass Meltsch, Anthony Talion, and Sam Burgoyne are just a few of the people at RIT who are serious about playing video games competitively.

**IT'S GAME DAY.** Sam Burgoyne is getting in the right mindset for his 8 p.m. league match against The Ohio State University.

As a player and assistant manager on RIT's *Rocket League* team, Burgoyne wants to perform at his highest level. The third-year game design and development student is all caught up on his class assignments. Now, he's off to eat a good meal and go over game strategies with his teammates.

More than five days a week, Burgoyne is facing off against the best collegiate esports teams in the nation. Last spring, thou-

sands of viewers tuned in to watch his team in a top collegiate tournament for *Rocket League*—a video game that is best described as soccer with rocket-powered cars.

"Being competitive is a big part of who I am—ever since I won two national esports championships with my friends in high school," said Burgoyne, who is from Ridgewood, N.J. "Esports is actually the reason I chose RIT over other universities. I joined the club before I even got to campus."

Hundreds of millions of people around the globe are engaging in electronic sports, called esports. It's a billion dollar industry, where fans watch as their favorite professional and amateur players take each other on in some of the most popular video games.





Esports is a major reason that Sam Burgoyne chose RIT. When he's scoring goals on the Rocket League team, he goes by his gamertag name "Sebward."

## RIT Esports teams and squads

- › *Apex Legends*
- › *Call of Duty*
- › *Chess*
- › *Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO)*
- › *Dota 2*
- › *Halo Infinite*
- › *Hearthstone*
- › *League of Legends*
- › *osu!*
- › *Overwatch*
- › *Rainbow Six Siege*
- › *Rocket League*
- › *Smite*
- › *Splatoon 3*
- › *StarCraft II*
- › *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*
- › *Team Fortress 2*
- › *Valorant*

## RIT Esports supporting teams

- › Executive board
- › Broadcasting
- › Community/recruitment
- › Development
- › Production







There are many ways to join RIT Esports. Cass Meltsch, center, analyzes the game as an esports caster, while Anthony Talion, right, played Dota 2 and is now president of the club.

Since starting an esports club in 2016, RIT has become one of the nation's largest and best collegiate esports programs. With nearly 300 players and more than 2,000 community members, RIT Esports is bigger than many college athletics programs.

RIT Esports currently plays in 18 different video games, including *CS:GO*, *Hearthstone*, and the most recent addition—*Splatoon 3*. The program has also brought home seven national championships, and students have won more than \$100,000 in prizes.

In addition to playing competitively, RIT students are getting involved with esports

in many other ways. The teams have coaches and managers, while elected student administrators run the club. There are also support teams that do everything from designing the jerseys to producing live-streamed matches. For fans of video games, esports has become a great way to rally behind RIT.

#### **Teamwork makes the dream work**

Anthony Talion has learned a thing or two from his time being a top ranked player in the multiplayer online battle arena game *Dota 2*. Now, he's applying those lessons to his role as president of RIT Esports.

"In *Dota 2*, you have to look at the larger picture—the 'macro'—just as much as you focus on your individual reflexes and skills," said Talion, a fourth-year biomedical sciences

student from Elmhurst, N.Y. "It's very team oriented and communication is important. We take the same approach with RIT Esports."

What makes RIT's program successful is its wealth of student talent and systematic approach to the organization. Because esports is not under the umbrella of the NCAA, the collegiate scene has been a little like the Wild West. There are many different games to play and dozens of tournaments and leagues to play in, including the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE).

To create an esports at RIT, students must make a proposal, identify viable leagues, and hold tryouts. RIT uniquely has two or three tiers of teams for each esports because the talent pool is so deep. Students typically compete in a fall and spring season for each game. Throughout the year, teams will practice at least 20 hours a week. Players also focus on staying physically and mentally healthy.

Cass Meltsch, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student, contributes by giving a voice to



esports. Throughout the past two years, she has become a top talent in *Rocket League* commentating—also known as casting.

Just as a sportscaster narrates a baseball game, esports casters bring extra life to online streams and live in-person events. Typically, one caster will do play-by-play, while another gives color commentary and expert analysis.

Meltsch started casting as a volunteer but is now getting paid to cast streams that get more than 20,000 live viewers. In September, she was hired to cast the Super Girl Gamer Championship, a competitive series dedicated to supporting women in gaming.

“With esports casting, you’re able to interact with so many different people from all over the world and make incredible connections with genuine and nice people,” said Meltsch, who is from Barnegat, N.J. “In order to excel in casting, you need to put in the hours and have a true passion for the game.”

Casters are often required to mix humor with their expert-level knowledge of the game. That’s easy for Meltsch, who has played video games as long as she could hold a controller. She said that while she casts the top .2 percent of *Rocket League* players in the world, she probably plays amongst the top 3 percent.

To grow as a caster, she studies video replays to find how changing her voice tone and words can make her commentary more interesting. She is also completing a minor in communication, which helps with her casting and her project management skills in engineering. In the future, she hopes to work in aerospace engineering and freelance as a professional caster.

Last spring, Meltsch was casting games with the nation’s top *Rocket League* teams at the College Carball Association tournament. Luckily, she had an inside scoop on one of the teams. An RIT team was there in the top 32 bracket.

“That was a really huge step for RIT Esports and special for me personally,” said Meltsch. “It’s always exciting when you can rally behind your school.”

Members can support the RIT club through social media management and community fundraising events for charity. Other students support the technical requirements of gaming and maintain esports practice facilities on campus.

When Daijya Robinson first arrived at RIT, she had heard about the esports club. However, she didn’t want to play competitively.

“I love to play games for fun and watch really good people play, but I didn’t want to compete because that’s not really my thing,” said Robinson, a second-year game design and development major from Kansas City, Mo. “I ended up meeting someone who was wearing an RIT Esports jacket and asked him what he did. I was so excited when he explained how he works on the advertising side of esports.”

Robinson now contributes as a member of the RIT Esports Development team. She designs the club website and develops new interface functions. She has also helped come up with ideas for Discord bots so people can create weekly updates and meeting reminders on the club’s messaging platform.

“We make things that are helping RIT Esports function, and that’s just as important as our great players going out there to win games for the university,” said Robinson. “I like being helpful and being a part of this community.”

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**Scott Bureau ’11, ’16 MBA**



Daijya Robinson stays involved with esports behind the scenes as a member of the club’s development team.



Stevie West '21 edits professional esports videos and coaches collegiate League of Legends in Phoenix.

# ALUMNI IN

# ESPORTS

## Video producer

At RIT, **Stevie West '21** (film and animation) figured out how to combine her passions for esports and video editing into a career. She credits her time as production director of RIT Esports with getting her there.

As the social media and content manager for the esports production company SpaceTime Strategies, West edits video from major gaming festivals, including PAX and DreamHack. She mixes in-person and in-game footage to create hype videos for social media and clients. She also edits highlight reels as a freelancer. Her videos for popular Twitch streamers have received tens of millions of views, and counting.

Additionally, West is coach of the *League of Legends* team at Grand Canyon University—a college that offers scholarships for the team. As a coach, she aims to help her players stay organized, mentally focused, and healthy.

## Country club for gaming

**Ben Garvey '21** (applied arts and sciences) is bringing people together for a high-end video gaming experience at Great Lakes Gaming (GLG). He is the founder and CEO of GLG, which opened a video gaming entertainment facility for all on the 22nd floor of Innovation Square, a downtown Rochester complex.

The space overlooks the city and features a dozen high-end

PC stations, two private streaming booths, five console setups, and a café for gamers. He sees the lounge as a country club for local gamers, where people can compete and socialize. GLG also holds leagues and weekly tournaments. While at RIT, Garvey was a manager of the RIT *Call of Duty* team and chose classes focused on entrepreneurship and game design.

## Federation founder

When **Tyler Schrodtt '13** (finance and international business), '15 (MBA) was a student, he ran esports tournaments out of his dorm room. Now, he lives in New York City and operates high school and collegiate-level leagues all across the nation.

In 2015, Schrodtt founded the Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF), an independent scholastic governing body for youth, high school, and Division I collegiate esports leagues. EGF is

inspired by traditional sports to create opportunities for students and schools to engage in esports.

RIT has joined EGF and competes along with dozens of other member universities. EGF also runs the Walt Disney World EGF High School National Championship. The 2022 event at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort featured 100 of the best high school esports teams.

## Day-to-day operations

**Jacob Marcovecchio '21** (game design and development) is helping bring together the collegiate esports scene for the video game *Call of Duty*. As director of internal operations at College CoD, a premier collegiate *Call of Duty* league acquired by eFuse, he has his hand in every part of day-to-day operations—from social media marketing to improving production packages.

Marcovecchio joined the grassroots organization as a

student four years ago and helped it grow from a league of two schools to more than 200 today. He did this while also working with RIT Esports as manager of the *Call of Duty* team, head of graphic design, and later vice president.

Marcovecchio works remotely from Pittsburgh and most recently ran College CoD's first in-person championship, which had eight of the best teams playing for a \$25,000 prize pool.



*Pursuing the promise*  
*of*  
**TITLE  
IX**

*Behind today's students stand  
the women who paved the way*



Meet some of the women who are making RIT a better version of itself. Pictured, left to right, are Margaret Bailey, Jacqueline Nicholson, Lauren Zeglen, Celeste Brown, and Carol Richardson.







**F**ifth-year biomedical engineering student Lauren Zeglen just finished a double co-op at a company that makes 3D anatomical models.

She is co-captain of the women's soccer team and former president of RIT's Student Athletic Association Committee. This year, she is the delegate representing the entire Liberty League—RIT's athletic conference—at the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Zeglen, who built a replica of a canine knee last summer, is on her way to becoming a veterinary surgeon. Her co-op experience creating surgical models, and before that, working on a surgical team at an emergency animal hospital, confirmed for Zeglen the value of her engineering education.

"Combining engineering and veterinary medicine has turned out well," Zeglen said. "The co-op I did combines the two in a really nice way. And it definitely

helps to have an engineering background as a surgeon."

Zeglen's rich experiences at RIT—from academics to athletics to co-ops—illustrate the promise of Title IX, the law that paved the way for gender equity in education.

The 1972 amendment to the U.S. Education Act prohibits sex discrimination at all schools and higher educational institutions that receive federal funding. Title IX created new opportunities for girls and women and protected their right to a safe educational environment free of sexual harassment and discrimination.

Early interpretation of Title IX most visibly transformed athletic programming. Later interpretation expanded sexual harassment to include sexual assault, sexual violence, and stalking. The recommendations were later rescinded, reinstated, and overhauled, in terms of support for a victim-centered approach versus a more stringent due process for the accused individual.

The spirit of Title IX is inclusion, and new recommendations extend civil rights protections to transgender and gender

non-conforming students.

Fifty years ago, Title IX set the stage for change. But the reason why RIT now has more women faculty, administrators, coaches, and exemplary students like Zeglen is that women acted.

Prior generations of women invested their careers to make RIT a better version of itself, including winning two transformative grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) focused on gender equity.

The grant work not only changed RIT, but the work is having an influence on higher education, said Elizabeth Litzler, director of the Center for Evaluation and Research for STEM Equity at the University of Washington.

"RIT is a national leader in academic gender equity initiatives," she said. "RIT is literally leading others through learning how to transform compensation processes."



**"RIT is a national leader in academic gender equity initiatives."**

Elizabeth Litzler, director of the Center for Evaluation and Research for STEM Equity at the University of Washington

**Student Lauren Zeglen has had opportunities at RIT that women 50 years ago did not have.**



## Early years: Laying the foundation

By the time Title IX cracked open the door for women in 1972, Carol Richardson had already walked through it.

Richardson was one of a few women engineers at a General Electric laboratory, where she worked for 10 years. In 1978, she joined RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) as the first woman faculty member in the electrical engineering technology department. She was one of only two women in her college.

But Richardson rose through the ranks. In 1993, she designed the BS degree in telecommunications engineering technology, followed by a master's degree. She was chair of the Department of Electrical, Com-

puter, and Telecommunications Engineering Technology and from 2006 to 2008 served as interim dean of CAST.

"RIT wanted to increase women in engineering, computer science, and science, but we needed role models," Richardson said. "We didn't have many female faculty members in those areas at that time."

Richardson welcomed Maureen Valentine, who came to RIT in 1993.

She also had 10 years of industry experience and was used to being the only woman on a construction site or in a design meeting. Valentine joined RIT's Department of Civil Engineering Technology and was the second female faculty

member in CAST. She looked to Richardson as a mentor.

"Carol broke the mold early on," Valentine said. "She was one of the few female engineers in the workforce and then in a university engineering technology program. Diversification in our faculty ranks came later."

Valentine followed Richardson as department chair and became associate dean in CAST in 2006 under Richardson. Together, they started Women

in Technology to support students in their college, and Valentine became the first program director.

"The pipeline into engineering was changing," Valentine said. "There was a strong push to begin that process. And to get more women in engineering. You had all the right people in the right places at RIT to be receptive to the idea."

That set the stage for bigger changes in the years ahead.

**"Carol broke the mold early on."**

Maureen Valentine, emeritus professor, College of Engineering Technology



Carol Richardson became an interim dean and early role model.

## The 2000s: Building the framework

Margaret Bailey was one of those changes. When she joined the Kate Gleason College of Engineering (KGCOE) in 2003, the college was struggling to attract women undergraduates. She was surprised the number was only 8 percent, significantly below the national average, especially for a college named after a woman.

Harvey Palmer, then-dean of engineering, hired Bailey to teach thermodynamics and to improve the demographics. Bailey was the first person to hold the Kate Gleason Endowed Chair to look at gender-related issues in the college.

"The culture and leadership were poised to do something about the low representation of women students," Bailey said. "The faculty and administrators were eager for change."

The engineering profession was pushing for a diversified workforce to keep the nation competitive in technology research and development. Title IX helped remove obstacles for women to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Bailey's work helped introduce young women to engineering as a career and gave them role models.

Bailey facilitated partnerships with faculty and administrators across campus and created outreach, recruitment, and retention programs, which evolved into the award-winning Women in Engineering at RIT, or WE@RIT.

She supported targeted recruitment and new degree programs in biomedical engineering and chemical engineering to draw women undergraduates—such as Zeglen.

Yearly enrollment numbers of women began to fluctuate between the high teens and 20 percent, and in the 2019-2020 academic year, women made up more than 25 percent of undergraduates in KGCOE.

But still a deeper culture change was needed to give women students faculty role models. Bailey won federal funding to put RIT on this path.

Bailey was the lead on two pivotal grants from the NSF focused on gender equity in academic careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—the NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Catalyst in 2007 and the full NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation in 2012.

"These awards were big wins for RIT," Bailey said. "They have never been won twice in a row other than by RIT."

Bailey assembled a team that conducted the first climate survey specifically for faculty.

Recommended changes within the institutional structure resulted in new policies that began to address disparities in hiring and promoting women faculty.

One policy that improved the climate for pre-tenure faculty protected their right to maternity leave by stopping the "tenure clock" during this time. Women could care for their newborn without an underlying expectation of continued research and writing.

"We looked at differences by gender and how long it was taking women to go up for promotion," Bailey said. "We asked RIT to look at salary. It was huge that the administration was willing to do this with us."

Litzler, from the University of Washington, said this compensation work is now having a broad impact across multiple universities.

Carol Marchetti, a statistician in the School of Mathematical Sciences who analyzed the results of the climate survey, said the work also was career changing for members of the team.

"Margaret used the word 'sponsorship,' as opposed to 'mentorship,'" Marchetti said. "And she was a real, true sponsor. Margaret Bailey is a big reason why I finally made it to full professor."

In 2018, the university institutionalized the gender equity work and established the AdvanceRIT office. Bailey led the creation of this unit within the Office of the Provost and served as director until 2020.

**"Margaret Bailey is a big reason why I finally made it to full professor."**

Carol Marchetti, professor, School of Mathematical Sciences



Margaret Bailey led the effort to enroll more women engineering majors at RIT.



## Today: Making academic progress

NSF ADVANCE sponsorship continues to shape RIT, now with a 2021 ADVANCE Partnership grant that shares the team's 15 years of salary equity work with other universities, such as Drexel, Gallaudet, and Villanova. Marchetti is leading the project.

"We're trying to make institutional compensation systems more transparent and to learn through our work with other universities how we can do a better job, especially with women of color and Deaf and hard-of-hearing women," Marchetti said.

Marchetti's colleague, Betsy Dell, has seen the grassroots effort for gender equity become part of the fabric of RIT.

Now, Dell has succeeded Bailey as director of AdvanceRIT. In this role, Dell and her team, in 2021, won the National Institutes of Health Prize for Enhancing

Faculty Gender Diversity in Biomedical and Behavioral Science.

Dell is also the senior faculty associate to the provost for women faculty. She created and leads the Council for Representation and Engagement of Women Faculty, which advises AdvanceRIT.

And she is preparing to launch a woman's leadership certificate to increase the number of women department chairs and participants in Faculty Senate.

"We are working to make RIT a place where women faculty feel welcomed, connected, and valued," Dell said.

That work was one attraction for Ellen Granberg, who became the first woman provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at RIT in 2018.

"It's a real signal a university takes to heart gender equity and

**"It's a real signal a university takes to heart gender equity and greater equality."**

Ellen Granberg, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs



RIT's first woman provost, Ellen Granberg, supports all faculty through Title IX priorities.

greater equality," Granberg said, adding that was something she was looking for.

Granberg has acted on recommendations from the Advance team, funding dual-career hires for candidates with a partner at another institution. The program helps recruit women faculty by funding a three-year position for their partner at RIT.

Granberg is also focusing on gender equity in career progression, looking at the tenure process for all faculty. She has asked her deans to consider greater equality in teaching assignments, especially for graduate classes.

"We've made a lot of progress in representation of women faculty," she said. "It created momentum for diversity at RIT."

## What's next: Beyond compliance to equity

Women's hockey illustrates how much of a difference Title IX has made.

The 1981 women's hockey team wore boy's equipment. Their ice time was from 11 p.m. to midnight. And players had to drive themselves to games in a crowded RIT van.

Today, the women's hockey team is led by Bruce B. Bates Women's Hockey Coach Celeste Brown '15 (sociology and anthropology), the only endowed coach at RIT. The team plays in the Gene Polisseni Center, which has equal amenities for men's and women's teams. And the team belongs to Division I, the highest level in the NCAA.

"We are doing a good job, but I would ask, 'Can we do better?'" said Brown, who was the first woman from RIT to play professionally. "And that's not just in the hockey world, it's in the world of professors and

in the world of administrators. It's not just for women, it's for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Can we do better? I believe as a higher education institution we should be asking those questions all the time."

Jacqueline Nicholson, who became director of RIT Athletics in 2021, also is asking those

**"Title IX is the reason I have the opportunity to serve as the first female athletic director at RIT."**

Jacqueline Nicholson, director of RIT Athletics

questions. She is preparing to move RIT Athletics beyond Title IX compliance to equity.



Jacqueline Nicholson made RIT history as the first woman athletic director.

"Title IX is the reason I have the opportunity to serve as the first female athletic director at RIT," she said.

But only 20 percent of athletic directors in higher education are women. Only 2 percent are women of color.

Today, there are more than 5,800 women across all colleges at RIT, accounting for 35 percent of the main campus student body. Nicholson points to sports as a way to change those numbers, starting by growing the number of women students.

"We have the ability to grow our female programs at a high level," Nicholson said. "We have the institutional commitment to go out there and get the best female student athletes to come to RIT."

Nicholson and head basketball coach Amy Reed are working closely with the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Resource Center and the Title IX office on

compliance with RIT and NCAA policies that protect transgender and gender non-conforming student athletes.

Nicholson is taking a national role in this area as president of RIT's athletic conference, the Liberty League, and president of the National Association of Academic Advisors.

In her role as Liberty League delegate, Zeglen also will be part of the national conversation about gender equity in sports. Zeglen is aware of how much the climate has changed for women during her lifetime. Her goal is to continue to make changes for those who come after her.

"I think Title IX benefits all students by keeping us aware of how we all should be treating each other," Zeglen said. "It holds our institution accountable for providing us all with an equitable experience."



Former RIT hockey star Celeste Brown is the only endowed coach in RIT Athletics.

Susan Gawlowicz '95





# Nine quotes about **TITLE IX**

**“We like to say that Title IX compliance is the floor. But what type of university do we want to have? What kind of culture do we want to achieve? It is certainly higher than the floor of compliance.”**

Stacy DeRooy '10 MS (professional studies), director of Title IX and Clery Compliance

**“We do notice that the female students in their younger years are quieter in the class and less confident about their career and studies. In upper level courses—especially after co-op and gaining industry experience—they are really confident and willing to take leadership roles. It is a noticeable difference.”**

Amanda Bao, associate professor and program director in civil engineering technology. She won the 2021 Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching at RIT.

**“The goal of Title IX is that there wouldn't be issues of harassment, discrimination, or assault. We're working together to create an environment that discourages things like that from happening and making it so people who identify as women can be their authentic selves in an educational environment and not worry about being treated differently or discriminated against.”**

Betsy Dell, director of AdvanceRIT and senior faculty associate to the provost for women faculty, and professor of manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology

**“If we want to be an accomplished university, we need to have the best qualified people. And we need to have role models to attract junior faculty and staff because they see that there is a place for them here. That became how we did business.”**

Albert J. Simone, RIT's eighth president, who led the university from 1992 to 2007

**“I was fortunate to have good mentors throughout my career. That's what it's about—giving a person an opportunity and mentorship.”**

Jacqueline (Reynolds) Mozrall '87 (industrial engineering), dean of Saunders College of Business. She played on RIT's first women's soccer team in 1982 and was inducted into the RIT Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

**“I am the parent of a student athlete, who, without the benefits of Title IX, would perhaps be unable to participate in her sport today. She is a swimmer of immigrant and African-Caribbean descent, participating in a sport that has very few people who look like her. However, Title IX has a lot of work to do in realizing equitable and equal participation of women of color in sports and across all areas of higher education. Women of color, particularly Black women, do not benefit from Title IX the same way their white peers do.”**

Nickesia Gordon, associate professor in the School of Communication. She is on the Women of Color Advisory Board to the office of AdvanceRIT.

**“We need to explain to students about Title IX and the boundaries in healthy relationships because having relationships are part of the college experience. While here, they are also getting an education in life.”**

Amy Stornello '96 (criminal justice), RIT/NTID deputy Title IX Coordinator and senior employment adviser for NTID Co-op and Career Center. Stornello facilitates disclosures for the Title IX office for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

**“We systematically enhanced and expanded women's sports. And while there were a few bumps in the road we continued to focus on progress forward. As RIT grew and attracted more women to STEM programs, it definitely helped us as an athletics program.”**

Lou Spiotti Jr., who joined RIT in 1974 and was director of RIT Athletics from 1980 to 2021

**“We started a couple years ago with just 'RIT basketball' instead of 'RIT women's basketball' and it started the conversation. Now, all our sports teams are in a rebranding process to be as inclusive in our language as we can.”**

Amy Reed, head RIT basketball coach



## Fair and equitable



Stacy DeRooy

Stacy DeRooy has served as the director of Title IX and Clery Compliance since 2015. DeRooy has

built a small team, including an investigator and deputy coordinators, who work with students, faculty, and staff when there are incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination. The Title IX team educates the campus community to help prevent incidents from occurring.

DeRooy follows changes in state and federal laws pertaining to Title IX and gender equity and works with campus partners to ensure compliance and to help keep members in the community safe.

The Title IX team is helping to expand a culture of equity on campus by embedding deputy coordinators in colleges and through prevention and awareness education with an emphasis on empowerment in one-on-one discussions, workshops, and training for students and employees.

“We are driving the organizational change needed to end systemic inequality by holding people accountable when they conduct themselves in ways that do not support RIT values, including and importantly anti-discrimination,” she said.

To file a complaint or to learn more about the Title IX program, go to [rit.edu/titleix](http://rit.edu/titleix).



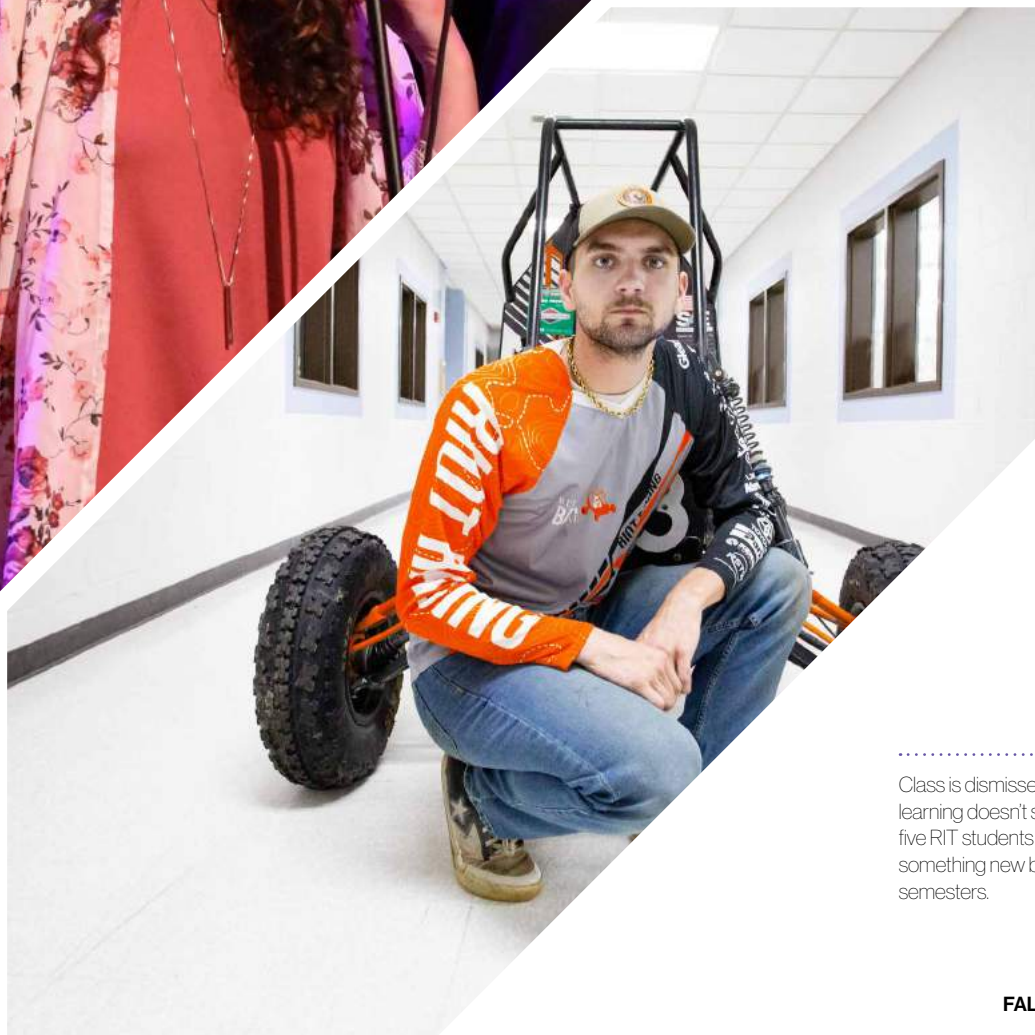
# BETWEEN SEMESTERS

## Students pursue their passions outside of class

Learning doesn't have to stop when the semester ends. During the 15 weeks between spring and fall semester, RIT students are finding ways to embrace new challenges. Some are taking the stage and performing. Others are winning club championships. For many RIT students, summer is a time to get work experience. They are participating in research projects, traveling abroad, and helping others while pursuing their passions. Read about how five students spent their summer vacation on the pages that follow.







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Class is dismissed, but the learning doesn't stop. Meet five RIT students who tried something new between semesters.

.....

Imergen Rosario learned about a new career path during an internship with The Estée Lauder Companies, on Long Island.







## Exploring the many shades of imaging science

**I**mergen Rosario used a recent internship to explore a potential career path she did not know was possible for someone from her major. The fourth-year imaging science student from the Bronx, N.Y., spent the summer on Long Island conducting research for The Estée Lauder Companies.

Rosario found out about the internship through RIT's Imaging Science Club, which invites companies to come speak at their weekly meetings. When representatives from The Estée Lauder Companies came and said they were looking for someone to help them develop an internal database of lip products, Rosario jumped at the opportunity.

"I didn't even know I could bring imaging science into the cosmetics field," said Rosario. "I'm more drawn to the creative side of things, so I thought this is perfect and I can apply what I'm learning in classes to cosmetics."

From May through August, she developed an imaging measurement protocol to characterize pigments under different lighting conditions, sample preparations, and other factors. That work experience at The Estée Lauder Companies was one of several very different avenues she has taken to explore her unique, interdisciplinary program.

In her second year, Rosario worked extensively with the Digital Imaging and Remote Sensing (DIRS) Laboratory, helping operate drones during remote sensing experiments across the country. In her third year, she conducted research with Associate Professor Gabriel Diaz in the PerForM (Perception For Movement) Lab, exploring the augmented reality path of imaging science.

"I love imaging science because it's so broad, but it's very niche at the same time," said Rosario about the New Economy Major that combines engineering, computer science, and math. "You can go into so many different fields but be a specialist no matter where you go. I like being able to test every field and see which one I fall into best."

Rosario said that the internship helped cement for her what she would like to do professionally after graduation.

"I never thought I'd see this path, it's just a very interesting route," said Rosario. "I really like the cosmetics field and I feel like this is the route that I would like to take."

Jordan Tenenbaum

**Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS**





## Mapping to improve refugee camp resilience

**R**ob Mitchell is finding new ways to make a difference. He switched from a 15-year career in newspaper journalism to become a data science master's student.

Last summer, Mitchell joined a team of graduate students and traveled to Rwanda—via funding from the National Science Foundation International Research Experience for Students program—to map refugee camps using geographic information systems (GIS) technology. The researchers aim to better understand and prepare refugee camps for resilience to disasters.

"What I loved about reporting was being able to bring people's stories to a broader audience, and that's the common thread with data science," said Mitchell, who is from Rutland, Vt. "I feel like this was a chance to do some

good here by sharing the needs and the vulnerabilities, but also the strength of these folks that we've met."

The student researchers studied the Kigeme camp in southwestern Rwanda, where more than 17,000 refugees have fled violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Due to dangerous erosion and landslides, many have had to relocate to another refugee camp in Rwanda called Mahama.

Brian Tomaszewski, a professor in RIT's Center for Geographic Information Science and Technology and the project's principal investigator, said that this research will help organizations across the world understand how to improve the resiliency of refugees.

"We're interested in using GIS to

understand the resilience of displaced people," he said. "And once they're displaced, how are they then resilient against natural disasters?"

Mitchell joined Nicole Griffin, a human-computer interaction master's student from Lindenhurst, N.Y., and students from Monroe Community College and SUNY Albany for 10 weeks in Rwanda.

The students interviewed the camp's residents to gather data about resources within the camp, including physical resources like solar panels or cooking fuel and social resources like connections inside and outside the camp. The researchers also mapped the terrain to assess risk of natural disasters like landslides.

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**Jenna Warren '24**

Griffin Joslin drove and designed for RIT's Baja off-road racing team.







Brian Tomaszewski

Rob Mitchell, right, was part of a research team that traveled to Rwanda.



## Speeding to a Baja championship

Griffin Joslin was one of the only drivers able to keep his Baja car upright, maneuvering over the twisting course of rail road ties, boulders, and a precarious cement-block trench during Baja SAE Rochester.

RIT has hosted SAE's international collegiate design challenge seven times, but the summer of 2022 was the first time the team raised the big trophy. As proud as Joslin was in crushing the course and besting 100 national and international collegiate race teams, he also was pleased with his artistic contributions.

Along with being a driver in the suspension and endurance events, Joslin, who graduated in May with a degree in graphic design, served as art director. Using his design skills, he rebranded the team—from RIOT Racing to RIT Baja Racing—giving both the car and team a fresh look from its clothing and banners to chassis designs.

"I started on the team in my first year and stayed because of the connections to other majors," said Joslin about the team based in the College of Engineering Technology but includes students from all of RIT's colleges. "This is something not usually done at an art school, and the friends that I've made at RIT, most of them are on this team."

Joslin started with the Baja aerodynamics group and moved through the other vehicle systems—learning first, then mentoring new teammates.

"This is one of the ways we pass on knowledge," he said.

He earned a place on the team's executive committee, first as secretary, then he was voted in as team manager in 2020. This leadership position coordinates team travel logistics, finances, and support needed for the technical design and system

inspections required before cars even take the field.

RIT Baja teams have competed for more than 30 years, and alumni are successful engineers, business leaders, and designers. Joslin is now part of that group.

Shortly after the Baja event, he took his design skills and project management abilities to Joele Frank in New York City, one of the top 20 public relations firms in the U.S., according to Observer Media.

"I think working with a team of engineers has taught me more about applying my designs to the real world than any art class I could have taken here," he said. "Working with people who have different skills and ways of working has taught me how to handle tighter deadlines and difficult challenges at my new job."

**Michelle Cometa '00**



.....  
Alexa Kaminski  
conducted  
sustainability research  
in RIT's shipping  
container farm.

## Researching small-scale farms

Alexa G. Kaminski readily admits to having very little farming experience. But that didn't stop her from conducting important research related to shipping container farms, which are popping up everywhere from snowy wildernesses and city neighborhoods to Middle Eastern deserts.

The sustainability Ph.D. student in Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS) took over the running of RIT's Freight Farm for three months last summer to evaluate the importance that small-scale controlled environment agriculture (CEA) systems can play in reducing food waste and creating a more sustainable food system in a world struggling with inequitable food access.

"We noticed a gap in the existing literature that we saw an opportunity to fill," said Kaminski, a Doylestown, Pa. native who earned her master's degree in sustainable systems from GIS. "There has been little academic research done about how these small-scale CEA systems are working in 'real life,' and even less so about container farms in particular—despite these farms becoming much more popular and common in the last few years."

This research study, funded by the National Science Foundation and led by Kaminski and other RIT researchers, is striving to change that. Kaminski conducted interviews with farmers currently using container farms, to assess how they are being used. She also conducted a life cycle assessment of food grown inside RIT's 360-square-foot container farm compared to conventionally on a traditional farm.

"It's a great way to assess whether growing food in these containers is truly better for the environment than current methods," she said.

Kaminski, who anticipates earning her Ph.D. in spring 2024, would like to work in industry upon graduation, applying innovative sustainability solutions—"possibly at some type of CEA company," she said, "or anywhere that I can use what I've learned at RIT to make a positive impact on the environment."

Rich Kiley







## Singing with a rock star

**F**or three weeks in July, Gabriela Gonzalez lived the life of a rock star, playing at venues throughout the Northeast with Jon Anderson, who was the lead singer for the legendary band YES.

Gonzalez, a second-year chemistry major from Lansdale, Pa., is a member of the Paul Green Rock Academy, a music school based in Philadelphia, which provided the backing. Twenty-five of the school's students were in one of three tours with Anderson last summer.

"Most music students don't get to tour with the pros," said Loren Teolis, program director. "They have to audition and meet certain expectations."

This was the second summer Gonzalez toured with Anderson, when she either sang or played bass guitar on stage.

"It was a lot of fun and obviously, I learned a lot being there," she said. "When you're on tour, it's just like music 24-7."

Gonzalez, who is a Performing Arts Scholar in commercial music at RIT, is a member of the RIT Singers and Tiger A Team Band, which plays pop, rock, and commercial music.

RIT was just one of seven colleges she applied to. She was accepted at them all, "but RIT had all the music opportunities I could continue from high school," she said. "One of my main reasons for picking RIT was for the performing arts available."

Her plan after graduation is to work in the chemistry industry, "but I'll always do music on the side and at nights and on the weekends," she said. "That's my plan right now."

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**Greg Livadas**

.....  
Gabriela Gonzalez lived the life of a rock star, playing at venues throughout the Northeast.





# Teaching **STEM** by playing with primates

When kids are presented with the choice of learning to code or going to the zoo, most would choose the latter. An RIT professor wonders why they can't do both.

Caroline DeLong, professor and undergraduate program director of psychology, and a team of researchers at RIT and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) are exploring the idea of engaging children with STEM skills through the lens of interacting with animals. They are working with a group of olive baboons at Rochester's Seneca Park Zoo.

Their project, called the Primate Portal, explores the cognitive abilities of olive baboons by providing games and tasks for the animals to solve on a touch screen. One of the project's goals is to offer open access to data, code, and video of primates

solving cognitive problems so students everywhere can study animal minds.

"We know from our own surveys with elementary school children and looking at other published surveys that animals are among young children's top science interests, and that's especially true for girls," said DeLong, who has worked for more than a decade doing comparative cognition research with animals.

"What we're trying to do is harness girls' and boys' love of animals and use that to get them interested in computer programming and other STEM fields as career possibilities."





**The Primate Portal project's goal** is to increase young students' interest in STEM by engaging them with something that is interesting and familiar: animals at the zoo.

**This project attempts** to break down perceived barriers in STEM fields by engaging students with college-level research in a creative and unique way.



**Baboons** are able to use touch screens that assess their cognitive abilities. The researchers examine whether they use their right or left hands or both to interact with the touch screen.

**Caroline DeLong** has conducted comparative cognition research for more than 25 years with a variety of animals. In addition to olive baboons, DeLong and her team have studied fish, dolphins, otters, orangutans, and penguins.







DeLong, center, met with Katie Becker '22, right, and Jessica Wegman '20, '22 MS at the zoo regularly to discuss observations and share collected data.

Jessica Cantlon, associate professor of psychology and developmental neuroscience chair at CMU, is a collaborator on the project and has worked with the olive baboons at Seneca Park Zoo for more than 10 years.

Cantlon's experience with this specific group of animals paired with DeLong's research background and previous work with K-12 outreach provided a golden opportunity for directly engaging elementary school students with their research—engagement that has the potential to inspire and diversify the next generation of scientists.

Rather than giving a lecture, the group opts for active participation so students can get involved with the research. They present their project

to students and ask them to create their own games to test the baboons' cognition. Then, the students take the next step of writing the code for their proposed game using Scratch, which is later translated into the higher-level code languages the team uses at the zoo.

By creating an inclusive coding experience that creatively addresses girls' scientific interests, the group hopes the experience sparks a curiosity in students to further explore STEM topics and, eventually, pursue a career in STEM. The group has conducted one pilot program thus far at Allendale Columbia School in Rochester, and the goal is to expand to other local schools.

"Kids are pretty patchy in terms of their interest in

computers and technology. It appeals more to some kinds of students than others, and it may seem maybe a little bit exclusive," said Cantlon. "But, if we can show them that some of this technology is really a tool for studying the things that they already think are intriguing, like animals, it might help form a bridge among different areas of science and foster their interest."

Jessica Wegman '20 (psychology), '22 MS (experimental psychology), one of the RIT-based researchers and DeLong's former student, hopes that engaging with the Primate Portal will open young students' eyes to the many possibilities of a STEM career and inspire more girls to get interested in STEM.

"It's really important to

**An inclusive coding experience** can make a career in STEM seem more attainable, particularly for young girls. The team hopes their work can help diversify the next generation of scientists.

have more diversity in STEM, and using animals can be a hook to get different kinds of people interested in it, especially girls and women who may feel discouraged from jumping right into a STEM field that tends to be male dominated," Wegman said. "This shows them that they can use those skills to do things that are interesting to them and offers a different kind of view of what you can do in these fields."

In the future, the Primate Portal team plans to continue student engagement through visits to the zoo. There, students can see their hard work and learning pay off.

"If you're just lecturing at someone, whether or not they take it in is up to them. They don't really get the extra reinforcement of seeing it in action and having an enjoyable experience associated with it," said Katie Becker '22 (psychology), another RIT-based Primate Portal researcher and past student of DeLong. "I think the kids will find watching the baboons do the tasks that they coded an enjoyable experience. They'll get some reinforcement from that, which could potentially lead to an interest in future coding."

**Felicia Swartzenberg '19**

## Alumni Updates

### **Saleh Yammout '10**

(economics), vice president of Finance and Administration for RIT Dubai, oversees approximately 60 employees at the global campus.



United Production

## Yammout helps shape RIT Dubai

**S**aleh Yammout '10 (economics) has been an integral part of molding RIT Dubai as it exists today. As vice president of Finance and Administration for RIT Dubai, Yammout oversees most of the global campus's non-academic operations, including facilities, information technology, human resources, and admissions.

RIT Dubai is in the midst of a tremendous growth spurt. Yammout notes that from 2017 to 2021, the campus's student population grew from 504 to more than 1,000; the faculty and staff population increased from 53 to 90; the campus footprint went from about 4,000 square meters to approximately 129,000 square meters; and it went from having six labs to 19 labs and an innovation center.

"When I began here we were still very much a small startup university, but we have been rapidly expanding," said Yammout. "We are now a very distinctly positioned university in the United Arab Emirates. There are only two or three

nonprofit universities in the region, we are accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education, and most importantly, our degree comes all the way from the U.S. No other university in Dubai offers that."

Yammout never envisioned helping to lead a university in Dubai, but his unique path in life prepared him well for the role. His family relocated to New York state amidst the 2006 Lebanon War, he enrolled at RIT's main campus in 2008, and he earned his economics degree in 2010. In 2011, he left the U.S. to move to the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, where he worked in the finance industry for several years. He said when he was a student he was unaware RIT had a campus in Dubai, but in 2015, he joined RIT Dubai as assistant vice president of Finance and Administration.

Yammout's proudest accomplishment to date is helping to launch the new RIT Dubai campus.

He credits many people with making the campus a reality, especially the leadership provided by RIT Dubai President Yousef Al

Assaf and RIT Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration James Watters, as well as close collaborators from the Rochester campus including Gregory Van Laeken, James Yarrington, John Moore, and Gary Moxley. Yammout fondly remembers the look on the faces of students when they saw the new campus for the first time in 2021.

"They were shocked," said Yammout. "The opening was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the gratification this place brought was worth the wait. I am proud we have such a beautiful campus for our students to learn and grow at."

Yammout's eyes are on the future as RIT Dubai begins a new strategic plan guiding the university from 2022 to 2027. As enrollment continues to rise, he expects construction on phase two of the new campus—which will allow RIT Dubai to accommodate up to 4,000 students—will begin in the next several years.

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**Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS**



# Alumna uses film to teach diversity

**T**ina Cannaday Chapman DaCosta '04 MS (product development), '14 MFA (film and animation) is using her parents' life stories to teach important lessons about diversity, equity, and inclusion. In fall 2022, the director of RIT's Diversity Theater program released *Dear Eleanor*, her second short film based on her parents' lives.

DaCosta wrote, directed, and produced *Dear Eleanor*, which chronicles her mother and father's blossoming but distant romance while her father served as a plane mechanic in Dayton, Ohio, and later in Tuskegee, Ala., during World War II. The short film follows the award-winning *Brick by Brick*, and both short films are based on a feature-length film screenplay DaCosta wrote for her MFA thesis.

DaCosta's career at RIT began in 2002, when she left her job as an engineer at IBM to join the faculty at the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and help start the information technology program. She said that while the change put her on a more rewarding path, her father's untimely death ultimately inspired her to make the leap to pursue her true dream.

"I was in my office in 2006 preparing to teach my cybersecurity lab when my sister called with the news of our father's leukemia diagnosis," said DaCosta. "He was hospitalized in Cleveland, and I couldn't race home to be at his side. I found myself really reflecting on all these stories that he told me and started writing them down. I faxed a copy to the hospital, hoping someone would read them to him and make him smile until I arrived. He passed six weeks later."

This was a pivotal time for DaCosta career-wise. She decided to give up her tenure track position and take on a path of storytelling and performing arts.

DaCosta has served as founder and director of Diversity Theater since 2015, where she uses sketches and theatrical presentations, Playback Theatre workshops, and her films to explore diversity and inclusion themes. *Brick by Brick* and *Dear Eleanor* are now integrated into the curriculum for RIT 365, the university's experiential learning course for first-year students.



Elizabeth Lamark

**Tina Cannaday Chapman DaCosta '04 MS, '14 MFA** shot her most recent film, *Dear Eleanor*, at the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, N.Y. The film chronicles her mother and father's blossoming but distant romance while her father served as a plane mechanic in Dayton, Ohio, and later in Tuskegee, Ala., during World War II.

Even the production of DaCosta's short films has been a teaching opportunity. She taught a special topics course in film preproduction for *Brick by Brick*—both short films were produced primarily with crew help from RIT students and alumni, and *Dear Eleanor* was developed in full partnership with MAGIC Spell Studios.

DaCosta said she ultimately hopes to produce a feature-length version of her screenplay. But she said turning her parents' love

story into a positive force for change in the world has already been a dream come true.

"I find that love conquers all, breaks down barriers, disproves myths and stereotypes, and brings people together," said DaCosta. "So I devote everything I do toward community building. It means the world to me to share the stories of ordinary people who had magnanimous impacts."

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**Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS**





## Photo alumna named 2022 Guggenheim fellow



**Rebecca Soderholm '94** (photojournalism) is documenting off-road dirt bike and ATV races.

Spectators covered in dust at a hare scramble might describe the races as chaotic, thrilling, or even part of their family's traditions. Rebecca Soderholm '94 (photojournalism) is documenting the excitement of these off-road dirt bike and ATV races through photography in a body of work titled "Hare Scramble."

Her vision for "Hare Scramble" earned Soderholm a spot as one of the 2022 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellows. Each year, the foundation accepts roughly 3,000 applications,

and fellowships are awarded to approximately 175 individuals in more than 50 fields. Previous fellows include notable figures such as Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, and Dorothea Lange.

"Hare Scramble" attempts to capture the grit and endurance that drivers and support crews display against the hardscabble landscapes and challenging conditions of the racetracks.

"In 2014, I ran across a hare scramble while I was out scouting for pictures. I was immediately enthralled by all of it: the landscape, the racers and their families camped out in fields, the dirt bikes, and four-wheelers," said Soderholm. "One day





A racer at a 2021 youth bike race in Snowshoe, W.Va. The off-road endurance races require independence and grit. Girls and boys start racing as early as age 4.

Photography from “Hare Scramble,” a body of work that earned Soderholm a 2022 Guggenheim fellowship. A crowd at a 2019 ATV race in Snowshoe, W.Va.



Dust at the start of a 2020 bike race in Maudsville, W.Va.

Photos by Rebecca Soderholm

I asked myself what would happen if all of the information I was drawn to—the sound, movement, and color—was reduced to a black and white still frame. Paradoxically, I found that I could say more with that pared-down approach.”

The Guggenheim fellowship is a substantial grant that helps each fellow pursue individual projects. With this funding, Soderholm will expand on her work by traveling to more races, building a print studio, and extending her sabbatical from her position as associate professor of art at Drew University.

The races are consistently dirty affairs, according to Soderholm, and they often

require traveling to remote locations and walking for miles across rugged terrain.

“At a recent race in West Virginia, my shutter release wouldn’t fire because it was full of mud,” said Soderholm. “But these challenges just make the pictures more hard earned. At the end of a day of shooting, I am filthy, bruised, exhausted, and happy. I think it’s the same for the racers.”

At the races, harsh terrain is balanced by a warm sense of community. Growing up in Central Square, N.Y., Soderholm was always curious about the history and social dynamics at play in rural areas. Following the hare scramble circuit has been a unique opportunity to explore

rural America in a new way.

In her Guggenheim application, Soderholm wrote, “The photographs acknowledge an inherent spirit of kindness, as spectators assist racers, but also a sublime, lurking danger. During this fraught political moment in American history, this work aims to complicate our tendency toward political duality by inviting the viewer into observations of power, humor, and grace.”

She later elaborated, “The intensity of the races can act as a metaphor for the tumultuous moment we are experiencing as a society.”

**Felicia Swartzenberg ’19**



**Snehal Ravindra Ingle '19** (electrical engineering) helped develop the Radio Frequency (RF) Amplifier system being used to test human cells' behavior under microgravity.

## Grad builds system for International Space Station

Nate Tangeman

**W**hen NASA's Cygnus spacecraft launched in spring 2022, technology built by an RIT engineering alumna made its way to the International Space Station.

Snehal Ravindra Ingle '19 (electrical engineering) helped develop the Radio Frequency (RF) Amplifier system being used to test human cells' behavior under microgravity.

As a design and applications engineer working for Electronics & Innovation Ltd. (E&I), Ingle integrated technology needed to support complex experiments where scientists can observe changes affecting health conditions and body functions. The development of drug delivery systems, for example, is underway on the ISS and aligns with the focused ultrasound work done at E&I.

"We make RF equipment for any experiment based on three functions—signal generation, modification of the signal, and the utilization of that signal based on the application," Ingle said. "Modification is where we do the amplification; this

is where our amplifiers shine with their ruggedness, ability to work into any load, and broader frequency ranges."

Before taking flight, work began on the ground. University of Mississippi researchers sought out E&I because of its RF systems expertise for an experiment they developed for the 2022 payload to the ISS.

Before launch, it needed to be certified for both the researchers and NASA—for robustness, resistance to electromagnetic interference, and advanced signal processing capabilities.

"We got Snehal involved right away to work with the researcher because it was going to require some of her engineering and customer skills to figure out exactly what they needed," said Jeff Keller, vice president of sales at E&I.

Working with NASA was a first for the company and Ingle. Their RF amplifier has been incorporated into the glovebox—a sealed, safe, and contained environment with built-in gloves to facilitate investigations conducted by the space crew

with fluids, flames, particles, and fumes in low-gravity, or microgravity.

Without the glovebox, many types of hands-on investigations would be impossible or severely restricted, said Ingle, who began working at the company after graduation and was inspired by how her work could impact healthcare.

"When we interviewed her, we thought she was wonderful. But the time it took her to come up to speed was phenomenal," said Tony Harris, E&I president.

Ingle left the company in June after her visa expired and began a management science and engineering degree program in the fall at Columbia University in New York City.

"I worked in literally every sector of this company which gave me such a unique blend of experience," said Ingle. "The mentorship provided and just general support is unmatched."

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**Michelle Cometa '00**



# Brick City

2022 • Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend

A. Myers Creative Imaging B. Ethan Bissinger C. Elizabeth Lamark D. Elizabeth Lamark E. Myers Creative Imaging F. Myers Creative Imaging G. Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito



**A** The men's hockey team skated to an 8-5 win over Union College in front of an enthusiastic crowd of more than 8,000 at Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester.

**B** Comedian Seth Meyers, the Student Government guest speaker, entertained the audience.

**C** David Cho, a first-year University Exploration student, plays giant cornhole with his brother, Jacob.

**D** First-year biomedical engineering student Emily Fitzgerald, second from right, enjoyed the weekend with, from left to right, her uncle, Dana Frost; her father, Paul Fitzgerald; and her mother, Lauren Fitzgerald.

**E** Ritchie cheered for first-year computer engineering student Brendan Nolan at the finish line of the Brick City 5K Fun Run and Walk.

**F** The Build-a-Tiger activity was a popular event. More than 14,000 people participated in weekend activities.

**G** *America's Got Talent* season 16 winner Dustin Tavella blended magic and inspirational messages in a show for Brick City Weekend attendees.



# 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](http://rit.edu/alumni/class-notes).

## 1966

**Jeffrey Pollock '66 MBA (GAP)** was elected as a trustee of the George Eastman Museum.

## 1972



**Bob Shewchuk '72 (GAP)** finished post-production on a new feature film, *Townhouse Confidential*, where he served as the line producer and production manager. Shot in 20 days last summer in the West Village of New York City, the low-budget indie features 20 actors, 71 background players and extras, and a production crew of more than 40 people.

## 1973

**Sheryl Ross '73 (FAA)** was approved to represent the North Central Texas HIV Planning Council at the 2022 USCHA Conference in October at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in Puerto Rico.

## 1974

**Michael Kleper '74 MS (CCE)**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former Paul and Louise Miller Professor in RIT's College of Graphic Arts and Photography, is the author of *Focusing on Laser Engraving and Decorating: Affordable, Versatile, and Creative Marking, Engraving, and Cutting* ([tinyurl.com/2j2kmyc4](http://tinyurl.com/2j2kmyc4)), recently published on Amazon.

## 1975



**Linda Patterson '75 MFA (FAA)** has published her second book, *Am I Doing This Right? Finding My Way Through Grief*. Her first book, *What We Do for Love: Cats in the Family*, was published in 2018.



**Gary Staffo '75 (KGCOE)** retired on Dec. 31, 2019, after 44 years of federal and private sector service, directing programs in safety, environment, health,

security, and emergency management. December 2019 also blessed him with the birth of a granddaughter.

## 1976



**Tom Fecteau '76 (SCB)** became the membership chair and a board member for the Rochester Professional Consultants Network (RPCN), based in Rochester. RPCN provides fellowship, education, and coaching/mentoring services for consultants and professionals who have recently begun independently selling their expertise.



**Deborah Kinahan '76 (SCB), '88 MBA (SCB)** has achieved a life-long dream of becoming a published author since retiring in 2010 after 32 years with the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Her books (available on Amazon) follow the life and love of a female CPA.

## 1977

**Rocky Dwyer '77 MS (CAST)** was the recipient of the 2021 Emerald Literati Award for Outstanding Paper. The article, "Predicting Manufacturing Employee Turnover Intentions," was published in the *Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Science*. Dwyer is a contributing faculty member with Walden University's College of Management and Human Potential.



**Jerry Elman '77 (KGCOE), '84 MS (SCB)** released his book, *Miracles Through Hell—A True Story of Holocaust Survival and Intergenerational Healing*. The book is available on Amazon.



**Kevin Hall '77 (FAA)** met with Josh Owen, Vignelli Distinguished Professor of Design at RIT, in May 2022 during the RIT Success by Design event at New York Design Week with other RIT students, faculty, and alumni in attendance. He also visited with his former professor R. Roger Remington.

**Joel Miller '77 (CLA)** is now living in Oak Park, Ill., and is the director of operations for North Shore Congregation Israel, one of the largest reform congregations in the Chicago area.



**Michael Pollock '77 (GAP)** received the 2022 Rochester Business Journal Health Care Heroes Lifetime

Achievement Award based on his lifelong dedication to public service.



**Misha Ptak '77 (KGCOE)** has retired from a fulfilling career as a quality and process improvement professional. During his career, he worked as a government contractor on projects supporting the national defense and protection of U.S. borders and for the American Red Cross. He has taken time to relax on the beach.

## 1978

**Peter Arthur '78 (KGCOE)** retired after more than 44 years in the nuclear power industry. He is now relaxing and doing part-time consulting work: DBA Peter J. Arthur Consulting, LLC.





**Gregory Hitchin '78 (GAP)** was awarded the Mary Jo Hanover Award from the Industrial Asset Management Council in

recognition of his service to the organization and industry.



**Joseph Stevens '78 (GAP)** retired in January 2022. After 44 years of working in the printing industry, he is now volunteering at the National Alliance for Mental Illness as a facilitator. He also has five grandchildren and enjoyed time in Italy with his wife, Janie.

## 1980

**Susan Cohen '80 (CLA)** retired from Montgomery County Public Libraries on Oct. 1, 2020. She served as the head of adult services and services for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing population for 36 years. In February 2021, she was elected the president of the Jewish Deaf Resource Center. She and her husband have relocated to Florida.

**Tim Kilby '80 MFA (GAP)** was awarded a 2022 Phillis Wheatley Book Award and a 2021 International AAHGS Book Award for his book, *Gourdvine Black and White: Slavery and the Kilby Families of the Virginia Piedmont*, published in 2021.

## 1981



**Phyllis Bryce Ely '81 (FAA)** and **Patrice McPeak '82 (FAA)** are exhibiting "PLACE/DISPLACE: Points of Connection" at the Geisel

Gallery in Rochester through Dec. 28.



**Jim Ferris Jr. '81 (COS)** retired after more than 40 years in IT and supply chain management, working in the industry and as a management

consultant. He plans to play more tennis, go boating, go on vacations, golf, and continue his passion—leading his own jazz combo. Visit [jimferristrio.com](http://jimferristrio.com).



**Tom Mancuso '81 (CCE)** is a professional golf teacher at Riverton Golf Club in Rochester.

## 1982



**Daniel Holmes '82 (GAP)** has moved to Roswell, N.M., where he has taken a job as a senior trial attorney in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District District Attorney's office. Holmes is pictured with intergalactic residents of Roswell.

**Gary Sutto '82 MFA (GAP)** is still taking photographs since graduating from RIT 40 years ago. He is hoping to hear from other alumni from the graduating classes of '81, '82, and '83 graphic arts and photography programs. He can be reached at <http://garysutto.com>.

## 1983



**Gerard Kiernan '83 (CAST)** has retired after more than 30 years in the engineering field. During the week he teaches at his

local public school system and in his spare time enjoys traveling, skiing, and hiking with his wife, Kim, and their dog, Rascal.

## Grad returns to in-person global Peace Corps work



**Alana Smith '19 (applied arts and sciences)** joined the Peace Corps to teach Deaf children in Ghana.

**A**lana Smith '19 is among the first Peace Corps volunteers to serve overseas after an unprecedented two-year Peace Corps evacuation from more than 60 countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smith, of Riverside, Calif., left for Ghana on June 19, where she lived with a host family for three months and received training before a two-year stint to teach Deaf children there.

"This kind of experience will broaden my perspective as an educator of Deaf youth," Smith said. "It will be a life-changing experience and I look forward to learning their values and their way of life."

Smith first wanted to join the Peace Corps when she was a senior in high school and

learned there were opportunities for Deaf people like her to go to other communities and serve. She received her bachelor's degree in Deaf education through RIT's School of Individualized Study.

"I always knew I wanted to become a teacher, so I asked SOIS if it was possible, and they managed to allow me to customize my own major at RIT," she said.

After RIT, Smith received her master's degree in Deaf education from Boston University. She then revisited the chance to volunteer, and discovered there was an opening to teach Deaf children through the Peace Corps.

"The Peace Corps is a great service opportunity," she said.

**Greg Livadas**

**Bryan Shepard '89**, left, and his father, **Allan Shepard '62**, pursued creative careers and their favorite sport.

# Father and son build a winning combination

Rick Nyburg

Hockey has been a cornerstone in the lives of Allan Shepard '62 (printing) and his son Bryan '89 (motion picture science), even as they have both excelled in their careers.

Allan grew up with ice hockey in his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. When he arrived at RIT, which was still in downtown Rochester at the time, he assumed he could continue playing. But the ice rink was occupied primarily by the figure skating program.

Allan wasn't deterred. He and a small group of students banded together to create an unofficial hockey team. They bargained for time on the rink late at night and were told to use a roll of tape as a puck for safety reasons. Soon the team was playing freshman teams in the area.

"The turning point that put the hockey team on the map

was the confrontation with the University of Rochester," Allan said. "Nearly 1,000 students banded together and rallied and marched down the street with flags and banners and went to that hockey game, which we were fortunate enough to win."

According to the Nov. 21, 1961, issue of *Reporter*, RIT won 3-0 and Allan scored the first—and winning—goal in the first six seconds. Allan credits *Reporter* for creating momentum to help the team grow. Hockey achieved Division III status in 1964. Ritter Arena opened four years later on the new Henrietta campus.

In 2003, Allan became the first student to be inducted into the RIT Sports Hall of Fame as a team founder.

Allan married his wife, JoAnn, in his junior year at RIT, and they had two sons, Bryan and Scott.

After graduating, Allan began

his career in management in the book printing industry. He worked at Western Publishing Company in Wisconsin and Maryland, where he became plant manager. He finished his career working for a small printing company in Baltimore.

Allan and JoAnn are retired and currently live in Los Angeles.

Bryan said he decided to come to RIT because RIT had both hockey and a film and television major.

"I was a pretty creative kid," he said. "When I had to pick a career, I was looking through catalogs for what was available. And then I saw this film and television major, and I was just flabbergasted."

At first, Bryan practiced with the hockey team as a goaltender. But his studies became his life-long passion. After graduating, Bryan moved to Los Angeles to work in entertainment. He has

continued to play hockey since.

Inspired by a wildlife refuge near his home in Cambridge, Md., he founded the production company EagleVision Entertainment Corp. He has worked in broadcast news, sports, and entertainment for the past 33 years and has won three Emmy Awards.

For Bryan, the creative and athletic passions that he and his father pursued complement each other.

"There's this creative portion that comes along with ice hockey that you don't really get in any other sport," he said. "The creativity behind hockey also gave me this mindset that if you can summon up the ambition, courage, and strength, you can become part of a winning team, and the art of filmmaking is a team-oriented thing."

Jenna Warren '24



1984

**Paul Chida '84 (KGCOE)** retired from Boeing Co. in 2020 after 35 years. He was married in 2020 and is now living in Florida.

1985

**Michael Vanderheyden '85 (SCB)** retired from Tiffany and Co. in June 2022 after 37 years.



**Adam Avrick '85 (GAP)** was elected chairman of the Printing Industries Alliance. Avrick is currently the president of Design

Distributors Inc., treasurer of the Long Island Postal Customer Council, and is a member of the steering committee for the Print Industry Alliance of Long Island.

1986

**Jan Hogle '86 (GAP)** is partnering with her brother, Gary, in a retirement venture called Dad's Ashes, an alternative to the traditional burial of loved ones. The siblings provide a service to scatter cremated remains in a wide variety of custom locations—fully researched for permissions and permits, and documented by means of photos, videos, and online registration. Details can be found at [dads-ashes.com](http://dads-ashes.com).

1987



**Thomas Lambert '87 (CLA)** retired from the United States Navy on Sept. 1, 2021, following 41 years of naval service. He served on

five continents and seven seas. Some of his awards include the Legion of Merit, five Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He is employed as head of the Office of Legal Affairs for the Virginia State Police.

1988

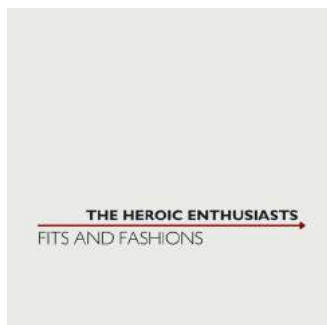
**Jeffrey Carlson '88 (KGCOE)** accepted the position of senior director of operations for Service Oklahoma, a startup agency whose mission is to simplify the way residents interact with the government by providing them with best-in-class customer experience through an efficient and seamless end-to-end experience.

**Mark Sanza '88 (CLA)** has been appointed as deputy general counsel at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany, N.Y. He oversees a broad number of attorneys responsible for administering important environmental programs.

1989



**Gary S. Avratin '89 (SCB)** shares that his son, **Max S. Avratin '22**, recently graduated from RIT. He wishes **Emma R. Avratin '24** great success for the upcoming year.



**James Tabbi '89 (COS), '97 MS (SCB)** shares that *The Heroic Enthusiasts' "Fits and Fashions"*—the first of the duo's two EPs to be released this year on Meridian/ECR Music Group—arrived June 24, 2022, on the heels of multiple successes.

**Terry Terezakis '89 (CAST)** has joined E3 as executive director, Thermal Generation, and will focus on technical and commercial due diligence for thermal power generation projects. Terezakis lives with his wife of 22 years, Bobbie, and their two sons, Timothy and Michael, in St. Augustine, Fla.

1990



**Scott Rummier '90 MFA (FAA)** is working with RIT Ph.D. visual science students. He has invented a new kind of painting that appears white to the naked eye, but takes on random colors when viewed through the camera.

1994



**Michael Dennehy '94 MS (CAST)** completed his doctoral degree in technology from Capella University, focused in

information assurance and cybersecurity.



**Martin Hendess '94 MBA (SCB)** shares that his first-born child is attending RIT for his freshman year.

1995



**Shail Rajan '95 MBA (SCB)** has published her second novel, *The Recipient*. After more than a decade working for the Big 4 firms, Rajan finally chased her dream of

becoming an author. She published *The Summer Breeze* in 2020.

1996



**Jonathan Gippe '96 (CAST)** achieved his MBA as a Welch Scholar, Highest Honors Graduate with Distinction. He also has an

expanded role at Verizon as the senior manager, Network Construction, for the Eastern U.S. and Puerto Rico.

**Alumni, you can  
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for a \$1,000/year  
scholarship.**

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## Tiger Cubs

2



1



3



4



**1 Sara (Paduano) Frandina '09 (CAST) and Peter Frandina '08 (KGCOE)** welcomed Gemma Lou, their second child, into the world in May 2021.

**2 Lindsay (Power) Bureau '10 (KGCOE), '10 ME (KGCOE) and Scott Bureau '11 (CLA), '16 MBA (SCB)** welcomed their son Colin into the world in July 2022. Mom, dad, and big sister Marcella love to watch him smile.

**3 Kelly (Schottler) Petersen '03 (CIAS)** and her husband, Brent, welcomed a new addition in April 2021. Their son, Wally, joins big brother Bernie. He is a curly-haired ball of fire and has been such a light in their lives.

**4 Amanda Lasicki '09 (CIAS)** and Ryan Kilmartin welcomed twins, Chris and Sean, in May 2021. Chris and Sean look forward to joining the RIT men's hockey team in 2039.

1997



**Mark Higgins '97 (SCB), '03 MBA (SCB), and Ron Toper '97 (SCB), '98 MBA (SCB)** hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Open. The event raised \$23,500 for Autism Up, an autism support group in Rochester. In 13 years of the event, RIT graduates, including many from the Triangle Fraternity in the late '80s and '90s, have helped the event raise more than \$190,000.

1998



**Marcus Parker '98 (CAST), '02 MS (CAST)** has been elected by acclamation to the Tower Federal Credit Union board

for a three-year term. Tower Federal Credit Union has grown to be the largest federal credit union in Maryland and was ranked No. 1 on the *Forbes* list of Best-in-State Credit Unions for 2021.

1999

**Michael Fuszara '99 (KGCOE)** accepted a new position working for Moog Aircraft Group. It's been his dream company to work for and he's looking forward to many more years working for a fantastic company. His son was accepted into RIT's mechanical engineering technology BS/MS program in robotics and automation.

2000

**Sarah (Laugher) Crandall '00 (CIAS)** is the advertising manager at Midland Advertising, a division of Smith-Midland Corp., a leader in the precast concrete industry, headquartered in Midland, Va.

2001



**Lisa Bennett '01 MS (CAST)**, a former RIT staff member, has officially announced the release of her first book,

*Just Keep Living: Conversations with Granny*. In the book, she recounts some of the most life-changing conversations and wisdom-filled anecdotes that her grandmother shared with her.

2002



**Wilfredo Alvarez '02 (CLA)**, associate professor of communication and media at Utica Univer-

sity, published the book *Everyday Dirty Work: Invisibility, Communication, and Immigrant Labor*. In the book, Alvarez explores co-cultural communication practices in the workplace.

2004

**Robert Meisner '04 MS (CAST)** was promoted to full professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

**Ashish Vora '04 MS (KGCOE)**

was promoted to senior director of Product Engineering, Operations, and New Product Introduction at TDK InvenSense.

**Kevin Foster '04 (GCCIS)** accepted the role of deputy information technology director for Dover, N.H., the largest city in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region.

2005

**Michael Sperling '05 (CIAS)** owns Sperling Interactive, a marketing agency, which has been named on the Inc. 5000 list as one of the 5,000 fastest growing privately held companies in the U.S.

2006

**John Gifford '06 (KGCOE)** was promoted to director of systems engineering at REDCOM Laboratories Inc. in Victor, N.Y., a developer and manufacturer of advanced strategic, operational, and tactical communication solutions.

2007



**Jerlyn O'Donnell '07 (CIAS)** was invited to serve on the board of directors of The One Club for

Creativity as a member of the Cultural Driver Jury of The One Show 2022. The One Show is one of the world's most prestigious awards shows, recognizing the best creative work in advertising, design, interactive, and branded entertainment.

2009

**Lisa Dreher '09 (CAST)** was promoted to senior dietitian at the UltraWellness Center, a functional medicine clinic founded by Dr. Mark Hyman.





**Efe Kababulut '09 (CIAS)** is carrying on the family heritage by opening Lazzoni Furniture's eighth showroom in the U.S. The latest location stands out in the Home Decor and Design Center at SOCO and The OC Mix in Orange County, Calif. The brand has opened other stores in New York City; Paramus, N.J.; Atlanta; Boston; and Seattle.



**Rebecca Oesterle '09 MS (CAST)** has been named a leadership training committee national

vice chair for the Daughters of the American Revolution. She retired from a successful career in packaging leadership and is the board chair for the Institute of Packaging Professionals.

## 2010

**Sarai Oviedo '10 (CIAS)** graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree on May 15, 2022.

## 2011



**Mike Phillips '11 (KGCOE)** was recruited to be the senior growth marketing manager for 12twenty, a

SaaS company using deep data to accelerate right-fit employment connections for universities, job-seekers, and employers.

## 2013



**Jeremiah Thompson '13 (SCB)**, who was promoted to a financial advisor position with Kramer Wealth Managers, provides financial planning and investment management

services for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

## 2014



**Megan Moltrup '14 (CLA)** and **Jack Kelleher '15 (GCCIS)** were married in Rochester on Oct. 30, 2021. They were surrounded by friends from RIT and had a fabulous Eight Beat Measure reunion performance that brought down the house.

## 2015



**Ryan Vogt '15 (GCCIS)**

obtained a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from North Carolina State University in

spring 2020. During his studies, he was a fellow at Argonne National Laboratory, part of the U.S. Department of Energy.

## 2016



**Marylin Galimi '16 (SOIS), '19 MS (CHST)**

has been named chief operating officer of Upstate University

Hospital. Galimi has more than 24 years of experience in the design operations field.



**Kate Gunderson '16 (KGCOE)**

received a fully funded fellowship to attend the National Test Pilot School.

She will work as a graduate assistant while completing the professional course and master's degree program as a flight test engineer. Gunderson is pictured with a Piper Comanche after a training sortie.

**Eric Hunt '16 (GCCIS)** works as a full-time web developer and co-hosts a podcast called *The Nomads of Fantasy*. He started the podcast with two friends because they were "just three gamer dads who used to have these conversations at work, and figured why not start recording them?" *The Nomads of Fantasy* is all about exploring the different worlds of video games, movies, and TV shows. The podcast is available at [thenomadsoffantasy.com](http://thenomadsoffantasy.com).

# Tigers Connect



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Whether you're a recent grad or a seasoned professional, alumni all have something in common: **a desire to help our students.**

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RIT | Alumni Association

## Alumnus named to 'Forbes' 30 Under 30 Europe list



**Erblin Ribari '17 MBA (finance)** was recognized as a rising professional in the field of finance.

**E**rblin Ribari '17 MBA (finance) has been named to the seventh annual *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Europe, which recognizes young entrepreneurs and leaders for how they are transforming business and society today.

Ribari, the CFO at dua.com, an app headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, that offers matchmaking and payment services enabling peer-to-peer transactions, was honored in the field of finance.

The app has raised \$4.75 million in funding and is valued at \$32 million, with 130,000 active users.

After Ribari received his MBA from RIT, dua.com was incubated at Harvard Innovation Labs.

"I was highly honored to be featured by *Forbes* as one of the rising professionals in the field of finance," said Ribari, a native of Albania. "Getting to this point took a lot of hard work, failure, self-doubt, self-reflection, and perseverance."

Ribari's interest in finance emerged during the financial

crisis of 2007-2008.

"I started following Wall Street to understand the intricate workings of the financial world," he recalled.

A few years later, he joined a U.S.-based investment firm, where he outperformed the S&P 500 following "dream mentor" Warren Buffett's criteria on value investing.

Later, he managed multi-million-dollar projects and contributed to the growth and success of a number of organizations, ranging from investments, technology, and governmental and intergovernmental sectors in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Within two years of launching, dua.com achieved staggering results, including 1 million app installs, 2 billion user interactions, and 50 million message exchanges targeting Albanian users worldwide—becoming the fastest growing matchmaking provider in Albanian-speaking countries.

**Rich Kiley**



**Amanda (Gratton) Trudo '16 (KGCOE)** and **Stephen Trudo '16 (KGCOE)** were married on Oct. 9, 2021, in Greensboro, N.C., surrounded by friends and family.

**2017**



**Melissa Young '17 (GCCIS)** and **Dylan Vuz '18 (GCCIS)** were married on May 1, 2022, in Old Tappan, N.J. They met at RIT and had been together for five and a half years prior to tying the knot. They are excited about starting this next chapter in their life together.

**2018**



**Jessica (Deangelo) Hossack '18 (CHST)** and **Matt Hossack '18 (KGCOE)** got married in July 2022. They met through RIT Athletics seven years ago—Matt excelled on the lacrosse field and Jess on the track. Their similar passion for sports and the outdoors drew them together. They married in Caledonia, N.Y., alongside many of their Tiger friends.

**Shakierah Smith '18 (CLA), '19 MS (CLA)** graduated from University at Buffalo School of Law in May 2022.

**2019**



**Cristophorus Budidharma '19 (CHST)** has worked in the education division of Silang.id—

a startup company focused on empowering Deaf Indonesians and spreading awareness about Deaf culture in Indonesia—for two years.



**Wilson Darko '19 (CET)** is attending Columbia Business School this fall as an MBA candidate for

the class of 2024.



**Heather Hedges '19 (SCB)** was promoted to senior CPA at Flaherty Salmin CPAs.



**Chris Alice Kratzer '19 (KGCOE)** recently published *The Social Wasps of North*

*America*. The book is the world's first complete illustrated field guide to all known species of social wasps from the high arctic of Greenland and Alaska to the tropical forests of Panama and Grenada.

**Mireya Salinas '19 MFA (CAD)** recently accepted a position as a collections photographer at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University.

**Katelyn Whitburn '19 MS (COS)** and **Anush Reddy '18 MS (GCCIS)** were married on March 26, 2020, in Santa Cruz, Calif. They live in the San Francisco Bay Area. They met at RIT through mutual friends and started dating in 2016.

**2022**



**Brandon Moore '22 (CET)** joined the civil engineering team at CPL as a civil

designer. Moore previously served as an intern while earning his degree at RIT.



# Supporting Academic Excellence and Diversity

Creative Giving at RIT



It's a very worthwhile action to consider giving to RIT. If you have benefitted from, and enjoyed your years at RIT as we have, then I think it is almost an obligation to do something lasting for the generations of future students who will keep RIT vibrant and financially strong."

**–Marie Louise “Marilu”  
Raman MS ’78**

*Applied and Mathematical Statistics*

**Drs. Marie Louise “Marilu” Raman MS ’78 and Varadaraja “V.V.” Raman** wanted to find a way to recognize academic excellence and underrepresented groups at RIT and chose to give back in two unique ways. In 2015, V.V., a retired professor of physics and humanities, set up a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with RIT that will ultimately establish the *V.V. Raman Endowed Academic Excellence Scholarship*. V.V. wanted to provide support for students studying physics in the College of Science and for students in any major within the College of Liberal Arts. CGAs are attractive to donors who want to support RIT while establishing a stream of income for themselves or others. CGAs also provide significant tax benefits, including an upfront income tax deduction and tax-free payments.

In 2021, Marilu, a retired mathematics instructor and assistant dean in NTID’s School of Science and Engineering Careers, used a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from her IRA to establish the *Marie L. Raman Endowed Award for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students*. This award recognizes the academic excellence of students utilizing support services in NTID. QCDs are tax-free gifts for donors who have a traditional IRA and are age 70½ or older. The transfer must be direct from the IRA to RIT, and for those age 72 or older, will satisfy required minimum distribution (RMD) rules.

Like Marilu and V.V., you too can support a program you care about. Contact RIT’s Office of Planned Giving at [plannedgiving@rit.edu](mailto: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.

**RIT** | **Planned Giving**

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# In Memoriam

## Alumni

### 1942

Raymond Walvoord '42 (KGCOE) May 25, 2022

### 1944

Eudora (Shaffer) Lipka '44 (SCB) March 27, 2022  
Mary Jane (Bird) Volpi '44 (SCB) June 12, 2022

### 1946

Robert Rider '46 (SCB) May 2022

### 1947

Carol (Weldon) Aridge '47 (FAA) Feb. 26, 2022

### 1948

Joseph Hester Jr. '48 (GAP) Feb. 7, 2022  
Dorothy Pomeroy '48 (SCB) Jan. 12, 2022

### 1949

Martha (Westgate) Cronise '49 (COS) July 30, 2022  
William Groth '49 (KGCOE) April 4, 2022

### 1950

Joy (Rapp) Englehart '50 (FAA) May 10, 2022  
Henry Koster '50 (GAP) April 22, 2022  
Joan (Chaplin) Nocero '50 (SCB) May 15, 2022  
James Wills '50 (GAP) Jan. 25, 2022

### 1951

Claudia Amorese '51 (SCB) March 3, 2022  
Jordan Prouty '51 (GAP) March 13, 2022  
Joyce (Ives) Starr-Cain '51 (FAA) April 16, 2022

### 1952

Gordon Baxter '52 (KGCOE) March 17, 2022  
Peter DuPre '52 (CCE) Jan. 18, 2022  
Chester Jaworski '52 (KGCOE) April 22, 2022

### 1953

E. Albert Boyer Jr. '53 (GAP) March 8, 2022  
Doreen Drexler '53 (SCB) April 1, 2022  
Norman Gerber '53 (KGCOE) Feb. 2, 2022

### 1954

Myron Cherney '54 (COS) Jan. 18, 2022  
Peter Matroniano '54 (CCE) Jan. 9, 2022

### 1955

Gertrude Daniels '55 (COS) Jan. 5, 2022  
Roger Geedy '55 (KGCOE) July 26, 2022  
Kenneth Hanson '55 (GAP) July 27, 2022  
Robert Klos Sr. '55 (SCB) Feb. 1, 2022  
Richard Korhumel '55 (KGCOE) May 7, 2022  
Edward Marsh '55 (GAP) April 10, 2022  
Mary (Chatley) Vanhoutte '55 (SCB) June 13, 2022

### 1956

Margaret (O'Brien) Fien '56 (SCB) Jan. 26, 2022  
Frank Vetare '56 (GAP) Feb. 12, 2022  
Ellen (Clark) Younkens '56 (FAA) Feb. 12, 2022

### 1957

Michael Blain '57 (GAP) May 15, 2022  
Leon Brandes '57 (GAP) May 24, 2022  
Lloyd Burnette '57 (SCB) April 1, 2022  
Wayland Harris '57 (FAA) July 12, 2022  
Winchell Moore '57 (FAA) June 12, 2022  
Robert Sloan '57 (FAA) Jan. 14, 2022  
Jerry Uelsmann '57 (GAP) April 4, 2022  
Robert White '57 (COS) June 2, 2022

### 1958

Barbara (Shannon) Bicknell '58 (SCB) April 3, 2022  
George Crompton Sr. '58 (GAP) Feb. 5, 2022  
Lawrence DiRienzo '58 (KGCOE) July 19, 2022  
Anthony Gardone '58 (KGCOE) April 10, 2022  
John Gunson Jr. '58 (FAA) July 21, 2022  
Walter McLachlan '58 (KGCOE) April 10, 2022  
John Molner '58 (CCE) May 4, 2022  
Frederick Tarala '58 (KGCOE) May 20, 2022  
Harold Vorce '58 (KGCOE) July 13, 2022  
Patricia (Meyers) Weber '58 (SCB) April 17, 2022  
Roy Wilson '58 (GAP) Jan. 24, 2022

### 1959

Kenneth Bird '59 (KGCOE) Feb. 14, 2022  
C. Leslie Frederick '59 (GAP) April 16, 2022

### Robert Jones '59 (KGCOE)

June 16, 2022  
Eli Kupitz '59 (GAP) June 22, 2022  
John Mosher '59 (SCB) April 9, 2022  
Eldred Potter '59 (KGCOE) Jan. 11, 2022

### 1960

Anthony Augello '60 (CCE) April 30, 2022  
Richard Cahoon '60 (CCE) Feb. 27, 2022  
Eugene Lochner '60 (KGCOE) April 11, 2022  
Hyman Seldowitz '60 (KGCOE) March 14, 2022  
Peter Trudeau '60 (FAA) Jan. 8, 2022  
William Wilson '60 (KGCOE) May 6, 2022

### 1961

Dean Lander '61 (KGCOE) July 22, 2022

### 1962

Donald Bennett '62 (CCE) June 29, 2022  
Victor Bokhan '62 (GAP) June 5, 2022  
John Christensen '62 (KGCOE) July 7, 2022  
E. Thomas Deisenroth '62 (KGCOE) March 16, 2022  
Richard Eichhorn '62 (GAP) May 10, 2022  
Mary (Shepard) Sparklin '62 (SCB) March 30, 2022  
John Stout '62 (COS) June 26, 2022

### 1963

Vito Altavilla '63 (GAP) June 8, 2022  
Daniel Moore '63 (CCE) July 19, 2022  
Barbara (Hamilton) Paladino '63 (SCB) May 10, 2022  
Donald Palmer '63 (KGCOE) Feb. 25, 2022  
Richard Wehner '63 (CCE) May 7, 2022  
Barry Winters '63 (GAP) June 1, 2022

### 1964

Peter Browne '64 (SCB) July 28, 2022  
Robert Leetz '64 (SCB) July 2, 2022

### 1965

William Buttaggi '65 (KGCOE) Aug. 5, 2022  
William Cain '65 (CCE) March 2022  
Terry Curtis '65 (KGCOE) March 17, 2022  
Robert Green '65 (KGCOE) July 5, 2022  
Arthur Morgan '65 (GAP) Feb. 19, 2022  
Vito Slapelis '65 (CCE) Jan. 17, 2022

### 1966

Donald Bentzel '66 (GAP) April 6, 2022  
Louis Chiappone '66 (CCE) Jan. 4, 2022  
Richard Hicks '66 (CCE) Jan. 13, 2022  
Patrick Hotchkiss '66 (CCE) April 4, 2022  
Donald Manley '66 (KGCOE) May 8, 2022  
Robert Nestel '66 (GAP) July 15, 2022  
Judith Perry '66 (SCB) March 3, 2022  
Peter Teremy '66 (KGCOE) Feb. 26, 2022  
Ella True '66 (SCB) July 8, 2022  
Barbara (Weber) Zavada '66 (CCE) Feb. 18, 2022

### 1967

Philip Bartells '67 (KGCOE) May 17, 2022  
Stephen Bonacci '67 (KGCOE) Feb. 6, 2022  
David Calman '67 (CCE) Jan. 15, 2022  
Wayne Donle '67 (KGCOE) July 1, 2022  
Chris Hasiotis '67 (CCE) June 16, 2022  
Leonard Howes '67 (SCB) July 2, 2022

### 1968

Richard Friis '68 (GAP) April 13, 2022  
Walter McMullen '68 (CCE) June 14, 2022  
Donald Oatman '68 (SCB) Feb. 8, 2022  
Phillip Thurley '68 (CCE) March 10, 2022  
Richard Tompkins '68 (CCE) April 5, 2022  
Barry Walsh '68 (KGCOE) June 26, 2022  
Stephen Whittaker '68 (GAP) March 10, 2022

### 1969

George Brauch '69 (CCE) April 3, 2022  
Dudley Colvin '69 (SCB) June 9, 2022  
Richard Reitz '69 (SCB) Jan. 26, 2022  
William Stockmaster '69 (CCE) March 15, 2022  
David Upham Sr. '69 (CCE) Jan. 12, 2022  
John Young '69 (SCB) July 25, 2022

### 1970

Edward Biro II '70 (KGCOE) April 9, 2022  
William Gillette '70 (SCB) July 5, 2022  
Vincent Indelicato '70 (GAP) Jan. 6, 2022  
George MacManus '70 MS (GAP) May 14, 2022  
Jaroslaw Petryk '70 (KGCOE) Feb. 7, 2022

Patricia (Moore) Rudney '70 (FAA) April 25, 2022  
Edwin Young '70 (CCE) Feb. 10, 2022

### 1971

Paavo Alasimi '71 (CCE) March 11, 2022  
Lois Cornell '71 (FAA) Feb. 8, 2022  
Ann Gessen '71 (SCB) July 25, 2022  
Michael Gruttadauria '71 (CCE) March 26, 2022  
Charles Hernandez '71 (GAP) May 31, 2022  
James McDowell '71 (CCE) March 3, 2022  
Ronald Neufeld '71 (SCB) Jan. 1, 2022  
James Northrup '71 (COS) June 9, 2022  
William Porcynaluk '71 (GAP) April 27, 2022

### 1972

Thomas Adams '72 (CCE) Feb. 26, 2022  
William Daly '72 (KGCOE) April 23, 2022  
John Junker '72 (SCB) April 3, 2022  
Albert Klos '72 (SCB) June 13, 2022  
James Magoffin '72 (GAP) March 30, 2022  
Jeffrey Mariano '72 (CCE) Jan. 21, 2022  
Peter Mietus '72 (CCE) May 6, 2022  
Frederick Porcelli '72 (SCB) April 28, 2022  
William Sommers '72 (KGCOE) July 29, 2022  
Leslie Stefani '72 (SCB) Jan. 24, 2022  
William Ward '72 (CCE) April 18, 2022  
Michael White '72 (FAA) Jan. 12, 2022  
Brian Zavitz '72 (GAP) March 15, 2022

### 1973

Lawrence Alessi '73 (KGCOE) May 21, 2022  
Byron Buell '73 (SCB) Jan. 30, 2022  
Carl Giesselman '73 (CCE) April 28, 2022  
Anthony Ginglelo '73 (CCE) April 13, 2022  
Michael Gorham '73 (CCE) June 12, 2022  
Douglas Herring '73 MS (SCB) March 1, 2022  
Marvin Jacob '73 (CCE) July 1, 2022  
Richard Perry '73 (SCB) Jan. 1, 2022  
Carl Uthman '73 (CCE) June 27, 2022

### 1974

Edward Berube Jr. '74 MBA (SCB) June 30, 2022  
Frederick Crist '74 (CCE) Feb. 7, 2022



**Ronald Dewey '74 (CCE)**  
March 11, 2022  
**Charles George '74 (KGCOE)** Jan. 23, 2022  
**Cordeen Pfleegor III '74 (KGCOE)** May 6, 2022  
**Robert Ponzi '74 (KGCOE)**  
April 1, 2022  
**Melvin Post '74 (CCE)**  
June 12, 2022  
**Anthony Viola '74 (SCB)**  
July 17, 2022

**1975**  
**Harold Carley '75 (CCE)**  
June 13, 2022  
**James Fowler Jr. '75 MBA (SCB)** Feb. 11, 2022  
**William Loverde '75 (SCB)**  
Jan. 16, 2022  
**Robert Miccoli '75 (CLA)**  
Feb. 14, 2022  
**Robert Parker '75 (KGCOE)**  
July 13, 2022  
**Samuel Ruggieri '75 (CCE)**  
March 28, 2022  
**William Yankowski '75 (KGCOE)** May 5, 2022

**1976**  
**Carl Constantino '76 (CAST)** May 23, 2022  
**Ronald Kenville '76 (CCE)**  
June 2, 2022  
**William Pepper '76 (SCB)**  
June 7, 2022  
**Robert Reed '76 (KGCOE)**  
Feb. 23, 2022  
**Louis Tremitti '76 (CCE)**  
May 13, 2022

**1977**  
**Frederick Caccamo '77 (SCB)** July 20, 2022  
**Michael Desiderio '77 MS (CCE)** Feb. 1, 2022  
**Donald Mau '77 (CCE)**  
Jan. 20, 2022  
**Robert Wyllie '77 (CCE)**  
April 2, 2022

**1978**  
**Gerhard Berg '78 (CCE)**  
Aug. 2, 2022  
**Louise Chiazzeze '78 (COS)** May 10, 2022  
**James DeLorenzo '78 MS (KGCOE)** March 12, 2022  
**John Laschenski '78 MBA (SCB)** Feb. 23, 2022  
**John Marino '78 (CCE)**  
April 24, 2022  
**James Merkel '78 (CCE)**  
May 27, 2022  
**Rudolf Prechter '78 MS (KGCOE)** March 12, 2022  
**Alvin Reffitt Jr. '78 (NTID)**  
May 1, 2022  
**Gladys Santiago '78 (CCE)**  
Aug. 4, 2022

**1979**  
**Stanley Austin '79 (CCE), '93 MS (CAST)** Aug. 4, 2022  
**Bohdan Baran '79 (CCE)**  
Jan. 11, 2022  
**Maynard Grimm '79 (CCE)**  
Feb. 21, 2022

**Juanita Jackson '79 (CCE)**  
July 3, 2022  
**David Oplinger '79 (CCE)**  
Feb. 12, 2022  
**Blaine Rupprecht '79 (NTID)** April 20, 2022  
**Gordon Santos '79 (GAP)**  
June 3, 2022  
**Edward Schlueter Jr. '79 (CCE)** March 25, 2022  
**Norman Seitz '79 (CCE)**  
May 16, 2022  
**Alan Simonsen '79 (CAST)**  
Aug. 2, 2022  
**John Wright '79 MS (CAST)**  
May 30, 2022

**1980**  
**Doris Bell '80 (CCE)**  
June 3, 2022  
**David Coccia '80 (SCB)**  
Jan. 19, 2022  
**Kenneth Curyk '80 (CAST)**  
July 18, 2022  
**Leonard Kepil '80 (CAST)**  
April 15, 2022  
**David Young '80 (SCB)**  
April 18, 2022

**1981**  
**Terry (Hakes) Blout '81 (NTID)** May 10, 2022  
**James Frederick '81 (GAP)**  
Jan. 15, 2022  
**Robert Lucisano '81 (SCB)**  
Feb. 14, 2022  
**Sharon (Smith) Schmitz '81 (SCB)** June 19, 2022  
**James Serio '81 (CCE)**  
March 5, 2022

**1982**  
**Kelly Alvarez '82 (CCE)**  
April 1, 2022  
**Laurence Graff '82 (CCE)**  
March 14, 2022  
**Patricia Schryver '82 (CCE)**  
March 3, 2022

**1983**  
**Wesley Backus '83 (CCE)**  
Jan. 16, 2022  
**L. Graham Barson '83 (CCE)** Feb. 25, 2022  
**Sheryl Curry '83 (CLA)**  
June 29, 2022  
**Thomas Guilian '83 (SCB)**  
July 1, 2022  
**Susan Lord '83 (CCE)**  
May 30, 2022  
**John Powers '83 MBA (SCB)** June 7, 2022  
**Joan Schimpf '83 (CCE)**  
Feb. 19, 2022

**1984**  
**Nancy Archetko '84 (CCE)**  
March 2, 2022  
**Eugene Cafolla '84 (CAST)**  
Jan. 14, 2022  
**Eric Kuckhoff '84 MS (COS)** March 1, 2022  
**Elizabeth (Engle) Murray '84 (CAST)** July 10, 2022  
**Sushil Sharma '84 MS (COS)** March 20, 2022  
**John Stephens '84 (GAP)**  
March 1, 2022

**Gregory Wright '84 (CAST)**  
May 10, 2022

**1985**  
**Kathleen J. Joy-Kirkendall '85 (CAST)** July 9, 2022  
**Patricia Neumann '85 (NTID)** April 20, 2022  
**Robert Pierson II '85 (CAST)** April 15, 2022  
**Nancy Purdy '85 MBA (SCB)** March 21, 2022  
**Mark Trifoso '85 (CAST)**  
April 10, 2022  
**Stephen Waffle '85 (CCE)**  
July 19, 2022  
**Richard Windhauser '85 (CCE)** April 13, 2022

**1986**  
**John Dacier '86 (CAST)**  
Aug. 5, 2022  
**Daniel Floyd '86 (CAST)**  
Feb. 10, 2022  
**Eric Gute '86 (NTID)**  
Feb. 20, 2022  
**Bruce Katz '86 MS (CCE), '94 MBA (SCB)**  
Aug. 6, 2022  
**Stephen McCaffery '86 (FAA)** June 15, 2022  
**Marinella Truelsen '86 (CCE)** May 6, 2022

**1987**  
**Daniel Bray '87 (KGCOE)**  
July 1, 2022  
**Anthony Gallucci '87 (SCB)**  
June 2022

**1988**  
**Brian Anders '88 (CAST)**  
March 5, 2022  
**Larry Snyder '88 (NTID)**  
Jan. 3, 2022

**1990**  
**Paul Bucci '90 (SCB)**  
Feb. 7, 2022  
**Douglas Earl '90 (GAP)**  
May 8, 2022  
**Chris Lampson '90 (CAST)**  
May 12, 2022

**1991**  
**Susan (Dows) Barra '91 (CAST)** Feb. 27, 2022  
**Jeffrey Biittig '91 (CLA)**  
Jan. 11, 2022  
**William Vance '91 (NTID)**  
May 22, 2022  
**Kevin Williams '91 (KGCOE)**  
Feb. 5, 2022

**1992**  
**Barak Cahen '92 (FAA)**  
March 1, 2022

**1993**  
**Florence (Harucki) Vance '93 (SCB)** May 22, 2022

**1994**  
**Denise D'Angelo '94 (COS)**  
June 7, 2022  
**Kristen (Vanderzouwen) Jongen '94 (CAST)**  
May 13, 2022

**Marc Sanangelo '94 (CIAS)**  
July 27, 2022  
**Jack Seiple III '94 (COS)**  
April 21, 2022  
**Eric Vanbrocklin '94 (CIAS)**  
July 14, 2022

**1995**  
**Mark Lange '95 MS (KGCOE)** June 23, 2022  
**Thomas Sousa '95 (CCE)**  
Jan. 28, 2022

**1996**  
**Constance Dellapietra '96 (CCE)** March 19, 2022  
**Richard Engelbrecht '96 (CAST), '01 MS (CAST)**  
Jan. 15, 2022

**1997**  
**Stephen Antonson '97 (COS)** July 28, 2022  
**Annette Davis '97 (COS)**  
June 8, 2022  
**Susan Willey '97 (CAST)**  
Jan. 31, 2022

**1998**  
**Brian Jonigan '98 (CAST)**  
June 2, 2022  
**John Kleban '98 MS (CAST)** Jan. 8, 2022

**1998**  
**Robin Tremblay '99 (CAST)**  
May 7, 2022

**2000**  
**Giuseppe Spano '00 (CAST)** June 11, 2022  
**Geoffrey Veit '00 (COS)**  
Jan. 1, 2022

**2002**  
**Dr. Joseph Geary '02 MS (CAST)** Feb. 19, 2022  
**Chadwick McNab '02 (GCCIS)** Jan. 7, 2022

**2004**  
**Kevin Black '04 (GCCIS)**  
May 8, 2022  
**Douglas Hughes '04 (GCCIS)** June 28, 2022  
**Melissa Skyer '04 (COS), '06 MS (COS)**  
March 9, 2022

**2005**  
**Gregory Covey '05 (GCCIS)**  
March 19, 2022

**2006**  
**Peter Chinnock '06 (CAST)**  
July 10, 2022

**2007**  
**Nancy Coogan '07 MS (NTID)** March 23, 2022  
**Matthew Willson '07 (GCCIS)** July 15, 2022

**2009**  
**Richard Chadwick Jr. '09 (KGCOE)** March 29, 2022  
**Christopher Jensen '09 (CAST)** March 4, 2022

**2010**  
**Eric LaManna '10 (SCB)**  
June 25, 2022  
**David Sweeney '10 (GCCIS)**  
Jan. 1, 2022

**2012**  
**Amber Gartung '12 (CIAS)**  
May 2022

**2015**  
**Jenelle Noble '15 (CHST)**  
March 22, 2022

**2016**  
**Stephanie Krusch '16 (GCCIS)** July 17, 2022

**2017**  
**Royce Miles '17 (CAST)**  
April 3, 2022

## Faculty and Staff

Retired faculty member  
**George T. Alley**, Sept. 3, 2022

Retired budget director  
**David B. Calman**, Jan. 15, 2022

Retired faculty member  
**Elizabeth Benz Croft**, May 28, 2022

Senior staff specialist  
**Jane Culver**, June 1, 2022

Employee **David Czeck**, March 2022

Retired director of Mail and Reprographics  
**Hilliary Patricia Dunn**, Jan. 11, 2022

Associate professor  
**Franz Foltz**, April 9, 2022

Trustee Emeritus **James S. Gleason**, June 17, 2022

Building services supervisor  
**Juanita Jackson**, July 3, 2022

Retired photography faculty member  
**John Karpen**, Sept. 6, 2022

RIT Trustee **Eric Kuckhoff**, March 1, 2022

Retired School of Art faculty member  
**Thomas R. Lightfoot**, Dec. 10, 2021

Retired physics professor  
**Franklyn K. Schwaneflugel**, Aug. 26, 2022

NTID faculty member  
**Melissa Skyer**, March 9, 2022

Retired NTID faculty member  
**Michael White**, Jan. 12, 2022

GCCIS Professor Emeritus  
**Walter Wolf**, Sept. 9, 2022

## Archives



In the 1960s, the Department of Printing was poised to offer an associate degree in applied science.

RIT Archives



In 1938, the print school welcomed its first female students.

RIT Archives

# RIT builds on its 100-year connection to the global print industry

**R**IT's connection to the global print industry began more than 100 years ago when the Empire State School of Printing was added at the start of the 20th century.

The school, established by the New York State Publishers Association in 1922 in Ithaca, N.Y., began as a way to train apprentices for print companies and publishing houses, including news organizations that were growing in the U.S.

It had moderate success that would build over time.

Frank Gannett, president of the publishers association and founder of the Gannett publishing empire, stepped in to advocate for a new location and expanded facilities. His recommendation was the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, and in 1937 it was added to what would later become RIT.

Within 10 years, Empire State School of Printing expanded

beyond a two-year vocational training program to one with a broader educational focus on print publishing and production technologies. Students learned about web offset print and gravure techniques, as well as typography and project management.

Toward the 1970s and '80s, programming would grow to include national connections such as the donation of the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Graphic Arts Collection in 1969. The wealth of rare books, print equipment, and graphic communications material continues to attract print historians and researchers.

Alumni added to the prestige of the program. Bruce James '64 (print management) became the 24th Printer of the U.S. in 2002. Appointed by President George W. Bush, he oversaw information gathering, processing, and distribution for the federal government, ranging from the

Congressional Record to the Reports of the Supreme Court. Henry Freedman '75 (printing and photographic sciences) is a former Eastman Kodak Research Scholar and 3M Fellow with numerous inventions and recognized as an industry expert in imaging and print sciences, measurement, and graphic arts.

Formerly part of RIT's College of Art and Design, the department was recently moved to the College of Engineering Technology (CET) and renamed Graphic Media Science and Technology (GMST). Several program name changes occurred over the years, but all reflected the broad nature of print—its newest applications, management practices, and innovative technologies.

Much of that new work is taking place at RIT.

In 2022, the Packaging Science and GMST departments

were combined, becoming the Department of Packaging and Graphic Media Science, based in CET.

Packaging represents a global growth market, and the interdisciplinary nature of both packaging and print is leading to careers and research initiatives, including those in the printed electronics industry, said S. Manian Ramkumar, dean of CET.

"Our faculty-researchers, students, and corporate partners will be on the front lines of discovering—and implementing—new and novel solutions in the rapidly changing print and packaging industries," said Ramkumar. "Both industries require the integration of design, materials, technology, management, and sustainability—and these are some of the strongest assets of our college."

**Michelle Cometa '00**



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# Can **you** solve this?

## This RIT puzzle has three parts.

1. Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks. You'll find many of the answers in the magazine. The length of each missing word is indicated by the number after the blank.
2. Find the fill-in-the-blank words in the word search. They are forward, backward, diagonal, or reverse diagonal. In order to find all the words, you will have to fill in letters in the central square.
3. Once you have found all the words, read all of the unused letters in the word search in order. The unused letters will spell out a clue on how to find the secret message. **Hint—** *the secret message is about people found at RIT.*

### Fill in the blanks

- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Homecoming and Family Weekend is the university's tradition of celebrating alumni, students, parents and families, faculty, staff, and friends.
- RIT recently created the School of \_\_\_\_\_ (10) Arts to help students of all majors pursue their passions in dance, theater, and the fine arts.
- RIT students design and drive off-road vehicles on the \_\_\_\_\_ (4) racing motorsports team.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ (7) RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival takes place each spring.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ (8) is a large sculpture in the center of RIT's main \_\_\_\_\_ (6).
- Fifty years ago, \_\_\_\_\_ (5) IX helped create new opportunities for women at all colleges and universities receiving federal funding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) is the largest technological college in the world for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- RIT's student-created magazine is called \_\_\_\_\_ (8) magazine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) is the 10th president of RIT.
- RIT's mascot is Ritchie the \_\_\_\_\_ (5).
- In 2022, the men's \_\_\_\_\_ (8) team won its second NCAA Division III championship in a row.
- The Student Hall for Exploration and \_\_\_\_\_ (11) being built at the center of campus is also known as the SHED.
- Students can see recitals, guest speakers, and ceremonies at Ingle \_\_\_\_\_ (10) in the Student \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Union.
- Learn what RIT alumni are up to by reading the \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Notes section of the *RIT University* \_\_\_\_\_ (8).
- RIT began as a result of the merger between the \_\_\_\_\_ (9) Athenaeum and the \_\_\_\_\_ (9) Institute.
- Students can play video games competitively with the RIT \_\_\_\_\_ (7) club.

### Word search—find the words and discover the secret message

S	L	T	N	E	M	P	O	L	E	V	E	D
E	C	E	O	L	E	N	I	Z	A	G	A	M
P	N	D	N	T	D	A	N	L	D	R	F	S
E	A	O	U	I	I	D	U	R	E	T	H	C
R	N	U	R							O	L	W
F	S	I	D							A	O	F
O	S	T	G							I	T	Y
R	T	E	H							E	D	C
M	R	E	N							P	M	A
I	O	T	R	R	S	I	R	N	A	L	B	E
N	P	S	S	S	A	L	C	I	U	Q	A	M
G	S	U	E	B	R	I	C	K	U	M	J	A
R	E	T	S	E	H	C	O	R	R	M	A	E



#### About the puzzlemaker

Zack Butler, a professor and interim chair in RIT's Department of Computer Science, has had puzzles published in *The New York Times* and won nine World Puzzle Championships as part of the U.S. Puzzle team. He also creates puzzles for fun—even giving them as gifts to family, friends, and students. His puzzles have academic value too. At RIT, Butler has taught a Puzzles for Computing course and received two NSF grants to study how puzzles can be used to teach students about abstract programming concepts.

Find the answers at [rit.edu/magazine/solutions](http://rit.edu/magazine/solutions)



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