

May 2009

Dear Student,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department of Biomedical Photographic Communications (BPC) and the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (CIAS), I would like to congratulate you on your acceptance and welcome you to RIT. You are joining an exciting program that will allow you to study in both a technical and creative environment. This has proven to provide an education designed to help you meet your educational and career goals. It is our hope that your academic career at RIT will prove to be challenging and rewarding.

Your academic adviser, Kristie Kress will pre-register you for fall quarter classes based on your specific degree requirements. You will receive a copy of your tentative schedule in the mail during early August. Please do not adjust your schedule yourself. Many of your courses are required to be taken in sequence and at certain times. We are happy to guide you in this process to make sure you get started on the right track. If you plan to participate on an RIT athletic team during the fall quarter, or if you anticipate AP or transfer credits, please let us know by completing the enclosed Course Scheduling Form. If you have any questions, contact Kristie at (585) 475-7491 or by e-mail at Kristie.Kress@rit.edu.

I have enclosed a complete *suggested* supply list with this letter. During the year, you will need to purchase additional supplies. While some supplies and equipment will last many years, others will need to be replenished. We will be discussing these and other items in your classes as they are needed throughout the year. Most of the equipment you will need is available through Digital Den – the RIT Electronics Store located in the Student Alumni Union (585-475-2505). Please do not purchase the BFA photo one kit without consultation from me.

If you are going to purchase a camera, we recommend a digital SLR camera. It must have manual controls for the adjustment of its aperture, shutter speeds, and focus. If there are other features such as auto exposure, that will be just fine. A macro lens will eventually be an essential item in your second year. A true macro lens will allow you to focus down to at least 1:2 life size. This is not the same as a “macro-zoom” lens. Extra lenses such as wide-angle, telephoto and zoom are helpful, but are not required. Additionally, a hand-held light meter is extremely helpful. The exposure meter should be of professional quality and capable of taking measurements of both incident and reflected light, as well as electronic flash. Another item many students may need would be a calculator that can handle logarithms.

With respect to a computer, I suggest that before buying a computer, new students should first become familiar with the equipment here on campus. Most of the computers in the CIAS labs are primarily Mac. Either a Mac or a PC will work just fine for all your photography assignments. We have found that photography students do benefit from having a lap top although a desktop computer will be excellent as well.

To start your career at RIT off on the right foot we encourage you to read the *New Student Survival Guide* that will be mailed to you in June. It contains a checklist of to-do items and information about the many services and resources that will help you make the most of your experience at RIT. You will also find details about New Student Orientation, which you are required to attend on August 30 through September 6.

I would be happy to discuss any questions you have, either by phone at (585) 475-2775, or via e-mail at mrpppph@rit.edu. I look forward to meeting you at Orientation and anticipate an exciting and productive year together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Peres", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Peres
Chairman, Professor
Biomedical Photographic Communications