



# IMAGINE **RIT**

INNOVATION + CREATIVITY FESTIVAL



## Celebrate innovation and creativity on May 3

"I AM ENOUGH OF AN ARTIST TO DRAW FREELY UPON MY IMAGINATION.

IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE. KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED.

IMAGINATION ENCIRCLES THE WORLD." - ALBERT EINSTEIN

As I reflect on Einstein's words above, I can't help but think this is a remarkable time in RIT's history. We are on a quest to become the nation's first "Innovation University." Please join us at our inaugural "Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival" on Saturday, May 3.

This distinctive festival will showcase hundreds of examples of student, faculty and staff creations. We will display research, new ideas for products and services, design projects, creative arts and crafts, unique performing arts productions and more. The festival - free to the public - will have interactive experiences for visitors of all ages.

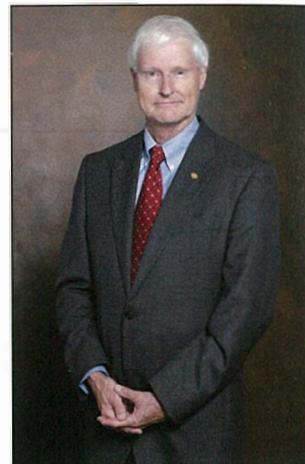
Here's a taste of what you will discover at the festival:

- The Greenvehicle Team will showcase a car that can attain more than 800 miles per gallon, built for less than \$5,000. Students in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences designed the vehicle.
- Visitors will learn how computer science student Josh Allman created a software program that can generate poetry.
- Those in attendance will also get to experience the next generation of miniature golf, through an interactive hole that was created by a team of electrical, computer and mechanical engineering technology students.

The campus will be transformed. All activities, for example, will be grouped by themes, such as:

- Imagine Being Green
- Imagine Healthy Living
- Imagine a Global View
- Imagine Innovative Science and Technology
- Imagine Creative Play
- Imagine a Communication Revolution
- Imagine on Stage
- Imagine Artistic Visions
- Imagine New Ventures
- WOW! Imagine That!

Imagine RIT offers an opportunity to put a stake in the ground so we can show the world that we are going to identify the university with innovation and creativity. I look forward to seeing you on campus - rain or shine - from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 3. And if you can't make it to campus, visit the festival Web site to view live video and a real-time photo gallery. To find out more, visit [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine).



President Bill Destler

Cordially,

Bill Destler  
President  
[www.rit.edu/president](http://www.rit.edu/president)

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Vol. 10, No. 1, 111M-P0541-4/08-LAN-CMcGC  
Printer: The Lane Press; Burlington, Vermont  
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# R · I · T

The University Magazine

Spring 2008



**Can you imagine?**

**Right brain and left brain meld at RIT**

**Also inside: Student athletes and astrophysics**

# R·I·T

The University Magazine

Spring 2008



The Sentinel



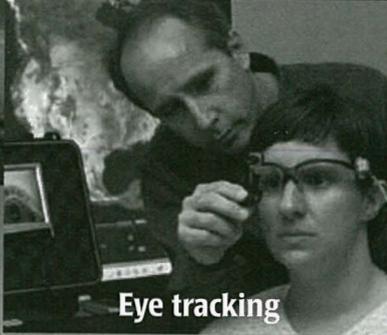
Pumpkin launcher



3D design



Big Shot, Croatia



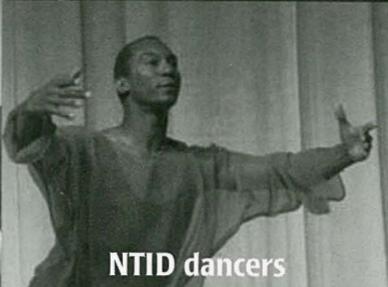
Eye tracking



Virtual theater



Bird banding



NTID dancers



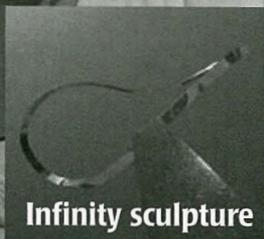
School for American Crafts



Computer science



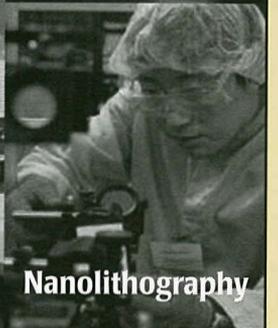
Hearing therapies



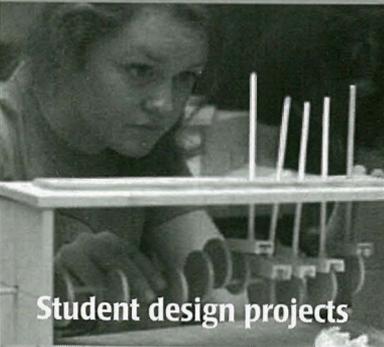
Infinity sculpture



Engineering design projects



Nanolithography



Student design projects



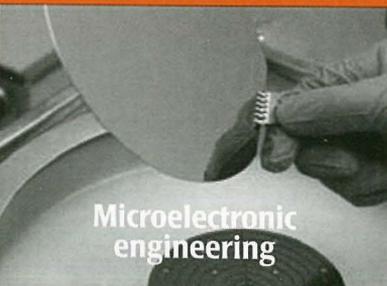
Model railroad

## Key to images on previous page

Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival will showcase the many faces and facets of RIT



School for American Crafts



Microelectronic engineering



New media design

# R · I · T

The University Magazine

Spring 2008

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Patricia Pitkin, Gannett Distinguished Professor, School of Print Media  
(photo by John Retallack)

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Right: When President Destler challenged students to fill Clark Gym, they responded with an overwhelming display of Tiger spirit.



## Former swimming pool to become RIT 'family room'

The former Woodward Pool area in the Student Alumni Union is being transformed – and RIT students are getting a place to put their feet up.

A gift of \$2 million plus architectural- and construction-plan underwriting from The Summers Foundation (RIT Trustee John “Dutch” Summers and his wife, Jayne) has spearheaded a \$10 million effort to create a 30,000-plus square foot Campus Center in the Student Alumni Union – a space Student Affairs officials are heralding as a much-needed “family room” for the student body.

The Campus Center will provide a new entrance to the Student Alumni Union and a second-story overlook onto the Quarter Mile. The facility’s main level will house Student Government, the Leadership Institute and Community Service Center and the RIT Women’s Center. It will also include three general-use conference rooms and an area designated for RIT clubs and club services.

Downstairs tenants include *Reporter* magazine, the Campus Activities Board, the Global Union (RIT’s largest multicultural student organization) and the AALANA (African American, Latino American, Asian American and Native American) Collegiate Association.

The upper floor plans call for a student lounge, offices for the Orientation program and the First Year Enrichment Program, and offices for the Off Campus and Apartment Student Association. The upper level will also have two multipurpose rooms and a large reading room. It will connect to the Student Affairs offices on the second floor of the Student Alumni Union.

Plans for the new Campus Center were



Artists' rendering of the proposed Campus Center project.

largely driven by student input. RIT’s Development Office has launched a fund-raising effort to support the remainder of the project, which is slated for completion in the fall of 2009. Officials hope to see ground broken this spring.

John Follaco

## RIT, Delphi Automotive join forces to expand fuel cell development

RIT’s Golisano Institute for Sustainability has been awarded a \$2.75 million grant for a joint research project with Delphi Automotive.

“This funding will support important work at RIT to enhance our nation’s security,” says Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. She and New York’s U.S. Senate delegation were instrumental in obtaining the grant. “It will also assist in creating jobs and spurring economic development in our community, while helping ensure our servicemen and women have the best tools to do their jobs in the field.”

RIT and Delphi will use the funds to assist the U.S. military in incorporating alternative energy technologies into vehicle operations. The research will support the military’s implementation of fuel cell technology into vehicle fleets. The project will also advance the development of lo-

cal production of fuel cell technologies, enhancing the potential for industry investment and new jobs in the Rochester region.

The work builds on Delphi’s fuel cell development efforts and technology developed at RIT’s Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, now a part of the Golisano Institute.

“This joint research effort between RIT and Delphi will further enhance this region’s reputation and asset base as a center for alternative energy development and its applications,” notes RIT President Bill Destler. “It is a tremendous example of government-university-industry collaboration. We appreciate the



President Bill Destler, left, and Steve Shaffer, Delphi’s chief engineer for fuel cells, applaud Congresswoman Louise Slaughter at a news conference announcing the new research funding.

efforts of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton to include this funding in the 2007-08 defense appropriations bill.”

Will Dube

## Golisano Institute has new leader for academics

Ryne Raffaele has been named academic director for the new Golisano Institute for Sustainability at RIT. Raffaele, previously a professor of physics and micro-systems engineering and director of the NanoPower Research Labs, will direct the institute's educational mission, including the development of one of the world's first doctoral programs in sustainability.



Ryne Raffaele

The Golisano Institute for Sustainability was created in fall 2007 with a \$10 million donation from Rochester businessman and RIT Trustee B. Thomas Golisano.

Raffaele will be responsible for the development, implementation and management of the academic programs offered within the institute, including chairing the curriculum committee and overseeing the recruitment of faculty and graduate students.

Will Dube

## New gallery named in honor of printing industry leader



Brooks Bower '74 (print media), right, chats with RIT President Bill Destler during the dedication of the Brooks H. and Marilyn Bower Gallery in RIT's Alexander Lawson Publishing Center. The gallery honors Bower and his wife for their philanthropic commitment to RIT.

Bower is chairman and CEO of Papercone Corp., an envelope manufacturer in Louisville, Ky. The gallery dedication in November 2007 coincided with a two-day digital printing seminar for the Envelope Manufacturers Association.

A selection of paintings, "Graphic Communications Through the Ages," donated to RIT in 1974 by Kimberly-Clark Corp., is the first exhibit in the gallery space, located on the second floor of Wallace Library.

## Computer Science professor is on top, across and down

Zack Butler received a big clue about his future in 1995, when he received a voicemail message from Will Shortz, the legendary *New York Times* crossword puzzle editor.

"Will was captain of the U.S. Puzzle Team," says Butler, computer science professor. "He handpicked me to be one of the four members to represent the U.S. He was calling to confirm my plane reservations to Romania to compete in the World Finals."

The U.S. team won that year and Butler finished fourth in the individual competition. Last October in Rio de Janeiro, Butler and the other members of the U.S. team pulled it out again, earning their 10th world championship. The types of puzzles the teams solve range from Sudoku to mazes to visual logic puzzles.

From as far back as he can remember, Butler has been solving puzzles. His mother competes every year in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and Butler accompanied her when he was 14.

"I remember I didn't do very well in the crossword portion. We also did some word play puzzles. I beat out almost everyone in the room. I was surprised."

Butler's skills at solving crossword

puzzles have greatly improved. He finished second out of a field of 400 contenders in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 2002.

It's customary for the top three players to finish the final round on stage. Using large whiteboards, they solve the puzzles in front of an audience.

Butler is also a practicing cruciverbalist (one who writes crossword puzzles). It's a sure bet he's stumped a subscriber or two of *The New York Times*.

"Several of my crosswords have been published in the Tuesday and Thursday editions of the *Times*. Constructing crosswords helps me solve them faster. I write puzzles for the process because I think it's fun."

He likes to give his 4-Across and 20-



Zack Butler: professor, problem solver and cruciverbalist.

Down as gifts, with his wife and students often the receivers of his entries.

"I taught a robotics course last spring and my students would come to class working on crossword puzzles, so I decided to write one for them with a robotics theme. My students know I'm the puzzle guy."

Kelly Downs

## NanoPower research labs receive nearly \$4 million

Additional funding from the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense will allow RIT to expand research and technology transfer efforts in renewable energy development and sustainability.

RIT's NanoPower Research Labs received two awards out of 25 given nationally from the Department of Energy's Future Generation Photovoltaic Devices and Processes Program. The first project is a three-year, \$1.1 million dollar effort aimed at providing higher efficiency solar cells for the growing concentrator photovoltaic market.

The second effort is a university-industry collaboration with Wakonda Technologies designed to enhance the integration of III-V materials – so named due to their location on the Periodic Table – onto thin films used in solar cell production. The project, which received an award of \$2.1 million over a three-year period, was also selected for a matching grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The work will build on Wakonda's efforts to produce more energy-efficient and cost-effective solar cells for commercial use.

"Our collaboration with RIT will promote the continued development of alternative energy industries in New York, advancing economic development and improving environmental quality," says Les Fritzeimer, CEO of Wakonda.

In addition to the Department of Energy announcement, the NanoPower Labs, in collaboration with Nantero Inc., was also recently named the recipient of a \$750,000 grant to conduct research related to the development of the next generation of rechargeable lithium ion batteries. The work, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, is intended to improve the capacity and cyclability of rechargeable batteries, while also expanding their use in a number of military applications.

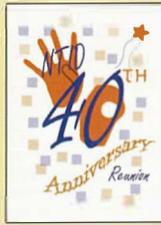
The current research efforts in the NanoPower Research Labs will also ultimately expand RIT's broader sustainable education and research goals through the newly created Golisano Institute for Sustainability.

Over the past three years, RIT's NanoPower Research Labs have received more than \$5 million in competitive awards for solar energy and battery research and have become internationally recognized for their advancements in nanomaterials and sustainable energy technologies.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

## Notebook

### NTID plans 40th anniversary celebration



Plans are in full swing for RIT/NTID's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, set for June 26-28 on the RIT campus.

Activities to inform and entertain are being planned by a committee of alumni, faculty and staff volunteers.

Look for registration information on the Web at [www.rit.edu/ntid/reunion](http://www.rit.edu/ntid/reunion). Plans include a golf tournament, food, workshops, exhibits, an ice cream social, art and RIT/NTID history displays.

A series of video-logs, or 'vlogs,' will carry the latest reunion news. To receive the reunion vlog, send an e-mail to [NTID40thReunion@rit.edu](mailto:NTID40thReunion@rit.edu).

**Clarice Bondoc '04 (interior design) created the reunion logo, above.**

### Board of Trustees heads to Silicon Valley this summer

The July meeting of RIT's trustees will take place in California's Silicon Valley. In addition to regular business meetings, board members, administrators and deans will meet with corporate leaders and alumni working in the area's high-tech industries. Meetings will take place at Google, Cisco, Hewlett-Packard and other companies.

This is the first time since 2001 that the board has met outside of Rochester. That year, the meeting took place in Washington, D.C., where activities included visits with government leaders.

### New degree in mechanical engineering and public policy

RIT is launching an innovative curriculum that unites mechanical engineering and public policy. The five-year program – the first of its kind in the nation – combines a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in science, technology and public policy. The new program seeks to smooth the integration of technology in society through further incorporation of technological concepts into political and social decision-making.

The program further expands interdisciplinary collaboration between RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the department of public policy in RIT's College of Liberal Arts. The new program began admitting students this spring.

**For more information, contact Franz Foltz at (585) 475-5368 or [fafgsh@rit.edu](mailto:fafgsh@rit.edu).**

### Researchers collaborate with military on cybersecurity

RIT has formed a new partnership aimed at improving cybersecurity technology and the safety of military and civilian computer networks. The collaboration includes CUBRC, a not-for-profit research and development company in Buffalo, and professors from RIT, the University of Buffalo and Pennsylvania State University. The research team is seeking to implement the use of intrusion prediction modeling into cyber defense systems.

The project is being funded under a sub-contract from the CUBRC/University of Buffalo Center for Multisource Information Fusion. The team also includes personnel from the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Fusion Directorate, which hopes to use the research to assist in implementing intrusion prediction into their overall cybersecurity programs.



# Researchers show dangers of pollution from worldwide shipping

Pollution from marine shipping causes approximately 60,000 premature cardiopulmonary and lung-cancer deaths around the world each year, according to a study by James Corbett of University of Delaware and James Winebrake, chair of science, technology and public policy in RIT's College of Liberal Arts.

The study was reported in the Dec. 15, 2007, issue of *Environmental Science and Technology*, the journal of the American Chemical Society.

The report benchmarks for the first time the number of annual deaths caused globally by pollution from marine vessels, with coastal regions in Asia and Europe the most affected. The two researchers correlated the global distribution of particulate matter – black carbon, sulfur, nitrogen and organic particles – released from ships' smoke stacks with heart disease and lung cancer mortalities in adults. Under current regulation, and with the expected growth in shipping activity, the authors estimate the annual mortalities from ship emissions could increase by 40 percent by 2012.

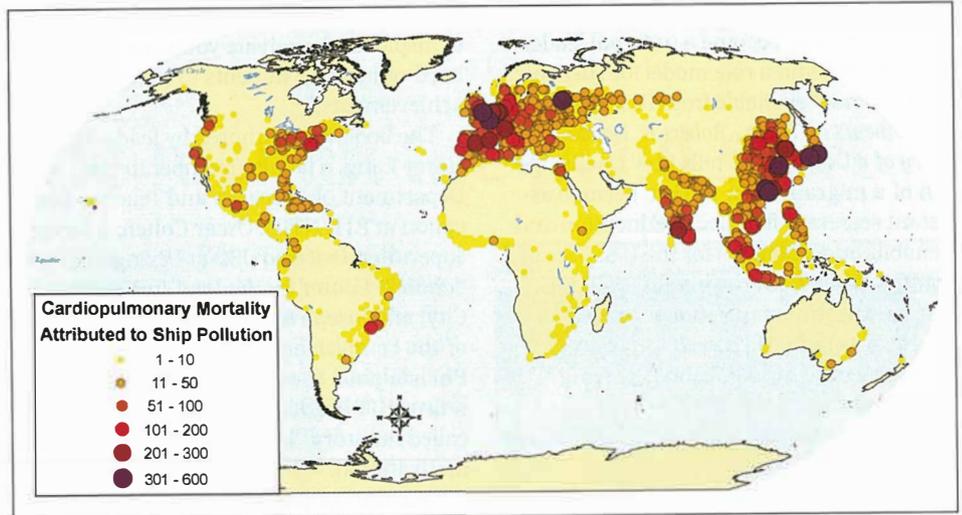
Corbett and Winebrake's results come in the midst of current discussions by the International Maritime Organization to regulate emissions from ships.

"This study will help inform policy-makers about some of the health impacts associated with ship emissions, and the long-range transport of those emissions to population centers," says Winebrake. "We now have a benchmark by which we can begin to evaluate the benefits of emission-reduction policies."

Annual deaths related to shipping emissions in Europe are estimated at 26,710, with 19,870 deaths in East Asia and 9,950 in South Asia. North America has approximately 5,000 premature deaths, concentrated mostly in the Gulf Coast region, the West Coast and the Northeast, while the eastern coast of South America has 790 mortalities.

Most ships run on residual oil, which has a sulfur content thousands of times greater than on-road diesel fuel. "Residual oil is a byproduct of the refinery process and tends to be much dirtier than other petroleum products," Winebrake says.

"We needed to know what the benefits are of cleaning up this fuel," he explains. "Now we can evaluate the human health impacts of policies to require low-sulfur fuels for the shipping industry or that require ships to put emissions-control technology



on their vessels. Our study will help inform this policy debate."

Until recently, researchers had little information with which to work: emissions data for marine vessels had to be linked with data tracking the movement of these vessels around the world. In their report, Corbett and Winebrake mapped marine pollution concentrations over the oceans and on land, estimating global and regional

mortalities from ship emissions by integrating global ship inventories, atmospheric models and health impacts analyses.

This study was supported in part by the Oak Foundation, the German Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren and by the German Aerospace Center within the Young Investigators Group SeaKLIM.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

## Why were RIT students in Jeopardy?



An RIT multidisciplinary senior design team was the subject of a clue that appeared on the nationally televised game show *Jeopardy!* in January. The team was filmed at the Environmental Protection Agency's P3 conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2007. The student team's project, a solar powered pasteurizer, was the \$2,000 clue in a Double Jeopardy category devoted to the P3 conference.

# New biography chronicles former NTID leader's life

A biography of Robert R. Davila, who overcame poverty to become a national leader in education and a role model for Hispanic youth, is now available from RIT Press.

*Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila: The Story of a Deaf Leader*, tells how Davila, the son of a migrant farm worker, became assistant secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services for the U.S. Department of Education, the highest-ranking federal government position ever held by a deaf person. He served as president of several major organizations serving deaf people and was the first deaf CEO of NTID. He is now president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

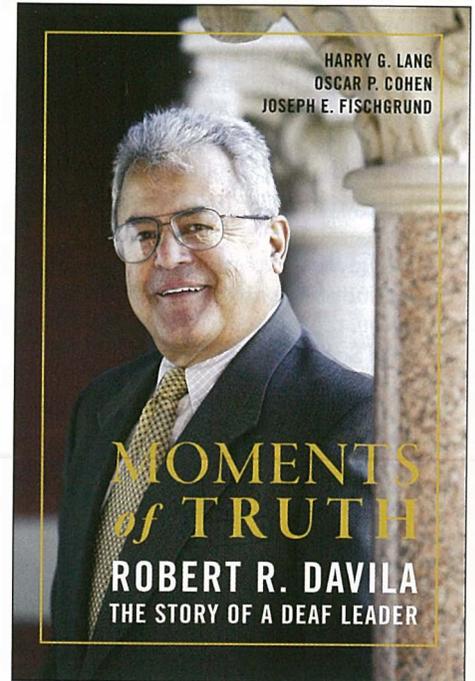
Upon his retirement in 2004 from RIT/NTID, Davila said he was taken by surprise to learn that his biography would be written. "I was, frankly, flabbergasted," Davila says. "I had not considered then what value or impact my life's examples might have on people. Now that the book is out, I real-

ize that its greatest value is in its potential to inspire and motivate young deaf and hard-of-hearing students to strive for high achievements."

The book was authored by lead writer Harry Lang, a faculty member in the Department of Research and Teacher Education at RIT/NTID; Oscar Cohen, a former superintendent and CEO at Lexington School & Center for the Deaf in New York City; and Joseph E. Fischgrund, headmaster of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. It was commissioned by now-retired RIT President Albert J. Simone, who called the story "both inspirational and motivational."

*Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila* is available in paperback (\$18) or hard cover (\$26) at RIT's Campus Connections bookstore, through the RIT Press Web site (<http://carypress.rit.edu>) and at Amazon.com.

Greg Livadas



## In memoriam

**Ralph Armstrong**, RIT's first men's lacrosse coach, died Jan. 10, 2008. He oversaw the lacrosse program from 1968 to 1970. . . . **Robert Brown**, who taught in the College of Liberal Arts from 1968 until his retirement in 2007, died Feb. 12, 2008. . . . **Neil Croom**, retired professor in the School of Photography from 1956 to 1978, died Jan. 27, 2008, at his home in Sarasota, Fla. After retiring, he was actively involved with the Cumming Nature Center (a division of the Rochester Museum & Science Center). . . . **Jeffrey Owen Jones**, 63, a professor in the School of Film and Animation, died Nov. 11, 2007, of lung cancer. Mr. Jones was a star athlete at Williams College and spent time in Uruguay on a Fulbright Scholarship. He later lived in Spain, writing and directing films. He returned to Williams to teach Spanish and serve as dean of freshmen before becoming editor of *Psychology Today* magazine. He worked for CBS, producing promotional and educational videos before moving to Rochester. Mr. Jones was an intern at *Time* magazine in 1965 when, after interviewing Bob Dylan at the Newport Folk Festival, he became the subject of Dylan's *Ballad of a Thin Man*. . . . **Heinz Klinkon '79, '90** (graphic design), associate professor in the School of Graphic Design, died Jan. 27, 2008. He joined the RIT faculty in 1981 after working at prestigious design firms in Washington, D.C., and New York City. . . . **Jane McMahon**, an RIT retiree, died Nov. 14, 2007. Ms. McMahon began working for Dining Services at Grace Watson Dining Hall in August of 1989. She retired in April of 2002. Her daughter, Charleen McMahon, works in Food Service Administration. . . . **Elaine Merritt**, administrative assistant for the Psychology Department, died Feb. 13, 2008. . . . **James Edward Rice**,

emeritus James McGhee Professor, died Oct. 13, 2007, at the age of 82. A Rochester native, Mr. Rice was a graduate of Madison High School and Cornell University. He served in the Army during World War II and the Korean conflict, rising to the rank of captain. He came to RIT after a 31-year career at Kodak, holding the chaired position until 1995. While at RIT, Mr. Rice received the Photo Marketing Association Distinguished Service Award for his career contributions to the industry. . . . **Russ Tripoli**, who served the RIT campus for 24 years, died Oct. 27, 2007, after a long fight with cancer. Mr. Tripoli spent nearly 20 years working for RIT Public Safety and his last four years as the assistant director for administrative services in Housing Operations. Mr. Tripoli also worked on RIT's United Way campaign for many years. . . . **Anthony Trippe '66** (chemistry), a professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer, and Telecommunications Engineering Technology, died Nov. 24, 2007. Professor Trippe joined RIT in 2000. He earned his master's degree in mathematics and computer science from Farleigh Dickinson University, and a doctorate of business administration from United States International University. His professional career covered four decades in a variety of technology-based industries. He was a pioneer in distance education delivery and was nationally known in the field. . . . **Dorothy Wadsworth**, a former development director for RIT, died Nov. 27, 2007, in Rochester. She was 87. Mrs. Wadsworth, a pioneer among women, was involved in numerous social, civic and cultural organizations. She was a founding member of the RIT Athenaeum, now known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT. . . . **Charles Welch**, retired dean of students, died Dec. 22, 2007, after a battle with cancer.

## Human-computer interaction is focus of new degree

Human-computer interaction – the study of design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems to benefit the end user – is the focus of a new Master of Science degree offered through the Goli-sano College of Computing and Information Sciences. The degree is available either on-campus or online.

“Companies such as Google, Yahoo, Adobe and Oracle are looking for people with in-depth knowledge and skills in developing computing systems that people will enjoy using and want to use,” says Evelyn Rozanski, RIT professor of information technology and a developer of the degree program. “Products with poor usability are costly in terms of errors, unfinished tasks, frustration and even safety.”

The curriculum for the degree includes studies in software development, learning and knowledge management, cognitive psychology, industrial design and game design.

Melissa Spike '03, a content producer at Fisher-Price, graduated with an M.S. degree in information technology and concentrations in human computer interaction as well as learning and performance technology and multimedia programming.

“From my classes in human factors and interface design, I learned principles of design that apply directly to my current job at Fisher-Price,” says Spike. “I work on some of the more complex toys with speech and multiple modes of play, kid-friendly electronics video games and personal computer software. With more and more computers in homes and so much competition with Web sites and software, consumers are starting to demand interfaces that are easier to use and industry is taking notice. This is only going to increase the need for graduates with degrees in human-computer interaction.”

The master's degree requires completion of 52-quarter credit hours and a capstone project in which research will be completed in institute labs, including the Usability Testing Laboratory and labs within the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure.

**Kelly Downs**

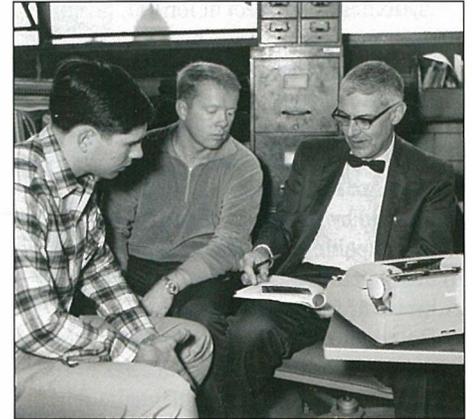
For more information about the degree program, call 585-475-6791 or visit [www.rit.edu/emcs/pt-grad/online](http://www.rit.edu/emcs/pt-grad/online).

# Letters

## The man in the plaid shirt

On page 28 of the Winter edition of the RIT magazine is a photo of Professor Hollis Todd with two students. The one on the far left, in the plaid shirt, is me, I believe – and also according to my daughter, Cynthia Byer Weller '98, '99 (hospitality and service management, MBA) and my wife, Katharina Neumann. I remember Professor Todd not only as a compassionate person, as related in Don Eddy's letter, but as a very competent teacher. He not only taught me “facts,” but most importantly, how to think, how to approach a problem and come to a logical conclusion, even if the conclusion was opposite of what was to be expected at the start of the investigation. He was the typical RIT professor of the 1960s, who educated with concepts and ideas.

Most of the “facts” I have forgotten, but the concepts have remained and were much more important during my career, and now as a pensioner. I trust that RIT still



Hollis Todd with Dick Byer '69, left. If anyone can identify the student in the center, please contact *The University Magazine* at [umagwww@rit.edu](mailto:umagwww@rit.edu).

educates with concepts and ideas – and will continue so.

**Richard “Dick” Byer '69**  
Bad Soden, Germany

## Professor remembers Tony Lam '78

I am saddened to report on the death of a former civil engineering technology student, Chungtung “Tony” Lam '78, on Dec. 25, 2007. He was in several of my classes and impressed me with his quiet manner, tenacious desire to learn, and very high achievement level. His work, especially on design projects, was unsurpassed.

In 1979, he earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Cornell University, majoring in structures. That same year, he joined the Rochester firm of STI Technologies, founded by Neville F. Rieger, former James E. Gleason Professor of Mechanical Engineering at RIT. Tony had impressed Dr. Rieger as a student in his course in finite elements.

“Tony was one of the very first employees in my firm,” Dr. Rieger said recently. “He wasn't just a ‘hack’ engineer, but a deep thinker, a pioneer who could fly by himself. He eventually became our vice-president of engineering and analysis. We regretted his leaving in 1998, but he

wanted to have his own organization.”

That was when Tony founded Turbine Technology International, a Rochester-based consulting engineering firm, for which he served as president until his death.

Friends of Tony may wish to visit the “Past Guest Books” section of [www.miller-funeralhomes.com](http://www.miller-funeralhomes.com) to read his obituary and add a memorial note.

**Robert E. McGrath Jr.**  
Professor Emeritus  
Civil Engineering Technology

We welcome letters on subjects covered in the magazine and of broad interest to our readers, as long as they are respectful and not insulting to any individual or group. We publish as many as we can, subject to space limitations. We edit for space, clarity and style. Write to *The University Magazine*, University News Services, Rochester Institute of Technology, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive – Bldg. 86, Rochester, NY 14623. E-mail can be sent to [umagwww@rit.edu](mailto:umagwww@rit.edu).

# RIT will operate new program in Dubai

Campus will open this year in the heart of a multi-billion dollar complex in United Arab Emirates

RIT is planting roots in the Middle East through a partnership with Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A new campus being built by Dubai is scheduled to open this fall. RIT will provide academic content, leadership and management of the university.

"Dubai is the perfect fit for RIT, given the university's strategic plan to enhance global opportunities for our students," says RIT President Bill Destler. "This will also strengthen RIT's relationships and reputation with multi-national companies by being close to them wherever they are in the world and by providing those companies with a capable workforce already exposed to living, learning and working in a multi-cultural environment."

Dubai, one of the seven Emirates and a major port on the Persian Gulf, has been dubbed "Sudden City" by the media. The city is rapidly transforming into an international hub of commerce. Dubai leaders are also focusing on strengthening higher education in the region.

**"Dubai is one of the most dynamic cities in the world with an ambition to become the center of education in the region."**

**Mustafa Abushagur**  
Director of microsystems engineering

RIT Dubai will be a part of Dubai Silicon Oasis, a 4.5-square-mile complex that will include a high-tech park, housing, retail, banks and more. Dubai officials call the area the "world's premier high-technology park for microelectronics and semiconductor research, development and production."

RIT Dubai will be in the heart of the multi-billion dollar complex created by



RIT Dubai will open this year in the Dubai Silicon Oasis headquarters, pictured here.

the Dubai government. Dubai will cover the cost of building a full-fledged campus, including academic center, living quarters and recreational facilities.

The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum, has established a \$10 billion foundation to support human development in the Arab world. A major focus of this foundation is to provide scholarships to enhance higher education in the region. A magnet high school for science and technology is also expected to open in the Dubai Silicon Oasis next year.

RIT's initial offerings will focus on part-time graduate students in fields such as electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, finance and service management. By 2009, graduate offerings will extend to full-time graduate students and include applied networking, telecommunications, facility management, and manufacturing management and leadership. In 2010, RIT Dubai will begin offering undergraduate programs to full-time students. Over the next decade, enrollment

is expected to reach 4,000.

The partnership will create unique study and co-op opportunities for RIT students as well as significant opportunities for faculty exchange. RIT Dubai will also strengthen RIT's relationship and reputation with multi-national corporations, which have established a strong presence in the Emirates and in Dubai.

According to Jim Miller, senior vice president, Enrollment Management and Career Services, "Dubai adds an important on-the-ground presence that complements our campuses in Croatia and Kosovo, as well as our programs in the Dominican Republic. These international initiatives build on more than 60 existing partnerships and agreements RIT has established with foreign universities, international organizations and governments agencies spanning five continents."

Miller adds, "Currently, RIT enrolls approximately 1,500 foreign students representing 95 countries in undergraduate and graduate programs in Rochester. Over 900 additional international students are pursuing RIT degrees at existing international locations."

RIT leaders credit Professor Mustafa Abushagur, director of microsystems engineering, with leading the dialogue with



Mustafa Abushagur

Dubai leaders over the last two years. Dubai officials approached Abushagur after he delivered a lecture at a conference in Dubai. Dubai is developing a microelectronics industry, an area of expertise for RIT. Dubai officials visited RIT in February

2006 and Abushagur and other RIT representatives subsequently visited Dubai seven or eight times before an agreement was reached.

"This is a great opportunity for RIT to become a major provider of high quality educational programs in the global market," explains Abushagur. "Dubai is one of the most dynamic cities in the world, with an ambition to become the center of education in the region. RIT Dubai will provide our students with an opportunity to experience being in an international setting among students from all over the world."

Bob Finnerty '07

## Long-standing partnership with Harris grows stronger

**Pop quiz:** What's the name of the Florida-based company that employs nearly 350 RIT grads and plans to hire more?

**Answer:** Harris Corp., an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. The company's RF Communications Division, located in Rochester, is one of the region's largest corporate employers, with about 2,000 workers.

"We're very busy," says Ed Maier, vice president/general manager of Engineering and Operations for Harris RF Communications. "We're hiring a lot of engineers."

The company hired 26 RIT grads in fiscal year 2007 and is continuing that pace in 2008. In addition to hiring graduates, Harris is the largest employer of engineering co-op students. Currently, 36 co-ops are on the job, and more than 600 students have worked for the company over the past 10 years. Many of the grads and co-ops are in Rochester, but others work at the company's operations in Denver, Florida and Washington, D.C.

"RIT does a great job preparing its engineering students for the marketplace," says Tom Kenney '80 (computer engineering), vice president, Product Line Management, Harris RF Communications. "The engineering curricula provide a good mix of theoretical and practical education, and the co-op program is top notch. We are very comfortable hiring RIT grads, because we know they can hit the ground running."

RIT alumni have done well at the company. In addition to Kenney, several other RIT grads hold top leadership roles. For example:

- Steve Marschilok '84 (electrical engineering) is vice president/general manager of International Government Systems.
- Mike Maurer '83 (MBA) is VP/Controller.
- Dick Rzepkowski '75, '82 (electrical engineering) is VP Communications Security Products.



Ed Maier



Robert K. Henry, Harris Corp. chief operating officer, speaking at the dedication of the new wing of the Gleason Building last fall.

• Joe Nakoski '82, '89 (electrical engineering) is engineering director.

Besides providing jobs for RIT grads and co-ops, the company has been a strong supporter of RIT's programs. A recent gift of \$400,000 funded construction of the Harris Corp. Computer Engineering Design Center in the new wing of the James E. Gleason Building, which opened in September. Harris also donated \$10,000 to the Women in Engineering program in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Maier, who serves as executive sponsor between Harris and RIT, says he hopes to expand the relationship. On a tour of the building in December, Maier met with Kate Gleason College of Engineering department heads to talk about areas of common interest. He says Harris would be interested in sponsoring research projects if the company can be assured of retaining ownership

of any intellectual property resulting from the work – a position RIT President Bill Destler advocates.

"Typically, colleges are very open, so there's the possibility of our competitors benefiting – for free – from research we sponsor," says Maier. "An agreement regarding intellectual property is very important to us."

Destler has stated that American universities could greatly boost the nation's competitive position by making faculty and staff, students and facilities avail-

able to companies "to carry out corporate research and development projects at low cost and without the usual intellectual property fights that usually derail such efforts."

RIT is highly regarded at the top level of the company. Robert K. Henry, chief operating officer, made a special effort to attend the dedication of the new engineering facility in September and spoke at the ceremony.

"RIT's reputation precedes it in the engineering community," says Henry. "It is known for producing many of our nation's talented engineering professionals, and we are proud that many of them choose to work at Harris. As our relationship with RIT grows, we look forward to working together to help cultivate the top technology minds of tomorrow."

**RIT Works! focuses on the contributions of RIT graduates in the workplace.**

## HARRIS

### About Harris Corporation

Harris RF Communications Division, located in Rochester, is a leading supplier of secure voice and data communications products, systems, and networks to military, government, and commercial organizations worldwide.

Harris Corp. is an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. Headquartered in Melbourne, Fla., the company has annual revenue of over \$4 billion and 16,000 employees — including nearly 7,000 engineers and scientists. Harris is dedicated to developing best-in-class *assured communications*™ products, systems, and services. Additional information about Harris Corp. is available at [www.harris.com](http://www.harris.com).

# McKenzie follows his heart back to Shakespeare and students

Stan McKenzie tried to step down from the position of provost four years ago. But when President Albert Simone announced his intention to retire, McKenzie agreed to stay on until a new president was settled in.

That's been accomplished: RIT's ninth president, Bill Destler, has been on the job since July 2007. Now the man who has been RIT's top academic officer since 1994 is more than ready to return to his roots. "I love classroom teaching, particularly teaching literature to tech students," says McKenzie. "To turn them on to Shakespeare – there's nothing better than that."

That's exactly what happened to him. McKenzie was a math and physics major at MIT when, in his senior year, an exceptional professor ignited a passion for Shakespeare. He went on to the University of Rochester for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English literature and started teaching at RIT in 1967.

His involvement with students soon extended beyond the classroom. He counts his 16 years dealing with matters of student misconduct as director of Judicial Affairs as among his most satisfying assignments. "My main role was helping them get back on track," he says. "No student ever comes to RIT to get thrown out."

RIT has marked momentous changes since he arrived. The current campus opened in 1968 – the same year that National Technical Institute for the Deaf welcomed its first students. Enrollment has

**"I love classroom teaching, particularly teaching literature to tech students. To turn them on to Shakespeare – there's nothing better than that."**

Stan McKenzie

grown from fewer than 10,000 students to nearly 16,000. More than 100 academic programs, including four Ph.D. degrees (plus two more under development), have been launched. Computers have evolved from room-sized and exiguous to portable, powerful and ubiquitous.

"In the computer age, students are more aware of what's happening," says McKenzie. They may lack the kind of general knowledge expected of their predecessors, but today's students know how to access information instantly, he says.

Overall, he notes, the caliber of students has risen over the past four decades. "We're continually attracting better students," says McKenzie. The student body has become more diverse, with more international students and more women, deaf and hard-of-hearing and ethnic groups represented.

However, too many students leave RIT without completing their studies. A major challenge faced by RIT's faculty is to understand that students have different styles of learning, says McKenzie. "It is our responsibility to teach students in the way they learn best," says the provost.

McKenzie says the biggest surprise in

his career came in 1987, when then-Provost Thomas Plough called asking him to become acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

"It was absolutely unexpected," he recalls. "I was not even a candidate." Once on the job, he decided to become a candidate. But after serving as acting dean for a year, he was not offered the permanent appointment.

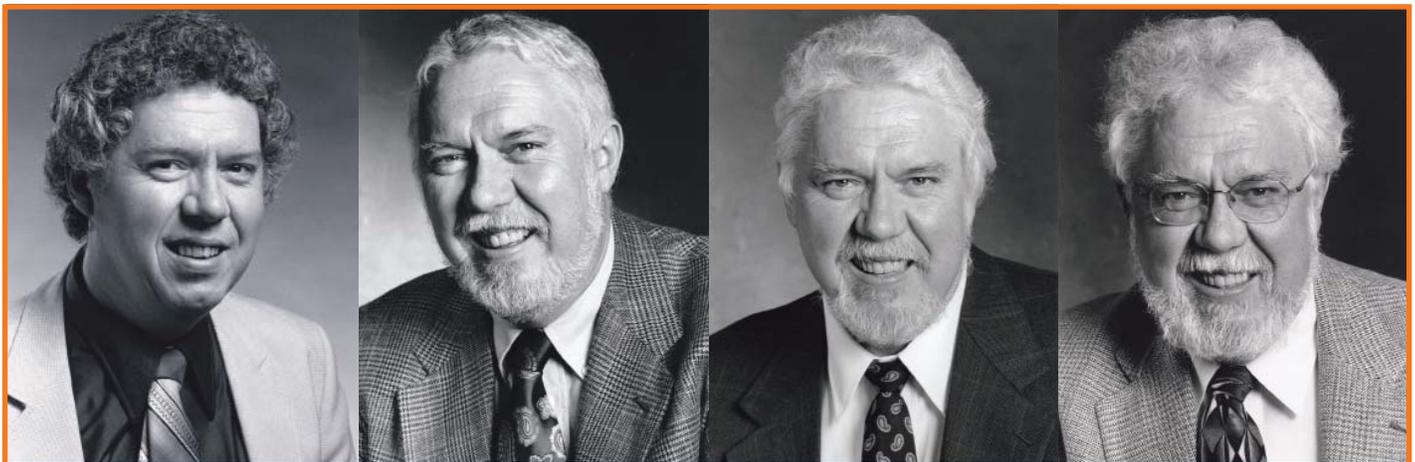
"In retrospect," he says, "it was the best thing that ever happened."

Close on the heels of this personal disappointment came the tragic death of a good friend. "That put not getting the deanship into perspective," says McKenzie.

McKenzie, known for his eclectic interests and upbeat attitude, says a sense of perspective has been a tremendous asset in his role as provost. Another important qualification was his deep knowledge of RIT – "I knew all the players."

That deep institutional knowledge and work ethic as well as his good spirits have earned the respect of colleagues.

"It is difficult to capture the true essence of Stan McKenzie in a few words," says Kristen Waterstram-Rich, current chair of Academic Senate and director



1983

1994

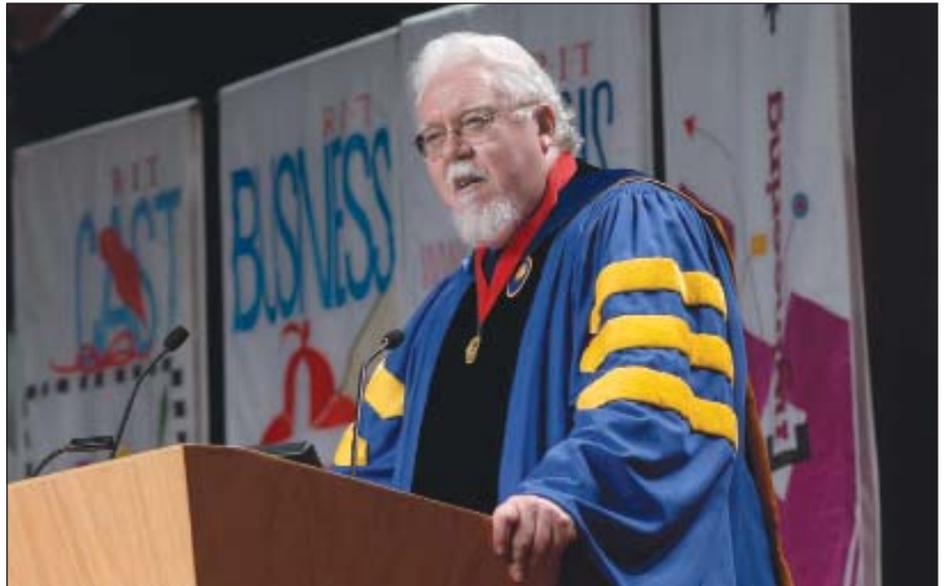
1997

2000

of Premedical Studies. "He arrived in his current position as a peace-maker during a tumultuous time at RIT. In his position as provost and chief academic officer, we have appreciated Stan's openness, his willingness to listen, and his ability to clearly explain complex issues and the rationale behind decisions. His knowledge of the workings of the university as a whole is impressive. And his collaborative spirit, fair-mindedness and ethical nature have made him a trusted adviser and advocate for students and faculty for many years. He will be missed."

The next provost, McKenzie hopes, will be strongly committed to undergraduate education, skilled in seeking grants and contracts, and supportive of research and entrepreneurial ventures.

By the time the new provost is settled in the seventh floor administrative suite of the George Eastman Building, McKenzie will be back in the classroom. He plans to teach in the fall 2008 quarter, begin a long-overdue sabbatical at the home he built in Tucson, Ariz., during winter and spring quarters, teach again in fall 2009, complete his sabbatical during winter 2009-2010, and then move into retirement transition.



Provost Stanley McKenzie addresses students and parents at the 2007 convocation for new students.

McKenzie has been thinking about his next project for many years: a book focusing on Shakespeare and the concept of nothingness.

"Shakespeare is very conscious that dramatic art is unsubstantial – creation out

of nothing."

There's no doubt that McKenzie will be able to create something out of that premise.

A reception for the retiring provost takes place from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, in Clark Gym.

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**Bill Buckingham, '64**

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**RIT**

# Both sides now

At RIT, right brain and left brain come together in unique and surprising ways

After earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in performance at the Eastman School of Music, Adam Lange-Pearson developed osteoarthritis and realized he would not be able to play at the level required for a career as a cellist.

Instead, he entered RIT's B.S./M.S. computer engineering program. The Devils Lake, N.D., native excelled. In his senior year, he was chosen to serve as class delegate at convocation, where he spoke about his experiences and played a cello solo.

While this change of plans was, indeed, life altering, Lange-Pearson doesn't view music and engineering as polar opposites.

"What I came to realize is at a fundamental level, one can find beauty in almost everything," says Lange-Pearson, an engineer at IBM in Rochester, Minn., where he works in the area of high-end server virtualization. He maintains his involvement with music as artistic director of the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra. "I have the best of both worlds," he says.

"When I have to do something difficult in engineering, my brain is thinking about shapes, moving the different pieces around in my head, and I hear music," he says. "My right brain gets involved in my left brain. . . I see that in some of the really brilliant people I work with at IBM.

"The creative process in engineering these days takes place at a lot of different levels. In solving (engineering) problems, you have to be very creative."

RIT provides a home to people on both ends of the spectrum – and many who fall somewhere in the middle.

## UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT RIT LAST

year, President Bill Destler immediately embraced RIT's blend of right brain and left brain activity. An international authority on high-power microwave sources and advanced accelerator concepts as well as an accomplished musician and one of the world's foremost collectors of antique banjos, Destler applauded the university's unique mix of artists and designers on the one hand, and scientists, engineers, and business leaders on the other.



Adam Lange-Pearson '99, performing at convocation in 1999.



Chance Glenn Sr., associate professor of telecommunications engineering technology, singing The Star Spangled Banner during RIT President Bill Destler's inauguration ceremony.



That observation became the inspiration for "Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival," a public showcase of the best of RIT (see related story this page).

The notion that the two hemispheres of human brains lead separate lives, so to speak, emerged in the 1950s and '60s. Psychobiologist Roger Wolcott Sperry and his team at California Institute of Technology conducted research on patients whose brains had been surgically split as a treatment for severe epilepsy.

They determined that the left hemisphere of the brain is occupied with language, analytical, linear, and objective thinking. Meanwhile, the right hemisphere manages the spatial, non-verbal, perceptual, intuitive, subjective functions. Sperry won the Nobel prize for physiology or medicine in 1981 for his split-brain discoveries.

Both sides of the brain are at work in everyone, but for many of us, one side seems to dominate. From this comes the popular notion that left-brain types are the fact-oriented engineers, scientists and accountants, while right-brainers are artists and dreamers.

**"I DON'T LOOK AT ONE SIDE OF THE brain,"** says Chance Glenn Sr., associate professor of telecommunications engineering technology. "To me, it's all about creation."

And, he adds, "I like the freedom in the academic world to create."

He has turned his creative energy to a variety of projects. A singer and composer, Glenn has written more than 100 songs. He launched a music production company and produced and performed on two CDs – one of which was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2000. He was co-founder and chief technology officer of a start-up technology company, Syncrodyne Systems. Since arriving at RIT in 2003, Glenn has performed frequently at campus events. Two years ago, he launched a technical publication, *The Journal of Applied Science and Engineering Technology*.

"Techno geek, artsy fartsy, athlete – I was all of those," says Glenn. "One reason I do a lot of things is I want to affect people's lives – hopefully in a positive way. The honest truth, I'm still searching for the real me."

**FOR MANY OF US, CLEAR INDICATIONS** of right-brain or left-brain orientation appear in childhood. For example, Therese Hannigan '91, '92 (graphic design, publishing) and Ali M. Ali '04 (new media design) loved to draw. Hannigan expected to study engineering in college, but persuaded



## Can you imagine?

The first "Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival," a public showcase of the best of RIT, takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 3. PAETEC, the Rochester-based communications company, is premier sponsor of the event. Admission is free.

More than 400 projects and activities are being planned by students, faculty and staff, in addition to events organized by each of the eight colleges. Visitors will find demonstrations, exhibitions, performances and hands-on activities throughout the campus, with some of the larger exhibits on display at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

The festival will be family friendly, with traditional festival fare: carnival rides, music, food and activities for the kids.

Here's a list of some of the projects expected to be displayed. For more information, visit the festival Web site at [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine). Live video and a real-time photo gallery will be displayed on the Web site during the festival.

- Electric bicycles
- Interactive mini-golf hole
- 21st century news
- Workshop of theater techniques bridging deaf and hearing cultures
- Formula Car unveiling
- Animatronic dog
- Preservation of ancient manuscripts using imaging technology
- The Best of ImageMovementSound Festival
- Space tourism
- Nutrition and the Mediterranean diet
- Hearing tests and demonstrations of different hearing problems and therapies
- Past Meets Present: A Century of Women Students at RIT
- Cyber intrusion threat and impact projection
- Mindfulness meditation: instruction and practice
- Better Me fitness demo
- Mine detection with swarm robots
- Photographic and artist-rendered images of gross anatomy
- Performance and production of an original song
- Factors that may influence inhaled particle deposition in the lung
- Water quality of Allen Creek
- Printing with variable design
- Sustainable project design
- Student-built "green" car
- The Changing Library
- Capoeira performance combining acrobatics, music, dance and martial arts
- Exposure to toxic pollutants: How does your community rank?
- 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge documentary screening
- Human everyday movement / behavior as dance
- Computerized vending machine
- Electronics recycling outreach and activism

[www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine)  
Saturday, May 3



Teamwork at Dumbwaiter Design, from left: Mike Roushey, third-year new media design student; Therese Hannigan '91, '92 (with laptop); Marc Gurney '08 (new media interactive design and development); Ali M. Ali '04 (red sweater); Sarah Merchant, fourth-year new media design student (with ear-phones); and Dezirae Moore '07 (graphic design) .

her parents to let her major in design. Ali's parents wanted him to go into architecture, but when he heard about new media design, "It turned out to be just what I wanted. I wanted to do something artistic, but practical."

Artistic talent alone won't guarantee success in the graphic design industry, both say. Technical skills are essential – and the technology changes all the time. "You're



Roy Berns, Richard S. Hunter Professor of Color Science, Appearance and Technology, had his first paying music gig at age 12.

forced to be a lifelong learner," says Hannigan. "It's not enough just to keep up. You have to stay ahead."

Hannigan started her own design company in 1996, but closed it in 2005 to start a new company, Dumbwaiter Design, with Ali and several other RIT grads. The new media design firm specializes in interactive, motion and print design including broadcast design, Web sites, microsites, 3-D animation, games, DVD design, presentations, brochures and identity design for large and small business clients.

Hannigan also teach full time in the new media design program; Ali teaches part time.

"I've found there are three types of students in the new media program," Hannigan says. "Some thrive on the creative, some focus on technology. But some do both and wouldn't be happy doing just one or the other."

**ROY BERNS DEVELOPED AN INTEREST** in music as well as art in early childhood. He started playing guitar at age 7, and had paying gigs by age 12. He allows that he was not a very good student in high school, although he did well in math and art. Berns studied textile science at the University of California-Davis, and that led him to color science.

Now the Richard S. Hunter Professor of Color Science, Appearance and Technology in RIT's Carlson Center for Imaging Science, Berns continues his passion for



Al Biles, professor and undergraduate program coordinator, Information Technology Department, performs frequently at community events.

music as one-third of Lumière, a trio that performs gypsy jazz in a style inspired by Django Reinhardt. (Another RIT faculty member, Peter Ferran, professor of fine arts, plays clarinet.) The group plays weekly at Rochester's Little Theatre, as well as other occasional appearances around the area. Berns has also taught for the past four summers at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop.

"I think performing is a different level than just playing with friends," says Berns. "It's riskier, more intense. The skills I have developed as a working musician make me more comfortable in front of a class, and more sensitive as a teacher."

He sees no conflict in being a scientist with a strong right-brain orientation. "I'm able to use my creativity in research," he says. "I want to be around smart people who have talent, whether they're right brain or left brain. We need all types."

**A CASUAL OBSERVER MIGHT GUESS** that the Golisano College for Computing and Information Sciences would be the epicenter for left-brain activity. But this is the home of a unique music maker: Al Biles, professor and undergraduate program coordinator, Information Technology.

Biles, an accomplished jazz trumpeter, is



Self-portrait with harmonica by Cassi Fecho, third-year imaging and photo technology major.

the inventor of GenJam (short for genetic jammer), an interactive genetic algorithm that learns to play jazz solos. Biles began working on GenJam during a professional development leave in 1993-94, and has continued to expand its repertoire of tunes and styles. Biles and GenJam play together regularly at RIT functions and at other venues, often under the billing of the AI Biles Virtual Quintet.

Biles began the project as an academic exercise, expecting to write some papers and possibly present at a few conferences. But it "began to evolve from a piece of technology to focus more on the music."

"GenJam is a formidable sideman," he says. "It does some nice stuff."

In fact, Biles has gone to conferences all over the world, and recently co-edited a book, *Evolutionary Computer Music*, which contains a chapter on GenJam.

It fits perfectly in the multimedia arena, an example of how music can be used in a technological setting – while maintaining the human element.

"Right brain, left brain – it's an illusion, a vast oversimplification," says Biles. "In IT, we're focused on how people use technology."

### THIRD-YEAR IMAGING

and photo technology major Cassi Fecho is a classically trained singer, plays piano and is teaching herself to play harmonica. Despite her passion for music, she says, "I am most definitely left brain."

Her interest in photography began in elementary school, before she had ever taken a photograph. But at RIT, Fecho realized she is more interested in the science than the art of photography.

In her field, she can go in either direction. But she feels that many students at RIT tend to become caught on one side or the other.

"For the most part, I see RIT as mostly left brain, until you

walk into Building 7" (home of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences). "Unfortunately, there's not much opportunity to mix."

Jen Loomis, a fifth-year software engineering major, agrees. "I think a lot of students at RIT are capable of doing both," she says. "I do think RIT has a tendency of putting people into boxes based on major. It starts from the get-go."

### HOWEVER, EFFORTS ARE WELL

underway to make RIT more integrated, says Katherine Mayberry, vice president for academic affairs. All students now have the option of pursuing a minor. More than 50 choices are available, including foreign language, art history, philosophy, accounting, entrepreneurship, imaging science, marketing, theater arts, engineering management, and journalism.

Through the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies in the College of Applied Sciences and Technology, students can create undergrad and graduate degree programs tailored to their interests and aspirations. In addition, a growing number of double majors are being offered. Examples include an M.S. degree program in new product development (Saunders College of Business and Kate Gleason College of Engineering); B.S. program in new media publishing (College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and Goli-sano College of Computing and Information Sciences); and a B.S./M.S. program in mechanical engineering and public policy (KGCOE and College of Liberal Arts).

"There are clearly a lot of students who are trying to engage the different sides of their personalities," says Mayberry. "We're developing more multidisciplinary programs. Students want more options, and we are working to make them available."

Participating in one (or more) of RIT's 150-plus organizations is another option for students to explore other interests – and other aspects of the RIT experience.

Loomis, for instance, is editor of the *Reporter*, the weekly magazine published by students, and also plays trombone in the RIT jazz ensemble.

"My experience at *Reporter* has been amazing. If I had gone to a larger school, with tons of liberal arts majors, I don't think I would have gotten the opportunity to work in the capacity that I do at *Reporter*. I'm a software engineering student learning about art. That's cool."

Kathy Lindsley



Fifth-year software engineering major Jen Loomis is editor of *Reporter* magazine.



# Journey to the stars

RIT is becoming a renowned center for astrophysics

In the next decade, breakthroughs in astrophysics could reshape our understanding of the universe. Observations of gravity waves could prove Einstein's theory of general relativity, or tip physics on its head. Other missions using Earth-based telescopes and space probes will pry into dark matter (an unknown material that makes up about 85 percent of the universe) and dark energy (a mysterious force linked to the expansion of the universe).

RIT is gaining a reputation in the realm of astrophysics at this exciting time, with faculty contributing to research initiatives that blend science fiction and reality.

If you weren't looking, it might seem that astrophysics popped up overnight at RIT, complete with an internationally recognized group of scientists and a doctoral program in the works.

By its nature, astrophysics combines physics, math and imaging science, and, increasingly, computer science. It brings together scientists from different disciplines within the College of Science and the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences to explore young and dying stars, centers of galaxies and black holes, and the technology to make new observations.

"Astrophysics – the physics of the universe – is an exciting area because it touches the most challenging questions that face contemporary physics from the very small to the very large," says David Axon, head of RIT's Department of Physics.

Adds Ian Gatley, Dean of the College of Science: "Astrophysics is a discipline where learning by doing is absolutely key. It involves building technology, using tech-

Joel Kastner and his team observed this planetary nebula, known as the Ant Nebula, in 2004 using the Chandra X-ray Observatory. Chandra's data are shown in blue, while green and red are optical and infrared data from the Hubble Space Telescope. (Image credits: X-ray: NASA/CXC/RIT/J. Kastner et al.)

nology and modeling phenomena using computers, and all of those are really very big issues indeed for RIT and its students."

## In the beginning

Astrophysics at RIT got a boost when Gatley joined the university in 1997 as director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. Gatley, an internationally known scientist, may be best known for building one of the first multi-pixel infrared cameras used for astronomical research. While working as a lead astronomer at the



David Axon

Stefi Baum

Manasse Mbonye

David Merritt

National Optical Astronomy Observatories, Gatley devised a camera adapting infrared detectors from the military to point upward to penetrate the dust in interstellar space.

Gatley's passion for adapting technology to make new kinds of measurements led to new research opportunities at RIT beginning with an initiative to process data taken from a remotely operated telescope at the South Pole and the early stages of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a project that RIT's Laboratory for Imaging Algorithms and Systems in the Center for Imaging Science is involved with today.

## The 'A' team

By 2000, the basic foundation for astrophysics research at RIT was in place with the presence of Gatley, Joel Kastner, a world expert on planetary nebula; Zoran Ninkov, a specialist in new sensor technology for astronomical imaging; and Michael Richmond, director of the RIT Observatory. Richmond contributes to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a ground-based project to digitally map the sky, and the Super Nova Acceleration Probe, a future endeavor to understand the dark energy linked to the universe's acceleration.

A core astrophysics group came together in the intervening years through the addition of seasoned scientists, internationally known and well reputed: Axon, previously affiliated with the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore and the University of Hertfordshire, England, had written a paper with Gatley and knew David Merritt, an expert on galactic nuclei and black holes who came to RIT from Rutgers University. Merritt, in turn, knew Manuela Campanelli and Carlos Lousto, experts in numerical relativity simulations of black hole mergers, who, along with Yosef Zlochower, joined RIT from the University of Texas at Brownsville (see related story, page 20). Axon recruited Andrew Robinson, an expert in active galactic nuclei and polarimetry, a technique used to measure light in space, from the University of Hertfordshire, England. Manasse Mbonye, a relativistic astrophysicist

specializing in theoretical cosmology and black hole physics, came to RIT from the University of Michigan and spent a year at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center.

Axon's connections also led Stefi Baum, now professor and director of the Carlson Center for Imaging Science, and Chris O'Dea to join RIT from the Space Telescope Science Institute, where they all had contributed to the Hubble Space Telescope. Baum had also worked with Don Figer, a leading instrumentalist in next-generation sensing technologies, at the Space Telescope Science Institute and recruited him to head the Rochester Imaging Detector Laboratory in RIT's Center for Imaging Science.

"All the players we've brought in were already established in the international astronomy community and this has allowed us to create a baseline that is already recognized by our peers," says Axon. "This was not achieved by chance, but by careful networking."

"Of equal significance, we have recruited fine young postdocs to work with this permanent core of faculty who give momentum to the research," he adds.

The reputations, publication records and grant-proposal writing expertise of the astrophysics faculty have helped them secure significant external funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation to support their research. Current funding totals approximately \$3 million. In the last five years, these scientists have won approximately \$17 million in funded research.

## Astrophysics Ph.D.

Pending state approval, RIT will launch its fifth doctoral program, in astrophysical sciences and technology (AST), in fall 2008. The program will depart from traditional astrophysical studies that focus mainly on theoretical and observational aspects of the discipline by adding the characteristic RIT twist of technology and applied science. An equal emphasis on theory, observational astronomy, and sensor and instrument development will set RIT's program apart.

Students will have the opportunity to earn masters' and doctoral degrees in three

tracks: the emerging field of astro-informatics and computational astrophysics; astronomical instrumentation and development of new technologies for application in astronomy and space science; and astrophysics. The program will draw heavily upon faculty from the Carlson Center for Imaging Science, the Department of Physics and the School for Mathematical Sciences.

"The breadth of the program we have here is extremely large," Axon says. "We go all the way from the fundamentals of tackling Einstein's field equations on supercomputers to how galaxies are assembled and how black holes work and grow through to the technology side of how we develop the detectors needed to make these investigations and those at the frontiers of cosmology possible."

## The RIT edge

"The AST program is a good match to RIT because of the program's dual emphasis on the 'end result' – groundbreaking science and the 'getting there' – developing the technology required to get the science done," says Kastner, who is on sabbatical at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Grenoble in Grenoble, France. "At a place like RIT, one need not take precedence over the other. In my view, the same can't be said for very many research university astronomy programs, where generally the emphasis is on the Ph.D. theses that represent cutting-edge science. The supporting technology is often not given the same status."

The technological emphasis will give graduates from the AST program an edge. In addition to academic and research positions, graduates will have opportunities in a wide range of technical areas, including remote sensing, informatics, the aerospace industry, homeland security, computer technology and even business and finance.

"Astronomy is one of the oldest and most inspiring of sciences," Baum says. "From the earliest of times, as humans gazed in awe upward in the darkness, they wondered about our place in a seemingly vast universe. They studied the changing cycle of the sun and moon and the patterns of the stars, and then applied that knowledge to meter time, measure distance, and navigate over land and sea. Astrophysics has that same reach today and we have the opportunity to expose all of RIT, from the undergraduates to our alumni, to the excitement that comes from participating in the quest to understand the cosmos."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

# Big Bang, black holes and gravity waves

## RIT scientists look into the nature of the universe

Editors note: Astrophysics research at RIT moves in two directions. One group of scientists focus on theoretical work. Another group, the observational astronomers and instrumentalists, is involved in experimental astrophysical research.

The following story takes a look at the work of the theory group. The fall issue of the magazine will feature the work of the observational astronomers and instrumentalists.

Scientists at RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation (CCRG) are producing groundbreaking research in computational astrophysics and numerical relativity, a research field that uses supercomputers to solve the complex equations in Einstein's theory of general relativity.

The center was created in January 2007 when Manuela Campanelli and Carlos Lousto joined RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences with post-doctoral fellow Yosef Zlochower (now an assistant professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences) and Hiroyuki Nakano. Also affiliated is David Merritt, a preeminent theorist.

Alessia Gualandris, also a post-doctoral fellow at the center, works closely with Merritt. Josh Faber, an expert in neutron stars and black holes from the University of Chicago, joined the team in December 2007.

Campanelli, director of CCRG and professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences, caused an international stir in 2005 when she, Lousto and Zlochower, simulated the merging of two black holes on a supercomputer following Einstein's theory of general relativity. The team had spent three years working on the 10 interrelated equations for strong field gravity that comprise Einstein's famous theory connecting matter, space and time.

The ability to simulate gravity waves has hinged for decades on a fresh approach to solving Einstein's equations – and the development of sufficient computer power to simulate these waves. Einstein predicted that the collision of huge masses, such as black holes or neutron stars, would produce gravity waves.

Campanelli's team, then at the University of Texas at Brownsville, was one of two independent groups of scientists to solve the equations in the same year. In fact, both groups presented their findings at the same academic conference. Their success thrust



Members of the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation include, from left, Manuela Campanelli, Carlos Lousto, Hiroyuki Nakano, Hans-Peter Bischof and Yosef Zlochower.

Campanelli's team to the forefront of their field and helped to revive interest in the study of general relativity.

For some astrophysicists, the quest to observe gravity waves is akin to the fabled pursuit of the Holy Grail. This is because gravitational waves pass through matter that blocks light, or electro-magnetic radiation, and that is very interesting to scientists. Tracing gravity waves back in time might lead them to the other side of the Big Bang.

"We can look at the origin of the universe with gravitational waves and extract information that is otherwise blocked to electro-magnetic radiation," explains Lousto. "Gravitational waves can also detect unexpected objects – things beyond the imagination of theoretical physicists and mathematicians, and maybe even science fiction writers. Many times it happens in science that when you develop a new technique, you discover unexpected objects."

### Searching for gravity

Scientists expect to measure actual gravity waves for the first time within the next decade. Astrophysicists will compare real waves coming from space with simulated ones such as those generated by research produced by Campanelli's team.

Scientists from California Institute of Technology and MIT designed the ground-based detector known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) to measure the detailed form of gravitational waves. The National Science Foundation-funded project consists of two separate observatories that work in unison – one located in Livingston, La., and the other near Richland, Wash. The observatories became operational full-time in November 2005.

LIGO could identify gravity waves from the merger of two black holes in space as soon as 2013. When Advanced LIGO, the next phase, begins operation in 2012, the instrument's vision will extend from 3 million to 300 million years into the past. (The Big Bang is thought to have occurred 13.7 billion years ago.)

A complementary gravity-wave seeking initiative in space is the upcoming NASA/European Space Agency space mission Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) that will fish the universe for gravity waves. LISA is expected to launch in 2015.

"In order to confirm the detection of gravitational waves, scientists need the modeling of gravitational waves coming from space," Campanelli says. "They need to know what to look for in the data they

acquire, otherwise it will look like just noise. If you know what to look for, you can confirm the existence of gravitational waves. That's why they need all these theoretical predictions."

Research at the center will support both LIGO and LISA initiatives, placing RIT among some 50 institutions in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. In a November 2007 interview with Discover magazine, Kip Thorne, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech, author of *Black Holes and Time Warps* and a driving force behind LIGO, points to Campanelli and Lousto's black-hole simulations as some of the most exciting research taking place.

Others agree. The June 2007 issue of *New Scientist* featured an article about the orbital spin of black holes that RIT scientists Campanelli, Lousto, Merritt and Zlochower had produced.

About the same time Discover published its interview with Thorne, Campanelli's team simulated three black holes evolving, orbiting and eventually colliding, another computational feat never before done. The simulation of multiple black holes tested the formalism initially built for two masses and confirmed a robust computer code free of limitations. The results revealed the distinct gravitational signature three black holes might produce. This simulation was processed using the center's new super computer cluster named "newHorizons."

"Gravity waves can also confirm the existence of black holes directly because they have a special signature," Lousto says. "That's what we're simulating. We are predicting a very specific signature of black hole encounters. And so, if we check that, there's a very strong evidence of the existence of black holes."

"It's very timely research because it's on the verge of discovery," Campanelli adds. "And what we do is critical for this discovery to happen. We expect this area to keep expanding because the detection of gravitational waves will be the birth of gravitational wave astronomy, a new kind of astronomy. There will be a lot of interest in the world."

Campanelli anticipates the center expanding in the near future to include scientists specializing in LIGO analysis of gravitational waveforms. This area of research within the field of numerical relativity bridges the gap between simulation and experimentation. It makes connections between the waveforms Campanelli's team models with real data, and provides a necessary link in the pursuit of gravity waves.

Please turn to page 22

## Big Bangs from supercomputers

When black holes crash into each other at the center of a galaxy, the safest place to be is on the other side of the computer simulating the drama.

Scientists at the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation simulate cataclysmic collisions and the evolution of galaxies using supercomputers to churn out computations that would sizzle the latest desktop model.

In fact, the center is home to one of the fastest computers in the world: gravitySimulator, a special-purpose machine David Merritt purchased in 2004 with \$600,000 from RIT, NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Merritt, a professor of physics, uses gravitySimulator to study gravitational forces causing black holes to form, evolve and interact with stars and to predict what happens after black holes collide.

The cluster contains 32 nodes, each housing a special-purpose accelerator board called a GRAPE, or GRAVity PipE-line, and processes data at the speed of 4 teraflops, or four trillion computations (floating point operations) per second. The GRAPEs, imported from Tokyo, are specially designed to carry out gravitational force calculations.

"GravitySimulator is 1,000 times faster than a standard desktop computer," says Hans-Peter Bischof, associate professor of computer science and member of CCRG. "The machine can handle four million particles – each representing a star. And for this kind of problem, that's enormous."

Bischof illustrates the data Merritt collects from the gravitySimulator using a visualization system he designed. His mini-movies are among the first to depict gravity-force calculations of such large size.

Merritt hopes to double the size of the three-year old cluster and use the gravitySimulator to visualize other components of galaxies, such as gas clouds.

Currently, he is tooling up to use gravitySimulator for the first stage of the Virtual Galaxy, a scheme to simulate the entire Milky Way on a star-by-star basis.

"This project probably won't be completed in my lifetime," Merritt says, "but we hope to be able to simulate the central bulge of the galaxy, roughly a billion stars, in the next few years."

A second computer cluster known as "newHorizons," unveiled in October 2007, will maintain the center's competitive level of research in computational astrophysics and numerical relativity, a research field dedicated to proving Einstein's theory of general relativity. This state-of-the-art computer was designed to compute the numerical-relativity evolution of binary black holes. The \$470,000 computer was purchased with funds from separate grants, including an award from the NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program won by Manuela Campanelli, the principal investigator on the grant, Carlos Lousto, Merritt and Yosef Zlochower.

The computer, built with hardware from California-based Western Scientific, boasts 85 nodes – each with its own dual processor – and four amounts of computing units per node and high-speed Infiniband interconnections.

Today's typical desktop computer has 2 gigabytes of memory. By comparison, each node in newHorizons has 16 gigabytes or a total of 1.4 terabytes of memory. In addition, infinite band technology makes the computer especially fast, moving "packages" of information with a lag time or latency of 12.9 microseconds. The computer, which will have 36 terabytes of storage space, will – like the gravitySimulator – operate at its maximum capacity 24 hours a day for four to five years.

"Other scientists have satellites and telescopes to do scientific research," says Zlochower, an assistant professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences. "We have supercomputers. It's how we implement and test ideas. And because our simulations can take weeks, we needed the fastest machine possible."

The two computers share an air-conditioned room that never rises above 62 degrees Fahrenheit. They were configured to maximize airflow and space between the clusters to prevent heat-related damage. An automated alert system connected to a heat sensor will detect a rise in room temperature. And, if the electricity fails, powerful back-up batteries will keep the computers going for 15 minutes, allowing the machines to shut down without damaging hardware or losing data.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

## Black holes and galaxies

Also affiliated with the Center for Relativity and Gravitation, Merritt, a preeminent theorist at RIT, focuses on galaxies and the supermassive black holes typically found at their centers. While Campanelli and Lousto are concerned with space-time around black holes, Merritt is concerned with the interplay between black holes and the galaxies in which they live. Merritt, a professor of physics, collaborated with his CCRG colleagues on a paper published last year in *Physical Review Letters* predicting how fast a black hole can be thrown or “kicked” out of its galaxy.

Merritt studies the evolution of star clusters and galaxies with a dedicated computer known as a gravitySimulator. Now three years old, the supercomputer was one of the first in the world built to study how gravitational forces cause black holes to form in the densest regions in the universe. Merritt’s work was featured in the cover story about black hole research in the May 2006 issue of *Astronomy*.

Merritt and colleague Laura Ferrarese from the University of Victoria in Australia made what many consider to be a major discovery known as the M-Sigma relationship – a connection between the mass of supermassive black holes and the mass of their host galaxies. Their findings imply that black holes and galaxy growth are closely related. Merritt and Ferrarese suggest that the energy released by black holes might regulate the growth and evolution of their host galaxy – a result having potentially important cosmological consequences.

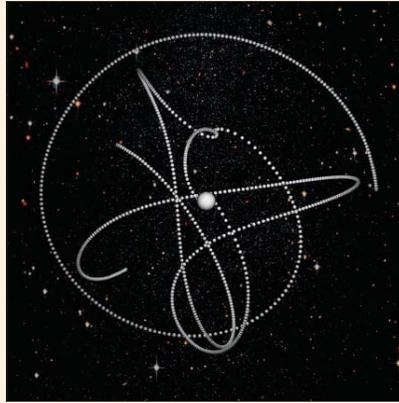
Merritt is also engaged in a long-term project called Virtual Galaxy to simulate the entire Milky Way galaxy, star by star.

“The astrophysics group is already unified,” Merritt says. “All of us are talking about the centers of galaxies where there are supermassive black holes from one point of view or another. There are lots of opportunities for cross-interaction.”

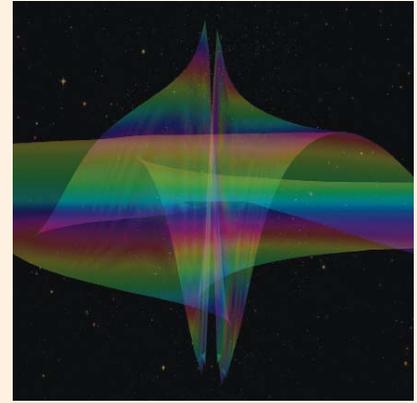
## From RIT to TV

In 2003, Merritt contacted Hans-Peter Bischof, associate professor of computer science, to write software visualizing his research. Now, a member of the CCRG team, Bischof, an expert in framework design, specializes in bringing black holes into view through computer graphics and animated movies illustrating the team’s results.

Some of Bischof’s images of black holes



Three black holes create interesting trajectories before final merging. This image was taken from a movie tracing the interaction of a trio of same-sized masses. Simulation by Manuela Campanelli, Carlos Lousto and Yosef Zlochower. Visualization by Hans-Peter Bischof. Background image: NASA, European Space Agency and The Hubble Heritage Team (Space Telescope Science Institute / Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy).



The collision of two black holes generates gravitational waves moving forward at the speed of light across the galaxy. Gravity waves, illustrated here, are warps in space-time and might provide clues to the origin of the universe. Simulation by Manuela Campanelli, Carlos Lousto and Yosef Zlochower. Visualization by Hans-Peter Bischof. Background image: NASA, European Space Agency and The Hubble Heritage Team (Space Telescope Science Institute / Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy).

simulated by Campanelli, Lousto, Zlochower and Merritt were used in the History Channel’s series *The Universe: Cosmic Holes*, which broadcast in December 2007.

“The science done at CCRG is very difficult to explain to the general public,” Bischof says. “A movie is one way to capture the essential information and let it speak for itself.”

## Big Bang and dark energy

Cosmology is another important area of astrophysics. It is the study of the entire universe and the behavior of its component parts. Currently, studies in theoretical cosmology fall to Manasse Mbonye, a relativistic astrophysicist who applies Einstein’s theory of general relativity to understanding space-time under extreme gravitational influences. Mbonye believes these properties can provide an understanding of the early universe and the nature of the Big Bang as well as the physics inside black holes.

“The interior of black holes may in some ways share attributes with the early universe,” he says.

Mbonye’s work in these areas is guided by his “cosmic equilibrium conjecture,” an idea maintaining that regions of infinite density and pressure known as singularities might not exist in space-time.

Mbonye’s conjecture implies that the

early universe may not have started from a physical singularity and that black hole interiors may be singularity-free. Based on this space-time paradigm, Mbonye searches for possible connections between black hole interiors and the early universe.

Mbonye also studies cosmic dynamics, including the current dark-energy driven cosmic acceleration. Being the only cosmologist at RIT doesn’t bother Mbonye, who takes a holistic look at the pending graduate program.

“Everything is complementary,” he says. “Our job here is to try to equip our students with the knowledge and understanding that we have of the kind of universe we live in. Each of us contributes a chunk of knowledge, and when you add those chunks in a complementary way you can create in the mind of a student a picture that comes as close as we can make it to understanding our world, our universe.”

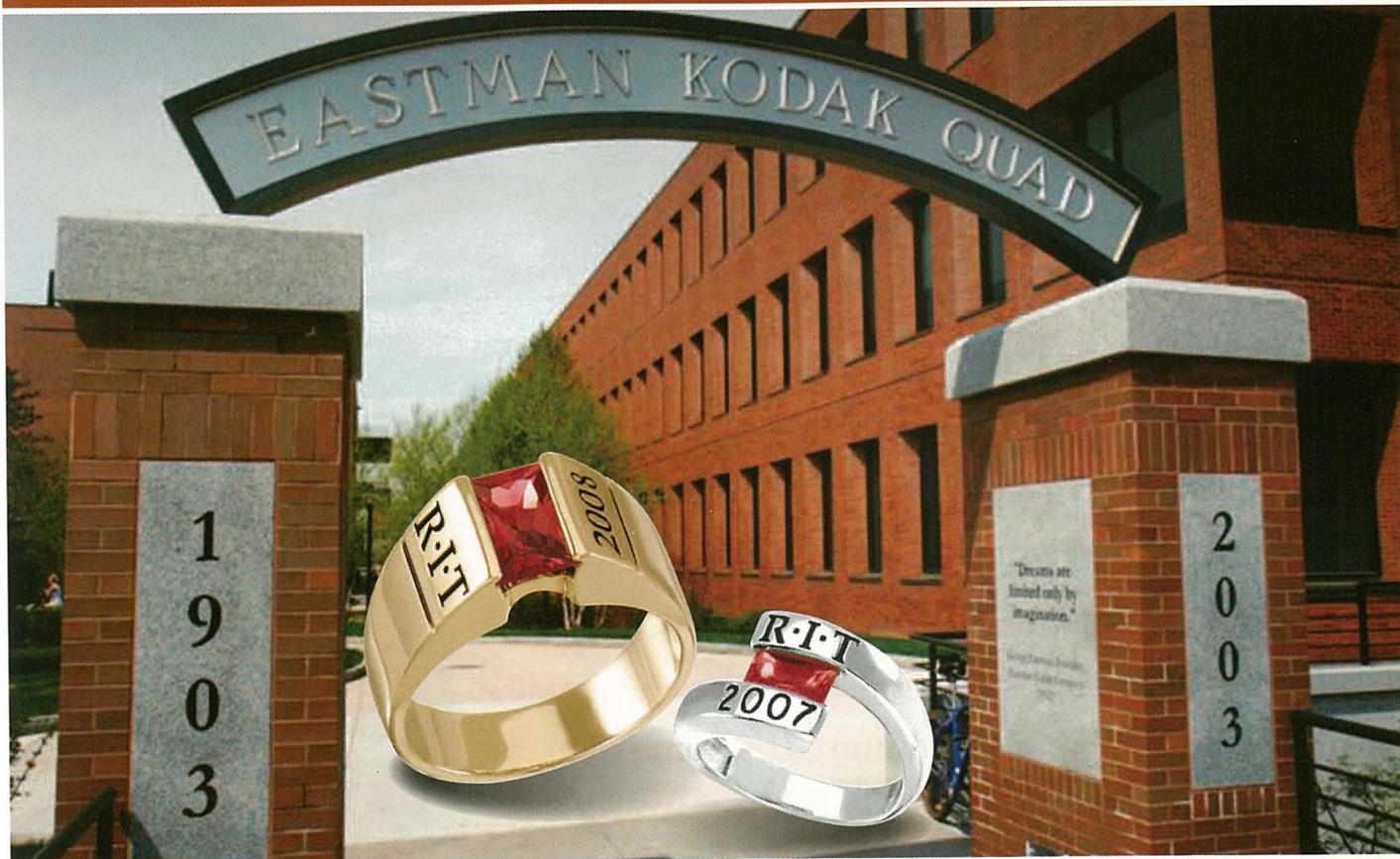
“That’s how astrophysics works,” he continues. “That’s how science works. No one single area of physics can alone make you understand this reality.”

Susan Gawlowicz '95

For more information about RIT’s Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, visit <http://ccrg.rit.edu>.



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## President Destler sports a new look

In an effort to increase support for RIT's men's and women's basketball teams, President Bill Destler issued a challenge to the campus community. He promised to dye his hair orange – if Clark Gym was filled for two games against Ithaca College on Jan. 19.

The men's game was packed, but the women's contest didn't quite make it. As a compromise, Destler had three-fourths of his hair colored. His wife, Rebecca Johnson, opted for an orange wig (photo above).



Fans and cheerleaders enjoyed the action.

### Web extras:

To see more photos of the event, go to the "Photography" section at [www.rit.edu/news](http://www.rit.edu/news) and click on Photo Gallery Archive.

# For love of the game

For student athletes, heart and hard work bring success on the playing field and in the classroom

Ryan Tryt, bundled inside a heavy black coat and a grey winter hat, was taking short, deliberate steps across the ice-coated pavement toward Clark Gymnasium when he spotted his bleary-eyed visitor approaching.

"Welcome to 6 a.m.," he bellows across the near-vacant parking lot. The sky looks as black as it did when he left campus eight hours ago at the conclusion of his night class.

"I have no distinction of what day it is sometimes," Tryt says. "It feels like it's dark all the time."

Tryt enters the athletics complex and slips into the locker room, emerging a few minutes later wearing a T-shirt and Tiger-orange baseball cap.

It's time for practice.

Baseball in January may seem incongruous to many (6 a.m. January baseball, no less), but off-season workouts – formal or informal – are a regular occurrence.

In fact, to the 575 student-athletes who participate in RIT's 24 varsity sports, the term off-season probably seems much stranger.

It's all a part of the RIT student-athlete experience – an experience, according to Athletic Director Lou Spiotti, that strives to develop the entire person.

"We conduct a competitive intercollegiate athletic program that emphasizes the quality of the athletic experience, along with supporting our student-athletes' academic goals and personal growth," Spiotti says. "We spend a lot of time around the development of our student-athletes and provide them with structure so that they can optimize their time here at RIT."

In turn, the student-athletes spend a lot of their time – in the classroom, in the gym, on the playing field and in the community – working tirelessly to achieve success.

Tryt, a catcher on the baseball team, doesn't believe there is a secret to that success. Actually, he feels it's quite simple.

"It's all about time management," says Tryt, a fourth-year marketing major. "I tell all of the recruits who come in that it's not



Baseball player Ryan Tryt starts most days with a 6 a.m. workout, no matter the season.

difficult. It's about making lists of things that need to be done, prioritizing them, and then crossing them off as you do them."

Tryt should know. He's excelled both in the classroom and on the baseball diamond – boasting a 4.0 grade-point average and a .364 batting average. Those numbers helped lead to his selection as RIT's first representative on the College Sports Information Directors of America/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American Team.



Lou Spiotti

Spiotti says it takes a special type of individual to participate in sports while navigating RIT's quarter system.

"We have a rigorous portfolio of academic programs at RIT and we also have a very demanding academic calendar," Spiotti says. "Our student-athletes are special in the fact that they are very focused on their academic lives. In many ways, they



Joanna Dobeck spends at least 25 hours a week on the basketball court.



Adrienne Gagnier hits the road.

student-athletes to rise above what everyone else is doing. They live in a competitive environment," Spiotti says. "There is also a safety net in place for each of them. Our student-athletes have coaches and support staff that are really focused on what they're doing academically."

Adrienne Gagnier, a fourth-year illustration major who runs track and cross-country, believes the mentality that makes her a successful athlete helps her academically.

"You always work to do your best in a race and you always work to do your best on a project. I feel those two really coincide," says Gagnier. "I don't ever want to hand in a project that I didn't put a lot of time in on, or that I know isn't good. I hate doing that. I don't want to do that. Just like I hate going into a race knowing that I didn't practice hard that week."

But Dobeck says there is another responsibility that RIT student-athletes take seriously: serving as a role model.

"Once you get immersed in the culture of RIT as an athlete, there's this expectation that you're supposed to set an example for

everyone else," Dobeck says. "I take that to heart – especially when it comes to underclassmen."

Last spring, RIT's Student Athlete Advisory Committee organized a weekend-long community service project entitled "Tigers Give Back." More than 350 student athletes participated in a series of service projects around Greater Rochester.

Tryt, a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, says one of the group's goals is to change the stereotypical perception that many still have about "jocks."

"Some people think that athletes don't work hard, that we're lazy, that we're going to miss class and get in trouble. That's just not true," Tryt says in between greeting his teammates as they arrive for practice.

"We understand that we're looking for a culture shift. It's not going to happen overnight. We're going to have to keep working."

John Follaco

To find out more about RIT's athletics program, including game schedules and team rosters, visit [www.rit.edu/athletics](http://www.rit.edu/athletics).

are pretty business-like in how they handle their lives. I think they know that, in order to succeed, they have to be business-like."

There is a lot to do, and little time to do it in.

"I spend, at the very minimum, 25 hours a week playing basketball," says Joanna Dobeck, a fourth-year electrical engineering major who plays forward on the women's basketball team. "I spend at least four hours a day practicing, watching film, working out and playing. I try to take one day off a week – usually Sundays."

Dobeck works just as hard on her studies as she does on her jump shot. And she expected nothing less when she made her college selection.

"I wanted to be challenged academically, that's why I came to RIT," she says. "All of the athletes that are recruited pretty much have that mentality as well. We know that we're going to do well in school as well as on the court."

And they do.

RIT student athletes consistently outperform the RIT student body at-large in terms of grade-point averages. In the 2006-2007 academic year, RIT student athletes averaged 3.19 grade-point averages. RIT's overall grade-point average was 3.05.

Spiotti attributes that success to a number of factors. Effective time management skills and academic eligibility requirements are two of them. Others aren't quite as obvious.

"There is a natural competition among

## From RIT to Super Bowl history

More than 70 former members of the RIT football program gathered at the Radisson adjacent to the RIT campus on Super Bowl Sunday this year.

They included players and assistant coaches, athletic trainers and cheerleaders. They came from Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio and all over New York to watch their former coach, Tom Coughlin, reach the pinnacle of the football world.

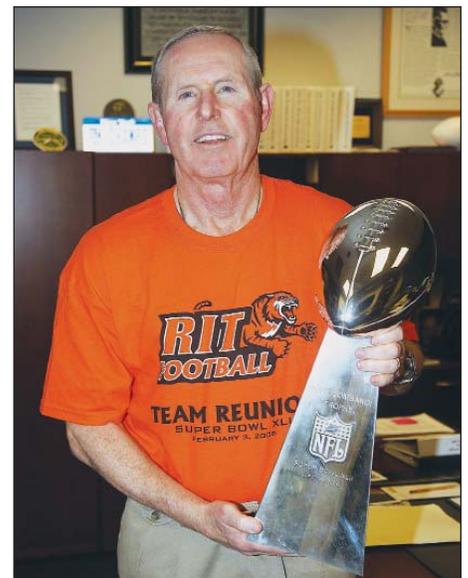
Coughlin, coach of the New York Giants, led his team to a 17-14 victory over New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

"We all went crazy. There wasn't a dry eye in the place," says Mark McCabe '75 (criminal justice), who played linebacker and defensive end for Coughlin from 1972-1973. "We all looked at each other and said, 'From RIT to the Super Bowl! We were the team that he started with and we were there to celebrate it together.'"

Coughlin's RIT connection made national news in the week leading up to the Super Bowl. It was featured in newspapers such as The New York Times, Newsday and Chicago Tribune.

The day before the game, word of the RIT reunion reached Coughlin in Arizona. He took the time to answer a question about the reunion that was posed to him through a team spokesman.

Coughlin was "really touched by this,"



Coach Tom Coughlin with two prizes: RIT reunion T-shirt and Super Bowl trophy. (Photo courtesy N.Y. Giants)

the spokesman told the Middletown, N.Y., Times Herald-Record. "Those guys played the game in its purest form," Coughlin told him. "It was club ball going to varsity. To think that they learned some life lessons that they still practice and are passing along to the children means a lot to me. That was a special group of young men who loved the game for the game."

# Sports experience brings life-long benefits

Former student athletes say athletics shaped their lives – sometimes in surprising ways

## All about teamwork

Suzanne Traynor Pail '98 (mechanical engineering) played soccer, softball, hockey



Sue Pail '98

and tennis at RIT, maintained a 3.56 grade point average and graduated with B.S. and M.S. degrees. She went to work for IBM as an engineer and took a leave of absence last year to manage Closet Factory, a business she and her husband,

Michael Pail '98 (electrical engineering) launched in Raleigh, N.C.

"Sports gets you involved with people outside your major, and when you get out in the business world, you have to work and network with all kinds of people. In sports, everyone has to pull their weight, and that's true in the real world. You can't accomplish your goals unless everyone performs."

## Moments to remember

Ritchie Herbert '85 (photography) says playing hockey at RIT shaped his life.



Ritchie Herbert '85

He'll never forget the 1985 national championship. When the team returned from Schenectady after defeating Union 3-2 in the semifinal and Bemidji State (Minnesota) 5-1 in the final, the bus was greeted by a huge crowd. Herbert was

later interviewed by Bryant Gumbel on NBC's Today show.

"Coach (Bruce) Delventhal said 'This is an experience you will remember all your life,'" says Herbert, who went on to play professional hockey in Europe until 1998, and now lives in Ingolstadt, Germany, where he works as a free-lance photographer. The memories of the championship remain vivid. "It's almost like yesterday."

## Great role models

When David Egan '62 (business administration) was wrestling at RIT, opponents included Cornell, Syracuse University, Pittsburgh, Bucknell and Lycoming. The

RIT team and Egan did well, "because we had an outstanding coach, Earl Fuller."

Egan also credits his coach at Spencerport (N.Y.) High, Leo Bernabi, with teaching life lessons as well as athletics skills.



David Egan '62

"My dad died when I was 8," says Egan, "so that made a difference."

Egan went on to serve as an assistant coach to the RIT wrestlers – and a career in law. He has been a New York State Supreme Court Justice since 2000. Egan says the most important lesson those mentors taught was "to build a house brick by brick, point by point, to start from the basics and build slowly. There's no overnight success."

## Reduces stress, increases success

Karen Provinski Conlan '96 (mathematics) excelled in academics and on the basketball court. Named Senior Athlete of the Year in 1996, she was an Academic All-American and won an Ellingson Award for academic excellence by a student-athlete. At graduation, she was chosen to represent the senior class and spoke at convocation and commencement.



Karen Conlan '98

"I feel that athletics almost enhances your coursework," says Conlan. "It is another outlet for stress, another way to make friends, another way to have success while in school. Another way to be recognized."

In her career as an IT professional for Dupont, she's discovered another advantage. "When co-workers hear I played basketball in college, they look at me with another level of respect," Conlan says. "It is something to talk about in job interviews."

## Competitive edge

"Having sports as a vocation and avocation has really worked out for me," says Sean Bratches '84 (business administration), executive vice president of sales and mar-

keting for ESPN. "I've had a front row ticket not only of ESPN but the world of sports," says Bratches, who joined the cable sports network in 1988.



Sean Bratches '84

Bratches, who played lacrosse at RIT, mentions time management, teamwork and leadership skills among the important lessons learned on the playing field. Honing a competitive spirit is another.

"When you get down to brass tacks, everything is measured in the world," he says. "On the field, there is a winner and a loser. I hate to lose, on the field or in business."

"Coach Bill Tierney said one thing that I use every day in business: 'One bad pass breeds another.' It means you have a game plan and you execute it flawlessly. If you have one bad pass, you have to recover your rhythm, you lose your momentum, your competitor gains an advantage. That can be critical."

## Winners never quit

Kristine Pierce Brassie '99 (hospitality and service management) scored her biggest win off the sports field. Diagnosed with Hodgkins disease in 1997, she underwent six months of treatment and returned to RIT and hockey and immersed herself with helping others. In 1999, she became the first woman and the first person in



Kristine Brassie '99

Division III to win the national Humanitarian Award.

"I played to be part of something," says Brassie. "Am I competitive? Absolutely," she says. "I don't know if you're born with it, but as a female on a boys' team, or a female in a boys' sport, you're always striving. I don't think that's always a good thing, but I think you accomplish a lot more."

Brassie, who coached women's hockey at Mercyhurst College for several years, is busy building a new team. She and her husband have four children, ages 4, 3, 2 and 1.

# Aboutfaces



John Roche, associate professor, English



Jeffrey Wagner, associate professor, economics

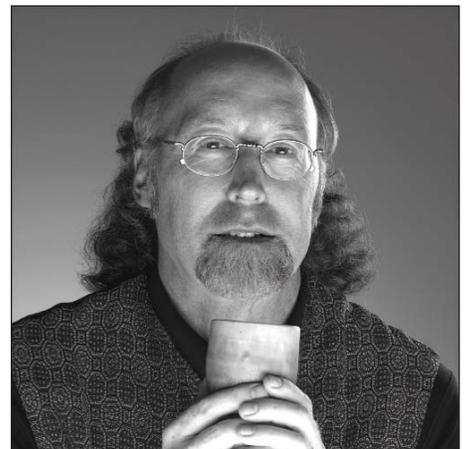


Alfreda Brown, interim chief diversity officer

These photographs are from an ongoing project called *Colleagues* begun in 2005 by John Retallack '70 (photography), chair of the visual media program in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

"They are portraits," he says, "but I prefer to think of them as character studies. The project, driven by my interest in people, has introduced me to colleagues from other colleges that I had previously known only by reputation."

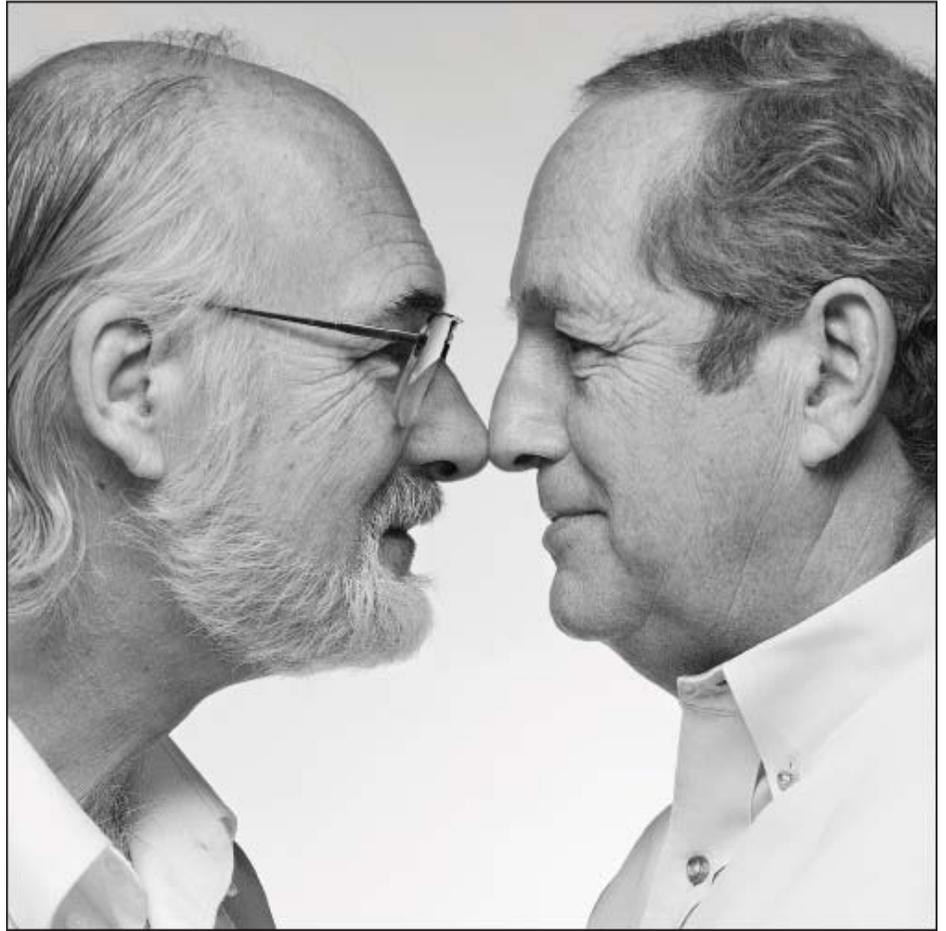
Retallack, who has taught at RIT since 1981, has had numerous exhibitions of his work. To see more, visit [www.johnretallack.com](http://www.johnretallack.com).



Tim Engstrom, professor, philosophy



Zerbe Sodervick, associate professor,  
director of extended studies



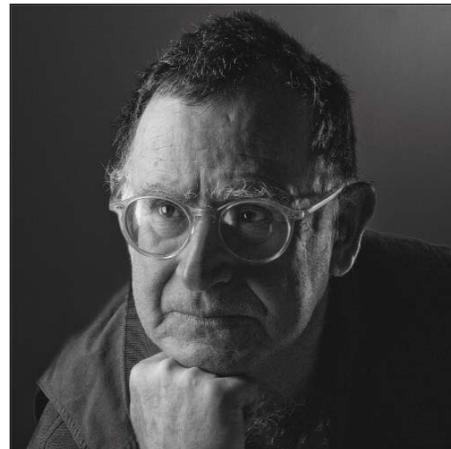
Andrew Davidhazy '67, '69, left, professor, and William DuBois, chair, School of Photographic Arts  
and Sciences



Elizabeth Mazzolini, assistant professor, English



Lisa Hermsen, assistant professor, English



Sam Abrams, professor emeritus, literature



Samantha Bosica '06 (visual media)



Al Biles, professor and undergraduate program chair, Information Technology



Tom Lightfoot, associate professor, School of Art



Luvon Sheppard, professor, School of Art



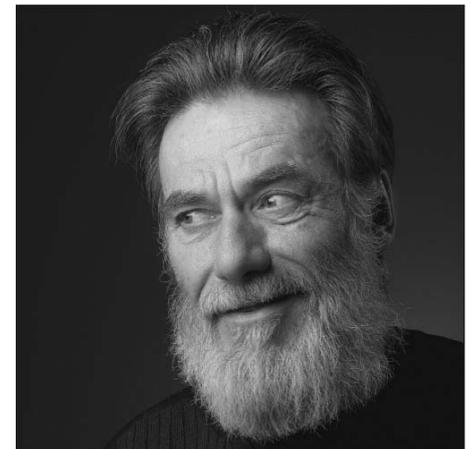
Susan Donovan, coordinator,  
Academic Support and Special Programs



Thomas Moran, associate professor,  
Center for Multidisciplinary Studies



Tom Zigon, assistant professor, School of  
Photographic Arts and Sciences



Skip Battaglia, professor, School of Film  
and Animation



# Home-grown Ambrosia feeds software niche

Tucked away in a stately yellow farmhouse about a 10-minute drive from campus is Rochester's future.

It's easy to miss, but it's right there – a few feet away from the bustling intersection and office parks dotting each of the remaining corners in the Rochester suburb of Brighton. Behind an unassuming sign identifying Ambrosia Software Inc. sits the small firm founded about 20 years ago by Andrew Welch '92 (photography).

Ambrosia is a private, growing company, doing business in a burgeoning high-tech field – the type of firm that's increasingly driving Rochester's new economy.

It all began for Welch as a 15-year-old high school student designing computer typefaces. His programming skills helped pay for college and, back when he was still an RIT student, he wrote his first computer game – “Whacky Wheel,” an electronic version of the TV game show *Wheel of Fortune* – which eventually led to the founding of Ambrosia. The start-up's first offering was “Maelstrom,” a 3-D Asteroids-style game.

Today, Ambrosia (Greek for “food of Gods”) has a bountiful harvest of more than two dozen computer games, including “DEFCON” and “pop-pop” (two of the most popular), and a growing number of applications and utilities, such as Dragster, a file-transfer tool; iSeek, an Internet search utility; iToner, a custom ring-tone tool for use with Apple's iPhone; and EasyEnvelopes, a free envelope-printing “widget.”

Two newer releases have generated the most recent buzz: SnapzProX, an image and movie capture application for easy creation and editing of QuickTime movies and screenshots (it's Welch's voice that declares “Cut!” and “That's a wrap!” inside the program); and WireTap Studio, professional audio recording and editing software that can capture audio output from other computer programs.

Winner of a 2007 Editors' Choice Award (commonly called an “Eddy Award”) from *Macworld*, WireTap Studio was favorably reviewed by the magazine and Welch was interviewed about the software for a *Macworld* podcast. A self-described “Mac geek,” Welch explained on the podcast how he ended up making computer applications, rather than shooting news photos, for a living:

“I was fortunate enough to have a friend of mine, who was a pretty famous photojournalist, who basically said, ‘Unless you get really lucky, I suggest you do the computer stuff.’ So that's what I'm doing.”

The advice was also providential for other RIT graduates currently employed by Ambrosia Software, including digital artist Marcus Conge '02 (industrial design) and system administrator Jake Cebula '05 (applied networking and systems administration), along with others with RIT ties through co-ops or classes. Welch goes by the title “el presidente.”

Away from the cavernous farmhouse – which housed a law firm



Andrew Welch '92 frequently brings his dogs to the office. This one is Aya, a Weimaraner.

before becoming Ambrosia's third home – Welch and his wife, Polly (the former Woon Fei Tay) enjoy their dogs, Kumba and Aya, who occasionally accompany Welch to work, joining Hector, an African gray parrot, who lives at the office.

Welch met Polly when he was asked to evaluate student-designed Web sites created as a project for a class instructed by Conge, who teaches at RIT as an adjunct professor. One of the designs Welch critiqued was created by Polly, a student in the class.

“We started talking, and it turned out she was from Malaysia,” Welch recounts. “By coincidence, I was on my way to Malaysia for a vacation. One thing led to another and she ended up stuck with me for life! That is an RIT love story, in a sense.”

Cut! That's a wrap!

Michael Saffran

## Web extras:

For more about Ambrosia Software Inc.'s products, visit [ambrosiaSW.com](http://ambrosiaSW.com)  
To hear a *Macworld* magazine podcast interview with Ambrosia Software founder Andrew Welch, visit

<http://podcasts.macworld.com/2007/10/downloads/mwpcast97.mp3>

To read *Macworld* magazine's selections for its 23rd Annual Editors' Choice Awards, visit <http://www.macworld.com/article/131153-3/2007/12/eddyawards2007.html>



At the opening reception for the Natura exhibition are, from left, Paul Lange '76, Jeannie Pearce '76, Stuart Rome '77, Alida Fish '76 and John Pfahl. (Photo by Elizabeth Lamark '00)

# Natural Selections

## Exhibit reunites retired professor and four former students

The work is widely divergent, but former RIT professor John Pfahl could see a common thread in the photos of four of his former students.

And so he organized a show of their work, which opened in December at the Nina Freudenheim Gallery in Buffalo, where his own work has frequently been exhibited.

Pfahl dubbed the show "Natura" because all of the photos share a connection to nature.

Alida Fish '76 (MEA) created large tintype photographs of snake, bird and fish specimens found preserved in museum collections, making reference to 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century European Cabinets of Curiosities. Fish is currently professor of photography at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Jeannie Pearce '76 (BFA), also on the faculty of the University of the Arts, photographs birds with a quirky homemade combination of telescope and digital camera as an alternative to more traditional nature photography.

Paul Lange '76 (BFA) closed his fashion photography studio in New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack and moved to a farm in upstate New York to devote more time to his personal work. His lushly colored flower portraits were inspired by a commission to photograph the gardens and greenhouse of a nearby estate.

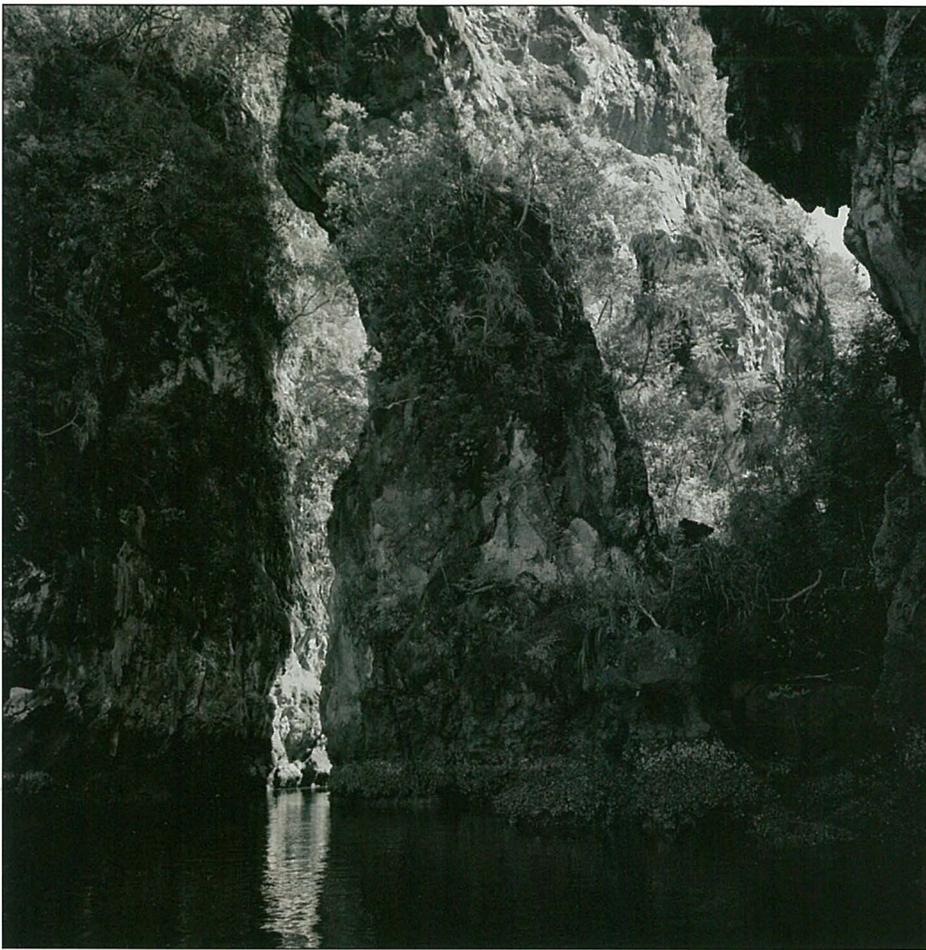
Stuart Rome '77 (BFA) presented black-and-white silver prints from his recent book, *Forest*. His large, detailed photographs seek to create a transcendent order from the chaos of nature. He is currently profes-

sor of photography at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

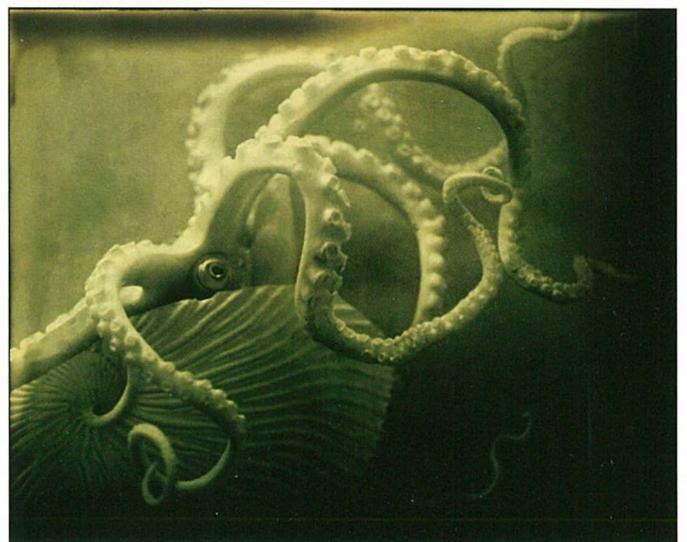
"Many of my former students are doing beautiful work," says Pfahl, who taught at RIT from 1968 to 1986 and now lives in Buffalo, "but these stood out in my mind."

The RIT Office of Alumni Relations hosted a reception at the gallery, providing an opportunity for area alumni to meet the photographers and Pfahl.

Pfahl continues to pursue his own work. His most recent project, entitled "Scrolls," involves enormous digital prints 84 inches high by 21 inches wide. Several of these are part of the permanent collection of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. For more about his work, see [www.johnpfahl.com](http://www.johnpfahl.com).

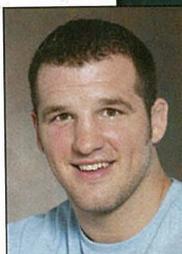


Credits, clockwise from left:  
Stuart Rome '77  
Jeannie Pearce '76  
Alida Fish '76  
Paul Lange '76



# Eight inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

The newest members of RIT's Sports Hall of Fame are (from left), Arnold Cole '74 (criminal justice), basketball; Chris Maybury '96 (business administration), hockey; Kristine Pierce Brassie '99 (hotel and resort management) hockey; Jerry O'Dell '82 (Eisenhower College), track; Nancy Goyette-Duncan '85 (graphic design), swimming; Ben Hunt '00 (packaging science), lacrosse; Grant Perry '91 (applied mathematics), soccer. (Photo by Ken Huth '88). Also inducted was Matt Hammil '99 (electromechanical technology), wrestling, inset right.



For more information about the Sports Hall of Fame, including video interviews with recent inductees, visit [www.rit.edu/athletics](http://www.rit.edu/athletics) and click on "RIT Tradition" from the left-hand list.

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[www.rit.edu/brickcity](http://www.rit.edu/brickcity)

# Communications grad works to end poverty in Africa

Giving money to poor people doesn't end poverty. The solution is providing people with a means of making money.

That's the premise – and promise – of KickStart International, which is focused on improving living standards of poor people in Africa.

“We are fighting poverty in a whole new way,” explains Kenneth Weimar '90 (professional and technical communications), director of development for the non-profit organization. “We're using technology, the private sector, and the innate entrepreneurial spirit of the world's poorest people.”

The concept is remarkably straightforward. KickStart develops and sells simple tools that enable people to increase their income. A prime example is a manual irrigation pump that allows farmers to grow larger and more valuable crops, even in dry times.

“The pumps look like Stairmasters, and that's how they work,” says Weimar. Such devices make use of human resources – time and labor – that are abundant in many underdeveloped areas. “What we want to do is give people the ability to make more money from their sweat.”

KickStart was founded in Kenya in 1991 by Martin Fisher and Nick Moon, who both had worked for charitable organizations but had come to believe that traditional methods of fighting poverty were ineffective. Their alternative approach involves five steps: identify potential small business opportunities; design and develop simple technologies necessary to operate the businesses; train manufacturers to produce the technologies; promote and market the technologies; monitor the results to make sure they work.

“People ask why we don't give the tools to people,” Weimar says. “There are a few reasons.” He notes that giveaways tend to be unfair – somebody has to decide who gets something. When items are sold in the marketplace, there's no favoritism. In addition, jobs are created in manufacturing the tools, making the system more sustainable.

KickStart does, however, help cover the costs of starting the manufacturing process, helping to keep the tools affordable. Besides the irrigation pumps, KickStart has developed cooking oil presses, sanitation and building technologies, and others. Many of these have been invented by KickStart co-founder Fisher, an engineer with a Ph.D. in theoretical and applied mechanics



**Kenneth Weimar '90, demonstrates a manual irrigation pump to a farmer in Kenya.**

**“We are fighting poverty in a whole new way. . . . What we want to do is give people the ability to make more money from their sweat.”**

**Kenneth Weimar '90**

from Stanford University.

The simple devices have had a big impact. KickStart has been remarkably successful, helping to start 50,000 new businesses, which now generate \$52 million each year, by the organization's reckoning. From its inception in Kenya, KickStart has expanded operations into Tanzania and Mali and is making efforts in several other nations. Headquarters are in San Francisco.

Weimar joined KickStart in 2005. “I went into fundraising the way most of us do,” he says. “By accident.”

As a student, he anticipated a career in marketing or advertising, but his first job after RIT was for Rochester's Community Health Network. After three years, he moved to California and went to work for Community Counseling Services, the largest fundraising consulting firm in the world.

Weimar earned a master's degree in non-profit administration from the University of San Francisco in 1998.

“The power and size of the non-profit sector is something people probably don't think about,” he says. “It's become a huge field, and tremendously diverse.”

Weimar says his work directly relates to what he learned in RIT's communications

program. “Fundraising really is about telling stories that are compelling and connecting with people.”

He knows that the KickStart story touches people on many levels. But there are challenges. In recent months, Kenya has been torn by violence that erupted after a disputed election.

“It's been truly amazing that we have actually continued to sell pumps even in the heart of the most affected areas,” says Weimar. “We take this as a positive sign. Kenyans are amazingly proud of their country and incredibly pragmatic. What we have heard the most is that people just want to get back to work.”

On his trips to Africa, he's been tremendously impressed by the work ethic.

“The greatest untapped resource is the people,” Weimar says. “Everyone works so hard, but there are so few jobs.”

“When people have the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty, everything changes. They eat better. Their children go to school. They reinvest in their businesses and create more jobs.”

In that way, KickStart hopes to change the world – one pump at a time.

**Kathy Lindsley**



Austin alumni gathered for a cooking demonstration at Central Market in January.



Alumni and friends in Cincinnati enjoyed a cruise on the Ohio River.



Alumni in Ottawa, Ontario, got together for their first alumni event at Patty Boland's.

## Regional Alumni Activities

**Kim Kelsey '97, '05 and Jon Rodibaugh are your contacts in the office for regional alumni activities. Don't hesitate to contact them toll free at 1-866-RIT-ALUM.**

**To learn more about the events listed below, go to [www.rit.edu/alumniactivities](http://www.rit.edu/alumniactivities). You can register for events through our secure Web site.**

### Albany

Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly April 10. Check the Web site for registration and details.

**Save the date: Aug. 16** for the Alabama at the Saratoga Race Track. Keep checking the Web site for future events.

### Atlanta

Alumni met with President **Bill Destler** on March 12 at the Houston Mill House.

Plans are underway for an event this summer, including an Atlanta Braves baseball game July 20. Keep checking the Web site for more details.

### Boston

Boston Alumni Chapter cheered on the RIT men's hockey team vs. Holy Cross on Jan. 5 and vs. UConn Jan. 26. Both games featured pre-game receptions.

**Save the dates: June 11 and Sept. 23** for events at Fenway Park for the Red Sox. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Buffalo

Alumni cheered on the RIT men's hockey team Feb. 10 as they took on Canisius. They enjoyed a reception at Coles prior to the game.

The chapter also enjoyed the Sabres vs. Red Wings game on March 2, which included a reception at Pearl Street Brewery prior to the game. Thanks to host **Thomas Stumpf '89**.

### Central Florida

Alumni met RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, at a reception at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo on Feb. 22.

Plans are underway for an event this summer. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Charlotte

The Charlotte chapter enjoyed an evening of food and wine pairings at the Grape in Northlake Mall on Jan. 30. Thanks to host **Andrea Setta '06**.

Plans are underway for an event this spring/summer. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Chicago

The Chicago chapter enjoyed a private tour of the Museum of Contemporary Art on Feb. 17 along with a luncheon. Thanks to host **Stacey Wronkowski '03**.

**Save the date: April 29.** Meet RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, at a chapter event. More details coming soon.

### Cincinnati

The Cincinnati chapter enjoyed a riverboat cruise on the Ohio River on Nov. 17 as well as a Cincinnati Bearcats basketball game vs. Syracuse on Jan. 9. Thanks to host **John Johnson '05**.

Plans are underway for an event this spring. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Cleveland-Akron

Plans are underway for an event this spring. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Colorado

Colorado alumni cheered on the RIT men's hockey team as they took on Air Force in Colorado Springs. Attendees enjoyed a reception at the Air Force officer's club prior to the game. Thank you to hosts **T.I. '84 and Kathleen '84 Weintraub**.

Plans are underway for an event this summer/fall. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Detroit

Alumni met with RIT President **Bill Destler** March 27 at Meadowbrook Hall & Gardens in Rochester Hills.

Plans are underway for an event this summer. Keep checking the Web site for details.

### Ithaca

Plans are underway for an event this spring. Keep checking the Web site for details and upcoming events.

If you are interested in becoming a chapter volunteer, contact **Kim Kelsey '97, '05** at [kjkrar@rit.edu](mailto:kjkrar@rit.edu) or 585-475-7638.

### Los Angeles

Plans are underway for events this summer including a LA Dodgers baseball game on July 27. Keep checking the Web site for information.

### New York City

Plans are underway for several networking receptions this spring as well as a Yankees or Mets game this summer. Keep checking the Web site for more details.

**Save the Date: Sept. 7** Enjoy the men's tennis finals at the U.S. Open.

### Philadelphia

The chapter cheered on arena football's Philadelphia Soul on March 16. Alumni and friends were able to meet players and coaches prior to the game and received free T-shirts.

**Save the Date: April 12.** Join the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter at the Franklin Institute for the "Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination" exhibit. Registration is open on the Web site.

Plans are underway for events this summer including a Phillies baseball game. Keep checking the Web site for information.

### Phoenix

Phoenix alumni met RIT's new president, **Bill Destler**, on Jan. 12 at the Millennium Resort Scottsdale McCormick Ranch. Thanks to **Dave Belden '04** for helping to organize this event.

Keep checking the Web site for future events.

### Pittsburgh

Plans are underway for an event this summer. Keep checking the Web site for information.

### Raleigh Durham

The RIT Raleigh-Durham chapter met RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, at a reception at the N.C. Museum of Life & Science on March 14.

Plans are underway for an event this summer. Keep checking the Web site.

### Rochester

Alumni, family and friends joined together for Tiger Sports Night on Jan. 19. They enjoyed an afternoon of men's and women's basketball, a reception and an evening of men's hockey. Thanks to hosts **Donna Bell '83 and Bary Siegel '66, '68, '75, '90**.

Alumni and guests enjoyed a networking reception and a film on Feb. 7 at the Little Theatre. Thanks to hosts **Alina '79 and Terry '77 Palis**.



RIT's new president, Bill Destler (standing, second from left) met with the Phoenix Alumni Chapter.



Alumni and friends in Pittsburgh met the women's hockey team prior to their game with Robert Morris. (Photo by A Mature Image)



Members of the newly formed IBM chapter gathered in Rochester for their first meeting.

Alumni and guests enjoyed an evening at the Rochester Museum & Science center on March 13. Thanks to hosts **Kristy Mooney-Graves '00** and **LeiAnna Beckinghausen '03**.

Alumni and guests enjoyed Beatlemania on April 11 at the RPO. Thanks to hosts **Loretta Lamb '78**, **Shirley Murphy '81** and **Ken Reed '71**.

**Save the dates:** Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival takes place on campus May 3 and the Big Shot will be at Schoen Place on May 8. Check the Web site for more details and other events.

## San Diego

Plans are underway for a networking reception this spring and a Padres baseball game on July 12. Keep checking the Web site for details and additional events.

## San Francisco

Alumni and guests enjoyed a cocktail reception Feb. 6 hosted and sponsored by RIT Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus **Bruce James '64** and his wife, **Nora**.

Keep checking the Web site for upcoming events including a San Francisco Giants baseball game with a pre-game reception on July 26.

## San Jose

Alumni and guests enjoyed a cocktail reception on Feb. 6 hosted and sponsored by RIT Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus **Bruce James '64** and his wife, **Nora**.

Keep checking the Web site for future events.

## San Mateo

More than 15 alumni and guests attended the RIT/NTID Alumni Reception at TGIFriday's in San Mateo on Aug. 24. Many thanks go out to host **Elizabeth Grigsby SVP '90, '97** for her hard work and support in planning a wonderful reception.

## Seattle

Plans are underway for an event this summer/fall. Keep checking the Web site for details.

## Southern Florida

Alumni met RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, on Feb. 23 as they enjoyed a cruise aboard a private yacht.

Keep checking the Web site for future events.

## Syracuse

100 alumni and guests enjoyed a brunch reception before watching the Syracuse Orange take on the Georgetown Hoyas on Feb. 16. The group also had the opportunity to meet RIT's new president, **Bill Destler**. Thanks to host **Marc Gardino '96**.

Keep checking the Web site for future events.

## Texas

### Austin/San Antonio

More than 30 alumni and guests attended the RIT/NTID Alumni Reception at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin on Oct. 27. Many thanks to **Caroline Koo '98, '00** and **Connie Sefcik-Kennedy SVP '80, '84** for their hard work and support in planning the reception.

Alumni met RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, at a cooking demonstration at Central Market Cooking in Austin on Jan 9.

Keep checking the Web site for upcoming events.

### Dallas/Fort Worth

The RIT Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter met RIT's ninth president, **Bill Destler**, at a reception at the Stockyards Hotel in Fort Worth, and then enjoyed a rodeo on Jan 11.

**Save the date: April 19** for a potluck picnic at River Legacy Parks in Arlington. Check the Web site for details and registration.

Keep checking the Web site for future events including a Texas Rangers baseball game this summer.

### Houston

Keep checking the Web site for future events including a Houston Astros baseball game this summer and a networking reception.

If you are interested in becoming a chapter volunteer contact **Kim Kelsey '97, '05** at [kjkrar@rit.edu](mailto:kjkrar@rit.edu) or 585-475-7638.

## Washington, D.C.

The chapter held its inaugural "First Thursday" event on April 3 at Clyde's of Gallery Place. Thanks to **Vicki Griffith '93** for helping to organize this event.

**Save the date: May 17** for a lunch and a tour of the Mount Vernon Inn.

Keep checking the Web site for future events.

## Corporate and International

### IBM/RIT

The IBM/RIT alumni chapter held its first official event on Jan. 22 in Rochester. Thanks to host **Scott Hopkins '82**. A spring event is being planned in the Hudson Valley. More details coming soon.

### Ottawa, Ontario

An alumni event was held on Nov. 28 at Patty Boland's Irish Pub in Ottawa. Thank you to host **John Klatt '01**.

### China

An alumni event was held on Feb. 29 in Beijing at Quan Ju De Restaurant.

### Croatia

#### American College of Management and Technology

ACMT held its first alumni reunion in Croatia's capital city of Zagreb Feb. 1. More than 200 alumni who attended were graduates from class years 1997 to 2007 and traveled from Bulgaria, Budapest, Sarajevo and all parts of Croatia.

**Coming up:** More events are planned as part of a growing emphasis on alumni as an important part of the ACMT community. For more information, visit [www.acmt.hr](http://www.acmt.hr) or contact **Brana Vujnovi**, Marketing and Communications Manager, [brana@acmt.hr](mailto:brana@acmt.hr)

### Dominican Republic

The RIT Alumni Chapter was launched with an organizational meeting in Santo Domingo on Feb. 13. More than 20 alumni joined **Kelly Redder**, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, and **Diane Ellison**, Assistant Vice President for Graduate and Continuing Education, for an evening of socializing, networking and chapter organization. For information about future activities in the Dominican Republic and for Dominican nationals around the world, please log onto the RIT Alumni Online Community at [www.alumniconnections.com/rit](http://www.alumniconnections.com/rit) or contact **Catherine Dominguez** at [marplata@gmail.com](mailto:marplata@gmail.com) or **Rosendo Tourinan** at [tnh-construccion@gmail.com](mailto:tnh-construccion@gmail.com).

# Class Notes

## Key to abbreviations

<b>CAST</b>	College of Applied Science and Technology
<b>CCE</b>	College of Continuing Education (now CAST)
<b>CIAS</b>	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
<b>COLA</b>	College of Liberal Arts
<b>SCB</b>	E. Philip Saunders College of Business
<b>KGCOE</b>	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
<b>COS</b>	College of Science
<b>FAA</b>	Fine and Applied Arts (now CIAS)
<b>GAP</b>	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CIAS)
<b>GCCIS</b>	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
<b>NTID</b>	National Technical Institute for the Deaf
<b>SVP</b>	NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

## Do you have news to share?

To submit information through the Alumni Online Community, visit [www.alumniconnections.com/rit](http://www.alumniconnections.com/rit) and click on "Class Notes."

Class Notes can also be mailed to:

Office of Alumni Relations  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Crossroads Building  
41 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623-5603

Notes may be edited for accuracy, length and appropriateness. Photos must be print quality.

## 1938



### Surprise gifts for a big birthday

**Louis Serenati '38 (mechanical)** celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a new diploma, copies of his RIT grades reports, a student handbook from the 1930s and a bright orange Tigers sweatshirt. The surprise presentation came about after his daughter, Carol Neves (above right) contacted RIT to request a replacement for her father's lost diploma. RIT followed through, and Heather Engel, assistant vice president (center) for Development, presented the gifts at a Feb. 12 party. About 60 of Serenati's friends and family were there, including his wife, Elvira, and another daughter, Lucille Syracuse (left). Serenati, who lives in Hopewell Junction, N.Y., worked for IBM for his entire career.

## 1947

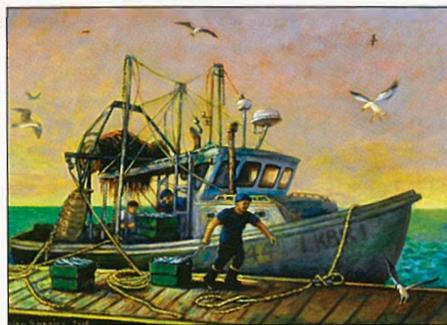
**Marjorie Droste Takasawa '47 (FAA)** writes, "Six Sigma Kappa Delta Sorority sisters have continued to meet monthly for more than 50 years. **Marjorie Droste Takasawa '47 (FAA); Eleanor H. Kaiser '48 (FAA); Marjorie K. Callan '44 (SCB); Norma Weingrad Gingold '48 (FAA); Aileen Suter Knapp '51 (FAA);** and **Virginia G. Schreiner '45 (SCB)** wish to send greetings to their old friends and former classmates!"

## 1958

**DeForest Colegrove '58 (COS)** worked as a lab technician prior to serving the U.S. Navy in Korea and retired in 1974. He then took a diverse academic path, receiving a B.S. in math, MBA in international trade, and, at age 62, a Ph.D. in humanities. He was a faculty member at the University of Maryland and spent 10 years traveling Belgium, England, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands, teaching undergraduate and graduate business courses at military bases. In June 2007, he and his wife, Ann, left Europe and now reside in Belen, N.M. Bud continues teaching online courses for the University of Maryland. He celebrated his 75th birthday in February 2008.

**James Laragy '58 (GAP)** photographed Ms. Louise Brooks, film star from the 1920s and '30s, while she was living in Rochester writing her memoirs. Many of Jim's photos, along with a personal letter from Louise thanking him for his work, will be exhibited in Los Angeles this spring.

## 1962



**Brian Shapiro '62 (FAA)** had more than 150 of his paintings and drawings purchased for the Elizabeth Collection for display at Artisan Works in Rochester. Shapiro was the winner of the 1960 city-wide competition for a scholarship to attend the RIT School of Art and Design.

## 1963

**Gary Micanek '63 (GAP)**, following a career in engineering, has become a farmer raising soybeans, wheat and corn in Pike County, Mo. He also is an owner of the family farm in Boyd County, Neb., raising cattle and hay.

**Wayne Torkington '63 (SCB)** is vice president at Topologe LLC in Burlington, Mass. Wayne brings more than 25 years experience in commercial business development following successful careers as a principal planner in Massachusetts government and teaching at St. Lawrence and Northeastern universities. He resides in Boston.

## 1966

**David Page '66 (GAP)** was selected by Duke University as representative at the November Inauguration of RIT's ninth president, Bill Drestler. David is a retired fine arts photographer for Duke University. "The impressive ceremony provides testimony that our university is going to be in fine hands with our new 'Top Cat.'"

## 1967

**John Suter '67 (GAP)** accepted a position called "retirement" in Delaplane, Va. John was employed at Northrop Grumman info tech as director of business development. He writes, "Having worked hard for the past 40 years, it's time to relax and enjoy life. I'm retiring to my 54-acre farm in the Virginia Piedmont region. I can be reached at [suterjo@gmail.com](mailto:suterjo@gmail.com). By all means, get in touch."

**Howard Worzel '67 (GAP)** writes, "The education that I received from the outstanding faculty at RIT was the primary reason that I had such a successful career with Polaroid. I was able to follow my passion and grow with the rapidly changing technology of imaging during some of the most revolutionary times since the invention of photography. I hope that today's students appreciate what a special school and place RIT is."

## 1969

**Gary Brodock '69 (COS)** is a technology consultant at MicroKnowledge in Latham, N.Y. Gary recently was employed at CMA as a software consultant. "Started another part of my career by becoming a trainer at MicroKnowledge," he writes. "Currently, I am teaching Microsoft Office applications and am enjoying meeting so many new students."

**John J. Dowdell '69 (GAP)** received the Eastman Kodak Gold Medal Award from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) in October. The award recognizes outstanding contributions that lead to new or unique educational programs utilizing motion pictures, television, high-speed and instrumentation photography or other photography sciences. Dowdell, director of imaging technology at Goldcrest Post, New York City, worked with Ken Burns on PBS documentaries including *The War* and *The Civil War* as well as on other noted movies.

**James Wise '69 (GAP)** writes, "I'm married, two children, six grandchildren and retired from Civil Service with Defense Logistics Agency in Battle Creek, Mich., in 2003 after 33 years. Retired lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve in 2001 after almost 31 years. Served during Vietnam and in Desert Storm, Desert Fox and Operation Allied Force. Hobbies: computers, Web technology, photography, grandchildren. Own a computer consulting and education business. Substitute teacher in local school district for three years."

## 1970

**James Langone '70 (GAP)** had his photograph of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site selected by the National Park Service as 1 of 10 included in the Passport To Your National Parks® stamp set. Langone is a professional photographer and educator. In addition to his award-winning photographic illustrations for advertising, Langone is an internationally acclaimed underwater photographer whose works have been published in magazines, textbooks and calendars.

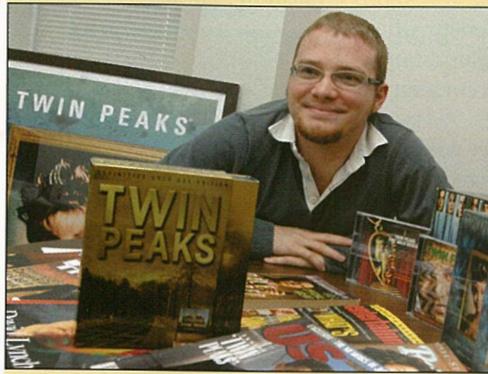


## Alumni Updates

### IT grad helps keep 'Twin Peaks' on the map

Something interesting happened on television in 1990: A quirky, creepy murder mystery called *Twin Peaks* arrived, creating a sensation and a cult following. Fans of the short-lived program had never seen anything quite like it and were not ready to let it go when it went off the air after 29 episodes.

The series created by David Lynch (*Blue Velvet*, *Eraserhead*) and Mark Frost (*Hill Street Blues*) caught the attention of University Publications web developer Jared Lyon '01 (information technology) when he was in seventh grade.



Jared Lyon '01

"I grew up in a small town, and I liked the idea that there was more happening in this boring town that I lived in than meets the eye, and that's what *Twin Peaks* is all about," Lyon says. "On the surface, it's just this town where everyone likes coffee and cherry pie, but then there's this whole underbelly, and something evil coming from the woods."

Years later at RIT, Lyon found fellow *Twin Peaks* fans in Computer Science House, a special-interest wing in an RIT residence hall.

"Computer Science House would have something called 'Peakings'—33 hours of *Twin Peaks* straight," Lyon said. "I always took a nap during the lull in the second season."

Lyon joined the house after the first Peaking he attended, when he surprised everyone by providing a missing episode from his own collection.

The Peakings also included performance art. House members took turns as the "Log Lady" – an especially eccentric *Twin Peaks* character whose cryptic recitations led off each episode when the series aired in syndication.

A friend from Computer Science House who took a job in Seattle heard about a *Twin Peaks* festival nearby and invited Lyon to visit in 2001.

Lyon attended the festival in North Bend, Wash. – the shooting location of the fictional town of Twin Peaks – and saw room for improvement. He started volunteering and soon became part of the organizing committee.

Since 2001, Lyon has shared his fascination for the peculiar characters and the odd camera work characteristic of the program with an ardent fan base. Fans from all over the world meet annually for a weekend-long festival filled with bus tours (with Lyon as the tour guide), movie viewing, trivia games and a celebrity dinner. After the dinner, Lyon hosts a celebrity Q-and-A session, one of the festival highlights.

"It's really like a family reunion," Lyon says. "There's this instant connection that people have."

In 2004, Lyon became a co-organizer of the annual festival and, tapping his professional skills, created a corresponding Web site ([www.twinpeaksfest.com](http://www.twinpeaksfest.com)). The recently released DVD set *Twin Peaks - The Definitive Gold Box Edition* includes a documentary about the festival, *Return to Twin Peaks*, which prominently features Lyon at the 2006 event.

"People say *Twin Peaks* is groundbreaking," Lyon says. "What does groundbreaking mean to us now in 2007? Back then it was completely different. The popular TV shows were *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show*, *Who's the Boss?* There was no *Lost*, *Heroes*, *X-Files*. Of course, there was always the *Twilight Zone*, but *Twin Peaks* was still one of a kind."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

**Jon Yerger '70 (KGCOE)** is chairman of Earth Day Southern Tier (EDST), an environmental advocacy not-for-profit organization, and Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments (VINES), a community gardens umbrella organization, both in Binghamton, N.Y.

## 1971

**Thomas Klinkowstein '71 (GAP)** exhibited a large "diagrammatic narrative" about a fictional designer's day in the year 2030 at the Singapore International Design Festival. In this fictional day, the environment, transportation, objects and people around the designer are embedded with sensors, communication capabilities and intelligence, forming a dense web of interactions and possibilities.

**Martin Levy '71 (KGCOE)** is director of operations at Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley-Davidson in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Martin was previously employed at Motorola as manager strategic marketing. He writes: "I've been riding Harley's pretty much my whole life, so I took a part-time job at the world's largest Harley-Davidson dealership. Somehow, I wound up as director of operations, running five dealerships, riding a lot and having one great time. Now living in South Florida with my partner, Jason."

## 1972

**Earl Hamil '71, '72 (KGCOE)** was promoted to project manager at Dominion Resources in Glen Allen, Va. He is responsible for the company's next two combined cycle gas turbine generating stations. Previously, Earl was a gas turbine project engineer for General Electric in Greenville, S.C.

## 1973

**Jane Chase Wattenberg '73 (GAP)** can be found online at [www.janewattenberg.com](http://www.janewattenberg.com). She writes and illustrates children's books and is living in San Francisco. Look for her reissue of *Mrs. Mustard's Baby Faces*, 2007 Chronicle Books, and other titles like *Henny-Penny* and *Never Cry Wolf!*—all illustrated with photography.

## 1974

**Bryce Boothby '74 (GAP)** has been named president and CCO of Lulu Enterprises, the online marketplace for digital content. Bryce will oversee all finance, engineering and business at Lulu.com as well as Gnack, the Lulu Enterprises company that provides support and services for open media businesses. Boothby most recently served as vice president at Celestica International, an electronics manufacturing company.

**Harold Van Horn '74 (SCB)** was named managing director for Entrepreneurial Resources of Florida, a leading provider of CFO, CEO, COO and CMO executives.

## 1976

**Bruce Rubin '76 (SCB)** was promoted to president of Tribe Mediterranean Foods. Bruce is responsible for the overall direction of the company and for expanding Tribe's products and market throughout North America. During his tenure at Tribe, he has seen hummus consumption grow to \$150 million in U.S. sales and its popularity soar throughout North America.

## Building entrepreneurship from the inside out

"I tell people that if you give me a clean piece of paper, that's what I enjoy most – because you are asking me to create from nothing," says Susan Foley '73, '79 (business administration, MBA), founder of Corporate Entrepreneurs LLC and executive director of Research Centers at Babson College (Wellesley, Mass.) Executive Education.

Foley specializes in building new businesses and growing them. She's written about her techniques in her recently published book, *Entrepreneurs Inside: Accelerating Business Growth with Corporate Entrepreneurs* (Xlibris Publishing, 2007).

"There is a distinction between an entrepreneur who is starting a company outside of an existing organization and a corporate entrepreneur who works inside a company," explains Foley.

As for the latter, she says, "It doesn't matter what you call them – corporate entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, mavericks, positive deviants, or business builders – they are the engines of growth. I've been a corporate entrepreneur most of my life."

Foley's pioneering career path started early. While attending high school in Cherry Hill, N.J., she wrote her first business plan – for a custom apparel store combined with a "fun" gift shop.

"I called it Above and Beyond – and the business plan won an award from the South Jersey Small Businessmen's Association," Foley recalls.

As a student at RIT, Foley actually carried her plan one step further. "I did a statistical program to see if I could draw a correlation between the various styles of clothing and women in their career level of organizations," she says.

Not solely intent on climbing the corporate ladder, Foley invested her business savvy into growth and development, working for 3M and Hewlett Packard in the mid-1970s.

"At the time, they were among the top 10 most admired and most innovative companies and both positions left an entrepreneurial imprint on me. I had the freedom within those organizations to build and create because they were growing."

By the time she worked at Digital Equipment Corp., from 1987 to 1994, her managers were giving Foley total freedom and budgets of \$3 million.

"Corporate entrepreneurship is that freedom to build from inside an existing organization and that's when I really started to realize that this is what I do."

Last October, Foley was a guest panelist at RIT's third Entrepreneurship Conference, which gave her the opportunity to listen to sessions featuring RIT students as they presented their own business plans.

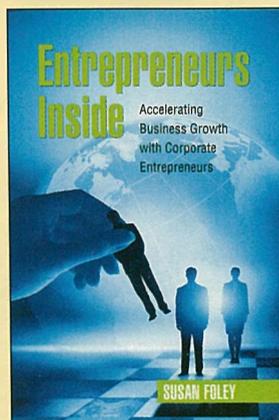
"I was quite impressed with their innovation," she says, "and creating a business plan is a good foundation for students interested in becoming entrepreneurs – whether they decide to start their own business and be an external entrepreneur, or build one within an organization as a corporate entrepreneur. This kind of networking endeavor opens doors."

"Plus, RIT's business students also have a distinct advantage because of the university's technology focus. That was a major reason why I chose to come to RIT years ago, and I honestly can say I'm a proud alumna. This university provides all the rigor and discipline that students need to go forward from school to business."

Marcia Morphy



Susan Foley '73, '79



## 1977

**Daniel Comfort '77 (KGCQE)** received certification as an automation professional from the Instruments, Systems and Automation Society in October 2007.

## 1978



**Sheree Clark '77, '78 (SCB)** received certification as an associate raw foods chef from the Living Light Culinary Institute, Fort Bragg, Calif. Sheree is managing partner of Sayles Graphic Design in Des Moines, Iowa, and has written several books about design.

**Daniel Mills '78 (FAA)** has had work included in a

number of exhibitions recently. Solo shows include: *American Icons & Morphs* at Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago; *Dan Mills: Empire* at Lynchburg College, Va., and Millersville University, Pa. Recent group shows include *What War?* at White Box in New York City, *Long March: Yan'an Project*, Long March Space, Factory 798, Beijing, China; and *Misleading Trails*, which premiered in Beijing, then traveled to seven universities throughout the U.S.

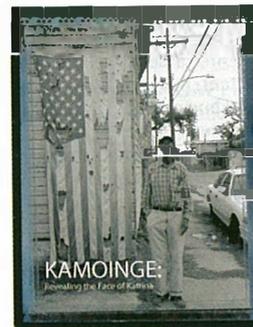
**Mary Schreiner Moore SVP '76, '78 (NTID)** works for the e-commerce team with W.S. Badcock Furniture Corp., one of the largest retailers in southeast states. She graduated cum laude with a B.A. in organizational management from Warner Southern College in 2004 and has been in the information technology field for more than 29 years. She also serves as president of the board of directors for Central Florida Deaf Services Inc., a nonprofit service organization, and has served with Florida Association for the Deaf in many capacities.

## 1979

**Mary Aukshunas Dong '77, '79 (GAP)** is the production and distribution director at *The Economist* in New York City. Mary was recently included in the "Folio: 40-The Most Influential People in the Industry."

**Collette Fournier**

**'77, '79 (GAP)** was one of 10 artists whose works were exhibited in *Kamoinge*, a pioneering photographic collective revealing Hurricane Katrina in all its terror, irony, beauty and humanity. *Kamoinge* was on display at Calumet Photo, New York City, in November and December 2007.



**Peter Moriarty '79 (GAP)** is the author of *Lotte Jacobi Photographs*, published by David R. Godine, Boston, 2003. Peter is a senior teacher at the Trinity School in New York City.

**James Sewell '77, '79 (GAP)** is a consultant in the printing industry and content coordinator for the 2008 IPA Technical Conference. He also consults in color management, pre media, and digital print, with a focus on hi fi reproduction of photography for major brands and advertisers, using unique paper, ink and coating combinations.

# Alumni Relations team expands with reps for each college

The ways alumni can stay engaged with RIT keep growing. In addition to regional activities for all alumni (see pages 36-37), each college now supports special programming.



**Christine Corrado**

"With an alumni officer in each college, graduates are seeing greater specialized programming and communications from their alma mater," says Christine Corrado, director, college alumni relations.

To learn more about future activities or to contact your college alumni relations officer, visit [www.rit.edu/alumni/groups/collegesandprograms.php](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/groups/collegesandprograms.php), or use the Web and e-mail addresses or phone numbers listed for each college below.

## College of Applied Science and Technology

[www.rit.edu/alumni/cast](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/cast)  
Catherine Bement '89; 585-475-4975  
[catherine.bement@rit.edu](mailto:catherine.bement@rit.edu)



**Catherine Bement '89**

**Recent events:** The Dean's Office sponsored CAST Hockey Night on Jan. 18.

Career fairs included Packaging Science Feb. 6-8 and School of Hospitality and Service Management March 14. The annual Puttin' on the RITz dinner took place March 29. New events

included an alumni reception in Virginia Beach, Va., March 13 and a Baja SAE Club event April 4.

### Coming up:

**April 18,** dedication of CAST's new building.

**April 21,** Center for Multidisciplinary Studies Recognition Celebration for alumni and students.

**May 3,** Department of Civil Engineering Technology and Environmental Management and Safety annual Golf Tournament.

**May 8,** first Senior Bash to honor graduating HSM students, sponsored by the School of Hospitality and Service Management and its Alumni Society and open to HSM alumni and students.

## College of Imaging Arts and Science

[www.rit.edu/alumni/cias](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/cias)  
Ron Goldberg '99, '00; 585-475-3112  
[ron.goldberg@rit.edu](mailto:ron.goldberg@rit.edu)



**Ron Goldberg '99, '00**

**Recent events:** On Jan. 18, more than 300 alumni and friends attended the opening of the Dyer Arts Center retrospective exhibit featuring the work of Edith Lunt Small '52. In New York City on Jan. 25, more than 50 alumni gathered at John's Pizzeria. At the Photo Marketing Association show in

Las Vegas, nearly 60 alumni, faculty and students attended the alumni reception Feb. 1. Other receptions took place in Minneapolis, Feb. 27; Denver, March 14; and Pittsburgh, March 20. Alumni

gathered to watch the Toronto Blue Jays vs. Boston Red Sox in Toronto April 6.

### Coming up:

**April 15,** NAB Alumni Reception, Las Vegas.

## College of Liberal Arts

[www.rit.edu/alumni/cola](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/cola)  
Kerri Lehmebeck; 585-475-4283  
[kerri.lehmebeck@rit.edu](mailto:kerri.lehmebeck@rit.edu)



**Kerri Lehmebeck**

**Recent events:** The Fate of Romanticism Conference and the music program's holiday concert took place in December. Alumni gathered to watch a men's hockey game at UConn in January. The young alumni hockey night and pre-game tailgate party on campus and the RIT Ensembles concert and reception at St. Anne Church in Rochester took place in February.

### Coming up:

Washington, D.C. networking reception; Syracuse alumni dinner and reception; New York City networking reception; Underground Railroad Tour – Rochester.

## College of Science

[www.rit.edu/alumni/cos](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/cos)  
Kerri Lehmebeck; 585-475-4283  
[kerri.lehmebeck@rit.edu](mailto:kerri.lehmebeck@rit.edu)

**Recent events:** Men's Hockey Game at UConn; young alumni hockey night and pre-game tailgate party on campus; RIT Ensembles Concert and Reception at St. Anne Church in Rochester; and the Rochester Museum & Science Center networking reception.

### Coming up:

Washington, D.C., networking reception; Buffalo alumni dinner and reception; Chicago architectural boat cruise; Fourth Annual Golf Scramble, Rochester

## B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

[www.rit.edu/alumni/gccis](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/gccis)  
Tandra Miller; 585-475-6908  
[tandra.miller@rit.edu](mailto:tandra.miller@rit.edu)



**Tandra Miller**

**Recent events:** School spirit reached a peak at the Third Annual College Hockey Night (Feb. 1). Happy-hour gatherings were held in New York City (Jan. 11), Rochester (Feb. 13) and Washington, D.C. (Feb. 25). We celebrated the success of Information Technology's Game Developer's Program during the annual conference in San Francisco (Feb. 21).

### Coming up:

North Carolina Alumni Gathering; Golisano College Rochester Alumni Reception; Innovation Festival Alumni Reception.

## Kate Gleason College of Engineering

[www.rit.edu/alumni/kgcoe](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/kgcoe)  
Jasmine Seavey; 585-475-5045  
[jasmine.seavey@rit.edu](mailto:jasmine.seavey@rit.edu)



**Jasmine Seavey**

**Recent events:** The Dean's Alumni Speaker Series continues to bring alumni back to campus to speak on a variety of subjects. The Second Annual KGCOE Hockey Night and pre-game celebration in the RITz took place Feb. 29.

**Coming up:** Please watch the online events calendar, or e-mail [JasmineSeavey](mailto:JasmineSeavey) with event ideas.

## National Technical Institute for the Deaf

[www.rit.edu/alumni/ntid](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/ntid)  
Matthew Driscoll SVP '90, '94; 585-475-6408  
[matthew.driscoll@ntid.rit.edu](mailto:matthew.driscoll@ntid.rit.edu)



**Matthew Driscoll '94**

**Recent events:** T. Alan Hurwitz, CEO of NTID and Vice President and Dean of RIT for NTID, sponsored NTID Hockey Night Jan. 18. Hurwitz joined with RIT President Bill Destler at the following events: Feb. 6, reception, San Francisco; Jan. 12, "Southwest Adventure Buffet," Phoenix; Jan. 11, "Rodeo & BBQ," Ft. Worth, Texas; Jan. 9, "Hands-on Cooking Class," Austin, Texas.

**Coming up:** The NTID 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Reunion is June 26 – 28. Visit [www.rit.edu/ntid/reunion](http://www.rit.edu/ntid/reunion). You'll find registration materials on the Web site and in the NTID *AlumniNews* Spring issue.

## Saunders College of Business

[www.rit.edu/alumni/scb](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/scb)  
Megan Cheever; 585-475-2354  
[mcheever@saunders.rit.edu](mailto:mcheever@saunders.rit.edu)



**Megan Cheever**

**Recent events:** The Saunders College hosted David Neeleman, founder and chairman of JetBlue Airways Corp., as the distinguished speaker for The William D. Gasser Lectureship in Business on Oct. 24. Saunders College alumni came back to campus Jan. 18 to cheer our RIT Tigers hockey team to victory over Sacred Heart. On Feb. 5, Melissa Vasilev '01, assistant brand manager at Procter and Gamble, spoke in the inaugural Dionisios Favatas Lectureship. Dean Ashok Rao hosted receptions for alumni in Atlanta on March 4 and Buffalo on April 5.

### Coming up:

**April 17,** Dean's reception in Syracuse, N.Y.

**April 24,** Dean's reception in Albany, N.Y.

**June 9,** Saunders College annual golf tournament at Cobblestone Creek in Victor, N.Y.

## New opportunities, insights came with hearing loss

Melissa Skyer '06 (M.S., environmental science) is a poet, dancer, artist, nature lover and environmental scientist.

Next year, she'll add eco tour guide to the list when she leads a group to Hawaii on behalf of Hands on Travel, a company that organizes tours for people who communicate using American Sign Language. The trip is scheduled for October 2009.

The hearing child of deaf parents, Skyer learned ASL before she could talk and grew up comfortable in both worlds. Her life changed unexpectedly in 2005, when Skyer lost her hearing as the result of surgery to remove a brain tumor. This has not diminished her spirit, however. Quite the contrary.

"I have gained an understanding of diversity and been humbled by this experience," she says. "I have learned the true meaning of perseverance and had to work even harder to achieve my goals."

Skyer completed her degree and moved to Chicago with her boyfriend, Joshua Ramos '06 (environmental management), an environmental engineer. She landed a job with Burns and McDonnell, a major engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions firm, where she has worked on projects including air pollution monitoring, remediating contaminated sites and wetland delineations.

"One positive thing (about being deaf) is that I have become more 'visible,' if you will," Skyer says. "People naturally pay more attention to me when I sit in the front row at a meeting/conference with an interpreter. I take advantage of this fact and use the opportunity to show my capabilities by asking and or answering questions. It feels good to gain the respect of people in my field and also to defy their preconceptions of what a deaf woman in the sciences is or should be."

Her achievements come as no surprise to her mom, Solange "Sally" Skyer, a counselor and associate professor at National Technical Institute for the Deaf. "I'm very proud of her," she says. "Melissa has a lot to offer and she wants to do all that she can. She won't let anything stop her."

A self-proclaimed "biology nerd," Skyer developed her love of nature at a young age. She and her father, Richard Skyer '79 (biology), who died in 2005, often spent Sundays exploring the land behind their house. "We would investigate everything from deer tracks to different types of trees. That really interested and impacted me and I suppose I have been a tree hugger for quite some time," she says. Her master's degree thesis project involved a two-year study on re-introduced river otters in the Rochester area.

In 2006, Skyer participated in biology professor Robert Rothman's annual tour of the Galapagos Islands, and stayed on for an extra week in Ecuador.

"I realized that I want to eventually start up my own travel company, focusing on naturalist educational tours all over the world," she says. In the meantime, she contacted the owner of Hands on Travel, and they developed a plan for the company's first eco-tour.

"I have been to Hawaii before and we created an exciting itinerary to explore the history, culture, geology and plant and animal life on three different islands," Skyer explains. "I was sure to include kayaking, snorkeling and hiking in the two-week schedule. My passion is environmental science and the natural world, and I can't wait to provide an accessible ecotourism trip!"

**For more information about the trip, visit [www.handsontvl.com](http://www.handsontvl.com).**



Melissa Skyer '06 will lead an ASL tour of Hawaii in 2009.

**Wayne Shipman '79 (GAP)** is serving as a village trustee in Fairport, N.Y., after unseating an incumbent in recent elections.

## 1980

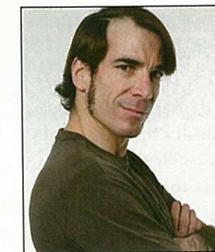
**Dennis Johnson '80 (GAP)** writes, "After five years of living in Frankfurt, Germany, and shooting travel photos throughout Europe, I returned to Washington, D.C., due to my engagement to a high-powered Wall Street working woman. So, I'll be moving to New York City soon and will no doubt fall into some interesting photo-related business. It should be exciting."

**Holly VanOrman '80 (SCB)** and Bill Fitzpatrick were married on Oct. 14, 2007, in Look Park, Northampton, Mass. They currently reside in Erving, Mass. **Lynette Simon Khirallah '81 (CAST)**, Holly's college roommate, was one of the bridesmaids.

## 1981

**James Bossert '81 (CCE)** is SVP business continuity manager at Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C. He writes, "In this position, I will use my Six Sigma skills to implement enterprise-wide business continuity plans."

**Raymond Kovachik SVP '77 (NTID), '81 (CAST)** recently received his professional engineers' licenses in New York and Virginia and is working as a structural engineer on domestic and international projects for military and federal government buildings.



**John Passanante '81 (SCB)** is an actor in New York City. John writes, "I'm looking for any RIT film people in NYC that could take head shots and give referrals." To contact John, visit the Alumni Online Community at [www.rit.edu/alumni](http://www.rit.edu/alumni).

## 1982

**Anne Fitzsimons-Ryan '82 (COLA)** is CEO at Ryan Taylor and Harriman Brokerage in Raleigh, N.C.

**Rosemary Mall '82 (SCB)** was promoted to vice president of Worldwide Localization and Program Management, PSEB Engineering Division of Autodesk Inc.

**William Siskar '82 (KGOE)** is general manager at Refcon in Norwood, N.J.

## 1983

**Mary Newell Depalma '81, '83 (FAA)** writes, "I have written and illustrated my third children's picture book. *The Nutcracker Doll* tells the story of an eight year old who performs in the Boston Ballet. The book is based on the real life experience of my daughter, Kepley, who is now a junior in college. *The Nutcracker Doll* is published by Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. Visit [www.marynewelldepalma.com](http://www.marynewelldepalma.com) for more information."

## 1984

**William Abraham '84 (CAST)** is senior project engineer at Liebert/Emerson Network Power in Columbus, Ohio.

**Andrew Reynolds '82, '84 (CAST)** was recently promoted to senior principle engineer with Protocol Services Division of Actel Corp., where he has worked for more than 18 years.



**Mark Schutzman '84 (SCB)** was recently named the U.S. practice leader for the newly established Tax Function Effectiveness consulting practice at Pricewaterhouse -Coopers. He was also named to lead the formation of the company's Global Centre for Tax Technology.

## 1985

**Alex Bruski '85 (GAP)** retired in July of 2007. He is moving to Gillette, Wyo.

**Stephen Lasalle '85 (SCB)** has joined Lifetime Health Medical Group as vice president of finance for the Buffalo and Rochester regions. He previously served as vice president for financial programs and quality management at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. LaSalle has served on the School of Management Advisory Board for Nazareth College since 2005. He resides in Fairport, N.Y.

## 1986

**Karen Grout Byrne '86 (CAST)** is senior project manager at Schering-Plough Consumer Healthcare in Summit, N.J. Karen previously was employed at Unilever Cosmetics International as vice president, program management.

**Raymond Caruso '86 (CAST)** and wife, Heather, announce the birth of a son, Raffaele Leon, on July 2, 2007, in Boulder, Colo. Raymond is director, advanced development at Vericept in Denver. He previously Raymond director of engineering at Netvion Inc.

**Keith Dobuler '86 (GAP)** was promoted to photographic services manager at the Fairfax (Va.) County Police Department. He is responsible for forensic, public relations and special event photography and is involved with the research and purchase of equipment for a new digital imaging lab and photography studio scheduled to open in the summer of 2008.

**John Fronius '86 (CAST)** is director of support knowledge systems at Mentor Graphics Corp. in Portland, Ore.

**Jane Klein Conklin '84, '86 (SCB)** and husband, David, announce the birth of a son, Zachary Logan Conklin, on July 31, 2007, in Hamilton, N.J. The Conklins also have a three-year-old son, J.J.

## 1987



**Robert Pandorf '87 (FAA)** is the lead industrial designer for Robern, a division of Kohler Co. His products have been featured in several art and design magazines. Robern's M Series Night Light was awarded "Most Innovative" by *Kitchen and Bath Business* magazine and *Interior Design's* Best of Year Product Design Roscoe merit

award in 2006. Pandorf leads a team of designers and product developers that produce contemporary bath cabinetry and lighting displayed at a variety of North American showrooms. Bob's e-mail address is pandorf@kohler.com.

## 1988

**Jeffrey Carlson '88 (KGCOE)** is a senior project manager with Alcatel-Lucent in the areas of manufacturing strategy and export control. He is based in Oklahoma City.

## 1989

**Joseph Burke '89 (FAA)** is brand director in creative marketing at The Disney Store, North America, in Pasadena, Calif.

**Douglas Kenney '89 (FAA)** won the best-of-show award in the annual 'Commitment to Excellence' art competition at the Academy Art Center at Linekona School in Honolulu, sponsored by the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Kenney creates abstract ceramic pieces.

**Matthew Wickham '89 (KGCOE)** is senior scientist/engineer at PRA/Raytheon in Arlington, Va.

## 1990

**Cindy Dunne '85 (CCE), '90 (SCB)** relocated to High Point, N.C., after retiring from Eastman Kodak Co. as an IT and data specialist. She has become a certified floral designer and is exploring the field of freelance writing/editing.

**Glenn Ferguson '90 (CAST)** accepted a position at Bayer HealthCare LLC in Myerstown, Pa., as packaging technology specialist.

**Robert Tamulis '90 (GAP)** is president of Single Volunteers Boston (SVB), a non-profit organization with more than 2,400 members that promotes volunteer activities among singles in the greater Boston area. In 2006, SVB performed more than 6,000 hours of service.

## 1991

**Paul Finkelstein '91 (GAP)** completed 1,000 Santa photos for the Downtown Marketing Cooperative in Delray Beach, Fla. The photos can be seen at paulstevenphotography.com. Click "view event photos," then select Santa event then password=sc.

**David Gianna '91 (GAP), '91 (CAST)** and wife, Denise, adopted a daughter, Ava Maria, born on Dec. 8, 2006. She came from Guatemala to her new home at the age of 10 months. Her first stop in the U.S. was DisneyWorld! She joins her brother, Anthony, 6 years old, who is also from Guatemala.

## 1992

**Christian Cox '92 (GAP)** and wife, Angela, announce the birth of a son, Joseph Christian, on Oct. 17, 2007, in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Amy Johnson '92 (FAA)** received Six Sigma Black Belt certification and is employed as a full time black belt for the Consumer Products Division of Graphic Packaging International.

**Terry Myers '92 (GAP)** was promoted to customer care supervisor at RR Donnelley in Jefferson City, Mo. The Jefferson City division produces about 60 million books a year. Approximately 45 percent of all the four-color case-bound textbooks in the United States are produced at the Jefferson City facility.

## 1993

**Andrew Levy '90, '93 (CAST)** received the 2007 Citizen Corps Leader of the Year, presented by the DHS/FEMA Community Preparedness Director

and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

**Alexander Saenger '93 (COS)** writes, "BakerB Solutions (www.bakerb.com) is flourishing in the real estate marketing and photography realm. In 2006, we introduced Interactive Virtual Tours as part of our product and service offerings. Today that aspect of the business is generating 80 percent of annual revenues." For more information, call Baker at 301-424-8272 or send e-mail to alex@bakerb.com.

## 1994

**Andrew Dawson '94 (SCB)** and Jerry Prewitt are Innkeepers/Owners of the 1848 Island Manor House, a bed-and-breakfast inn on Chincoteague Island, Va. For more information, see www.IslandManor.com.

**Sharon Grady Finlayson '94 (SCB)** and husband, James, announce the birth of a son, Michael, on Aug. 21, 2007, in Buffalo. They have an older daughter, Anne.

**Julie Heuer '94 (CAST)** and husband, Justin, announce the birth of a son, Landon Oakley, on Sept. 16, 2007, in Melbourne, Fla.

**Janice Lynn McMorris '94 (CAST)** and Jeff Cifelli were married Sept. 22, 2007, in Batavia, N.Y. They currently reside in LeRoy, N.Y. **John Woolever '69 (COS), Susan Rhoda '83 (SCB), and Tina Thornton '95 (SCB)** were in attendance. Janice and Jeff honeymooned in the Adirondacks, staying the last night at the Mirror Lake Inn where Janice did her co-op experience in 1992.

**Christy Wasserman '94 (CIAS)** is business software analyst at the Arizona Department of Education in Phoenix.

## 1995



**Michelle Guzdek '95 (KGCOE)** and Sherman Seelinger were married on June 30, 2007, in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

Their daughter, Sierra, was the flower girl. They spent their honeymoon in Oahu and Maui. They reside in San Jose, Calif., where Michelle is a reliability manager with KLA-Tencor. Sherman is a design engineer for Solyndra in Fremont, Calif.

**Glen Ketchian '94, '95 (CIAS)** and wife, Tamara, announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Rose, on Nov. 16, 2007, in New Haven, Conn. Avery joins her two brothers, Aidan and Lucas.

**Jeff Ziskowski '95 (SCB)** writes, "I have recently traveled to my 25th country. This love for international travel began after participating in the College of Business study abroad program with Sheffield Hallam University in England. I have also opened All Service Concierge (www.allserviceconcierge.com), a Boston-based personal assistance service."

## 1996

**Frank Casilio '96, '98 (KGCOE)** and Sarah Casilio announce the birth of a son, Francesco Leonello, on Feb. 1, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

## 1997

**Brandon Boutelle '97 (COLA)** is deputy public defender of Essex (N.Y.) County. He previously served four years on active duty with the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG). As a current member of the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander.

**Kristine Krush '97 (NTID)** and husband, Tim, announce the birth of a son, Austin Elijah Krush, on Jan. 25, 2007 in Binghamton, N.Y. Austin joins Hayley, 5 years old, and Brodie, 11 months. The Krush family lives in Vestal, N.Y.

## 1998

**Robin Fogerty '98 (CAST)** is Internet production editor at Telelogic in Andover, Mass. She previously was a contractor with BAE Systems.



**Marci Fingeret '98 (CIAS)** and Eric Heitner were married Sept. 15, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nev. They currently reside in Orlando, Fla. The ceremony was attended by **William Barnhart '97 (COLA)** and other friends and family. They honeymooned on a Caribbean Cruise in December 2007.

**Robert Gorman '98 (SCB)** is director of quality assurance at Renal Solutions in Warrendale, Pa.

**Kevin Porter '98 (CIAS)** is programmer/analyst at Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) in Morrisville, N.C.

**Elana Zimmerman '98 (COS)** and husband, **Scott Zimmerman '00 (CAST)**, announce the birth of a daughter, Danielle Aliyah., on Aug. 26, 2007, in Austin, Texas.

## 1999

**Jason Adlowitz '99 (CIAS)** is art director at CLIX Portrait Studios in Rochester. Jason was employed at Eagle Productivity Solutions as senior graphic designer. He and his wife, Diana, announce the birth of a son, Bailey Quinn, on Sept. 27, 2007.

**Kory Ahlstrom '99 (SCB)** and wife, Dana, announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Katherine, on July 2, 2007, in Oraldo, Fla. She joins big brothers Peyton and Alexander.



**Jennifer Lindstrom '99 (CAST)** and Peter Neary were married on Oct. 6, 2007, in Fort Worth, Texas, at The Renaissance Worthington Hotel. They honeymooned in The Cayman Islands and currently reside in North Richland Hills, Texas. **Alison Osterberg '98 (CAST)** and **Amanda Reynolds '00 (CIAS)** were bridesmaids.

**Marci Norton '99 (KGCOE)** and husband, **Sean Norton '99 (KGCOE)**, announce the birth of a daughter, Sara Elizabeth-Ann, on April 9, 2006, in New Haven, Conn.

**Andrew Pratt '99 (CIAS)** and Sarah Coombs were married on Sept. 8, 2007, in Livingston, N.Y. They reside in New York City. The groomsmen included **Scott Gursky '98, '99 (CIAS)**, best man: **Davin Kuntze '00 (CAST)**; and **Nathan Sherman '00 (CIAS)**. Andy is creative director at Funny Garbage in NYC. He also runs his own greeting card company. Find out more at [www.andypratt.net](http://www.andypratt.net)

## 2000

**Jason Donati '00 (CIAS)** published his first book, *Exploring Digital Cinematography*, with Cengage Delmar Learning in September of 2007.



**Robert Drew '00 (KGCOE)** and **Alice Barry '04 (CIAS)** were married on Oct. 7, 2006, at Grace Baptist Church in Brockport, N.Y. The evening reception took place at the historic Hillside Inn Mansion in Wyoming, N.Y. Robert is an electrical engineer at Zeller Corp. in Rochester. Alice is an assistant professor of art at

Roberts Wesleyan College. The couple lives in Rochester, and will be honeymooning in Paris and London this spring.

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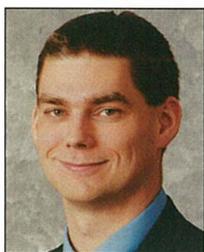
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**David Emerich '00 (CAST)** is an associate at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP in Albany, N.Y.

**Heidi Felix '00 (COS)** has been accepted as full-time faculty at Chatham University's Master of Physician Assistant Studies program in Pittsburgh.

**Douglas Fetterman '00 (COS)** and wife, **Jessica Bishop Fetterman '01 (COS)** announce the birth of a daughter, Elyse Catherine, on Oct. 23, 2007, in Ann Arbor, Mich. Doug is completing his residency in anesthesiology and Jessica is a physician assistant.

**Steven Lindsay '97, '00 (CAST)** was promoted to system architect and developer at Sony Ericsson in the Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, N.C.

**Jodi Sirine '00 (NTID)** was married to Phillip T. McCoy on Sept. 18, 2004, in Virginia Beach, Va. She is currently working as a CAD technician for John E. Sirine and Associates LTD.

**Tad Moon '00 (KGCOE)** is senior electrical engineer at We Energies in Milwaukee, Wis.

**Raymond Nelson '96, '00 (KGCOE)** is project engineer at B/E Aerospace in Winston-Salem, N.C.

## 2001

**Michael Attebery '01 (CIAS)** and **Stephanie Esmond '01 (CIAS), '01 (SCB)** were married on Oct. 13, 2007, in Seattle, Wash., where they currently reside.

**Daniel Cavanagh '01 (KGCOE)** was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society on Oct. 27, 2007. Daniel expects to complete his masters degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University in May 2008.

**Amanda Curry '01 (KGCOE)** received an MBA from the University of Southern California in May 2007. She was promoted to high lift product engineer at Moog Inc. and has taken a one-year assignment in Moog's facility in Baguio City, Philippines.

**John Lagonigro '01 (CAST)** is lead multimedia developer at Cisco Systems in Research Triangle Park, N.C.



**Keziah Lain '01 (SCB)** and **Ryan Collier** were married on Oct. 7, 2007, at her family farm in Westtown, N.Y. Keziah and Ryan spent their honeymoon in French Polynesia. They are living in Fairport, N.Y.



**Gavin Pratt '01 (SCB)** was appointed vice president of the Marsh Inc. Buffalo office on May 22, 2007. Marsh Inc. is a leading risk and insurance services firm.

## RIT 'Gladiator' triumphs on the air



**Adonis Lockett '07 (CAST)** visited campus shortly after a winning appearance on NBC's *American Gladiators* program in January. Above, **Amanda Wade**, a communications and media technologies graduate student, interviews Lockett for a segment on the RIT *SportsZone* TV program. A former president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at RIT, Lockett works as an engineer for Boeing and lives in California.

**Nikhil Shah '01 (CAST)** is manager of enterprise information technology at Cardinal Health in Dublin, Ohio.

**Matthew Sudol '01 (SCB)** is assistant vice president, marketing, at New York City Economic Development Corp. Matthew previously was client services manager at Jack Morton Worldwide.

**Andrew Warycka '01 (CIAS)** is a photographer at Gerardy Photography in Escondido, Calif. He was previously a recruiter at Pinpoint Resource Group.

## 2002



**Sean Harrington '02 (CAST)** and **Nicole Gray '02 (COS)** were married on Nov. 4, 2006, in Westbury, N.Y. They reside in Maplewood, N.J.

**Paul Kieper '02 (GCCIS)** is a systems engineer at Edelman Public Relations in New York City.

**Adam Platzer '01, '02 (SCB)** is associate director of Reunions and Affinity Groups at RIT. He was recently inducted into the Geneva Sports Hall of Fame.

**Jeremy Smith '02 (GCCIS)** turned a fantasy football hobby into a career. Jeremy has built and sold several fantasy software products, as well

as creating a high-stake league called "World Championship of Fantasy Football." Jeremy is currently in contract with Bodog to work on fantasy. bodoglife.com.

**Mark Vogt '02 (CIAS)** and wife, Kari, announce the birth of a son, Grady Samuel, on July 31, 2006, in Yale New Haven Hospital. Mark was promoted to director, marketing management for print and fulfillment at Prudential Financial Inc. in Shelton, Conn.

## 2003

**Kimberly Hemmer '03 (COLA)** and **Timothy Bonarski '04 (CAST)** were married on Nov. 11, 2007, in Morris Plains, N.J. Bridesmaids included **Dawn Salvatore '06 (KGCOE)** and **Katie Stohler '03 (CAST)**. Groomsmen included **Brendan Rowe '03 (COLA)** and **Russ McNear '04 (CAST)**. **Sean Buckley '03 (COLA)** and **Scott Messare '05 (CIAS)** were also in the military sword arch. The couple honeymooned at the Sandals Antigua Resort and Spa.

**Melinda Class '03 (COLA)** and husband, **Clipson Class '01 (CAST)**, announce the birth of a daughter, Bronwyn Ava, on April 27, 2007, in Rochester. They reside in Savannah, Ga.



**Robert Horn '03 (COLA)** and **Victoria Roberts** were married on May 2, 2007, in Ponce Inlet, Fla.

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**Tara Parekh '03 (CIAS)** published a book, *Oatland Island: Photographs and History*. The book is available on Lulu.com. Take a look at [www.lulu.com/content/897232](http://www.lulu.com/content/897232)

## 2004

**Troy Bridges '04 (SCB)** is senior internal auditor at GateHouse Media Inc. in Fairport, N.Y. Troy previously was employed at Deloitte & Touche as in-charge accountant.

**Sarah Calvin '04 (CIAS)** and **Jason Kelly '05 (CIAS)** were married on Dec. 8, 2007, in Lexington, S.C. They currently reside in Charlotte, N.C.

**Erin Hannan '04 (SCB)** and Daniel Clapp were married on Oct. 27, 2007, at St. Monica Catholic Church in Indianapolis. Bridesmaids included **Jillian Patterson '04 (CIAS)** and Meghan Godfrey. After the wedding, the couple spent a week in St. Maarten. They reside in Avon, Ind. Erin is a staff accountant at ATA Airlines Inc. in Indianapolis.



**Toccarra Murphy '04 (CIAS)** and **Erik Dolatowski '02 (KGCOE)** were married on Oct. 13, 2007, in Annapolis, Md. **Thomas Pomerico '02 (COS)** was a groomsman in the wedding. Among the guests were **Kathy Mast '04 (CIAS)** and **Emily Antoine '05 (CIAS)**.

**James Dowdle '04 (COS)** is starting his second year of a Ph.D. program in cancer biology at the Gerstner Sloan-Kettering Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in New York City.

**Kevin Foster '04 (GCCIS)** and Patricia Husted were married on Oct. 21, 2007, in York, Maine, where they currently reside. Joining in the celebration were RIT Brick City Singers alumni **David**

**Campbell '04 (GCCIS)**, **Nathan Gardner '04 (COS)**, **Jon Byrd '06 (GCCIS)**, **Tom Guzewich '06 (GCCIS)**, **Regan Messenger '06 (GCCIS)** and **Brian Tepfenhart '06 (CIAS)**. Other guests included **Molly Loar '04 (CIAS)**, **Jeremiah Brazeau '04 (GCCIS)**, **Elizabeth Fehrmann '08 (KGCOE)**, and **Dereck Padden '07 (KGCOE)**. Kevin is server administrator at York Hospital.



**Ingrid Chesnick '04 (COS)** and **Andrew Graves '04 (COS)** were married on July 7, 2007, at Emerson Point in St. Michaels, Md. They currently reside in Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. Many RIT alumni were present for the ceremony and several were in the bridal party, including bridesmaid **Amy**

**Cooper Niggel '04 (COS)**; best man **Daniel Graves**, a KGCOE student; groomsmen **Ryan Chafin '04 (COS)** and **Robert Hernandez '05 (COLA)**. Following the ceremony, the couple enjoyed a two-week honeymoon cruise to Bermuda and the eastern Caribbean.

**Scott Kanzelmeyer '04 (GCCIS)** was promoted to systems engineer at Boeing Corp., Seal Beach, Calif., in September 2007 and awarded the Quality First Award in October 2007.



**Amanda Keller '04 (COS)** and Erik Finbar were married on Oct. 27, 2007, in Hamburg, N.Y. They currently reside in West Seneca, N.Y. Bridesmaids included **Kristen Kane Manchester '04 (COS)** and **Maria Orsino '04 (COS)**. Also in attendance were **Joel Manchester '05 (SCB)**, **Jeremy Whitbeck**

**'04 (COLA)**, **James Dowdle '04 (COS)**, and **Eric Dahlstrom '03 (COS)**. After the wedding, the couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Curacao.



**Lisbeth Troy '04 (COS)** and **William Murphy '05 (KGCOE)** were married on Aug. 4, 2007, in Bedford, N.H. They currently reside in Rochester. The couple met while playing rugby at RIT. **Chrissy Nisun '07 (CAST)** was the maid of honor. **Travis Rodgers '05 (KGCOE)** was the best man. **Christina**

**Witkowski '07 (COS)** and **Catherine Wilson '05 (COS)** were bridesmaids. **Jay Barczykowski '05 (KGCOE)**, **Jim Milks '05 (KGCOE)** and **Jamie Berg '05 (KGCOE)** were groomsmen. The bride is currently finishing her last year of medical school at the University of Rochester and plans to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology. The groom works for D3 Engineering in Rochester.

**Amy Niggel '04 (COS)** and husband, **Michael Niggel '03 (CIAS)**, announce the birth of a son, James Vincent, on Sept. 17, 2007.



**Daniel Shvimer '04 (GCCIS)** and Jessica Kumm, Esq., were married on Oct. 7, 2007, in Lewiston, N.Y., at the Niagara Falls Country Club. They currently reside in New York City. Alumni in attendance included groomsmen **Steven Coad '06 (GCCIS)** and **James Abbondanza '97 (CIAS)**,

with **Sasha Strickland '04 (GCCIS)** serving as an usher. The couple honeymooned in Puerto Rico.

**Evelyn Sizemore '04 (CIAS)** is graphic designer at Sabre-Technologies Inc. in Savannah, Ga. Evelyn was previously employed at Carnegie Hall Inc. as database coordinator/graphic designer.

**Michael Untiet '04 (COS)** graduated with a juris doctorate degree in May 2007 from the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N.H. In the fall of 2007, he passed the bar exams for the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts and has been admitted to both the New Hampshire State Bar and Massachusetts State Bar. In October 2007, he accepted a position with The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a contracts associate in the Commercial Clinical Trials Contracting Group.

## 2005

**Joshua Bates '05 (KGCOE)** and Courtney Slover were married on Aug. 25, 2007, in Verona, N.Y. They currently reside in Rochester. **Robert Magnant '05 (KGCOE)** was a groomsman and **Jacob Johnson '06 (KGCOE)** was in attendance at the wedding.

**Michelle Lipchick '05 (GCCIS)** received her masters degree from Canisius College in May 2007. Michelle writes “I moved into a career in higher education because I was so inspired by my experiences at RIT.”

**Kasie Strong '05 (CAST)** and Ryan Fairbarn were married on Aug. 4, 2007, in Groton, Mass. They currently reside in Dallas, Texas. RIT alumni who attended the ceremony include **Julie Romans '06 (CAST)**, **Chelsea Johnson '06 (CIAS)**, **Jared Conlon '05 (COLA)**, **Tristan Fairbarn '07 (CAST)**, **Colleen Baude '03 (CAST)**, **Sam Boscia '06 (CIAS)**, and **Kraig Strong '08 (CAST)**.



**Amanda Montgomery '05 (COLA)** earned a master of science degree in labor studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Yi Wang '05 (SCB)** is director of financial analysis at MayfieldGentry Realty Advisors LLC in Detroit, Mich., one of the fastest-growing real estate investment managers in the country. In his new position, Wang is responsible for the financial analysis of the firm's acquisitions and dispositions as well as macro-economic trend assessment and forecasting.

## 2006

**Donald Case '06 (CAST)** was selected to fill the role of awards and honors chair for the Academics Practice Specialty of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). Don is employed as a safety engineer at the Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES in Olean, N.Y., and is a certified safety professional and certified hazardous materials manager.

**Patrick Desiato '06 (SCB)** is a technical consultant at CGI in Cleveland, Ohio. CGI is a global organization specializing in information technology outsourcing. Patrick works in CGI's Healthcare Division, designing and deploying custom software for hospitals.

**Cameron Jones '06 (CAST), '06 (CIAS)** is print production manager at Deutsch Inc. in New York City. Cameron previously was employed at Interbrand as implementation services manager.



**Caitlin Glegg '06 (CAST)** and **Andrew Pionessa '06 (KGCOE)** were married on April 28, 2007, in Rochester. Three of Andrew's Sigma Alpha Mu brothers were groomsmen. The wedding was attended by many RIT alumni, students, and staff. Andrew is a mechanical engineer with Dresser Rand in Painted Post, N.Y. Caitlin works for a financial planner in Brighton, N.Y. They reside in Dansville, N.Y.

**Nicholas Rogers '06 (SCB)** works as a senior research administrator for Sponsored Research Services at RIT. He was selected to participate in the RIT Partners in Pluralism program, where he will serve as a coach. Additionally, Nick serves on the RIT Senior Year Experience Committee through the RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center. Nick performed the Star Spangled Banner and the RIT Alma Mater for the RIT Staff Award Recognition Ceremony on Oct. 17, 2007.

**Kimberlee Youngs '06 (SCB)** is an auditor at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester. She writes, "This job will require heavy travel both internationally and domestically, which is very exciting."

## 2007

**Joseph Baliva '07 (SCB)** is president/CEO of SenSee Technologies Inc. ([www.SenSeeTech.com](http://www.SenSeeTech.com)).

**Kristen Bourassa '07 (CIAS)** is working as a freelancer in any area of design/art/photo. She can be contacted at [kristen.bourassa@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.bourassa@gmail.com).

**Ashley Waltz '05 (CIAS), '07 (SCB)** and Joseph Walker were married on Nov. 24, 2007, at Faith Temple Church in Rochester. Alumni attending include **Joelle Tannenbaum '05 (CIAS), Molly Miles '06 (GCCIS), Miranda Johnson '05 (CIAS), Christine Wong '06 (GCCIS), Heather Andersen '07 (SCB), Jannette Hanna '05 (CIAS),** and **Kristen Kruse Hanna '03 (COLA).**

The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. Ashley is the marketing communications coordinator at the Printing Industry Center at RIT.

## In Memoriam

1934

**Carl E. Dentler '34 (KGCOE)**  
May 2007

1940

**Chester H. Odorczyk '40 (CCE)** March 2007

1944

**Clarence H. Judson '44 (SCB)** Oct. 2, 2007

1950

**Thomas Lotta '50 (FAA)** Dec. 17, 2007

**Leo F. Schwind '50 (KGCOE)** Dec. 10, 2007

1951

**Arthur W. Hinman '51 (CCE)** Dec. 16, 2007

1954

**Marilyn B. Mills '54 (SCB)** Dec. 20, 2007

1958

**Seymour Wildhorn '58 (GAP)** Oct. 13, 2007

1966

**Richard P. Kahane '66 (KGCOE)** Sept. 5, 2007

1968

**Karl Sperber '68 (KGCOE)** Dec. 11, 2007

1970

**John F. Kernan '70 (CCE)** Dec. 18, 2007

1971

**Woodford J. Gross '71 (NTID)** Sept. 7, 2007

1972

**James C. Gnage '71, '72 (KGCOE)** Aug. 9, 2007

1973

**Robert W. Stull '73 (KGCOE)** Dec. 21, 2007

1977

**Katrina Evringham '77 (NTID)** Sept. 19, 2007

1978

**James Kordziel '78 (SCB)** Nov. 11, 2007

1978

**Chungtung Tony Lam '78 (CAST)** Dec. 25, 2007

1980

**Beverly Jean Coffrey '80 (COLA)** March 3, 2003

**Joyce A. Walsh '80 (CCE)** May 3, 2003

1985

**Ellen Yat-Ling Chan '85 (CAST)** July 2007

1991

**Diane E. Blazy '91 (GAP)** Oct. 2007

1993

**James Robert Marventano '93 (CAST)** Sept. 17, 2007

1997

**Jeffrey Owen Jones '97 (CAST)** Nov. 11, 2007

2005

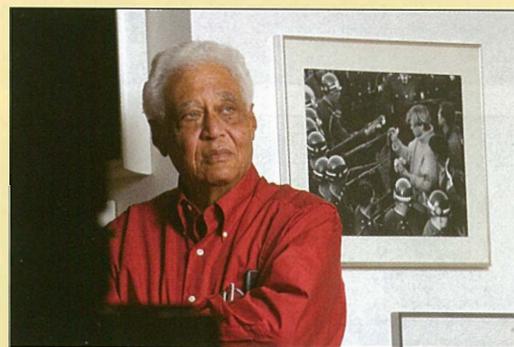
**Rosa Guida '05 (COS)** Jan. 25, 2008

## Renowned photographer Bernie Boston '55 dies

Bernie Boston '55 (photography), noted photojournalist, died Jan. 22, 2008, at age 74.

A native of Washington, D.C., Mr. Boston documented stories of national significance while working for *The Washington Star* and *The Los Angeles Times*. He served as president of the White House News Photographers Association four times and won the Kodak/White House News Photographers' Association Achievement Award in 1991. In 1993 he received the National Press Photographers Association Joseph A. Sprague Memorial Award, the organization's highest honor.

One of Mr. Boston's most famous photographs and his personal favorite, *Flower Power*, shows a young man placing flowers in the barrel of a policeman's gun during a 1967 war protest at the Pentagon. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1987 for a photograph of Coretta Scott King.



(Photo by Rich Cooley, Northern Virginia Daily News)

During his student years at RIT, he helped establish a professional photographic fraternity, Delta Lambda Epsilon. He was president of the student body and editor in chief of *Reporter*.

In 2003, the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences honored Mr. Boston with the Outstanding Alumnus Award. In 2006, RIT presented a retrospective of his work. A companion publication, *Bernie Boston: American Photojournalist*, was published by the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press. RIT Archive Collections will be the repository of Mr. Boston's photographic work.

Mr. Boston is survived by his wife, Peggy.

## Big Bash: Balloons and more



Students and staff arriving at RIT on Friday, April 15, 1988, were greeted by an amazing sight. The Administrative Circle in front of the Student Alumni Union was filled with thousands of balloons linked together to form fanciful floral creations.

These were the work of 80 students who gathered at 4:30 a.m., braving wind and chilly temperatures to assemble what became the centerpiece for the Second Annual Big Bash. This event was much bigger than the first – and was never duplicated.

David Dougherty '88 (microelectronic engineering) and Clint Fern '89 (photographic technology) were co-chairs of the event, sponsored by the Student Directorate.

"The main goal was not only to increase school spirit but to increase interaction between students and faculty," recalls Fern, who served as student-faculty coordinator for the Student Directorate. Fern, who lives in Lebanon, Pa., remembers getting up early, "ingesting a lot of helium" and partying with the faculty and administrators who joined in the effort. "It was a lot of fun."

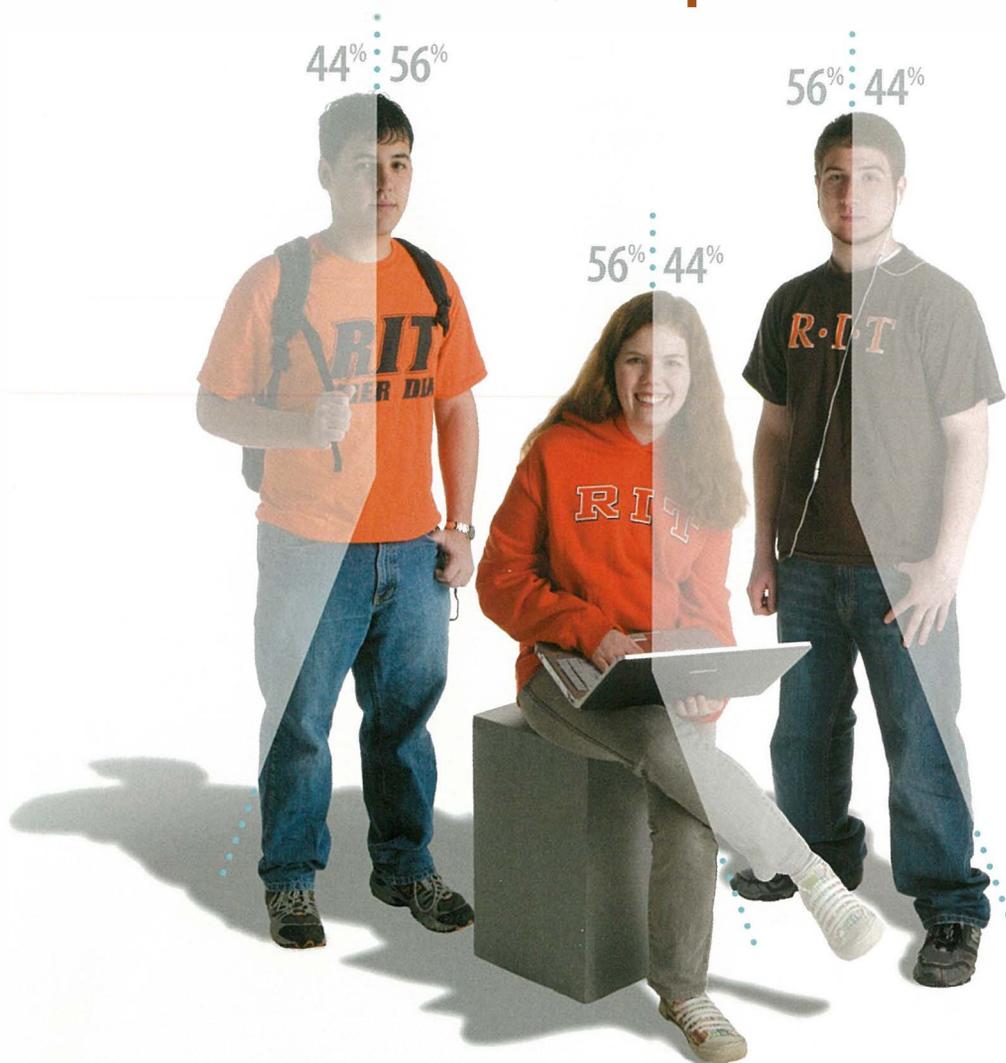
Besides the giant balloon sculpture, activities included a special breakfast, a '50s theme lunch served by faculty, free food throughout the day, tours of the Eastman Building seventh floor administrative suite, a student-faculty talent show and a dance that night. Students also had the chance to buy raffle tickets for the opportunity to trade places with one of several RIT administrators for a day.

"Back then school spirit was hard to find, and there was very little interaction with faculty outside the classroom," says Dougherty, who lives in Austin, Texas. "Our motivation was to have a day of activities to draw the students and faculty together. It was a big success. Fred Smith's (then vice president of Student Affairs and now secretary of the institute) version of *La Bamba* in the talent show was unforgettable."

**If you have additional information about this event or ideas for this page, write to *The University Magazine*, University News Services, Rochester Institute of Technology, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive – Bldg. 86, Rochester, NY 14623. E-mail can be sent to [umagwww@rit.edu](mailto:umagwww@rit.edu).**



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#### Our students: (left to right)

**Ed Wolf '09** is majoring in computer engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. He is also president of RIT's Student Government. Ed has benefited from an SAE Engineering scholarship award since his freshman year.

**Elizabeth Bennett '11** is majoring in International Business in the Saunders College of Business. She is also an RIT Telefund student-caller, and has raised about \$9,000 this year. Elizabeth also has benefited from scholarship assistance this year.

**Anthony Peralta '09** is majoring in diagnostic medical sonography in RIT's College of Science. He is also a conscientious student worker in RIT's Office of Development.

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