RIT | Division of Academic Affairs
Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking

Fram Award at Imagine and more!
Fram Focus volume 11:8 – March 2026
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Fram Award at Imagine
- **Fram Award:** Apply now to win up to $250 Tiger Bucks! Applications are due April 1st. The Fram Chair seeks to recognize excellence in the application of critical thinking that was used in the preparation and creation of an exhibit at Imagine RIT.

Co-Sponsored
- **The Value in the Mess: Making Progress in Assignment Design & Assessment in an AI World:** March 17 and April 16, 2026.
- **Critical Thinking and AI in College Work**: March 17, 2026.
- **Critical Thinking Conversations: Learning and Professional Identity in the Age of AI:** March 19, 2026.
- **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.
- **AWARE-AI Spring Roundtable III: Responsible AI**: April 14, 2026.

Fram Faculty Toolbox
- **We are building a shared evolving collection of resources for faculty around applied critical thinking in AI.** Submit your examples today!

Fram Finds
- **Minett Workshop - So, What's Next for Me? How to Execute the Vision in Your Head:** March 24, 2026.
- **RIT Global Convergence Internationalization Conference:** April 8 – 10, 2026.
- **RIT Graduate Showcase:** April 9, 2026.

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- **Joe Boyd**, Fram Executive Advisory Board Member.

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- *Crafting a Critical Thinking Course that Sticks with Students (guest post)*
- *Companies are already using agentic AI to make decisions, but governance is lagging behind*

FRAM AWARD AT IMAGINE
- **Fram Award:** Application due April 1st. Apply now to win up to $250 Tiger Bucks! The Fram Chair seeks to recognize excellence in the application of critical thinking that was used in the preparation and creation of an exhibit at Imagine RIT. This recognition is not for the exhibit itself but for the thought processes used to arrive at or create the exhibit. For more information and to apply, click HERE.

CO-SPONSORED
- **The Value in the Mess: Making Progress in Assignment Design & Assessment in an AI World:** March 17 and April 16, 2026, 5:00 am EST (attend one or both). Virtual: Join us with RIT Kosovo and Tirana for a hands-on assignment design workshop focused on what actually works in an AI-infused classroom.
  Tired of playing AI detective? Not sure what comes next? Take a guided workshop tour of practical ideas and tools for designing assignments that surface students' critical thinking. Bring your assignment questions, frustrations, and unsolved puzzles. You'll leave with concrete, usable examples for redesigning assignments to measure student capacity, without losing your mind, even when traditional scaffolding breaks down. We'll share strategies like flipped Bloom's, AI minis, building maps, and more! For more information and Zoom links, click HERE.

- **Critical Thinking and AI in College Work:** March 17, 2026, 9:15 – 10:00 am EST. Virtual Zoom. Join Us with RIT China for a hands-on assignment design workshop focused on what actually works in an AI-infused classroom. For more information and Zoom links, click HERE.

- **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, 6:00 pm. 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.

FRAM FACULTY TOOLBOX
- **We are building a shared evolving collection of resources for faculty around applied critical thinking in AI.** Submit your examples today!
To explore the Fram Faculty Toolbox and request membership to our new SharePoint page, click HERE.

FRAM FINDS
- **Minett Workshop - So, What's Next for Me? How to Execute the Vision in Your Head:** March 24, 2026, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. George Eastman Hall, Room/Location: 4125. This hands-on workshop is all about moving from inspiration to implementation. From that idea or goal rolling around in your head to execution. Whether you are launching a new business venture, shifting to another academic major, or preparing for a life-changing move, you will learn how to step beyond ideation and build a clear action plan that creates real momentum and brings your next chapter to life. For more information and to register, click HERE.

- **RIT Global Convergence Internationalization Conference:** April 8 – 10, 2026. The RIT Global Office, in collaboration with the Faculty Senate, announces the third annual Global Convergence internationalization conference. The conference will be held fully online. Please join us for these engaging conversations and the opportunity to learn and collaborate with our global peers. There are great sessions in global collaborative research, AI in the classroom, and research expertise. To learn more and to register, 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.

- **AWARE-AI Spring Roundtable III: Responsible AI:** April 14, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Location: Golisano Hall Room CYB 1730. This free Spring Roundtable session is hosted by the AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program and the Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking. NRT Trainees and other RIT graduate students are welcome to attend. For more information, click HERE.

A FEW THOUGHTS
In this issue, meet:
- **Joe Boyd,** Fram Executive Advisory Board Member. Read Joe's thoughts related to critical thinking HERE.

FROM GENE FRAM
- *"Companies are already using agentic AI to make decisions, but governance is lagging behind"* by Murugan Anandarajan, The Conversation, January 22, 2026.
- *"Crafting a Critical Thinking Course that Sticks with Students (guest post)"* by Justin Weinberg, Daily Nous, February 16, 2026.

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