

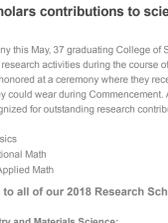
## May 2018



Congratulations to all of our students for making it through a busy spring semester, but especially to our graduates! May was a glorious month to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students. We enjoyed meeting and hearing about future plans during the festivities surrounding the Convocation and Commencement ceremonies. We wish all of our graduates success in their future endeavors and look forward to hearing about the paths that their careers follow in the years ahead.

As you will see in the articles below, our amazing College of Science students and faculty and staff have many achievements to celebrate both within and outside of the university. Enjoy the beautiful weather now that summer break is here!

SOPHIA MAGGELAKIS  
Dean, RIT College of Science



### Research Scholars contributions to science recognized

In a special ceremony this May, 37 graduating College of Science students were recognized for their research activities during the course of their studies at RIT. The students were honored at a ceremony where they received a certificate and a medalion that they could wear during Commencement. Additionally, three students were recognized for outstanding research contributions in their fields:

- Monica Rizzo, Physics
- Art Kalb, Computational Math
- Renee Meinhold, Applied Math

#### Congratulations to all of our 2018 Research Scholars!

**School of Chemistry and Materials Science:**  
Rebecca Bogart, Benjamin Catalano, Karla Farquharson, Daniel Honeycutt, Karilyn Houghtling, Tobias Hull, Scott Humski, Thomas Hynes, Robert Ishiyama, Ryan LeTourneau, Samuel Lucisano, Shin Lutondo, Shivani Phadke, Sarah Stanton, Marc Toro, Tyler Zimmermann

**School of Mathematical Sciences**  
Poppy Immel, Arthur Kalb, Kimberlee Keithley, Brody Kutt, Renee Meinhold, Hector Mirandas, Christopher Stanton

**School of Physics and Astronomy**  
Daniel Gysbers, Bryanne McDonough, Monica Rizzo, Wyatt Wetzel

**Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences**  
Ashley Adair, Melissa Barton, Jordan Cardenas, Callie Donahue, Abigail Frawley, Benjamin Hamilton, Michael McGowan, Nur Hidayah Mohd Rasid, Grace Morales, Elizabeth Pattie

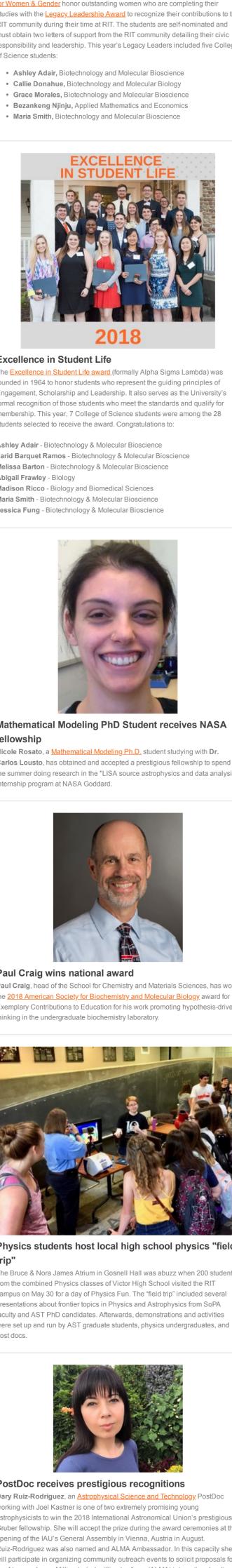


### 2018-2019 Norman A. Miles Award

The Norman A. Miles Endowment Fund for Excellence in Academic Study and Teaching was established in 1999. It is unique in that it not only acknowledges student academic excellence, it also recognizes and rewards the role a faculty member plays in that success. This Award is given annually to a student who began their studies as a freshman at RIT and is entering their last year of undergraduate study with the highest grade point average across the university. This year, GSOLS student, **Amanda Weiss** was selected to receive the Award for Excellence in Academic Study. Amanda then named her mentor, Dr. **Maureen Ferran**, to receive the award for Excellence in Teaching as the faculty member who contributed the most to her success at RIT.

## 2018 Legacy Leaders

Join us in congratulating these outstanding graduating women on being selected as Legacy Leaders! Their leadership and contributions will have a lasting impact on the RIT community.



### 2018 Legacy Leaders

Each year, the RIT [Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement](#) and the [Center for Women & Gender](#) honor outstanding women who are completing their studies with the [Legacy Leadership Award](#) to recognize their contributions to the RIT community during their time at RIT. The students are self-nominated and must obtain two letters of support from the RIT community detailing their civic responsibility and leadership. This year's Legacy Leaders included five College of Science students:

- Ashley Adair, Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience
- Callie Donahue, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology
- Grace Morales, Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience
- Bezanekeng Njinju, Applied Mathematics and Economics
- Maria Smith, Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience

## EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LIFE



### Excellence in Student Life

The [Excellence in Student Life award](#) (formerly Alpha Sigma Lambda) was founded in 1964 to honor students who represent the guiding principles of Engagement, Scholarship and Leadership. It also serves as the university's formal recognition of those students who meet the standards and qualify for membership. This year, 7 College of Science students were among the 28 students selected to receive the award. Congratulations to:

- Ashley Adair - Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Farid Barquet Ramos - Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Melissa Barton - Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Abigail Frawley - Biology
- Madison Ricco - Biology and Biomedical Sciences
- Maria Smith - Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Jessica Fung - Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience



### Mathematical Modeling PhD Student receives NASA fellowship

Nicole Rosato, a [Mathematical Modeling Ph.D.](#) student studying with Dr. Carlos Lousto, has obtained and accepted a prestigious fellowship to spend the summer doing research in the "LISA source astrophysics and data analysis" internship program at NASA Goddard.



### Paul Craig wins national award

Paul Craig, head of the School for Chemistry and Materials Sciences, has won the [2018 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#) award for Exemplary Contributions to Education for his work promoting hypothesis-driven thinking in the undergraduate biochemistry laboratory.



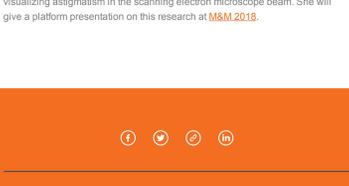
### Physics students host local high school physics "field trip"

The Bruce & Nora James Atrium in Gosnell Hall was abuzz when 200 students from the combined Physics classes of Victor High School visited the RIT campus on May 30 for a day of Physics Fun. The "field trip" included several presentations about frontier topics in Physics and Astrophysics from SoPA faculty and AST PhD candidates. Afterwards, demonstrations and activities were set up and run by AST graduate students, physics undergraduates, and post docs.



### PostDoc receives prestigious recognitions

Dary Ruiz-Rodriguez, an [Astrophysical Science and Technology](#) PostDoc working with Joel Kastner is one of two extremely promising young astrophysicists to win the 2018 International Astronomical Union's prestigious Gruber fellowship. She will accept the prize during the award ceremonies at the opening of the IAU's General Assembly in Vienna, Austria in August. Ruiz-Rodriguez was also named and ALMA Ambassador. In this capacity she will participate in organizing community outreach events to solicit proposals for the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA) international radio telescope in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.



### RIT students explore green infrastructure projects

[Environmental Science](#) professor Christy Tyler and Environmental Studies visiting assistant professor Kaitlyn Stack-Whitney are leading teams of students in collaboration with the Rochester Museum and Science Center to explore green infrastructure through research and capstone projects.



### RIT honors proponents of diversity and inclusion

Rochester Institute of Technology's Division of Diversity and Inclusion (DDI) recognized some of the university's greatest proponents of diversity and inclusion with annual awards presented at the DDI Celebration of Excellence on April 25. Ibrahim Cisse, a third-year Bronx native majoring in environmental science (third from right) was one of three recipients of the Student Beacon Award which is presented annually to students who utilize their leadership skills by fostering diversity and inclusion within the RIT community and demonstrate a balance of academic and co-curricular excellence. The Alumni Beacon Award was presented to Rick Kittles ('89, biology) who "shines as a model for others to follow" in his research on prostate cancer and complex issues surrounding race, genetic ancestry and health disparities among African Americans and other ethnicities.

## University News



### New Masters Degree in Physics program approved

The NY State Department of Education gave approval to a new Masters Degree program in Physics at the end of May. The new program is designed to provide flexible options that can be tailored to the specific career goals and disciplinary interests of students seeking graduate training in fundamental and/or applied areas of physics. It will include both a research thesis option and a professional MS option. Additionally, students in the RIT Physics BS Program will be able to opt for a BS-Physics/MS-Physics degree-path with the new program.



### Biology Alumnus appointed to RIT Board of Trustees

Rochester Institute of Technology appointed 5 new members to its [Board of Trustees](#) at the April 26 meeting of the board. The new members include biology alumnus Rick Kittles ('89), professor and founding director of Health Equities within the Department of Population Sciences at City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, California. This past spring, it was announced that Dr. Kittles has established a summer undergraduate/graduate research fund to support College of Science students who wish to conduct summer research with an RIT professor, with preference given to African-American students.



### Carl Lutzer appointed interim director of RIT Honors Program

School of Mathematical Sciences professor, **Carl Lutzer** has been appointed interim director of [RIT's Honors Program](#), effective for the 2018-2019 academic year. This appointment comes as a result of an internal search comprised of eight very qualified internal candidates. Dr. Lutzer joined the faculty at RIT in 2000 and currently serves as the coordinator of undergraduate programs within the [School of Mathematical Sciences](#) where he has helped design honors courses including "The Mathematics of Politics and Power." He is well known for his student-centeredness and commitment to student success.

[Read More >](#)

## Sponsored Research

**Christopher Kanan**, CIS, is the PI on a \$33,000 grant from the Department of Defense, Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGIA)/Intelligent Automation, Inc. to support the project titled "GFNet: Gnostic Defense based Low-Shop Learning for Target Detection in Remote Sensing."

**John Whelan**, SMS, is the PI on a \$240,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support the project titled "Extending the Reach of Continuous Gravitational Wave Searches."

**Scott Williams**, SCMS, is the PI on a \$12,833 grant from BASF to support the project titled "Testing Ink Jet Printing Characteristics of Selected BASF Additives."

## Newsmakers

### Connections: How can we prepare for an asteroid strike?

WXXI.org  
May 3 - **Brian Koberlein**, senior lecturer of physics, and Roger Dube, research professor and director, science exploration program, interviewed

### It's Time for the Talk

Inside Higher Ed  
May 7 - Guest essay co-written by **Casey Miller**, associate dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, College of Science

**Michael McGowan**, a fourth-year environmental science BS/MS major, was awarded a research grant from the [New York State Wetlands Forum](#) for his project "The effects of management, land use, and hydrology on denitrification and nitrogen fixation rates in created wetlands." He is one of two students from New York state awarded this competitive grant in 2018.

**Mandy Nevins**, an imaging science Ph.D. student, was awarded a Microscopy & Microanalysis 2018 Student in Scholarship award for her conference paper on visualizing astigmatism in the scanning electron microscope beam. She will give a platform presentation on this research at [M&M 2018](#).