

May 2009

Dear Student,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the department of Biomedical Photographic Communications 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.

Once we receive your deposit, 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 August. Please do not adjust this 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 (545) 475-7491 or by e-mail at Kristie.Kress@rit.edu.

If you have not yet paid your deposit, you are encouraged to do so. You cannot be pre-registered for fall quarter classes until your deposit is paid. We will be available to help you finalize your schedule and make any required adjustments once your deposit is received.

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. Again, all of these items can be purchased after you have arrived at school, and we have an extensive equipment “check-out” system to supplement and/or provide you with some of these materials in the interim.

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-based. 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 laptop although a desktop computer will be excellent as well.

Transferring to a new college is exciting, but it can be overwhelming. 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. And to help you have a successful transition, we recommend that you attend one of the Transfer Welcome programs offered on either July 20 or September 4. More information about this program is in the *Guide*.

I would be happy to discuss any questions you have, either by phone at (585) 475-2775, or via e-mail at mrppph@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