

January 2020

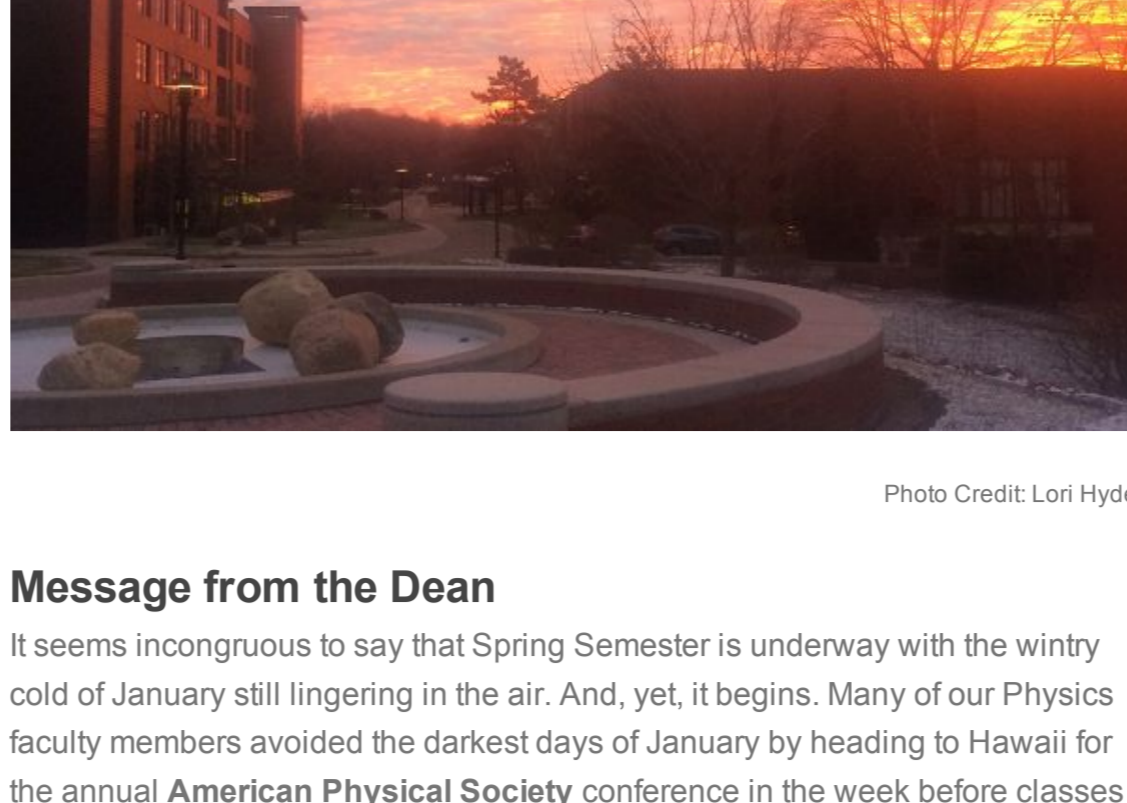


Photo Credit: Lori Hays

Message from the Dean

It seems incongruous to say that Spring Semester is underway with the wintry cold of January still lingering in the air, and yet, that's true. Many of our Physics faculty members avoided the darkest days of January by heading to Hawaii for the annual American Physical Society conference in the week before classes resumed. And one of the faculty from the Mathematical Modeling program visited the RIT campus in Dubai to establish ties between the campuses that can be used to enhance the research opportunities of students in our newest PhD program.

COS faculty continue to conduct exciting research and find new ways to reach students. Imaging Science professor Zoran Ninkov will soon take a turn as program manager for the National Science Foundation where he will help the government agency evaluate future research opportunities.

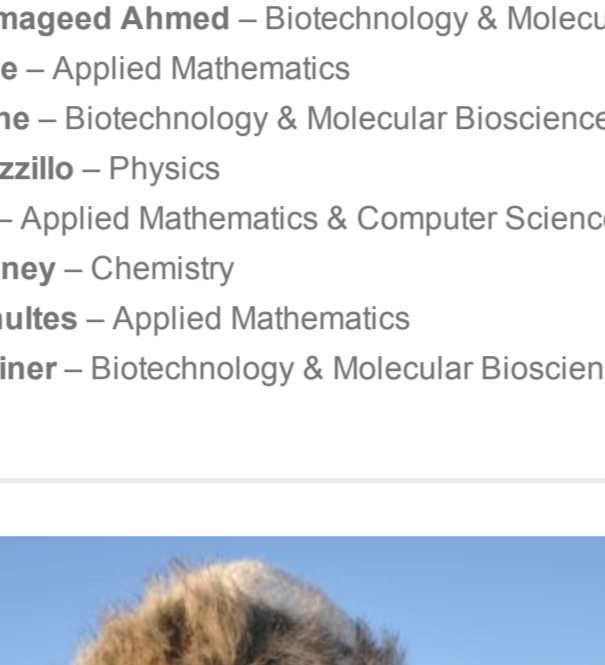
We're especially excited to share with you information on the workshop series for faculty on how to run online courses successfully. The provost hopes that online course offerings will significantly increase the number of students taught by our outstanding professors without having to limit class sizes to the availability of on-campus classrooms.

The 2020 Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars were named and will be attending an award ceremony later this semester. I am always so impressed when I read about the accomplishments of these talented students. Take note of their names because we're sure to hear more about their achievements later in their careers.

With all of the amazing things happening in the college, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you to connect with us via social media. The @RIT Science Instagram accounts our story through photos taken from around the campus. Our posts on Facebook and Twitter are full of stories, events and highlights of the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

SOPHA MAGGELAKIS
Dean, RIT College of Science

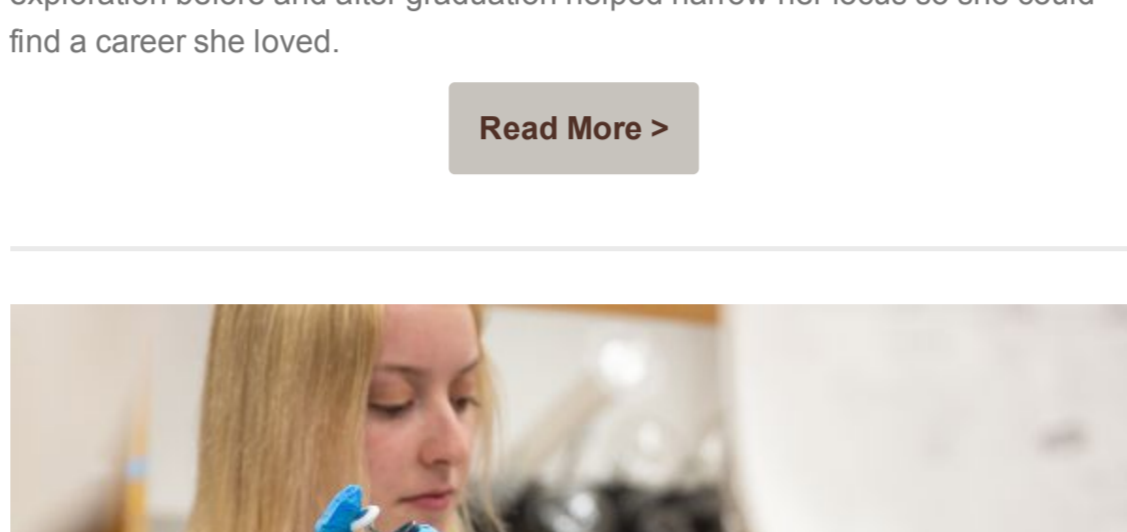
Student & Alumni News



COS Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars Selected

Eight College of Science undergraduate students will receive recognition for outstanding achievements during their undergraduate careers at RIT at the annual Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars ceremony on March 19. These students not only maintained an impressive GPA throughout their academic careers, but also contributed significantly to the RIT community through their research and activities. Congratulations to all of these outstanding scholars!

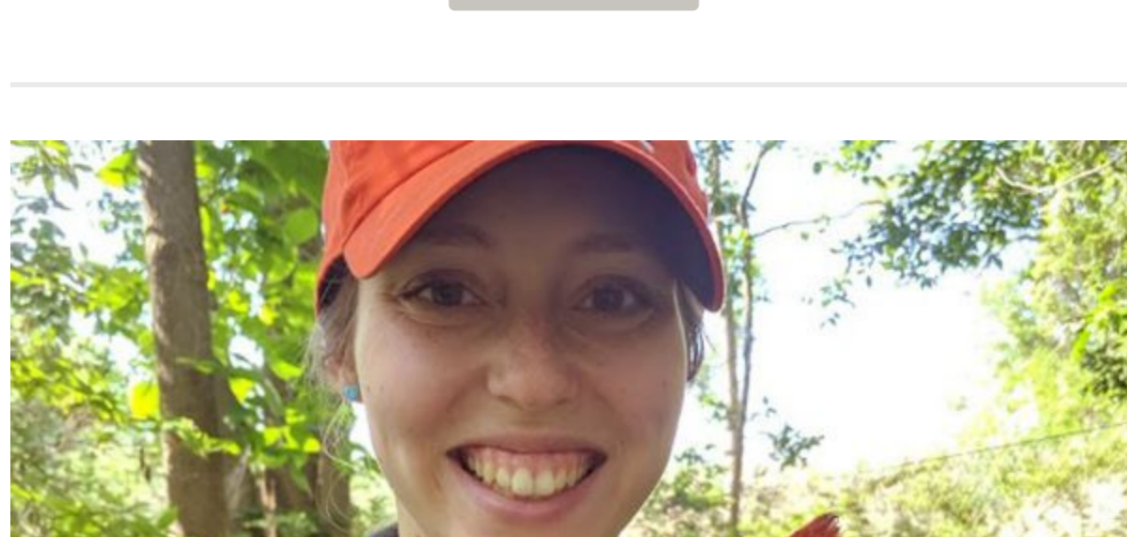
- Alaa Abdelmageed Ahmed – Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Dylan Chase – Applied Mathematics
- Julia Faravani – Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience
- Zachary Gazzillo – Physics
- Quinn Kott – Applied Mathematics & Computer Science double major
- Emily Mahoney – Chemistry
- Kenneth Shuttles – Applied Mathematics
- KayLee Steiner – Biotechnology & Molecular Bioscience



Science Exploration and Discovering What You Love

Since leaving RIT, Heather Mack '08 (biology BS) has traveled the world and experienced a variety of jobs related to science. She discovered science exploration before and after graduation helped narrow her focus so she could find a career she loved.

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Student to Student: Antibiotic resistant bacteria

Kaylee Steiner, a 4th year Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience major at RIT, shares her story of how attending the College & Careers summer program while she was still in high school led to her interest in studying antibiotic resistant bacteria with mentor Dr. André Hudson.

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RIT Biology Major Awarded Student Research Grant from Rochester Academy of Science

Erica DeLore is a 4th year biology major and is the President of the Pre-Vet Club at RIT. Erica has been conducting independent research on migratory songbird physiology with Dr. Susan Smith Pagano since Fall 2018. She has presented her research at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association and at the 2019 Rochester Academy of Science Symposium.

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Student to Student: Sustainable systems

While he was an Environmental Science BS major, Ibrahim Chise spent two years working with Dr. Gerald Takacs in his research group at the School of Chemistry and Materials Science. Ibrahim is currently a first-year Ph.D. student in RIT's Sustainability program.

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COS talent takes the stage at Performing Arts Challenge

Several COS students were among the talented performers at the third annual President Munson's Performing Arts Challenge, part of RIT's annual FrodoFest. From Acapella groups and Latin dance, from classical music to comedy sketches, twelve acts showed their diverse talents on center stage Friday, January 31 in Ingle Auditorium. The competition, sponsored by Rochester Regional Health, was free and open to the public.

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CIS professor tapped to support NSF as a program director

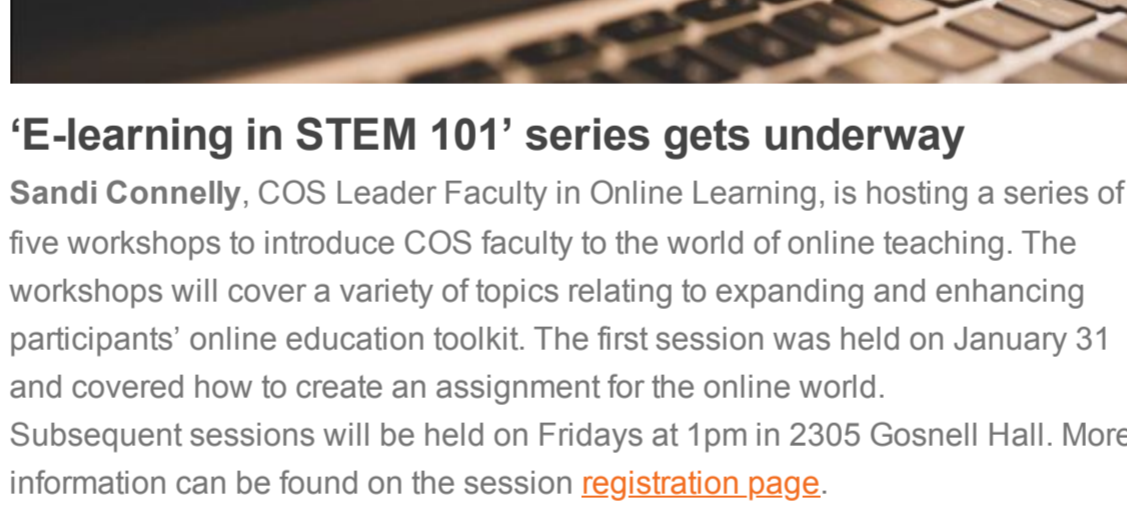
Professor Zoran Ninkov of RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science will temporarily join the NSF in January as a program manager through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) program.

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Microplastics Group awarded funding

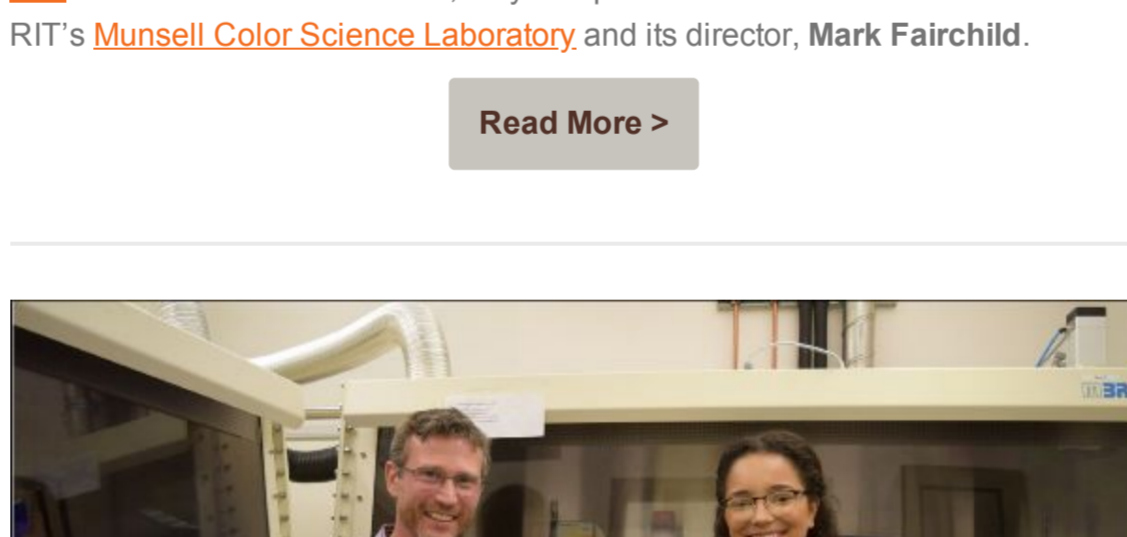
A group of RIT researchers, working to understand how microplastics impact the environment, received word that a recent submission to the New York Sea Grant was recommended for funding. This project, titled "Impacts of Microplastic Pollution on Benthic Ecosystem Functions and Services" was selected because of its scientific merit and level of programmatic importance. The project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between RIT's OS&S Associate Professor Christy Tyler and S&E Associate Professor Matthew Hoffman.



COS hosts 4th Distinguished Speaker

On January 29, the College of Science Dean's Office and the Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences hosted Dr. B. Paige Lawrence of the University of Rochester as our fourth Distinguished Speaker this academic year. Dr. Lawrence shared how her research into an environmental sensing transcription factor is broadening our knowledge of our own health and disease.

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'E-learning in STEM 101' series gets underway

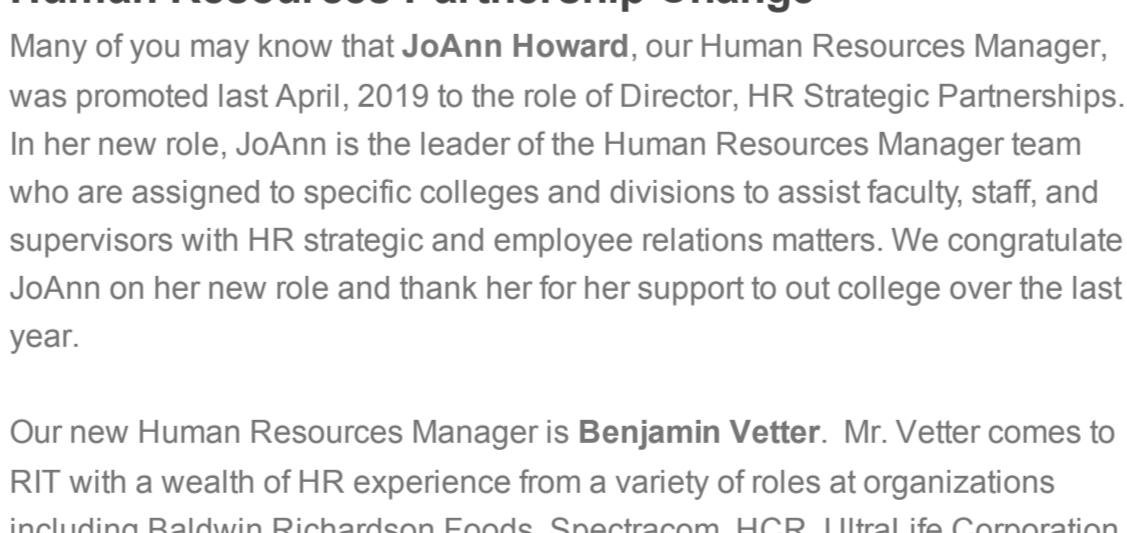
Samdi Connolly, COS Leader Faculty in Online Learning, is hosting a series of five workshops to introduce COS faculty to the world of online teaching. The workshops will cover a variety of topics relating to expanding and enhancing participants' online education toolkit. The first session was held on January 31 and covered how to create an assignment for the online world. Subsequent sessions will be held on Fridays at 1pm in 2305 Gosnell Hall. More information can be found on the session [registration page](#).



Glass-color science crossover underscores RIT's collaborative setting

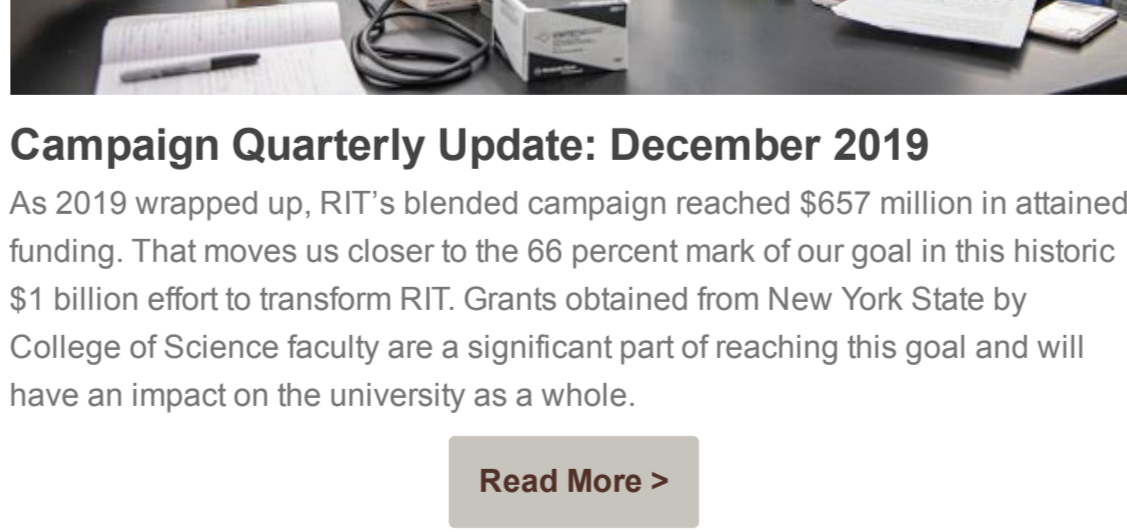
With a strong intersection of technology, art and design at RIT, assistant professor David Schnuckel and lecturer Susie Peck are forming partnerships that are enriching RIT Glass, which offers an MFA and BEA option in Studio Art. For the fall 2019 semester, they completed a successful collaboration with RIT's Material Color Science Laboratory and its director, Mark Fenechfeld.

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Inclusive Excellence hosts recruitment fair

The Inclusive Excellence program hosted two recruitment fairs in January to seek out students from nontraditional or underrepresented groups who are interested in conducting research with College of Science faculty over the summer. More information about the program can be found on the [registration page](#).



Campaign Quarterly Update: December 2019

As 2019 wrapped up, RIT's blended campaign reached \$657 million in historic funding. That moves us closer to the 66 percent mark of our goal in this historic \$1 billion effort to transform RIT. Grants obtained from New York State by College of Science faculty are a significant part of reaching this goal and will have an impact on the university as a whole.

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Sponsored Research

Math Hubbard, SoPA, is the PI with co-PI Stephan Pivly (GIS) on a \$160,706 grant from Magnolia Optical Technologies and the Indian Space Research Organization to support a project titled "High Efficiency Quantum Structured Solar Cells for GSRO Applications."

Matthew Montanaro, CIS, is the PI on a \$70,669 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support a project titled "L1, Ralph Instrument Calibration Support."

Darren Narayan, SMS, is the PI with co-PIs Jobby Jacob (SMS), Nishant Malik (SMS), Laura Munoz (SMS), and Darialewa Radziszewski (GCCIS) on a \$23,595 grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to support the project titled "NSF REU Site: Extremal Graph Theory and Dynamical Systems."

Zoran Ninkov, CIS, has received a \$236,143 grant to fund his position through the National Science Foundation as a "Program Officer at NSF."

Christy Tyler, CoS&S, is the PI with co-PIs Matthew Hoffman (SMS), Nathan Eddingsaas (SCMS), Steven Day (KCCOE), and André Hudson (SoS&S) on a \$237,140 grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to support the project titled "Impacts of Microplastic Pollution on Benthic Ecosystem Functions and Services."

COS in the Media

CNN.com
Astronomers detect gravitational waves created by massive neutron star collision
CNN talks to Ben Farr '08 (physics), co-author of a new study on gravitational waves.

Physics World
Spain's RIT: Technology lenses solar sails unveiled
Physics World features work by Grover Swartzlander, professor in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

Physics
Focus: New Spaceship Sail Self-Centers
Physics features work by Grover Swartzlander, professor in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

WROC-TV
Spitzer Telescope molaced, RIT scientists retooling for launch
WROC-TV talks to Assistant Professor Jaylan Katsube and Ph.D. student Caitlin Rose about the retirement of the Spitzer telescope and the launch of the James Webb telescope.

