



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

Fram Focus volume 12:1 – August 2026

Welcome Back & Fram Signature Events

In this issue:

Fram Signature Lecture

- **2026 Fram Signature Lecture with Kerrie Holley.** November 3, 3:30 – 5:00 pm.
- **We're seeking RIT faculty, students, clubs, and collaborators to showcase at our Signature receptions.** (e.g., posters, digital displays, 3D-printed materials, clubs, etc. Re-use of exhibit materials encouraged!).

Fram Finds

- **TigerFest - Lighting the Way:** August 27, 2026.
- **AI at Work – From Blueprint to Build Mode Workshop:** September 1, 2026.

A Few Thoughts

- **Prabu David**, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs.

From Gene Fram

- *AI Is Making 5 Human Skills More Valuable Than Ever. Most Companies Are Investing in the Wrong Thing*
- *What Happens When We Don't Know Anything*
- *Claude and ChatGPT are ruining your critical thinking—here are 3 prompts that will keep your brain sharp*
- *Five Practical Ways to Build AI Literacy Across Academic Programs*
- *University Students' Perceptions and Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools for Academic Activities and Critical Thinking: A Thematic Literature Review with Reflections from Tanzanian Higher Education*

FRAM SIGNATURE LECTURE

- **2026 Fram Signature Lecture with Kerrie Holley.** November 3, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Ingle Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Fireside Lounge, where light refreshments will be served.

Bio: Kerrie Holley is a technologist and engineer whose career spans more than five decades of computing. Since beginning his career in 1969, he has engineered systems across a variety of technology eras, from banking mainframes and the web to e-commerce, cloud financial platforms, and AI-powered healthcare. Holley has helped create technology at some of today's most influential companies, including Google, Cisco, IBM, and Optum, the world's largest healthcare company. His contributions to technology have been recognized through his induction into the National Academy of Engineering (2023) and the National Inventors Hall of Fame (2025).

- **We're seeking RIT faculty, students, clubs, and collaborators to showcase innovative activities (e.g., posters, digital displays, 3D-printed materials, student clubs, etc. Re-use of exhibit materials encouraged!).** Two receptions will feature these:

- **Monday, Nov. 2 | 5:30–6:30 PM**
University Gallery – Invite-only audience
- **Tuesday, Nov. 3 | 5:00–6:00 PM**
Fireside Lounge – Open to the RIT community (any and all interesting topics)

Register to exhibit [HERE](#) by October 16, 2026. Any questions? ritframchair@rit.edu

FRAM FINDS

- **TigerFest: Lighting the Way:** August 27, 2026, 7:30 – 9:30 pm.
Location: Davis Room (SAU 1300). Join us for this annual RIT tradition welcoming incoming women and nonbinary students. Participants will receive a commemorative lantern with a piece of advice or encouragement from a former student. This year's theme is honoring our history while embracing our future. This event will begin in the Davis Room (SAU 1300) with a reception to follow in the University Gallery (Booth Hall 2700). All RIT community members are welcome. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).
- **AI at Work: From Blueprint to Build Mode Workshop:** September 1, 2026, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.
Location: 100 Park Pint Drive. Move from AI experimentation to strategic solution design in this hands-on build studio. Leave with a custom assistant in ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, or a similar platform—tested, working, and ready to refine. Out-of-the-box AI can be impressive, but it does not know your team's language, source materials, standards, decision points, or what good work looks like. In this hands-on build studio, you will turn that internal know-how into a working assistant for a recurring workflow, use case, or priority task—creating a reusable tool that supports real business work. During the studio, you will build, test, and improve the assistant in real time to see how it performs against the work and related goals you brought to the workshop. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

A FEW THOUGHTS

In this issue, meet:

- **Prabu David**, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs. Read Prabu's thoughts related to critical thinking [HERE](#).

FROM GENE FRAM

- ["AI Is Making 5 Human Skills More Valuable Than Ever. Most Companies Are Investing in the Wrong Thing"](#) by Soren Kaplan, Inc. 5000, July 25, 2026.
- ["What Happens When We Don't Know Anything"](#) by Sophie Tseng Pellar, McGill, July 31, 2026.
- ["Claude and ChatGPT are ruining your critical thinking—here are 3 prompts that will keep your brain sharp"](#) by Dibakar Ghosh, How-To Geek, August 1, 2026.
- ["Five Practical Ways to Build Ai Literacy Across Academic Programs"](#) by CompTIA, August 3, 2026.
- ["University Students' Perceptions and Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools for Academic Activities and Critical Thinking: A Thematic Literature Review with Reflections from Tanzanian Higher"](#)

[Education](#)” by Hamadi Sagiru Hamadi, East African Journal of Education Studies, August 3, 2026.

