

## Fram Focus volume 11:7 – February 2026

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- A shared, evolving collection of resources that invites faculty engagement around applied critical thinking and AI.
- **Let's build resources!** Calling all faculty or staff who have best practices or great ideas for AI & Critical Thinking to share a short video within the Fram Faculty Toolbox.

#### Co-Sponsored

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An evening with NASA Astronaut Don Pettit - 590 Days in Space – One Million Photographs: March 25, 2026.

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#### FRAM FACULTY TOOLBOX: NEW RESOURCE

- The Fram Faculty Toolbox is a growing collection of practical resources that support applied critical thinking in teaching, learning, and leadership. The Toolbox includes guides, examples, and draft materials designed to be adapted and used flexibly across contexts. **Faculty** are invited to join the Fram Toolbox as members—exploring resources, sharing insights or examples, and contributing materials that align with ACT principles including assignment design and AI as the collection continues to grow. To explore the Fram Faculty Toolbox and request membership to our new SharePoint page, click [HERE](#).
- **Let's build resources!** Calling all faculty or staff who have best practices or great ideas for AI & Critical Thinking to share a short video within the Fram Faculty Toolbox. Presentations are being recorded in short video format and will be available to the RIT Facstaff community. The goal is to build a resource set for all. Each contributor controls what they share and can have it updated or removed at any time.

Details: Looking for max 5 min presentations introducing your best practices for great teaching & learning of critical thinking, either with or without AI. Ideas welcome! Areas of interest include:

Assignment design examples:

- Integration of AI in assignment design with assessment of student ability
- Ways to augment your teaching with AI
- How to wall off AI use without going old school, blue book, handwritten work.
- And MORE!

Access is important! Presentations do not have to be professionally produced but should be captioned/ transcript available. Got ideas? Want to talk through it? Fram Chair, Jen Schneider, [jlwcm@rit.edu](mailto:jlwcm@rit.edu).

#### CO-SPONSORED

- **Critical Thinking Conversations: Learning and Professional Identity in the Age of AI:** March 19, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Live Zoom Webinar. As AI becomes embedded in learning and professional practice, critical thinking is a durable strategy. This live Zoom conversation brings together Dr. Vic Perotti (RIT Saunders College of Business), Dr. Jennifer Schneider (RIT's Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking), and Dr. Chris Collison (Professor of Chemistry and Director of the RIT AI Hub) to examine how reasoning, judgment, and professional identity evolve as machines generate knowledge at scale. Grounded in RIT's Applied Critical Thinking (ACT) framework, AI research, and business practice, the moderated discussion will use concrete, accessible examples of AI in practice to explore how educators, professionals, and institutions must adapt, and where human thinking matters most. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

- **The Viehe lectures series presents: Techno-stories from Space - My Photo Studio on Orbit**  
 An evening with NASA Astronaut Don Pettit - 590 Days in Space – One Million Photographs: March 25, 2026, 6:00pm.  
 Location: Ingle Auditorium. Join RIT alumnus John Viehe at RIT as he hosts NASA astronaut Don Pettit, NASA's most senior astronaut. Pettit shares his personal experiences living in space through his stunning photography and storytelling, connecting engineering, art, and pure curiosity. On his most recent spaceflight, Pettit used an orbital sidereal tracker camera mount developed at RIT, capturing Earth and the cosmos in never-before-seen perspective.  
 This event is for everyone interested in hearing first-hand from the renowned photographer, astronaut, scientist, and inventor who has spent 590 days aboard the International Space Station. Pettit's work defines how creative thinking and technical skill come together in the real world, reflecting RIT's spirit of innovation across technology, art, and design. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Q&A follows the presentation in RIT's Ingle Auditorium. Open to the community. No registration required. The lecture will be recorded and captioned. The venue is accessible.

## HELP SHAPE RIT'S AI STRATEGY

- **Faculty Survey Now Open**  
 Faculty are invited to complete a brief survey on generative AI in academic work at RIT. The survey takes 10-12 minutes and will help us understand current practices and identify where support would be most valuable across the university. The survey also draws lightly on themes emerging from recent national faculty work on AI in higher education. Responses are anonymous and reported only in aggregate. The survey requires only an RIT login to ensure one response per person; no identifying information will be used.

To participate, click [HERE](#).

## FRAM FINDS

- **Love Data: Protecting and Empowering Stakeholders in Today's AI ecosystem:** February 23, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 pm.  
 Room/Location: Zoom. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) has created a complex ecosystem where competing interests—governments, creators, AI companies, and users—intersect. This power dynamic has sparked tension between innovation, regulation, and individual rights. Balancing and accommodating the power tussle among stakeholders is essential for the sustainable development of AI. Today, the current ecosystem concentrates most power and control in the hands of a few entities, resulting in unintended harms and suboptimal development. For more information, click [HERE](#).
- **RIT Graduate Showcase:** April 9, 2026, 8:45 am – 5:00 pm. Location: SAU – Various Locations. Each year, the RIT community comes together to celebrate this diversity of thought and practice during the Graduate Showcase. The Showcase allows students to share their intellectual achievements with the community as presenters expound on globally impactful discoveries they have made. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## A FEW THOUGHTS

In this issue, meet:

- **Chris Petescia**, Fram Executive Advisory Board Member. Read Chris's thoughts related to critical thinking [HERE](#).

## FROM GENE FRAM

- ["AI Tool Skepticism: Why Critical Thinking Matters More Than Ever"](#) by Dane Dickerson, Human Element, January 27, 2026.
- ["How to turn your most aggravating student emails into a chance to spread joy"](#) by Danny Oppenheimer, Times Higher Education, January 28, 2026.

