A Celebration of Teaching and Scholarship

Provost's Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

Provost's Innovative Teaching Award

Provost's Excellence in Student Learning Outcomes Award

Provost's Award for Excellence in Academic Advising

Provost's Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., Faculty Pluralism Award

Outstanding Teaching Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

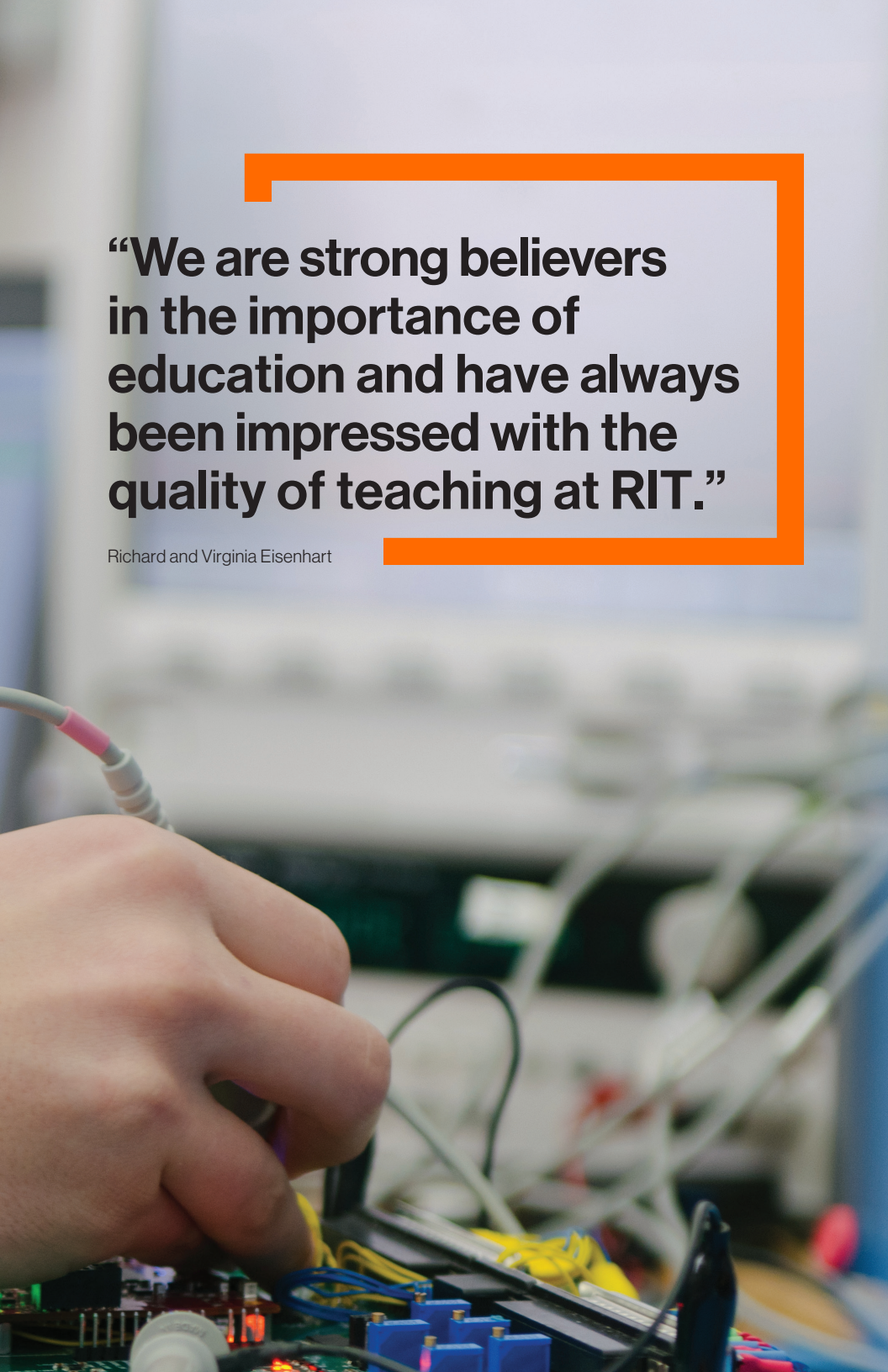Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Distinguished Professor

Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching

Trustees Scholarship Award

Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Rochester Institute of Technology

RIT

"We are strong believers in the importance of education and have always been impressed with the quality of teaching at RIT."

Richard and Virginia Eisenhart

Program

PRESENTATION   Prabu David
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

PROVOST'S OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

Luke Kurlandski
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

PROVOST'S INNOVATIVE TEACHING AWARD

Marissa Tirone
College of Art and Design

Dina Newman
College of Science

PROVOST'S EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AWARD

The Sustainability Ph.D. program
Golisano Institute for Sustainability

PROVOST'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING

New Advisor: Rachael Waldrop Caveney
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Experienced Advisor: Jennifer Kamish
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

PROVOST'S EXCELLENCE IN FACULTY MENTORING AWARD

Larry Alfonso Villasmil Urdaneta
College of Engineering Technology

ISAAC L. JORDAN, SR., FACULTY PLURALISM AWARD

Katrina Overby
College of Liberal Arts

Program *(continued)*

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD FOR NON-TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

Danny Maffia
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

**RICHARD AND VIRGINIA EISENHART PROVOST'S AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

Corinna Hill
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Andreas Savakis
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

EISENHART AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

Nancy Valentage
College of Health Sciences and Technology

Lea Michel
College of Science

TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Sandra Rothenberg
Saunders College of Business

Grover Swartzlander
College of Science

Richard Zanibbi
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

CLOSING REMARKS   David C. Munson Jr.
RIT President

2024-2025
Provost's Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

Luke Kurlandski

Rochester Institute of Technology
Ph.D. Student, Department of Cybersecurity
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

General

- Grew up in Morristown, New Jersey (North Jersey).
- Graduated with a BS in Computer Science from TCNJ in Spring 2022.
- Pursuing Ph.D. in Department of Cybersecurity from Fall 2022.
- Advised by Dr. Yin Pan and Dr. Matthew Wright.

Research

- Defense: Malware classification using deep learning.
- Explanation: Post-hoc explanation of malware classifiers.
- Offense: Adversarial malware generation.

Teaching

- Instructor for Graduate Research Seminar: Advanced Malware Analysis
- Teaching Assistant for Graduate Research Seminar: Human Factors in Security
- Advised one undergraduate Independent Study and two graduate Independent Studies (course option).
- Co-advised three undergraduate Capstones and advised one graduate Capstone (course option).

Awards

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (recipient).
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (recipient).
- RIT AI Seed Fund (recipient).

2024-2025
Provost's Innovative Teaching Award

The Innovative Teaching Award recognizes a full-time RIT faculty member who teaches in effective and innovative ways that improve the student educational experience.

Marissa Tirone, M.Arch

Principal Lecturer
College of Art and Design

- Joined RIT in 2013
- B.Arch from University of Kentucky and M.Arch II from Cornell University
- Teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the School of Design for both the Foundations and Industrial Design Programs. Courses include 3D Design I and II, History of Industrial Design, Research and Proposals, Design Lab, Form of Function, Industrial Design History, Theory, and Culture
- Leads an annual Study Abroad program in Rome, Italy
- Recipient of a Provost's Learning Innovation Grant (PLIG) to develop curriculum for large format design studios in the SHED
- Recipient of a Provost's Learning Innovation Grant (PLIG) to initiate and implement a product design collection for Industrial Design students, which allows direct student engagement with well-known products
- Recipient of a Faculty Education and Development Grant (FEAD) to develop technology modules for first year design studios
- Recipient of several Lecturer Professional Development Grants to present at conferences
- Has served as a Guest Critic for architecture programs such as California Polytechnic State University in Florence, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, University Buffalo, and Cornell University
- Has practiced architecture in firms in Cincinnati and Syracuse
- Has led international design workshops in Spain and Italy with Syracuse University in Florence, Universidad CEU San Pablo Arquitectura, L'Università degli Studi di Firenze, Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft des Saarlandes, and Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nancy
- Creative work has been featured both nationally and internationally in over 25 exhibitions
- Has curated 8 exhibitions and supervised 14
- Has been featured in 8 publications including an instructional textbook, architectural guide, and peer-reviewed journals
- Has worked with a multidisciplinary team to develop resilient buildings in post-disaster areas in the Philippines
- Has taught in study abroad programs in Mexico, Brazil, Eastern Europe, and Italy

2024-2025
Provost's Innovative Teaching Award

The Innovative Teaching Award recognizes a full-time RIT faculty member who teaches in effective and innovative ways that improve the student educational experience.

Dina L. Newman, Ph.D.

Research Director
Center for Advancing Scholarship to Transform Learning
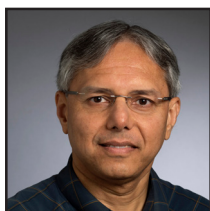Professor, Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences
College of Science

- Joined RIT in 2003
- Founder and Co-chair of the Undergraduate Genetics Education Network, which offers free online workshops for faculty who teach genetics, including topics such as "Discussing Race in the Genetics Classroom" and "Geneticists' Relationships with Eugenics." (2020-present)
- Director of the HHMI-funded Inclusive Excellence (IE) program (2018-2023), which engaged the majority of COS faculty in DEI-related programming, established permanent DEI leadership in COS, and funded over 40 undergraduate research fellows from underrepresented groups.
- The IE program (along with U-RISE) led to a $100,000 prize awarded to COS and NTID from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for Institutional Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Biomedical and Behavioral Research. (2024)
- First COS Faculty Leader for Diversity and Inclusion (2018-2019)
- Recipient of a Provost's Learning Initiation Grant (PLIG) to design and implement more inclusive grading practices in genetics, intro bio and biochemistry courses. (2022-2023)
- Recipient of an AdvanceRIT Connect grant to mentor women and junior faculty on enhancing their professional visibility using website design and social media. (2020-2021)
- Executive committee member of the Women in Science group (2012-present)
- Member of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the American Society of Human Genetics (2019-2020)
- Mentor for 3 post-doctoral researchers on DEI-related projects, with multiple peer reviewed papers published (2019-present)
- Member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee at RIT (2022-present)
- 2024 Recipient of the Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., Faculty Pluralism Award which recognizes faculty members for their significant contributions to enhance diversity, pluralism, and inclusion within and outside of RIT.

2024-2025
Provost's Excellence in Student Learning Outcomes Award

This award recognizes an academic degree program that is committed to best practices in assessment, improving student learning, and continuous program improvement. Nominees must involve stakeholders in assessment, establish effective assessment planning and implementation processes, and demonstrate continuous improvement. In addition to recognition at the Celebration of Teaching and Scholarship awards ceremony, the program receives a cash award for professional development.

Amit Batabyal

Callie Babbitt

Nathan Williams

Eric Williams

The **Ph.D. in Sustainability** is a unique doctoral program, designed to address the sustainability challenges confronting humankind today. This program has also distinguished itself through a rigorous, data-driven approach to assessment and continuous improvement. The Ph.D. in Sustainability program regularly monitors student performance in core courses and program milestones, adapting curriculum and instruction based on student performance and feedback.

By setting high academic standards and leveraging annual assessment exercises, the program provides high-quality training, placing students in the most advantageous position possible when they compete for academic and non-academic jobs in the United States and elsewhere. The Sustainability department leverages assessment findings to ensure that they are moving students toward meaningful educational outcomes that persist long after they have completed their education.

2024-2025
Provost's Award for Excellence in Academic Advising: New Advisor

Developed and implemented by the University Advising Office and the RIT Advisors' Council, this award recognizes exceptional academic advisors and NTID counselor/advisors for their outstanding support of RIT students and their success.

Rachael Waldrop Caveney, M.S.

Academic Advisor
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

- Joined RIT as an academic advisor in 2023
- Advises 300 students in the Cybersecurity BS and BSMS programs as well as students who study abroad at RIT Main Campus from the Global Campus programs. Facilitates one-on-one and group advising sessions to help guide students on an academic path that aligns with each students' academic goals.
- Committee Work:
  - Co-Chair of the Golisano Staff Advisory Council
  - Member: Golisano Cultural Humility Committee
  - Member: First Year Registration Team
- Working Group involvement:
  - Golisano BSMS Working Group
  - Connections are Everything Golisano working group, an extension of UAO Reads
  - Cybersecurity BSMS AAR Working Group
- Academic Degrees:
  - BS in Biology from St. Lawrence University, Class of 2017, Cross Country and Track and Field Student-Athlete
  - MS in Educational Psychology and Learning Systems from Florida State University, Class of 2020
- Rachael is so grateful for her support network, her husband Brennen, her parents Lisa and Paul, her sister, Rebecca and brother-in-law Frank, and of course, her dog, Rosie. She would not be where she is today without their guidance and encouragement. She is honored to work every day with the best students at RIT and is thankful for the energy, passion, laughter and support they bring to the Cybersecurity department.

2024-2025
Provost's Award for Excellence in Academic Advising: Experienced Advisor

Developed and implemented by the University Advising Office and the RIT Advisors Council, this award recognizes exceptional academic advisors and NTID counselor/advisors for their outstanding support of RIT students and their success.

Jen Kamish, Ed.D.

Academic Advisor
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

- Joined RIT in July 2014
- Advises 300 students in the Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering BS and BS/MS programs
- Adjunct instructor for the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2022-Present
- Faculty advisor for Banned Book Society, Model Railroad Society, and Men's Club Lacrosse
- RIT-365 facilitator, 2019-2021
- Co-founder and facilitator for UA Reads (University Advising Book Club), 2018
- Presenter:
    - Legacy of bell hooks at "RIT's Visionary Words: Love, Justice, and Freedom" Event
    - Webinar: Building Student Relationships through Effective Communication
    - Webinar: Creating and Holding Space for LGBTQ Students of Color
    - Beyond the Binary: Gender Equity Training
    - Social-Emotional Intelligence Workshop for Students (Orientation)
    - "But I had a 4.0 in High School…": Empowering High Achieving Students to Re-negotiate their Identities
    - "When Transitioning into College" (NACADA Region 1)
- Outside Interests:
    - Jen is a freelance writer and local artist
    - Recent writing credits include two NACADA book reviews and features for (585) Magazine
    - Jen is currently writing a memoir about her family's experience adopting a teenager from foster care
- Academic Degrees:
    - Doctor of Education: Higher Education Leadership—University of Rochester—2018
    - Master of Science: Higher Education Student Affairs—Canisius University—2014
    - Bachelor of Science: Integrated Marketing Communications—Ithaca College—2011

2024-2025
Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

The Provost's Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award recognizes an RIT faculty member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to faculty mentoring by actively helping less experienced faculty in developing their career(s) at RIT by offering advice, feedback, and guidance that reflects a deep understanding of their department, college, and university.

Larry Alfonso Villasmil Urdaneta, M.Sc. Ph.D. P.E.

Associate Professor
Department of Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology
College of Engineering Technology

- Joined RIT as an Assistant Professor in 2006; promoted to Associate Professor in 2013.
- Served as Interim Faculty Associate for AALANA Faculty (Fall 2024), supporting underrepresented faculty.
- Chair of the University-Wide Tenure Committee (2023–24), overseeing faculty tenure evaluations.
- Active in faculty governance, serving in the RIT Faculty Senate and multiple university-wide committees, contributing to policy development and faculty advocacy.
- Mentored numerous faculty and students, graduate and undergraduate, including research advising for McNair Scholars and graduate theses in fluid mechanics, computational modeling, and Multiphysics simulations.
- Published scientific research in engineering, education, and peer mentorship, contributing to both technical advancements and faculty development.
- Co-authored a book chapter and a textbook on the use of technology in the classroom, fluid power, and the mechanics of fluids.
- Secured research funding from NSF, AFRL, NYSERDA, NFPA, and industry partners.

Texas A & M University (2000–2006)

- Faculty Associate Research Engineer at the Turbomachinery Laboratory (2016, Sabbatical).
- Graduate Research Assistant: Conducted computational fluid dynamics (CFD) research on annular seals.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Led a Dynamics Systems and Controls Laboratory course, refining his passion for teaching and mentorship.

2024-2025
Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

Larry Alfonso Villasmil Urdaneta continued

Industry (PDVSA, Lagoven, Maraven – Venezuela)

- Senior Design Engineer, PDVSA Servicios (1998–2000)
- Senior Rotating Equipment Design Engineer, Lagoven (Exxon) (1995–1998)
- Rotating Equipment Engineer, Lagoven (Exxon) (1988–1995)
- Modeling Engineering Intern, Maraven (Shell) (1988)

- Education
  - Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering – Texas A&M University (2006)
  - M.Sc., Mechanical Engineering – Texas A&M University (2002)
  - Completed Coursework, M.Sc. Thermal Sciences – Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela (1993)
  - B.S., Mechanical Engineering (Cum Laude) – Universidad del Táchira, Venezuela (1988)

- Throughout his career, Larry has combined technical expertise with a strong commitment to education, mentorship, and leadership. From guiding engineers in the oil & gas industry to advising students and faculty in academia, he has consistently focused on fostering learning, professional growth, and technical excellence.
- At RIT, as a graduate of the 3rd cohort of the RIT Future Faculty Career Exploration Program, Larry is fully aware of the impact and difference exceptional leaders and mentors can make in shaping the life of a young professional

2024-2025
Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., Faculty Pluralism Award

The Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., Faculty Pluralism Award recognizes faculty members for their significant contributions to enhance diversity, pluralism, and inclusion within and outside of RIT. As RIT's first chairperson of the Commission for Promoting Pluralism, Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., represented the best of the human spirit. This award assures the continuance of his legacy and honors those who carry out his work.

Katrina M. Overby, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
School of Communication
College of Liberal Arts

- Joined RIT in 2019
- She currently serves as Vice Chair Elect for the African American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association and on the editorial board for Gatherings journal
- She was nominated for the 2024 Woman of Excellence Award by the Faculty Women in the Academy
- Teaches courses on Public Speaking, Communication and Identity, Interpersonal Communication, Mass Communication, Communication Law and Ethics, and Reporting on Social Justice and for the Upward Bound summer program whose goal is to support and challenge high school students in their efforts to apply and gain admission to college
- She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Rochester Association of Black Journalists.
- Served as an invited keynote speaker and panelist for several institutions and organizations including RIT, Cornell University, American University, Le Moyne College, St. John Fishers College, Rust College, IUPUI, the Iota Gamma Boule Foundation and the SREB Institute on Teaching and Mentoring
- Serves as host, moderator, panelist, or guest for community events and organizations including the Black Cinema Series, Our Voices Project, and Black Culture Fest
- Has received over $25K in grants to support peer mentorship for Black faculty at RIT and women's collectives, one of which she served as PI on a grant that brought together over 30 Black women faculty in upstate New York
- She recently appeared in the inaugural issue of Hope+Wellth Magazine featuring her essay "Back to Our Roots: Rediscovering Black Community Care in a Digital World"

Isaac L. Jordan, Sr., Faculty Pluralism Award

Katrina M. Overby, Ph.D. continued

- She co-edited her first special issue with journal Feminist Pedagogy in 2024
- Has published and co-authored 13 publications spanning across peer-reviewed journal articles, invited and public essays, and book chapters on Black social and digital media, digital discourse about and by Black women, and Black women's placemaking and epistemologies
- Has delivered over 20 presentations at local, national, and international conferences
- Favorite quote: "When everyone in the classroom, teacher and students, recognizes that they are responsible for creating a learning community together, learning is at its most meaningful and useful." ~ bell hooks
- - Fun facts: She is a DJ and karaoke host, she recently enjoyed a solo trip to Brazil, loves plants, has been voted "Best Auntie" by 6 nieces and nephews, plays in volleyball and softball leagues, and enjoys live music.
- She is thankful for her participation in RIT's Future Faculty Career Exploration Program (FFCEP) which led to her postdoctoral appointment in the College of Liberal Arts at RIT. She is grateful for the love and support of her grandparents, parents, family, friends, community, and the School of Communication at RIT. She celebrates receiving this award to her grandmother's birthdays (Aprile 9th) Virginia Mae Pope Brinkley and Lillian Eddie Mae Overby who taught her the power of her words and community.

2024-2025
Outstanding Teaching Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

The Outstanding Teaching Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty recognizes excellence in teaching by non-tenure-track teaching faculty at RIT who have made a significant commitment to students at RIT.

Daniel Maffia, MA, NIC

Principal Lecturer
American Sign Language and Interpreting Education
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

- Joined RIT 2009 as an Interpreter, taught adjunct in 20212, and transitioned to a full time lecturer in 2014
- Current Practicum and Community Coordinator
- BS in interpreting program director (2020-2024)
- Teaches courses in the BS in Interpreting Program, MS in Interpreting Program, and RIT's Wellness Program including:
  Practical and Ethical Applications, Practicum & Seminar I & II, Introduction to VRS/VRI Interpreting, Processing Skills, Interpreting I-III English to ASL, Interpreting I-III ASL-English, Theories of Translation and Interpretation Introduction to Group Exercise Instruction, Personal Training, Wellness for Life, P90X, Turbo Kick, & Insanity
- Faculty lead for the Deaf Culture in Italy Study Abroad Program
- Former advisor to the Student Interpreting Association
- Co-Advisor to the BS in Interpreting Honors Program
- Previously worked at RIT's Department of Access Services and Strong Memorial Hospital as an Interpreter
- Currently working as a Community and Video Interpreter
- Co-Author of the book "An Introduction to VRS Interpreting Curriculum"
- Research interests in Ethics & Reflective Practice for Interpreters, Biomechanics, and Video Relay Service.
- BS (American Sign Language and Interpretation) Rochester Institute of Technology; MA (Interpreting Studies with an emphasis in teaching), Western Oregon University
- Certified Interpreter through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf since 2010

Outstanding Teaching Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

Daniel Maffia, MA, NIC continued

- Certified personal trainer and group exercise instructor from the National Academy of Sports Medicine since 2010
- Former certification committee chair for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Current Vice President for the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education
- Faculty lead for admission screening for the BS in Interpreting Program
- Department Faculty lead for the RIT Wellness Program
- Department Faculty lead and committee member for the Learning Assistant Program
- NTID Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) ASL rating: Advanced
- Recipient of the Lecturers' Professional Development Grants in 2022
- Co-Recipient of the RIT Provost's Excellence in Student Learning Outcomes Award in 2023
- He is ever grateful for the unwavering support of his husband Justin DeMartin, twins Parker & Emma, mentor Dr. Robyn Dean, and the students and colleagues from NTID.

The Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Virginia and Richard Eisenhart

Rochester Institute of Technology was selected many years ago to participate in the Sears-Roebuck Foundation's Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award Program. Because the program, which was discontinued by Sears-Roebuck, was so successful and enthusiastically received at RIT, it was decided that the Provost's Office would continue to fund the award each year, renaming it the Provost's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Richard and Virginia Eisenhart continued the legacy of the Eisenhart family's support of teaching and learning at RIT by endowing the Provost's Excellence in Teaching Award. In appreciation, this award was renamed the Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The late Mr. Eisenhart was chairman emeritus of the Board of Trustees and member for 26 years. He and the late Mrs. Eisenhart were generous supporters of the Eisenhart Memorial Scholarship, the Nathaniel Rochester Society, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT, and the Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Interfaith Center.

The Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching supports undergraduate education at RIT by recognizing the fundamental importance of the quality of teaching to the value of the education process; supporting faculty who have taught three years or less in their pursuit of excellence in teaching and leadership in the campus community; assisting the university in nurturing the academic climate that fosters teaching at its best; and enhancing teaching as a profession.

2024-2025
Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Corinna S. Hill, Ph.D.

Department of Liberal Studies
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

- Joined RIT in 2019
- BA in History from Gallaudet University, 2014
- MA/Ph.D. in History from the University of Rochester, 2017 and 2023
- Teaches courses in Deaf History and Deaf Culture
- Researches the history of deafness and disability in the US
- Particularly interested in the interplay of language access, technology, and social relationships during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries
- Currently working on an oral history project documenting Rochester's Recreation Club for the Deaf
- Mentored and advised several RIT senior capstone projects
- Recipient of the NTID Teaching/Tutoring Award for Pre-Tenure Faculty (2024)

Prior Recipients of the Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

1989–90	David Neumann	**2006–07**	Alex Bitterman
1990–91	Andreas Langner	**2007–08**	Anthony Harkin
1991–92	Reed Gershwind	**2008–09**	Eric Nystrom
1992–93	Nancy Wanek	**2009–10**	Robert Garrick
1993–94	Keith Jenkins	**2010–11**	Sandra J. Connelly
1994–95	Marca Bear	**2011–12**	Jason Kolodziej
1995–96	Scott Williams	**2012–13**	Kelly Norris Martin
1996–97	Debra Fromm Faria	**2013–14**	Sean Hansen
1997–98	Martin Gordon	**2014–15**	David Halbstein
1998–99	Carol Marchetti	**2015–16**	Reginald Rogers
1999–00	Victor Perotti	**2016–17**	Benjamin Banta
2000–01	Larry Buckley	**2017–18**	Nathaniel S. Barlow
2001–02	Joseph Fornieri	**2018–19**	Michael Brown
2002–03	Richard Cliver	**2019–20**	Joshua Thorson
2003–04	Sean Sutton	**2020–21**	Emmett Ientilucci
2004–05	Peter Hauser Todd Pagano	**2021–22**	Jessica Hardin
		2022-23	Jennifer O'Neil
2005–06	Neil Hair	**2023-24**	Duygu Akdevelioglu

2024-2025
Distinguished Professor

The designation is given to RIT faculty who have exhibited a record of singular excellence sustained over the course of their careers.

Andreas Savakis, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Computer Engineering
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

- Joined RIT faculty in 2000
- B.S., Electrical Engineering, Summa Cum Laude, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, 1984.
- M.S., Electrical Engineering, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, 1986.
- Ph.D., Electrical Engineering with Mathematics Minor, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1991.
- Research Associate, University of Rochester, 1991-1993.
- Research Faculty, University of Rochester Medical Center, 1993-1996.
- Research Scientist, Eastman Kodak Co, 1996-1998.
- Sr. Research Scientist, Eastman Kodak Research Labs, 1998-2000.
- Co-inventor on 12 US patents.
- Co-authored over 180 publications in journals, conferences, workshops and book chapters.
- Primary research advisor for 71 graduate students (60 MS and 11 Ph.D.)
- Awards and recognitions include:
    - Fellow of SPIE, The International Society for Optics and Photonics, awarded in 2024.
    - Included in Stanford University's 2021 World's Top 2% Scientists list published by Elsevier, 2022.
    - American Council on Education Fellow, 2011.
    - RIT Trustee Scholarship Award, 2015.
    - RIT Millionaire's Club, 2018.
    - Six Best Paper Awards in conferences and workshops
    - Certificate of Recognition for Teaching Excellence, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, multiple years.

Andreas Savakis Ph.D. continued

- Certificate of Recognition for Research Productivity, Kate Gleason College of Engineering multiple years.
- Honorary Professor, Amity University, India, 2018.
- General Co-chair, Electronic Imaging Symposium, 2023 and 2024
- IEEE Region 1 Award for Outstanding Teaching, for contributions to Education in Computer Engineering and Multimedia, 2011.
- NYSTAR Technology Transfer Award for Economic Impact, Center for Electronic Imaging Systems, Rochester, New York, 2006.
- IEEE Rochester Section Activity Award for Outstanding Service, 1996-97.
- IEEE Third Millennium Medal, 2000.
- NASA Certificates of Recognition, for Inventive Contribution, Technical Innovation, and Scientific Contribution, 1990.
- RIT administrative positions include:
  - Director, RIT Center for Human-aware Artificial Intelligence (CHAI), 2019-2025
  - Department Head of Computer Engineering, 2000-2011.

The Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching

Elsa and M. Herbert Eisenhart

Teaching excellence has been formally recognized at RIT since 1965, when the Awards for Outstanding Teaching and their accompanying ceremony were established. The scope of the awards program was broadened in 1967 to include Distinguished Young Teachers. The program was further expanded in 1975 to better recognize the diversity of RIT's education by providing a maximum of four awards to faculty members from various educational disciplines.

Although the program has changed, the reasons behind the awards have not: to encourage the professional growth and development of RIT faculty and to specifically recognize those members of the academic body who contribute most to enhance student learning.

The late M. Herbert Eisenhart, former president and board chairman of Bausch & Lomb, Inc., was a member of RIT's Board of Trustees for more than 50 years. His contributions to RIT during that span were countless, and he was the recipient of the RIT Founders Award in 1971.

His commitment to RIT was further evidenced by his generous bequest that created the M. Herbert and Elsa Bausch Eisenhart Endowment Fund, which provides permanence to the Eisenhart Awards for Outstanding Teaching as well as a major scholarship fund.

2024-2025
Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching

Nancy Valentage, MS, PA-C

Professor/Associate Program Director
College of Health Sciences and Technology

- Joined RIT 1994 as one of the two founding PA Program Faculty/Staff for the program
- Over 35 years of experience as a Physician Assistant with clinical expertise as a hospitalist/critical care clinician
- Teach classes in History and Physical Diagnosis I (PHYA-401), History and Physical Diagnosis II (PHYA-402), Hospital Practice (PHYA-510), Procedural Clinical Skills (PHYA-550), Healthcare Policy & Law (PHYA- 560), Graduate Project I (PHYA- 710) and Graduate Project II (PHYA- 720)
- Developed much of PA Program curriculum in the professional phase of the program
- Served as primary graduate research advisor for 41 master and 154 undergraduate students
- Co-designed Medical Simulation Center, CHST and training curriculum
- Designed the state-of-the art Physician Assistant Training Lab
- Research focus is in the area of patient-provider communication and procedural clinical skills training
- As a PI and Co-PI, have generated over a half million dollars in internal and external funding
- Served and provided leadership positions on countless high-level university, college, program and community committees
- Served as faculty advisor (past 30 years) to the Physician Assistant Student Association and chaperoned students yearly to the National Physician Assistant Conference for poster presentations.
- Provided numerous presentations locally and at national conferences
- Serve as academic/professional advisor to 36 students/year
- BS 1985 Physician Assistant, Gannon University
- MS 1998 Health Administration, RIT
- Critical Care Fellowship, 2007 Unity Health Care System

2024-2025
Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching

Lea Vacca Michel, Ph.D.

Professor
School of Chemistry and Materials Science
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
College of Science

- Joined RIT in 2009
- Currently serving as the first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the College of Science
- Selected as a Finalist for the 2024 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM)
- Received RIT Division of Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Beacon Award (2024)
- Co-I for HHMI-funded Inclusive Excellence (IE) program (2018-2023), which led to NIH Institutional Excellence in DEIA in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Prize, shared with the RISE Program (2024)
- Received 2023 ChemCUR (Council on Undergraduate Research) Outstanding Mentorship Award
- Chair of ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Maximizing Access Committee (2023-present)
- Received 2022 ASBMB Early Career Leadership Award
- Received 2017 Edwina Award, RIT, Center for Women and Gender
- Mentor of >120 RIT students since 2009 (45 student coauthors on peer-reviewed publications, 117 student national/regional presentations)
- Women in Science Executive Committee member (2010-present); Chair (2012-2019)
- Faculty Mentor to COS ALANA and Women of Excellence Supporting STEM
- Director of Experiments, SMASH Experience (COS) (2014-2016, 2018, 2019, 2023-2024)
- Proud mother of two amazing daughters, Laralyn and Charleigh, and wife to Scott
- Fun fact: Lea has a twin sister who is a Federal Judge

Prior Recipients of the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching

1964–65	Clarence Tuites		1978–79	Julie J. Cammeron
				Robert L. Snyder
1965–66	Hollis Todd			John S. Zdanowicz
1966–67	Frank Clement		1979–80	B. Edward Cain
				David A. Glocker
	* Robert Gilman			John T. Sanders
				Richard D. Zakia
1967–68	David M. Baldwin			
	* John Carson		1980–81	Russell M. Gardner
				E. James Meddaugh
1968–69	Homer Imes			Joseph L. Noga
	* Thomas Upson			Beverly J. Price
1969–70	Alexander Lawson		1981–82	Patricia Ann
	* Stanley McKenzie			Andre Clark
				Martin A. Rennalls
1970–71	William Gasser			Jack Slutzky
	* Lawrence Mothersell			Houghton D. Wetherald
1971–72	Albert Rickmers		1982–83	Marcia Birken
	* Morton Isaacs			Hans J. Christensen
	* Houghton D. Wetherald			Sarah Huff Collins
				Harry G. Lang
1972–73	Raymond Biehler			
			1983–84	Earl W. Fuller
1973–74	Pellegrino Nazzaro			Ray C. Johnson
	* Richard Reeve			Donna Gustina Pocobello
1974–75	Hobart E. Cowles		1984–85	Ronald Francis
	Bhalchandra V. Karlekar			Ronald E. Jodoin
	Robert F. Panara			Roxanna B. (Shan) Nielsen
	Julian Salisnjak			Thomas F. Pray
1975–76	Loy Golladay		1985–86	Peter Haggerty
	Earl Krakower			Nile Root
	Anthony R. Sears			Carol B. Whitlock
				Fred L. Wilson
1976–77	Austin J. Bonis			
	Ruth Gutfrucht Dickinson		1986–87	Charles A. Arnold Jr.
	Boris Mikolji			Margaret B. D'Ambruso
	Paul H. Wojciechowski			Maria Shustorovich
				Michael Joseph Vernarelli
1977–78	Herbert J. Mossien			
	R. Roger Remington		1987–88	Andrew Davidhazy
	Edward L. Scouten			Frederic Gardner
	Jasper E. Shealy			Vern Lindberg

*Award for Distinguished Young Teacher

1988–89	Paul Peterson Edward Salem Luvon Sheppard Philip Tyler
1989–90	Joseph Brown Richard Doolittle Robert Keiffer William Nowlin
1990–91	Terry L. Dennis Barbara J. Hodik Raman Unnikrishnan
1991–92	James Campbell Sally Fischbeck Paula Grcevic Francis Kearns
1992–93	Patti Ambrogi Warren Carithers Swaminathan Madhu Lorna Mittelman
1993–94	Timothy Engström Kyle Mattson Douglas Merrill Marilyn Mitchell
1994–95	Joan Carr Margaret Reek Bruce Sodervick Thomas Upson
1995–96	Jean Douthwright Lynette Finton Mary Sullivan
1996–97	Donald Beil Eugene Fram Dane Gordon Satish Kandlikar
1997–98	Mary Louise Basile Robert H. Rothman Leonard Urso
1998–99	Roberley Bell Sophia Maggelakis James Mallory Kenneth Reek
1999–00	Sidney Barefoot James Campbell Surendra (Vinnie) Gupta Michael Yacci
2000–01	John T. Sanders Hany Ghoneim George Georgantas Sidney L. McQuay
2001–02	David Neumann Jayanti Venkataraman Hamad Ghazle
2002–03	Michael Peres Josef Török David Suits G. Thomas Frederick
2003–04	Patricia Durr Andreas Langner Victor Perotti
2004–05	Abieyuwa Aghayere Robert Barbato Douglas Manchee
2005–06	Lynn Fuller Paula Grcevic Edith Hemaspaandra LaVerne McQuiller Williams
2006–07	Roberley Bell Chun-Keung (Stan) Hoi Keith Whittington
2007–08	Jeffrey D. Kozak Timothy Engström Scott A. Williams
2008–09	Andrew M. Herbert James E. Moon Hossein Shahmohamad
2009–10	Keith B. Jenkins James R. Vallino
2010–11	Joseph R. Fornieri Cara Calvelli
2011–12	Daniel S. Bogaard Bernard Brooks Neil Hair

2012–13	Ivona Bezáková
	Linda Fleischman Gottermeier
	Christina Goudreau
2013–14	Kirsten Condry
	Carl Lutzer
2014–15	Robert D. Garrick
	Thomas Gasek
	Christopher Kurz
	Katie Terezakis
2015–16	Zack Butler
	Raj Murthy
	L. Kate Wright
2016–17	Richard Cliver
	Lynn Fuller
	Clifford Wun
2017–18	Steven M. Ciccarelli
	Alex Lobos
2018–19	Hao Zhang
	George H. Zion
2019–20	Jeanne Christman
	James Perkins
	Michael Richmond
2020–21	Amanda Bao
	Nathaniel Barlow
	Ammina Kothari
2021–22	Jan van Aardt
	md Abdullah al Faruque
2022-23	Mari Jaye Blanchard
	Clyde Eiríkur Hull
	Jason D. Listman
	Sharon Mason
2023-24	Hye-Jin Nae
	Dorin Patru
	Carl Salvaggio

Trustees Scholarship Award

The Education Core Committee of the Board of Trustees established the Trustees Scholarship Award in 2005 to recognize RIT faculty members who have demonstrated excellent records of academic scholarship at RIT over at least a three-year period. Up to two faculty members are selected annually to receive this award. Faculty scholarship that qualifies for the Trustees Scholarship Award must be scholarship that "is integral to, and not separated from, all aspects of a student's educational experience at RIT" and that fits within one or more of the following classifications: teaching/pedagogy, application, integration, or discovery.

Trustees Scholarship Award

2005–06	Satish G. Kandlikar Harry G. Lang Ryne Raffaelle	**2014–15**	Andreas Savakis Jan van Aardt
2006–07	Michaël Amy Amitrajeet A. Batabyal Bruce W. Smith	**2015–16**	Denis Cormier James Perkins
2007–08	David J. Axon Richard A. Hirsch Santosh Kurinec	**2016–17**	John Ettlie Carlos Lousto Risa Robinson
2008–09	John R. Schott Michael S. Stinson	**2017–18**	Matt Huenerfauth
		2018–19	Elizabeth Cherry Stefan Preble
2009–10	Joseph P. Hornak Marc Marschark James J. Winebrake	**2019–20**	Mark Fairchild Linwei Wang
2010–11	Roy S. Berns	**2020–21**	Gregory Halpern Blanca Lapizco-Encinas
2011–12	Joel Kastner Eli Saber	**2021–22**	Eric Williams Qi Yu
2012–13	Seth M. Hubbard Brian J. Landi	**2022-23**	Callie W. Babbitt Jeyhan Kartaltepe
2013–14	Manuela Campanelli Jennifer Schneider	**2023-24**	Matthew Wright Thomas Gaborski

2024-2025
Trustees Scholarship Award

Sandra Rothenberg, Ph.D.

Benjamin Forman Professor of Collaborative Research
Department of Management
Saunders College of Business

- Joined RIT in 1999 in the College of Business and was Chair of Public Policy for 10 years in the College of Liberal Arts.
- Director of The Institute for Business, Government and Society, which supports faculty and student research by funding travel, research stipends, seminars, publication fees and new research databases.
- Published 44 research articles, 6 conference proceedings, 3 teaching cases, 3 book chapters, and 52 conference presentations (along with amazing student and faculty co-authors).
- Published 12 papers with students, with three more currently under review.
- Has over 7,700 citations in Google Scholar.
- Listed in Stanford University's 2021 list of the world's top 2% cited scientists.
- Co-PI on approximately $1,300,000 in funded grants and collaborated on additional grants totaling over $6,000,000.
- Conducted funded research for two Sloan Industry Partnerships, The International Motor Vehicle Program and the RIT Printing Industry Center.
- Awarded the Academy of Management ONE Interest Group Service Award, MCB University Press Award for Excellence, Outstanding Paper and Highly Commended Winner at the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence.
- Primary advisor on 12 student MS theses and was on advisory committee for a number of other MS and PhD students.
- Integrated her research interests into teaching through new course development ("Managing for Environmental Sustainability"), advising Women in Business and NETImpact, and leading three "Spring Break in DC" trips for students to learn about Science and Technology Policy.

2024-2025
Trustees Scholarship Award

Grover A. Swartzlander, Jr., Ph.D.

Professor
Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science
College of Science

- Joined RIT in 2008.
- He is a combined experimentalist/theorist whose work is largely inspired by patterns in nature.
- Has been awarded over $3.25M while at RIT.
- His body of research as attracted over 8500 citations from international scientists.
- His current research is funded by NASA (diffractive solar sails), ONR (counter directed energy methods), and DARPA (liquid crystal beam directors).
- At least 41 of his peer reviewed publication have been cited over 41 times (H-index).
- He is listed by Stanford University among the top 2% of worldwide scientists.
- He is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (now Optica), a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Fellow, and a Cottrell Scholar of the Research Corporation.
- Earlier in his career he was a National Science Foundation Young Investigator, and an Office of Naval Research Postdoctoral Fellow.
- Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the Optical Society of America, B, 2012-2018.
- Associate Editor, Optics Letters, 2002-2008.
- His highest cited work includes the invention of the optical vortex coronagraph for observing exoplanets, optical tweezers, optical solitons, and solar sailing.
- He has been awarded two patents while at RIT: Optical Vortex Coronagraph Scatterometer, 2016; Optical lift apparatuses, 2014.
- He has mentored the research of over 25 undergraduate students and 20 graduate students.

2024-2025
Trustees Scholarship Award

Richard Zanibbi, Ph.D.

Professor and Director of the Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (dprl@RIT)
Department of Computer Science
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

- Joined the Department of Computer Science at RIT in 2006, with a cross-appointment to Imaging Science from 2009—2023.

- The Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (the dprl@RIT) has trained 65 students, including 11 PhD students, 19 Masters' thesis students, and 21 Masters' project students, as well as undergraduate NSF REU and RIT LSAMP students. Lab visitors include faculty and students from France, Switzerland, Spain, and Japan.

- Developed multiple courses, contributed to PhD curricular requirements, and introduced an undergraduate thesis option for the CS department. With CS colleagues, he developed a 1st year problem-based introduction to computer science.

- His primary research interests are Information Retrieval and Document Recognition, focusing on documents that include mathematical notation and chemical diagrams.

- He has organized international competitions on math recognition and retrieval that have produced new standard data sets and evaluation procedures.

- Recently published a book on Mathematical Information Retrieval with former PhD student Dr. Behrooz Mansouri, and RIT math professor Dr. Anurag Agarwal.

- Founding member of the MMLI NSF AI Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, seeking to find new chemicals for applications such as improved solar cells.

- He has over 100 publications, including some with best paper awards. He holds 3 US patents from time at the Xerox Webster Research Center (XWRC) with John Handley.

- Held $2.75M in research funding from the NSF, Sloan Foundation, Xerox, Google, the Center for Emerging and Innovative Sciences (CEIS), and the French government.

- Dr. Zanibbi serves on the editorial boards of international journals, and assists with multiple international conferences including ACM SIGIR, the Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval, whose first conference was held in Rochester in 1978.