

FALL/WINTER 2010

FOCUS

NTID

National Technical Institute for the Deaf • Rochester Institute of Technology



Making History



A. SUE WEISLER

Tiger Spirit Roars

Greg Pollock, a Professional and Technical Communication major from Pittsburgh, Pa., addresses the audience at RIT's Convocation for New Students at the start of the academic year. He is the 2010-2011 RIT Student Government President, the second deaf or hard-of-hearing Student Government President in the history of RIT. Pollock served as NTID's Student Congress President 2009-2010.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Dr. Gerard Buckley is the first alumnus in NTID's history to lead the college. Following a national search, RIT President William Destler named Buckley, SVP '74, '78, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean. His appointment began January 1, 2011.

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FOCUS

NTID

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MARK BENJAMIN

Passing the Baton

The red, brown and yellow leaves that swirled against the windows of my Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall office in November arrived on the winds of historic change for NTID. For the first time in our history, a graduate of NTID has been selected as our president.

Dr. Gerard Buckley, who received a bachelor's degree in Social Work from RIT in 1978 and most recently, served as NTID's assistant vice president for college advancement, was announced as NTID's sixth chief executive officer November 3 by RIT President William Destler and formally began his duties after the New Year. For those who do not know President Buckley, an interview with him appears on the following page of this issue of *FOCUS*.

Dr. Buckley's journey to the president's office began in the classrooms of an NTID quite different from the one that exists today. Just as those who created

the vision for NTID in the early 1960s intended, the college has evolved over the years to meet the changing demands of the national, and in today's case, international, workforce.

After 40 years of educating students, we now will be led by one of our own, and better yet, by someone who has been a part of the institute community for more than two decades as a student, graduate, chairperson, associate dean and assistant vice president, not to mention his successful career before returning to work at NTID. Dr. Buckley has played a critical role in the development of *Strategic Decisions 2020*, the college's blueprint for the next decade.

Dr. D. Robert Frisina, NTID's first director, noted that the "Grand Experiment" that created NTID would be realized when its graduates entered society and the workplace, competed on par with their peers who hear, and became productive and contributing members of society. That has happened now for thousands.

With the appointment of Gerry, another historic milestone has been achieved—a graduate of the college who has had a successful and distinguished career in the national workplace, and at NTID, is taking the helm. I am ecstatic that the baton has been passed to the next generation, and I'm glad that I was here to witness it and be part of it.

Regards,

James J. DeCaro
 Former NTID Interim President
 Director, Postsecondary Education
 Network-International

NTID's New President: An Interview with Dr. Gerard J. Buckley

by Pamela L. Carmichael

In November 2010, after an extensive national search, RIT President William Destler appointed Dr. Gerard J. Buckley, SVP '74, '78, to the position of NTID president and RIT vice president and dean. Buckley is the first alumnus in NTID's history to be named president and assume leadership of the college. With 20 years of dedicated service to NTID, most recently as assistant vice president for college advancement, Buckley is well positioned to take the college to the next level. *FOCUS* interviewed Dr. Buckley, whose tenure as NTID president officially started January 1, 2011, to learn more about his priorities as NTID's new leader and his vision for the college's future.

Congratulations on being named NTID president and RIT vice president and dean. With your history here, you bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. When you arrived at RIT/NTID as a student in 1974, did you ever imagine that one day you would lead the college?

When I arrived on campus for the Summer Vestibule Program, I was excited to be entering the Social Work program and to be able to study with deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing peers. I also had the good fortune to serve in a number of leadership roles while I was a student and to interact with students, faculty and staff from throughout the world. I did not imagine at that time that my career path would lead me to one day become president of the college. It's really an honor to have been appointed to this position. I'm excited and energized by the opportunities ahead as we work to ensure that RIT/NTID remains a leader in providing career education for deaf and hard-of-hearing college students.

What do you see as the most significant challenges facing NTID, and how will you address them?

Obviously, the current economy presents challenges. It's harder for families to send their children to

college, and with many states experiencing economic difficulties, families are getting less support from vocational rehabilitation and other funding agencies. Like most colleges, NTID has felt the impact of that. But our relationship with the government in Washington is strong, we continue to see record enrollments, and we are moving forward.

The conversion from the quarter system to semesters is both a challenge and an opportunity. Our faculty and administrators are working diligently with our RIT colleagues to conduct a complete curriculum review and ensure a smooth transition. We have pledged that no student's progress toward a degree will be delayed as we make this change.

In everything we do, we will continue to look for opportunities to enhance our students' college experience and ensure our educational excellence. An important aspect of this will be to strengthen our relationships with business and industry locally and around the country to provide co-op and career opportunities for our students and graduates. Through the efforts of our NTID Center on Employment, we saw an 89 percent placement rate for our 2009 graduates, an impressive accomplishment given today's national employment situation. We will continue to build on that success.

What are the top priorities you're focusing on in your first year as president?

My top priority is to continue to strengthen our relationship with Congress and the Department of Education regarding budget and operations. I'm also working closely with students, faculty and staff to



A. SUE WEISLER

Student Focused NTID President Gerard J. Buckley chats with a group of students in the Dining Commons on campus. Left to right in photo, Andrew Hursin, Julian Moiwai, Buckley, Maya Ariel and Stephen Murphy.

implement *Strategic Decisions 2020*, a plan that will guide our work for the next decade. We continue to further NTID's integration with RIT, and to foster new and productive relationships with our colleagues throughout the university. We're also actively involved in raising funds to build Imagination Hall, a facility that will become the focal point of our research and innovation efforts for students, faculty and staff. We're seeking to develop new partnerships with business and industry consistent with our national educational mission, and we also have begun taking a more active role in sustainability. We have established an NTID Committee for Sustainable Practices to fully engage the NTID community in this RIT-wide priority. All in all, 2011 is shaping up to be a very exciting, busy and productive year for NTID.

Are today's students different from when you were a student here, and if so, in what ways?

Today's students have grown up in a world where technology has always been an integral part of their lives, so they're incredibly tech savvy. And our students are an increasingly diverse group. More than 30 percent are African-American, Native American, Asian or Latino, and we expect that percentage to continue to grow. More of our students are coming from mainstream high schools, and increasing numbers of them are pursuing degrees in the other colleges of RIT. What hasn't changed, though, is the energy, excitement and enthusiasm to learn and grow, and take advantage of the opportunities available to them here.

What are the most significant challenges facing deaf and hard-of-hearing students today? How does NTID help them address those challenges?

The rapid pace of change in our world is a challenge for us all, and deaf and hard-of-hearing students are no exception. Our students have to be well prepared, flexible and ready to hit the ground running when they enter the job market and throughout their careers. We provide the education and



A Young Leader NTID President Gerard J. Buckley in 1976 when he served as NTID Student Congress Vice President.

training they need, and work hard to instill in them a passion for lifelong learning, so they are prepared to continue updating their skills and are able to respond to the changing needs of employers as business and industry evolves. And as more businesses expand their global reach, we're helping our students understand global issues—ensuring that they have exposure to, and are comfortable with, an increasingly diverse environment.

Appropriate academic preparation for college continues to be another challenge for some deaf and hard-of-hearing students. We have established a number of highly successful outreach programs to begin connecting with students in middle school and high school to get them started thinking about their future and what they need to do to properly prepare for college and career success. *Strategic Decisions 2020* also calls for improving services for underprepared students by working with regional partners to implement intensive summer academic preparation programs in selected high-growth, ethnically diverse areas of the country. We anticipate developing a plan for implementing this initiative during the 2011-2012 academic year, and conducting a local pilot of the program in summer 2012.

What makes NTID the best choice for deaf and hard-of-hearing students?

RIT/NTID's focus on career education and preparation for career success through experiential learning and

cooperative work experiences provide key advantages for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Graduates leave RIT/NTID ready to succeed in their careers and in life. The NTID Center on Employment also provides a significant advantage for our students and graduates. NCE employment specialists travel the country developing relationships with employers to create job opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Beyond our excellent academic programs and co-op and career focus, we offer deaf and hard-of-hearing students outstanding opportunities for personal growth. The NTID Student Life Team provides programs that engage students outside of the classroom and help them hone their leadership and other "soft" skills that are so critical to lifelong success.

When you combine the career focus and extra-curricular activities with the excellent access and support services we provide, there simply is no better place for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to study, learn and grow.

In your view, what factors have been key to NTID's success thus far?

The key to NTID's success always has been, and will continue to be, our people. Hardworking students and their incredibly supportive parents, highly skilled and dedicated faculty and staff, generous donors, and active, involved alumni all make NTID a very special place, and ensure that we will continue to successfully carry out our

mission to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students with the best postsecondary education available.

When you think about the future for NTID, what do you see?

We've been educating deaf and hard-of-hearing students for more than 40 years, and we're very good at what we do. We have much to be proud of, and I'm confident our talented students, faculty, staff and alumni will continue doing great things.

As we implement *Strategic Decisions 2020*, our students will remain at the heart of all that we do, and we will continue to build on our past successes and ensure that our students get the skills they need to succeed in their careers and as leaders in their communities.

As I look to the future, I envision that our portfolio of career-focused associate degree programs will be enhanced with programs in areas such as healthcare and sustainability, that our highly successful associate+bachelor's degree programs will continue to grow, and that new bachelor's degree programs will result from collaboration between NTID and RIT's other colleges.

I also see a new generation of outstanding students, faculty and staff thriving, and driving innovation further as they work together in Imagination Hall to produce groundbreaking research that improves the educational and employment success of deaf and hard-of-hearing people nationally and internationally. And I see our alumni network engaged and proud to be an integral part of the RIT/NTID family, helping with recruitment, placement and fundraising work.

Any final thoughts to share with our readers?

I am excited to be leading NTID and am looking forward to continuing to work with members of our campus community as together we advance NTID's mission and ensure that the college remains the leader in postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Gerard J. Buckley, Ed.D.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf President

Rochester Institute of Technology Vice President and Dean

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Harvard Graduate School of Education,
1999 — Management Development
Ed.D. in Special Education
University of Kansas, 1989
M.S. in Social Work
University of Missouri, 1980
B.S. in Social Work
Rochester Institute of Technology/
National Technical Institute for the
Deaf, 1978



MARK BENJAMIN

Dr. Buckley has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, including more than 20 years serving in a variety of capacities at NTID. From 1990 to 1993, Buckley served as chairperson and assistant professor of the Department of Educational Outreach at NTID, followed by five years as director of NTID's Center for Outreach and assistant professor on the RIT/NTID Social Work Support Team. From 1998 to 2003, he served as NTID associate dean for student services, and from 2004 until his appointment as NTID president, held the position of NTID assistant vice president for college advancement with responsibility for the admissions, employment, marketing and outreach operations of the college.

Buckley has maintained an active teaching portfolio over the past 20 years with the RIT Social Work program, which was discontinued in 2005, and with NTID's Master of Science program in Secondary Education of Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. He was awarded tenure in 1998. He has twice been awarded the NTID Faculty/Staff Humanitarian Award by the NTID Student Congress, and was named Distinguished Alumnus for NTID in 1985 and for the College of Liberal Arts in 1996.

Prior to coming to work at NTID in 1990, Buckley spent 10 years at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, where he led Gallaudet University's Regional Center.

He has served as president of the Lexington School for the Deaf Board of Trustees in New York City, and is a past president of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association. He also has served on the National Advisory Board of the National Institutes of Health's Institute on Deafness at the recommendation of Senator Robert Dole (retired).

Buckley holds a B.S. in Social Work from RIT/NTID, an M.S.W. from the University of Missouri and an Ed.D. in Special Education from the University of Kansas.

He is a native of St. Louis, Mo. His wife, Judy, is a sign language interpreter, and the couple has three adult children: Jennifer, a graduate of RIT/NTID, who recently received her doctorate in veterinary sciences; Timothy, who teaches music education in Monticello, N.Y.; and Ryan, a fourth-year student in RIT's Biomedical Sciences program. Buckley and his wife have one grandchild.



RENDERINGS BY HBT ARCHITECTS

Imagination Hall: Preparing a New Generation of Innovators

by Susan L. Murad

Imagine a place dedicated to innovation, research, creativity and collaboration. Imagine deaf and hard-of-hearing students at the associate degree level partnering with faculty and students from RIT's other colleges to develop their ideas. Imagine a building adjacent to one designed nearly 40 years ago as a model of innovative education.

Welcome to Imagination Hall—a 23,000 square foot, two-story, state-of-the-art facility, created to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and original research among the approximately 750 deaf and hard-of-hearing students at NTID who study at the associate degree level.

Providing experiential learning opportunities, Imagination Hall and the activities it will house, will be critical in allowing deaf and hard-of-hearing students to develop the skills needed to succeed in today's innovation-driven economy.

"At the forefront of everything we do at NTID is the belief that our job is to

give our students the skills and experiences they need so that they cannot be denied," says Dr. James J. DeCaro, Postsecondary Education Network-International director and NTID's former interim president. "Imagination Hall is essential in achieving this goal."

Construction of the \$8 million structure is scheduled to begin spring 2012, with a grand opening anticipated for summer 2013. Imagination Hall will be built through private funding—and fundraising efforts have begun in earnest, with the first major gift of \$100,000 coming from a long-time NTID Foundation Board member who wishes to remain anonymous. The Foundation Board, along with the NTID Alumni Association Board, have committed to raising funds as well.

"We are very excited to be charged with rallying our alumni family in helping raise funds for Imagination Hall," Erin Esposito, '90, '96, chairperson of the NTID Alumni Association Board of Directors, says.

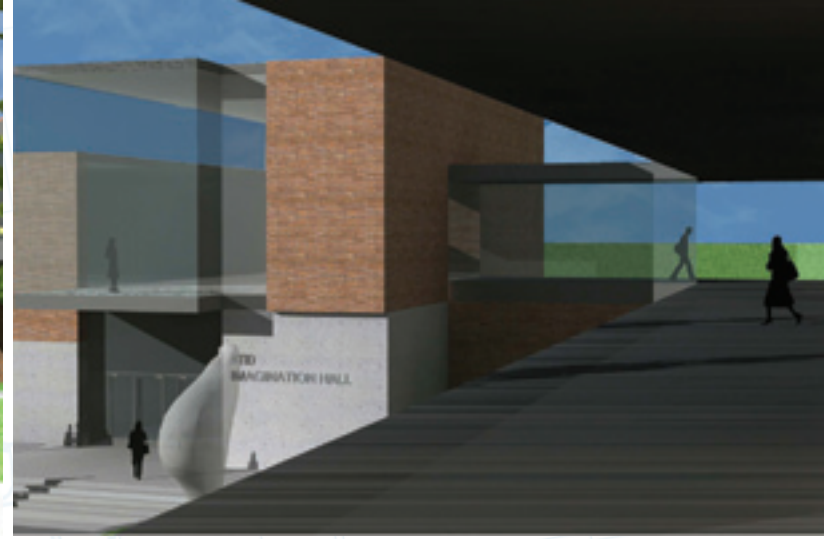
"We will confidently rise to the challenge because we are completely invested in our work to contribute to the success of future alumni."

Imagination Hall also will serve as the home for a variety of innovative research projects that address the needs of the deaf community and relate to the mission of NTID. Project focus areas will include:

- healthcare technologies and services to benefit the deaf community;
- development and adaptation of access and instructional technologies for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;
- innovative cross-disciplinary projects involving science, engineering, imaging and business fields.

Projects will be led by NTID faculty, involve NTID associate degree students as full project partners and will be funded by external agencies.

"NTID has a vision of creating learning partnerships among students, faculty and external partners that will respond to future challenges and shape



Imagine That Architectural renderings of NTID's Imagination Hall, which will open on the RIT campus in 2013.

future opportunities with innovation,” says Gary Behm, an RIT/NTID alumnus and faculty member who formerly worked at IBM. “Imagination Hall holds a central place in this future.”

To realize this vision, multidisciplinary teams of researchers, designers, technicians and out-of-the-box thinkers will share ownership of the innovation process.

“NTID works to prepare students to be ready to enter the business world, in their appropriate fields, and be professional wage earners with the necessary content knowledge, skills and communication abilities,” says Mark Wambach, instructional faculty member in RIT's Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. “Not all of the learning and growth experiences students require can occur in their classrooms. Developing an idea for a company is an additional way that NTID can help nurture students and provide an environment that leads to student success.”

Wambach is working on a concept that will bring together students from the NTID Business Studies and Applied Computing Technology programs to develop a business plan for a company that will provide technology services to residents of retirement communities. These students, mentored by Wambach and others, will offer advice on strategies for securing venture capital and building a network of potential clients. With their business plan, funding and client prospect list in

place, and with the strong technical and business skills acquired during their time at RIT/NTID, these students will graduate with the tools and resources needed for the successful launch of their business.

Similar activities in the RIT Student Innovation Center, completed in 2009, are already generating new multidisciplinary projects and technologies involving programs throughout RIT, particularly for students at the bachelor's degree level and beyond. Already, this center has become one of the most visible and dynamic symbols of innovation at RIT.

While the primary goal of Imagination Hall is to give associate degree students experience in innovation and entrepreneurship, students at the bachelor's degree level and beyond will be included in activities housed in the building. Projects taking place in Imagination Hall will be diverse in size, scope and focus, and will include associate degree deaf and hard-of-hearing students sharing in major responsibilities toward a project's successful completion.

Through their role as integral members of project teams, these students will develop the leadership, teamwork and communication skills needed to propel their future career success. Their experiences will inspire them to pursue new business ventures, original research and develop new technologies and services.

“Success in today's fast-paced, global economy is becoming increasingly dependent upon an individual's ability to think out of the box in identifying new solutions and business opportunities,” DeCaro says. “Whether working on a project team to develop a new technology, launch a new business or conduct original research in science, healthcare, imaging technology or other areas, giving this often overlooked and underestimated group of students the opportunity to participate in the innovation process is critical in setting them on the path for success in today's economy.”

Imagination Hall will serve as both an applied learning arena for deaf and hard-of-hearing students graduating with associate degrees, and as a powerful staging area for those students enrolled in NTID's seven associate+bachelor's degree programs, leading from associate degree level work at NTID to bachelor's level programs in the other colleges of RIT.

“Through the creation of Imagination Hall and the projects it will house, NTID and the many talented deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled in associate degree programs will become valued for their ability to reinforce America's greatest competitive advantages—creativity, innovation and invention,” says Dr. Gerard Buckley, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean.

Visit www.rit.edu/ntid/imaginationhall for more information.

Yesenia Ballesteros

by Ilene J. Avallone



A. SUE WESLER

Advertising Photography major Yesenia Ballesteros always knew that she wanted to pursue a major in photography.

“I enjoy creating images that capture moments in time, because then I can relive them when I look at the photos,” says the 23-year-old from Poteet, Texas.

Ballesteros chose RIT/NTID because of the quality of the academic programs, and the opportunity to be with deaf and hearing peers.

She received an associate degree in Graphic Arts from NTID’s Arts & Imaging Studies Department prior to entering RIT’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Since she arrived at RIT/NTID, Ballesteros has been involved with the Hispanic Deaf Club, and has served as social director and treasurer, and currently is vice president.

“My involvement in HDC has helped me become more aware of Latin/Hispanic cultures from other countries, and has boosted my self confidence, developed my

leadership skills and improved my public speaking,” she says.

This past fall, Ballesteros represented NTID at the Texas Latino Council for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing conference, where she competed in, and won, the Miss Deaf Texas Latina Pageant. Her winning scores from the interview, talent and cultural spirit sections earned her the title.

“It was very exciting because my family was there to watch me compete in the pageant,” she says.

Known by her friends as “the teal girl,” Ballesteros confides she is crazy about the color teal.

“Everything I own is teal—from my clothes, to my school supplies, to my home accessories,” she says. “The color fits me well. It evokes mystery, creativeness and passion, just like me.”

After graduation, her goal is to become a cultural travel photographer, and she would like to start her own photography business.

“I want to show the power of cultural photography, and to open people’s eyes and hearts with compelling images,” she says.

Toby Fitch

by Kathy A. Johncox



A. SUE WESLER

“My future is coming into focus,” says Toby Fitch, a third-year student majoring in New Media Design in RIT’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. “I’d like to own my own design studio in photo, multimedia design and animation, or else work for a developing company that has the potential to become big and successful.”

Fitch’s entrepreneurial bent fits perfectly with his self-described over-achiever personality, and his penchant for trying new things.

Trying new things is what brought him to RIT when, as a high school student, he entered and won RIT’s Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students, and came to campus to receive his award.

“I didn’t know much about RIT/NTID when I arrived here, but the people were so nice, the campus was great, and when I learned about the variety of majors, I was sold,” says Fitch.

Carrying a 3.8 GPA, Fitch spends an average of 20 hours per week doing

homework, works part-time in the NTID Admissions Department, and is part of a peer tutoring program in English. And the rest of the time he plays—and thinks about playing—soccer.

Coming from an all deaf family, where his mother is a physical education teacher, Fitch says sports were a tradition. He ran track, and played basketball, baseball and soccer in high school in Zanesville, Ohio, but soccer was where he really felt he belonged.

“I watch, play, live, eat and breathe soccer,” says Fitch.

His considerable skills have allowed him to be involved with soccer internationally. He played competitively for the U.S. Deaf Men’s Soccer Team in England, the First World Deaf Football Championships in Greece, and the Taiwan Summer Deaflympics Games.

Despite his ambitious post-graduate plans, Fitch can see coaching soccer in his future as well.

“I’ll always be involved with soccer in some way,” he says. “The teams have a brotherly, family feeling. Soccer is my family.”

Christopher Jappah

by Ilene J. Avallone

“A favorite quote by Mark Twain inspires how I choose to live,” says Accounting Technology major Christopher Jappah. “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

Growing up deaf among his hearing family and friends, Jappah chose RIT/NTID because he wanted to meet other deaf people, and learn about Deaf culture.

“I lost my hearing at age 8 from an unknown illness, and as a deaf child, I always wanted to be part of the Deaf community, and learn sign language, too,” says the 22-year-old.

Jappah was born in Monrovia, Liberia, and lived there until age 16 when his family moved to Coatesville, Pa., seeking better educational opportunities.

“My parents encouraged me and my siblings to pursue college,” he says. “They view education as a good opportunity to get a great job and have a successful future.”

Soccer plays an important part in Jappah’s life. He was a varsity player in his public high school, and is on the RIT men’s soccer team. Practicing six days a week, Jappah works hard and plays hard, but he doesn’t complain.

“Whenever I play soccer, I feel like I’m standing on top of Mt. Everest, seeing the whole world as one,” he says. “Soccer makes me happy.”

His accounting major will give him the skills to work with people and numbers, and that’s what he wants to do.

“Eventually, my goal is to open my own sporting goods store, so that I can combine my love of sports and athleticism with my business skills,” he says.

A Dean’s List student, Jappah also finds time for fun.

“I enjoy spending time with friends, and because there’s so much to do here at RIT/NTID, I’m never bored!”



A. SUE WEISLER

Julie Kerchner

by Kathy A. Johncox

On any given day, Julie Kerchner is running. She might be running on RIT’s outdoor track, or jogging around the indoor track at the Gordon Field House. Or she could be tackling a treadmill in the fitness center, or competing for the RIT Tigers in a cross-country meet.

“I love running,” says Kerchner, a second-year Business Technology major from York, Pa. “It’s a challenge I love to pursue—and my teammates are wonderful friends. They are like family. Both my high school varsity cross-country team and the team here at RIT have made me the person I am today—motivated and determined to reach my maximum potential at whatever life has for me.”

As the only deaf person in her family, and one of only four deaf students in a mainstream high school of 1,700, Kerchner has spent her life mostly around hearing people.

“I wanted something different, and I knew RIT would give me the opportunity to be with both hearing and deaf students

and provide me with a lot of support,” says Kerchner. “Plus, I could learn more about Deaf culture. One of the things I like about RIT/NTID is that students come from all across the United States and many other countries. It gives RIT diversity and makes it a very unique and interesting place.”

Someday Kerchner hopes to earn a degree in deaf education, and work with deaf elementary school children. For now, after she receives her associate degree, she’d like to participate in the Disney College Program, a paid internship that provides the opportunity to work with people from around the world, and learn from people skilled in her areas of interest.

“It would be both fun and a good experience,” says Kerchner. “I’ll be able to apply the knowledge I’ve learned about business, and gain more skills that will benefit me not only in future jobs, but in everyday life.”



A. SUE WEISLER



Mid-Atlantic Alumni Reception A reception and art exhibit for 50 alumni and guests was held at BayFirst Solutions' offices in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 2010. Robert Rice, '94, '97, president and manager of BayFirst, hosted the reception. Standing left to right, are Gina Marciona, '93; Tracey Salaway, SVP '80, '85, '95; Meg Vickers; Lisa Tempesta; and Nancy Frohman, SVP '86, '94.

A NAME THAT WORKS

by Ilene J. Avallone

“The National Technical Institute for the Deaf truly is national in scope; it’s a name that appropriately reflects the growing student population, alumni and other audiences we serve,” says Dr. Gerard Buckley, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean.

When NTID opened its doors to the first class of 70 deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Rochester Institute of Technology in 1968, it was viewed as “The Grand Experiment,” to see whether those students could flourish on a college campus populated predominately by hearing students. More than 40 years and thousands of graduates later, The Grand Experiment has, without question, succeeded.

Today, more than 1,200 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from 49 states and other countries attend RIT/NTID, and graduates are enjoying successful careers alongside their hearing peers

throughout the United States, and around the world.

“NTID is a national model of success in the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and in preparing these students for rewarding careers and satisfying lives,” says Buckley. “It’s NTID’s mission to share that success as well as our knowledge and expertise with the world.”

Here are some of the ways that NTID achieves its national reach.

Recruiting Nationwide

While many college admissions counselors travel regionally to recruit prospective students, NTID’s admissions counselors truly “go the distance.”

“Today’s deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students are widely dispersed throughout the nation’s 15,000 school districts, and many of these students aren’t familiar with RIT/NTID,” says Scott Hooker, director of

NTID Admissions. “Travel to high schools where there are deaf and hard-of-hearing students is essential to our recruitment process.”

Admissions counselors visited 444 high schools during the 2010 recruiting cycle, including 156 in the Midwest, 76 in the Southeast, 72 in the Northeast, 79 in the West Coast Region and 61 in New York State. They also visited 21 colleges, and participated in six college fairs throughout these regions.

“Their efforts this year helped attract the largest enrollment of students from all over the country in NTID’s 42-year history,” says Hooker.

Enlisting Alumni

More than 6,700 alumni located throughout the country serve as some of NTID’s best ambassadors, and also play an important role in building the college’s national presence. One of the ways that NTID connects with alumni is to host receptions around the country.

“These receptions are the perfect venue for networking with alumni to keep them connected to RIT/NTID, and to aid our efforts to find co-op and permanent employment opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students,” says Matthew Driscoll, director of Alumni Relations at NTID.

In 2010, 442 alumni gathered at receptions held in more than a dozen cities across the United States—from Boston to Los Angeles.

“We value each member of the RIT/NTID alumni community because every alum who participates strengthens and increases the value of the NTID name,” adds Driscoll.

Employer Development

The NTID Center on Employment also works diligently to build awareness about NTID and its students by sending employment specialists around the country to network at conferences and talk to potential employers about the skills of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and their readiness for work.

“We want to make sure that employers know about the skills our students bring to the workplace,” says John Macko, director of NCE. “While we’re there, we discuss the value of

cooperative work experiences, and encourage employers to consider the advantages of working with our students.”

As part of their awareness effort, NCE staff also travel the country and meet with employers and organizations to present their award-winning interactive workshop, *Working Together: Deaf and Hearing People*.

This presentation helps employers learn successful strategies for communicating with deaf and hard-of-hearing employees, and provides information about resources, services and equipment to assist both deaf and hearing colleagues.

“Companies leave our workshops with lots of ideas for integrating deaf employees into their organization and more enthusiasm for hiring them,” says Macko.

He notes that his staff, who last year spent one-fourth of the year traveling coast to coast, served a total of 521 employer representatives through 29 training sessions and outreach workshops.

Taking the Show on the Road

“Exhibiting at national and regional events; advertising in various media; speaking at conferences and seminars; publishing in professional journals and books; and collaborating with other institutions on research, communication and teaching projects are strategies that all build awareness for NTID,” says Pamela Carmichael, director of Marketing Communications at NTID.

Last year, faculty and staff exhibited at more than 40 events, gave presentations at more than 25 conferences, and published articles in publications such as *American Annals of the Deaf*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Oxford Handbook of Deaf Studies*, and *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.

Today, more than 1,200 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from 49 states and other countries attend RIT/NTID, and graduates are enjoying successful careers alongside their hearing peers throughout the United States, and around the world.

“NTID’s image as a national leader in technological education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students continues to expand because of these efforts

by our talented faculty and staff,” adds Carmichael.

The use of social media, including Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and blogs, is another strategy that NTID uses to promote college news, and to engage prospective

students, current students and alumni nationwide.

“A robust social media presence is helping us build stronger national visibility for NTID,” says Carmichael.

New Initiatives

Since 2006, outreach efforts aimed at encouraging college interest and preparedness at an early age for deaf and hard-of-hearing middle and high school students and their parents have had a positive impact on building awareness of NTID throughout the country. Currently there are three summer camps and four national

competitions that eligible students can enjoy. (Editor’s Note: See page 15 for more information.)

An objective outlined in *Strategic Decisions 2020*, a roadmap that will guide the college into the next decade, is to establish NTID as a National Resource Center of Excellence, a key source for those seeking information on deaf education. The center will provide resources related to curriculum, pedagogy, access services, applied research, use of instructional and access technology, parent education, professional development for teachers and administrators, and graduate education for professionals in the field. NTID also will expand its outreach programs and initiatives regarding the education of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in high school, and at the postsecondary level.

“It’s our charge to carry out NTID’s mission to share our knowledge and expertise in deaf education through outreach and other information dissemination programs,” says Buckley. “As a result of ongoing efforts by our faculty, staff and alumni, we are extending our reach and welcoming the increased interest in the many resources NTID offers deaf and hard-of-hearing people nationwide.”



Networking Nationwide NTID employment specialists Karen Downs and Linda Iacelli network with human resource professionals from around the world at the Society for Human Resource Management Diversity and Inclusion Conference and Exposition in New Orleans, La., to find employment opportunities for RIT/NTID students.

Forging Global Bonds

by Kathleen S. Smith

While its name reflects its national focus, today's National Technical Institute for the Deaf also has a decidedly international feel.

Reflecting an economy that truly is global in nature, members of the NTID community are teaching, studying and working in all corners of the world, and the college has forged educational,

on campus last fall. For this generation of students, "It's a small world after all."

PEN-International— Leading the Way

NTID opened its doors to international students in 1990 and created formal partnerships with four international colleges during the same decade. But things really took off in

investment and become a highly respected resource for schools and individuals seeking guidance on the best and newest technologies available in deaf education. PEN-International soon will extend its reach into the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region, whose member states include Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar.

"Our goal always was to move our educational partners from being importers of our services to being self sufficient, and ultimately, exporters of the knowledge and tools we have shared," says PEN-International Director Dr. James DeCaro. "We are excited to now take these same strategies to developing countries in the ASEAN region."

PEN also will continue two biennial programs: the Summer Leadership Institute, attended by roughly 50 international students, interpreters and faculty members in summer 2010; and the international Instructional Technology and Deaf Education Symposium, which last summer attracted 300 participants from 17 countries. The Nippon Foundation has invested a total of more than \$11 million in PEN-International over the past 10 years.

Center for Education Research Partnerships (CERP)

The Center for Education Research Partnerships, supported since 2002 by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, has worked with thousands of children and young adults in Australia, the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Italy, Canada, France and Hong Kong. CERP researchers are studying relationships between language and



A SUE WEISER

International Fare Salsarita's Fresh Cantina, located in the Cantina and Grille at Global Village, is a popular destination for students and faculty members alike.

cultural and research connections with more than two dozen colleges and universities worldwide.

When NTID opened in 1968, its charter class of students came from just over a dozen states. In comparison, last year's entering class included 42 international students from 17 countries.

Deaf students are studying abroad in record numbers and several NTID-supported students are among the more than 400 living in RIT's new Global Village complex, an expansive residential and dining area that opened

2001 when The Nippon Foundation of Japan awarded RIT/NTID \$900,000 to begin the RIT/NTID Postsecondary Education Network-International, which brings technology and educational opportunities to deaf students in developing countries around the world.

With partnerships and collaborations at 18 colleges and universities in Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, the Czech Republic, Thailand, Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong, PEN-International has taken The Nippon Foundation of Japan's original

academic achievement in deaf learners of all ages.

“We already are seeing the impact of our findings in changes being made in the way that educators are teaching deaf students in various settings,” says CERP Director Dr. Marc Marschark, who, along with four other CERP members, was one of 18 NTID faculty and staff members to present at last summer’s International Congress on Education of the Deaf in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Marschark recently helped establish a formal collaborative research and student exchange between NTID and Hogeschool Utrecht in Utrecht, Holland. Five hearing Dutch interpreting students spent 10 weeks at NTID this fall, taking various classes, and a group from NTID heads to Holland in May for five weeks.

“The classes we took all were great,” says Dutch student Hester Siemons. “One highlight for many of us was participating in the college’s fall theater production.”

It Takes a Global Village...

Meshing cultures through the performing arts is one goal of RIT’s new \$57 million Global Village complex, an expansive residential and dining facility that opened on campus last fall. Global Village includes an outdoor stage, skating rink, volleyball



Panoramic View Nicholas Motto stands on a balcony at the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore Dome (Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower) in Florence, Italy.

courts and outdoor seating, along with housing and dining areas. Eleven deaf students live in the village, whose fully accessible living areas represent themes and regions from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Mexico, Eastern Europe and the United Kingdom.

Studying Abroad

The most popular study abroad option for RIT’s deaf students currently is the Siena School for

Liberal Arts’ three-week summer program in Siena, Italy, to study Italian sign language and culture. Siena recently introduced a semester-long version of the same program.

Last summer, four NTID students went to Siena, including New Media Publishing major Nicholas Motto, 23, of West Milton, Pa., and Carolyn Sorrem, 20, an undecided second-year student from Milwaukee, Wisc. Both agree that the program greatly expanded their world view.

“I learned about Italy, Deaf culture, and how to be more independent,” Sorrem says. “It was a great experience; I would definitely advise students to consider studying abroad.”

All of these examples demonstrate NTID’s commitment to global education, research and partnerships. As noted in NTID’s *Strategic Decisions 2020*, “Because the marketplace is increasingly global, students need an international focus as part of their education...they need access and support to study abroad...and international topics, issues and comparison infused throughout their curriculum.”



Summer School PEN-International’s 2010 Summer Leadership Institute in Sussex, England, brought together more than 50 students, interpreters and teachers from around the world.

Sean Forbes

by Susan L. Murad



A SUE WESSLER

His website states that “Sean Forbes is a musician on a mission. Music is in his blood, his cells; it’s just the way he is.”

The 2008 graduate of RIT’s College of Applied Science and Technology, who has been playing drums since he was 5 years old, was motivated to get involved in the music industry by both his love of music, developed as the child of musicians, and the lack of accessibility to mainstream music for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Forbes is the founder of D-PAN, the Deaf Performing Artists Network, which has created videos produced in American Sign Language that interpret songs such as Christina Aguilera’s *Beautiful*, John Mayer’s *Waiting on the World to Change* and others.

Along with D-PAN, Forbes creates and performs his own music, and is working on a full-length album with music videos. He recently opened for the nationally known rap artist Ludacris.

“I have about 30 songs to choose from, and three music videos are almost

complete,” he says. “I’d like to have an album with 10 songs and 10 music videos.”

During his time at RIT/NTID, Forbes learned many lessons that helped him make inroads into the very competitive music business.

“Everything in life is about connections,” he explains. “Without networking, I wouldn’t be doing what I love. I learned at RIT that those who are successful believed in themselves, showed up and made a difference. I had to pave my own path in order to be successful.”

Forbes advises students who are looking to pursue their dream to believe in themselves.

“If you believe that you have a skill that you can be successful with, go for it,” he says. “I just knew I had it in me to make music, and I had to chase after that dream. The world is run by those who show up. And I’m showing up.”

Visit www.dpan.com to view the videos mentioned. To see Forbes’ latest video, *I’m Deaf*, go to www.deafandloud.com.

Christopher Samp

by Susan L. Murad



PROVIDED PHOTO

Christopher Samp started on one path in his quest to make a difference, but found a new major at RIT and an exciting new career in Washington, D.C.

“I wanted to become a city planner, and went to RIT to pursue my interest in engineering,” the Troy, Mich., native says. “But shortly after being involved with a number of leadership activities, I fell in love with the Public Policy program. It was the right fit for me, and I learned to become a confident leader and a community advocate.”

Samp recently was hired as a staff assistant to Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, putting him on the front line of the legislative process where issues are debated and voted on before becoming law.

“This is my opportunity to learn the ropes and develop my public policy skills to become one of the decision-makers in the future,” he says.

Samp credits RIT’s Public Policy Department for preparing him for a career in government, and RIT for providing the opportunity to meet former President Bill Clinton and other leaders.

He considers another president, Abraham Lincoln, a role model as well.

“Lincoln abolished slavery and preserved the Union, and is a reminder that through persistence and hard work, we can overcome almost any challenge,” he explains.

Samp includes former NTID Interim President James DeCaro among his personal mentors.

“I learned a great deal from working with Dr. DeCaro through the Postsecondary Education Network-International and having him as part of my thesis committee,” he says. “His leadership and integrity continue to serve as an example to me.”

Samp completed a co-op in U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s Washington, D.C., office last year, working on legislative memos, corresponding with constituents and giving tours of the Capitol. He offers this advice to students pursuing their dream career.

“Maintain a healthy and positive relationship with the people you work with; don’t procrastinate; and take one step at a time when the challenges are complex and difficult,” he says.

Christopher Samp (left) and Senator Dick Durbin

Reaching Out to the Next Generation

by Kathy A. Johncox

In February 2005, NTID's strategic plan, *Strategic Vision 2010*, called for an increase in outreach efforts to deaf and hard-of-hearing middle and high school students to provide educational experiences that would help these students see themselves in a college environment after high school. Since these efforts began in 2006, nearly 2,500 deaf and hard-of-hearing middle and high school students from across the United States and several other countries have participated in RIT/NTID outreach programs—giving these students a taste of college life, plus a look at what they might do, or be, in the future.

RIT/NTID's outreach programs include four competitions, two summer camps and a career exploration program that have encouraged creativity and captured the imagination of students and teachers alike.

"Outreach programs make significant contributions in terms of first-time contacts with deaf and hard-of-hearing students," says Mark Sommer, director of NTID Pre-College Outreach. "In fact, NTID's outreach programs may be one of the factors that has contributed to two years of record-breaking enrollment in 2009 and 2010."

Many graduates and current students credit their outreach experience with helping them make the life-changing choice to attend RIT/NTID.



Nathan Burleson

for his project, *Wind Turbine*. He's now an RIT/NTID Applied Computer

Technology major.

"Both my high school science teacher and I got information in the mail about the science fair, and we decided to enter," says Burleson. "My parents were very happy because they wanted me to go to college, and they thought this would give me a chance to see what it looked like. I loved RIT/NTID the minute I got here. I met lots of people from different states and had a lot of fun. They took us to the science lab at NTID on a campus tour, and I fell in love with it."

Samantha Shupe, from Richmond, Va., a Graphic Design major in RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences,



MARK BENJAMIN

Samantha Shupe

had pretty much decided to go to a college in Virginia when, in her junior year of high school, she received information about the NTID Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard-

of-Hearing Students. "The prize for winning was a free trip to RIT/NTID, so I entered, and I was so excited when I won! After visiting campus, my mom and I both were convinced that I would get a spectacular education here for a very good price. My GPA is a 3.6, and I'm on a really good path to get my degree and achieve my goals."

"Many students tell us that they're happy to have had the opportunity to visit campus and learn about programs of study and career options," says Sommer. "We're pleased that our outreach programs are helping students start thinking about college as a possibility early on, and providing a look at future career choices."

Some Outreach Program Successes To Date



The **RIT National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students** routinely attracts both teams and individual participants and their teachers. In 2010, the science fair welcomed 66 students from 18 states.



The **Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition** averages 65 students per year. Winners enjoy receiving monetary awards and seeing their entries exhibited in the Dyer Arts Center on the RIT/NTID campus.



The **RIT Math Competition for Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing** was so popular last year that, for the first time, NTID had to limit the number of schools that could participate. So far, nearly 300 students from more than 20 schools have participated.



Explore Your Future, the most well-established outreach program, with 27 years of experience, boasts many students who not only have attended RIT/NTID, but also have graduated and are successfully employed. Last year, 61 percent of the students who attended this program chose to enroll at RIT.

Linda Bryant

by Kathy A. Johncox



A. SUE WEISLER

“I always knew I wanted to work at NTID,” says Linda Bryant, newly appointed chairperson of the NTID Learning Consortium. “I had never met a deaf person, and the day I volunteered as an assistant cheerleading coach at Rochester School for the Deaf when I was 16 years old, was a turning point in my life. From that point on, I knew I wanted a career related to deafness.”

From a bachelor’s degree in Audiology from Nazareth College of Rochester to a master’s degree in the same field from Gallaudet University, to a faculty position at RIT/NTID, Bryant has looked for, and found, opportunities to follow her passion—being in the classroom.

Her start in audiology led to a position as NTID First Year Experience Coordinator and Career Exploration Studies chairperson, and eventually a half-time faculty assignment in the NTID Liberal Studies Department. All told, Bryant has invested 27 years helping NTID fulfill its mission for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

“It’s a privilege to work with and learn from NTID students,” says Bryant. “Their commitment to learning inspires me every day.”

Even as she assumes a leadership position in the Learning Consortium, Bryant will continue to teach—and learn. Her interest in using innovative and integrated technologies such as remote tutoring via webcam, web conferencing software and chat to work with students is a perfect match, and an integral part of the education doctorate in teaching and curriculum she will complete in May at the University of Rochester.

“Working with students keeps me energized,” says Bryant. “I want to keep using emerging technologies to make a difference with them.”

Bryant was honored to be a past recipient of the Deaf Professional Group’s Award of Excellence given to a hearing member of the NTID community for dedication, persistence and commitment to improving the quality of life for deaf people.

Eyob Zerayesus

by Kathy A. Johncox



A. SUE WEISLER

“This is the perfect job for me,” says Eyob Zerayesus, coordinator for NTID student life programming. “I get to be advisor, mediator, teacher, motivator, mentor and the person who plans programs, both educational and fun. I work with students because I want to make a difference. My reward is to see them graduate. Students are my passion, and working with them makes me feel alive. They refuel me.”

The Columbus, Ohio, native is a 2007 graduate of RIT’s College of Business with a marketing concentration that serves him well in his current position. The Student Life Team’s charge is to design and produce extra-curricular programs to encourage students to participate in college life beyond the classroom.

“Trends are different now than when I was a student,” he says. “To keep up, I mingle, share experiences and stories, and generally make myself available. I read what students read, watch what they watch, and create opportunities for shared experiences so that students talk to me and

see me as someone they can come to for advice.”

His parents emigrated from Eritrea, Africa, in the 1980s and settled in Ohio where he was born. His name, Eyob, translates into Job, the name of a Biblical man with limitless patience.

“I didn’t used to be a patient man,” says Zerayesus, “but this job—and the students—have made me much more patient.”

Outside of work, Zerayesus is enrolled in RIT’s College of Applied Science and Technology’s Multidisciplinary Professional Studies program, focusing on Secondary Education of Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and Human Resource Management. He also is a brother of the Eta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a national African-American fraternity that is helping him expand his skills in the community, giving him support and helping him grow. He’s involved in a deaf health research project at NTID as well. How does he do it all?

“Life’s too short,” Zerayesus says. “You make the time.”

RIT Presidential Medallion Recipient



A. SUE WESSLER

In appreciation of her efforts to benefit Rochester-area students and residents, especially those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter was awarded the Rochester Institute of Technology Presidential Medallion by RIT President Bill Destler at the Robert F. Panara Theatre in Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall in October.

The RIT Presidential Medallion has been part of RIT history for the past 30 years and remains one of RIT's most prestigious awards.

During her acceptance remarks, Slaughter praised what RIT/NTID has been able to

do with the funding she has helped bring to the college.

"Now here the students and faculty not only teach and acquire skills in highly technical fields, rapidly changing with every new innovation, but with every endeavor and success they blaze new trails and expand the boundaries of where the deaf and hard of hearing can go and accomplish," Slaughter said.

Congresswoman Slaughter has helped draft legislation and secured hundreds of millions of dollars for children's issues, women's issues, healthcare, economic development, the arts, research, transportation and Homeland

Security and education.

Through her efforts, RIT has received funding for fuel cell development, and the Congresswoman has assisted RIT students through her constant support for federal student aid programs. She also has been crucial in helping secure annual Congressional funding for NTID and served as an honorary member of NTID's National Advisory Group. This year, she helped launch the Task Force on Healthcare Careers for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community to expand opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students who want to enter healthcare professions.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



A Rousing Tiger Welcome NTID faculty and staff welcomed students during the annual Tiger Walk in September. For the third consecutive year, NTID has welcomed a record number of enrolled students.

A. SUE WEISER