RIT College of Science
DEAN'S BULLETIN

October 2021 in Review

Dean Bruce Gilchrist, Dean Emeritus Bruce Lund, Dean Emeritus Bruce Hietpas, Dean Emeritus Stephen Dew, Dean Emeritus Jorge Muniz

Message from the Dean

In early days, October felt like the non-stop month and a departure/arrival, as students returned to campus and we welcomed our new students and faculty members. This year, it felt like the non-stop month and a departure/arrival as we bade farewell to our Dean Emeritus Bruce Lund, who retired after 20 years at the helm of the College of Science (CoS) and welcomed our new Dean, Bruce Gilchrist, who joined us from the University of Delaware where he was Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. Bruce Lund's tenure saw the CoS through a period of tremendous growth, and he leaves behind a strong foundation for future success.

The RIT Community also celebrated the announcement that our faculty members Jorge Muniz and Stephen Dew will become Dean Emeritus and Dean Emeritus, respectively, joining the distinguished group of former CoS deans, including Bruce Hietpas, Bruce Lund, Bruce Gilchrist, and Nabil Adam. Jorge Muniz served as Interim Dean of the College of Science during the 2020-21 academic year, and Stephen Dew served as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Science for 15 years, after serving leading its highly competitive national research through the Center for Chemical Characterization and Analysis, Department of Chemistry, and Department of Physics.

Additionally, RIT was recognized this month for its work to stop diacetyl-fed lung disease in popcorn manufacturing plants. Professor Kevin Lee, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, received the Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability, which includes a $500,000 prize. Professor Lee and his colleagues in the College of Science faculty and staff have shown a many ways, including:

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Student & Alumni News

International students who started at RIT remotely during the pandemic continue to thrive

Nearly 1,500 students from 100 countries started their RIT coursework on campus or online during the fall semester. Some students who started their coursework remotely have now arrived on campus, while others have continued their coursework online and are adapting to life on campus and online.

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Astrophysical sciences and technology Ph.D. student receives DOE award to study dark matter

Peter Craig, a second-year astrophysical sciences and technology Ph.D. student in the RIT Chester F. Carlson College of Imaging's Office of Graduate Studies, received a competitive award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to study the distribution of dark matter in the universe. Craig is a student in the College of Science's Ph.D. program in astrophysical sciences and technology, and he is a member of the research team of Professor Kathryn Johnston, a professor in the College of Science's astronomy and astrophysics laboratory.

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Thousands enjoy Brick City Weekend events

Thousands of people attended Brick City Weekend events, which included a virtual science crafting entertainment, two road scavenger hunting, a virtual reality experience, and a virtual Brick City 5K run/walk. Read more: Brick City

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Mathematical modeling Ph.D. student earns FDA fellowship

Andrew Kaiser, a graduate student in RIT's doctoral program in mathematical modeling, received a competitive fellowship from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Kaiser, who is a student in the College of Science's doctoral program in mathematical modeling, is currently completing his studies for his doctoral degree, and he is a member of the research team of Professor Ryan Gill, a faculty member in the College of Science who holds a joint appointment in the College of Imaging Arts.

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The Power of Mining Data Literate in a Data-Driven World

Alumni Jeffrey Ward recently spoke with Senior Lecturer Melissa Rose-Roberts about his career path. Read more >

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Hands-on Environmental Work Preps BS Grad for EPA

Ryan Kessler '21 applies his work-oriented training with his National RIT to a fellowship with the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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Machine Learning with Satellite Imagery to Explore Hyperstrings on Earth

Professor Emeritus Nabil Adam of College of Science recently took a trip back when he was a student at Rutgers University. Read more >

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SMG alum shares How He Got There

Sean Mahoney '09 (MS) is a senior manager at Google, where he is a data analyst for Google's consumer products and services. Sean's job is to develop and implement strategies to improve the quality of Google's products and services, and he is also an active participant in all marketing activities.

Sean says the Marketing Communication Science (MS) College and Liberal Arts Program (MCS) has been a great experience for him. He has enjoyed the Capstone Project Experience for undergraduate program, and he has found the program's faculty members to be very helpful. He has also enjoyed his time in the program and the relationships he has developed with his classmates. He has also found the program's faculty members to be very helpful and encouraging, and he has also found the program's faculty members to be very helpful and encouraging.

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National and Research Labs Career Event

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Our Stories

RIT researchers part of $15 million NSF grant aimed at reducing food waste

Professor Emeritus Nabil Adam and Professor Emeritus Bruce Lund are part of a $15 million NSF grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to reduce food waste in the United States. The grant, which is the largest ever awarded to RIT, will fund a new research center focused on food waste reduction.

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RIT, physics company build quantum chip prototype

RIT and physics company Quantinuum have built a prototype quantum chip that could be used to develop new quantum computers. The chip, which is the first of its kind, is a "quantum charge-coupled device" (QCCD) that could be used to create a new quantum computing capability.

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Honors and Awards

Congratulations to Sabrina Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus Bruce Lund, and Professor Emeritus Jorge Muniz, who are the recipients of the College of Science Energy Management Awards. Congratulations, Sabrina, Bruce, and Jorge!

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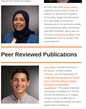
College Updates

The College of Science has been busy in the Research Labs this month.

Lance Kinsman joined the CoS Chemistry Department as a Research Associate. Lance is a graduate of the University of Illinois Energy Research Institute, where he earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry. Lance's research interests include the development of sustainable energy technologies, including solar energy and hydrogen.



Professor Emeritus Bruce Lund and Professor Emeritus Bruce Hietpas at the Bruce Hietpas Plant Room in the Chemistry Department. Bruce Hietpas recently donated the Bruce Hietpas Plant Room to the Chemistry Department to aid with accessibility and to provide a more inclusive environment for students. Bruce Hietpas was the Dean of the College of Science from 1994 to 2000. Bruce Hietpas was a member of the Dean's Advisory Board.

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Peer Reviewed Publications

Chris Kacz, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, has published a paper in the journal Nature Communications. The paper, titled "Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting Using Cu2O Photocathodes Protected by Conformal Ultrathin Ga2O3 Films," was co-authored by Kacz and Professor Emeritus Bruce Lund, and it was published in the journal Nature Communications.

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Kevin Lee, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, has published a paper in the journal Nature Communications. The paper, titled "Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting Using Cu2O Photocathodes Protected by Conformal Ultrathin Ga2O3 Films," was co-authored by Lee