



Fram Focus volume 3:6 / January 2018

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Did you know?

Did you know that puzzles develop critical thinking? This month we are focusing on the fun side of critical thinking by exploring puzzles. We often think of those who can do the New York Times crossword in ink as having a lot of knowledge available to them, but they also have an ability to critically analyze and process the puzzle. Other puzzles, such as Sudoku, logic riddles, matchstick puzzles, and tangrams exercise our critical thinking abilities as well. Our Fram Focus spotlight, Zack Butler, is not only a talented faculty member here at RIT, but also a puzzle designer and enthusiast who writes about how to use puzzles to teach students important concepts in computing. ([Mazes](#), [Puzzles for introductory programming](#))

Co-Sponsored Events

Gray Matter is a discussion series designed by RIT faculty, students and staff to promote critical exploration of provocative topics related to higher education and the RIT campus community.

“Values vs. Value\$. Where does RIT fit?” Learn more about this event [HERE!](#)

Date: Friday, February 16, 2018
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Place: MOSAIC Center (Student Alumni Union above Ben & Jerry's)

A Few Thoughts: Zachary Butler

With this issue of the Fram Focus we meet Zachary Butler, another of RIT's notable critical thinkers.

Zachary Butler is a Professor in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. This month, he shares with us how he sees teaching as a puzzle—one in which he is trying to figure out the best way to help each student understand a concept. “I encourage all my students to tell me if they don’t understand something, because I want them to know I’ll do whatever it takes to make sure everyone gets it.” Read his answers to a few critical questions [HERE!](#)

From Gene Fram

Read the *Faculty Focus* article entitled “Reliable Sources: Promoting Critical Thinking in the [Mis]information Age” by Katherine Jones [HERE!](#)