Manning emphasizes using credit wisely

Robert Manning, RIT professor and special assistant to the provost, has designed a financial literacy program to teach first-year college students the ins and outs of credit card debt. It will help prepare students to more effectively manage their money and make smart financial decisions.

“This program will also make RIT graduates more competitive in the job market as employers are increasingly scrutinizing credit scores along with grade point averages,” says Manning.

“We have the highest level of student indebtedness in history and the worst job market in a decade,” Manning says. “We have more and more students who are dropping out of college for non-academic reasons. Educating students about consumer debt is no longer a luxury. ”

Manning’s financial literacy program will be offered to incoming freshmen as part of RIT’s North Star program. Manning, assistant to the provost, has designed a financial literacy program to teach first-year students in the know on how it came about. Manning, along with his colleagues, is one of three from RIT’s American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia, who plans just that for what could be called a golf course on a golf course. This summer, RIT’s School of Hospitality and Service Management in the College of Applied Science and Technology offered Golf Course Management, an offering for the incoming freshman class of Aug. 22 as part of RIT’s North Star program.

“Manning’s financial literacy program will be offered at the course,” says Manning, who plans to instruct the course for the second year. The course, “A challenging course,” included reading and assignments in addition to time on the links. The two-credit-hour course meets three hours a week for five weeks leading up to the start of the tournament.

In addition to those in the class, 55 RIT students are employed in hospitality-related positions for this week’s tournament, which features Tiger Woods and other golfers in the spotlight—and RIT students in the know on how it came about.

Students “tee up” at Oak Hill

Not many college classes meet beneath a chandelier in an ornate conference room of an exclusive country club. Nor, for that matter, do they typically gather under the sun on the dog-leg right of the 18th fairway. But a dozen RIT students, including three from RIT’s American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia, did just that for what could be called a golf course on a golf course.

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It’s history in the making. Kevin Kochersberger, associate professor of mechanical engineering, is one of only two people selected to fly a re-creation of Wright Flyer. Kochersberger will be at Wright Brothers National Memorial, a national park near Kitty Hawk, N.C., and the site of the Wrights’ daring experiments. A second re-enactment of the historic flight will be at 2 p.m.

Kevin Kochersberger, one of two people selected to fly the 1903 Wright Flyer this Dec. 17, to commemorate the anniversary of the first powered flight. Above, Kochersberger inspects a propeller, single-engine plane designed by the Wrights for using wind tunnel. This sector of the hospitality field offers rewarding career opportunities,” says Lagiewski, who plans to instruct the course for the second year.

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Life-threatening illness gives RIT professor strength

Rebecca Housel brings more to the classroom than a rich knowledge of literature and the English language. The 32-year-old assistant professor in the College of Liberal Arts teaches her students something about courage and the value of life.

Optimistic and enterprising, Housel has Ludwig's disease, a life she loves despite physical limitations and an intense knowledge of cancer. Housel knows first hand how life can be interrupted and works hard to make the most of every day.

Diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at age 20, Housel has overcome the paralysis caused by surgery and neutron therapy. The operation, which preserved her life, left her without the use of her left side. She credits her husband for holding together their life, for taking care of her, son and their house while working full time.

Housel was determined to resume working as soon as she could. She had spent the previous three years juggling adjunct teaching positions at area colleges and was contracted to teach eight classes at RIT. She started chemotherapy treatments the day before winter quarter in 2002 and launched into the new term with enthusiasm. The chemo robbed her of coordination and balance, but not her passion for teaching and for connecting with her students.

"You can't be depressed and curled up in a ball," Housel says. "You have to keep going."

"Every wrinkle is great," Housel says. "It's so fantastic. It's great to get old. I aspire to be an old lady with a big purse."

Gift helps Carver learning center

The Kate Gleason College of Engineering received a donation of $350,000 from the Estelle H. Carver Charitable Lead Annuity Trust. The gift, creating an endowment fund in support of the Estelle H. and Howard F. Carver Engineering Learning Center, follows a $250,000 donation from the trust for the learning center in 2001.

Located in the James E. Gleason Building, the learning center provides students with a dedicated area for individual and group study and access to faculty and student tutoring and reference materials.

"The learning center is an outstanding place to interact with students," says Josef Török, professor of mechanical engineering and learning center director. "It represents an affirmation of our students' efforts in engineering."

The benefactor is Estelle Carver, past president of RIT's Women's Council, and her late husband, Howard, former president, chairman and chief executive officer of Gleason Corp. and 15-year member of RIT's Board of Trustees. An engineering scholar and1n honor of Howard Carver was established in 1991. "We are confident that the funds to support this center will help to maintain its operation well into the future," says John Carver, son of Howard and Estelle, and a trustee of the black, Linda Hallock, of the charitable trust fund.

$1.5 million funding

predecessor known as FRESs, were also championed by Waluh, and were made possible through a federal funding through the NASA budget.

"We are especially appreciative to Congressman Walsh, for his continuing interest and support of RIT," says RIT Provost John Simon. "The WALPS/FRES research program has made a significant contribution to the state of the art in sensor development, and this continuing research initiative will enable us to extend the impact of this research to strategic, national security applications."

Other applications could fall into the homeland security realm where integrated sensing systems could provide critical information to incident commanders.

"Suppose there's been an incident and you have a radiological problem," says McKeown. "You might want to combine an overhead imaging system that you couldn't just walk off and combine it with ground-based sensors with radioactivity detection levels. ISSI gives responding authorities not just a picture or a read-out of sensors, but a true annotated image map that they can use to make decisions on how to respond."

The process is similar to what McKeown and Michael Richardson, RIT distinguished research professor of mechanical engineering, accomplished with the WALPS/FRES program.

"The architecture is there," McKeown says. "The incident (wildfire, dirty bomb) differs, but the approach is the same. If you set yourself up to be responsive to a large incident, you're helping everybody."

A unique look into historic debates

In 1834, a group of students took on slavery in a series of debates that forced the issue into public consciousness and permanently into the history of the abolition movement.

A reenactment of the now famous "Fugitive Slave Debates" was held in May and involved leading abolitionist and abolitionist scholar, including RIT's Richard Newman.

Newman, professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts, donned the coat with tails, for the costumed flashback to the history of the abolition movement. Newman, dressed in period dress, was a guy on the outside looking in. "It was just so exhausted," she says of her illness. "I couldn't promote myself, but I was still writing."

Although the radiation treatment in 1991 fried the golf-ball sized tumor near her motor center, Housel was quick to stop the growth and from returning in full force 10 years later, seizures—"as many as 10 a day—marked the five years leading to her second diagnosis.

"I found out on my birthday that I needed a root canal and neurorsurgery. How lucky can one girl get?" she says.

The root canal was a small matter. Then came the 17-hour surgery and nine months of chemotherapy. Her recovery was complicated by diabetes, a side effect of the steroids taken to reduce brain inflammation, and a staph infection in her incision. A monthlong paralysis followed surgery, as it had the first time, and Housel was left without the use of her left side.

She credits her husband for holding together their life, for taking care of her, son and their house while working full time.

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Mulligan named new head of MFA program

A nationally recognized expert in photographic history joins the leadership team of School of photographic Arts and Sciences. Theresa Mulligan has been appointed as the coordinator of the master of fine arts program and director of SPAS Gallery. Both duties took effect July 1.

Previously, Mulligan served as curator of photography at George Eastman House, a post she held since 1995. She has also been affiliated with RIT since 1999, serving as an adjunct professor of photography.

Other professional experiences include various roles as consultant, lecturer or instructor. She has served as curator for 19 major photographic exhibitions and contributed to nearly two-dozen publications.

Theresa Mulligan will have a significant impact on our academic programs,” states Joan Stone, dean of RIT’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. “Her influence only enhances SPAS’ reputation among the nation’s top providers of photographic education.”

A resident of Rochester, Mulligan has a PhD in art history from the University of New Mexico. She earned a master’s degree from Michigan State University and a bachelor’s degree in ergonomics and safety and health training. Fuel-cell technology may be the wave of the future, but it must overcome obstacles like the high cost of production, delivery and installation of fuel-cell systems, the hydrogen distribution and, the short- and long-term infrastructure and environmental effects of simply producing and disposing of fuel cells.

A sustainable design approach to fuel cells, examining their total life cycle and end-of-life options, can lower system costs and make the technology more affordable. This approach can also make the technology more environmentally responsible and can maximize product reuse and remanufacturing.

The EPA grant work will be carried out by the Sustainable Systems Research Center at CIMS through July 2004.

The funding was provided to RIT through a Congressional appropriation in the FY 2002 VA/HUD/Independent Agencies Appropriations bill that was supported by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Congressman Jim Walsh, who chairs the subcommittee.

Proton exchange membrane fuel cells are the most widely researched type of fuel cell for many industries, including the automotive industry, stationary home powered generators and the telecommunications industry. For a sustainable approach to fuel cell design, designers of fuel-cell systems need guidelines to assist with the myriad decisions that engineers encounter along the product development path. The CIMS fuel-cell program will develop a comprehensive set of tools and methodology to aid in the design of next-generation fuel cells.

The Department of Labor grant work carried out by the Center for Safety and Ergonomics Excellence Program at CIMS will give western New York companies a competitive edge in a safety and health training.

The grant projects will also include assessment surveys, interactive classroom work- shops and implementation training projects for participating companies. Companies can participate in any or all of the training activities based on their particular needs. Targeted companies, all located in the western New York regions of Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Binghamton, are manufacturing, recovering and recycling raw materials lacking the in-house resources to provide their own training, or are looking to advance their skills in this area.

SUMMER VISITORS TO RIT . . . Patricia Alonso was one of 34 upper-level college students from Japan, the Republic of Venezuela at RIT for the second Summer Program in Mathematics, Engineering.

Sponsored by the industrial and systems engineering department in the Kate L.一度 | College of Engineering, the program gave students hands-on experience in end-to-end manufacturing including: process planning, pre- assembly and assembly of components and products. In competition between two teams, students were evaluated on efficiency and output using a simulated automotive manufacturing assembly line.
Focus on RIT student success

This Student Success column, addressing the issues of retention and student success, will appear in News & Events on a regular basis.

By Patty Spinelli, director of human resources

When you think of student employment in Finance and Administration, you almost immediately think about the hundreds of students working in food services, facilities and the dreaded parking lot patrol. But this is not the only support and services in every aspect of the business of running a major university. We greatly value this partnership in that as much as the students learn about the business operations, they teach us about what they need and want in a university. It is through this daily interaction that we can build on what we do well, stop doing things that no longer bring value to the students as our customers, and most importantly, begin providing services and products that meet the changing demands of the RIT students.

A few years ago, the leadership of the division joined dozens of our students in a daily debugging retreat to hear first hand what was important to them. We spent a good deal of time understanding the issues as they experience them, and at that point, they decided their decision to come to RIT, as well as what were the drivers in making their decision to stay at RIT. Finance and Administration is consumed with improving the climate and environment for all of our students. We review on a regular basis the amenities available to students and look to ways to make the physical environment more conducive to social and scholastic interactions.

Every day we work at minimizing, if not eliminating, the operational barriers to their success. For example, the Bursar’s Office is empowered to work across boundaries on behalf of a student experiencing financial constraints. By working in partnership with Financial Aid and other departments, we can often help the student discover ways to stay in school.

Finance and Administration sees the role of stewards for student success as one of the most critical contributions we can make to RIT. Our vision is to be the division of choice for students and staff seeking employment. Like their counterparts in the staff ranks, students have choices as to where they will work, live and socialize. Many of those choices are influenced by the culture of Finance and Administration. Students in our division are members of our community and are therefore treated with the same respect that we afford each other. I look to Finance and Administration to ensure that students are supported not only with a paycheck but also with the guidance and direction they deserve.

One area of concentration is FAST, a student employee team responsible for Web development and system administration. These students service all of Finance and Administration in meeting our growing technological challenges while getting real-time experience with current systems and applications. Students who are employed on campus have a greater probability of success, as defined as graduation. Finance and Administration has the unusual opportunity to support hundreds of students in this way. Each and every member of our community sees and shares in this important goal.

STANDING ROOM ONLY . . . World-famous Japanese Taiko drummers filled NTID’s Robert F. Panara Theatre to capacity during three performances last month, courtesy of The Nippon Foundation (Japan), and NTID’s Postsecondary Education Network–International. Audience members were invited to try the unique methods of the Taiko drumming style. The troupe, which includes six deaf drummers, presented rhythmic, acrobatic and colorful performance.

IT gender study (from page 1)

undergraduate women in IT departments. Previous research into women’s experiences in computing programs usually centered on computer science departments, which traditionally feature a narrower curriculum than IT.

“The goal of the study would be not only to answer these questions,” explains Lawley, “but also to develop recommendations for IT program recruiting, curricula and student support—based on those answers.”

Lawley and Henderson will conduct a qualitative study of women entering RIT’s IT program this fall. The students will be interviewed at various points of the academic year to identify factors relating to their persistence or attrition. “IT has made a major commitment to addressing retention problems, and institutional support for research on this topic is strong,” says Henderson. They will also develop a questionnaire for faculty and students intended to identify the presence and influence of those factors in academic departments. The questionnaire will be administered to women entering IT departments across the United States in order to determine whether the RIT findings are comparable to those at other institutions.

More information on the project is available at http://women.it.rit.edu.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL . . . Bill and Eileen Whiteside, top right, and Bob and Mary Gulick were the honored guests at this year’s annual RIS gala, held July 17. The Whitesides received the prestigious NRS award for their outstanding contributions to RIT, while Bob Gulick, second from right, and his wife, Mary, far left, pictured with Dave and Stephanie Whitaker, received the Gaylord “Gee” Whitaker Service Medallion for outstanding service to their community. This year’s theme of The Great Gatsby inspired guests to dress the part, above left.

Frank Benz

Frank Benz, who served as RIT vice president of business and finance, 1959-70, and assistant controller, then controller, 1955-59, passed away May 20. He was instrumental in building the Henrietta campus and in bringing NTID to RIT. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, who was an active member of the RIT community, daughter, De, Nicolel Benz and son, E. Paul Benz III.

Shirley Panara

Shirley Panara passed away July 16 at age 80. Panara was a librarian at the Library of Congress and the Rochester School for the Deaf. She was founder and president of Eastern Deaf Women’s Bowling Association and was very active in all athletics.

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STICKBALL 2003 CHAMPS . . . President Simonc’s team prevailed in the 2003 stickball tournament during the annual Staff Picnic. Team members, from left to right: Scott Sylvester, RIT graduate student; Scott’s brother, Chris; Laura Watts, co-op education and career service; Bob Grow, RIT baseball coach; United Way President Joe Calabrese; Simonc; and Frank Lamus, associate vice president of student affairs.

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O b i t u a r i e s

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