

# RIT

University Magazine

Spring 2020

## Using **Design** + **Tech** to improve lives

### Also inside:

Longest-serving  
faculty member  
leaves legacy  
of design





FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Creating our destiny while

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When RIT President Mark Ellingson dedicated the opening of a modern campus in Henrietta in 1968, he predicted that the new facilities

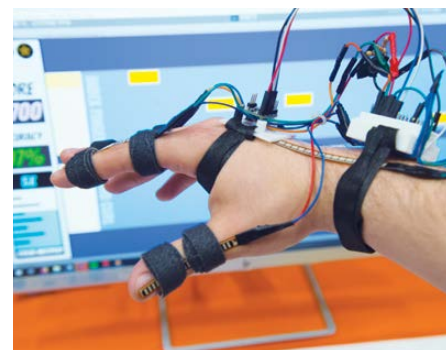
were a “bare beginning” and that the university’s future would be going at a “constantly accelerated pace.”

President Ellingson’s wisdom still guides us. And while it is satisfying to reflect on how far we have come, we must always look forward.

This spring semester, I have been making presentations to the RIT community describing the major investments we are making during the next few years. The investments are designed to make RIT more distinctive and attractive to prospective students. Our challenges over the next decade are a looming decline in the number of high school graduates nationwide due to lower birthrates and an expected decline in overall attendance among those seeking bachelor’s degrees.

We are strategically preparing for a much more competitive landscape in recruiting students. That is why we recently financed \$346.2 million in bonds—the largest in our history—allowing the university to refinance, save money, and create a pool of funds to invest in our future. Guided by our 2025 Strategic Plan that is aligned with our \$1 billion fundraising campaign—“Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness”—we are about to embark on the largest facility upgrades in our history since President Ellingson’s 1968 campus dedication.

So, what does distinctiveness look like? Let’s take a tour of the projects that will continue to transform RIT:



### The Innovative Maker and Learning Complex:

This 100,000-plus-square-foot facility will become the epicenter of what RIT represents—creativity and innovation at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design. The complex will connect the Student Alumni Union with the Wallace Library to create a nexus point on campus. The design includes a huge makerspace, student project areas, active learning classrooms, a black-box theater, a dance studio, and music rehearsal spaces. This is the largest of all the projects and a grand opening is estimated for spring 2023.



**Tait Preserve of RIT:** The university now owns 177 acres in the nearby town of Penfield, which will be the home of the Tait Preserve of RIT and Leenhouts Lodge. This substantial gift of real estate from the Tait family will expand our research and educational offerings in ecology, agriculture, sustainability, and other fields. We will add facilities to the site, including labs and classrooms, in the coming year. Read more on pages 14-17.

# transforming RIT



## **The Global Cybersecurity Institute:**

There's an overwhelming shortage of trained computing security professionals around the world. RIT is working to change that as we expand our focus in computing security research and education. A three-story, 45,000-square-foot facility already under construction will include a Cybersecurity Learning Experience Center, five research labs, student lounges, instructional labs, faculty offices, and a Cyber Range—a lab where network cyber-attacks can be simulated. RIT's prowess in cybersecurity began more than a decade ago and we were among the first universities in the nation to create a department of computing security. A dedication ceremony in October will officially open the institute.



**Performing Arts Center:** Design of a two-theater complex has just begun. The smaller theater with approximately 800 seats will house musical theater, including a historic organ. We seek to add a 1,500-seat orchestra hall for larger audiences in a second phase. We are striving to develop

the leading performing arts program in the nation for non-majors, attracting talented and creative students who can continue their passions for music, dance, theater, and other performing arts. We expect construction on phase one of the project to conclude in spring 2023.



**Athletic facilities:** We have 640 varsity athletes and thousands more in club and intramural sports. Some of our facilities, including the main outdoor stadium, are subpar. We plan to construct a new stadium complex for soccer and lacrosse, including concessions, locker rooms, and artificial turf practice fields. Design begins this spring.



**Saunders College of Business:** Major renovation and expansion is coming soon to Max Lowenthal Hall. E. Philip Saunders, the college's namesake, announced a \$7.5 million gift to the business college. The Saunders College is still raising matching funds. Soon we

plan to hire a design firm to manage the expansion project. The expansion will include learning laboratories, collaborative student spaces, and room for hospitality and service innovation degree programs. Plans also are underway to construct event spaces that will accommodate business conferences and speakers.

Let me add that we also are creating a new land-use master plan for our 1,300-acre campus that will establish the blueprint for the next 50 years. Perpetual progress: We're transforming the future by transforming RIT.

Yours in Tiger pride,

*Dave*

David C. Munson Jr., President  
munson@rit.edu  
Twitter: @RITpresident

## **Transforming RIT**

Behind all of these projects is a \$1 billion fundraising campaign—"Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness." This is a blended campaign that continues to seek support from a variety of investors, including alumni and friends, government and corporate partners, and research foundations and agencies. Many pillars of the campaign go beyond the noted construction projects. They include student scholarships, fellowships, faculty endowments, and more. Learn more at [rit.edu/transformingRIT](http://rit.edu/transformingRIT).



# RIT

## University Magazine

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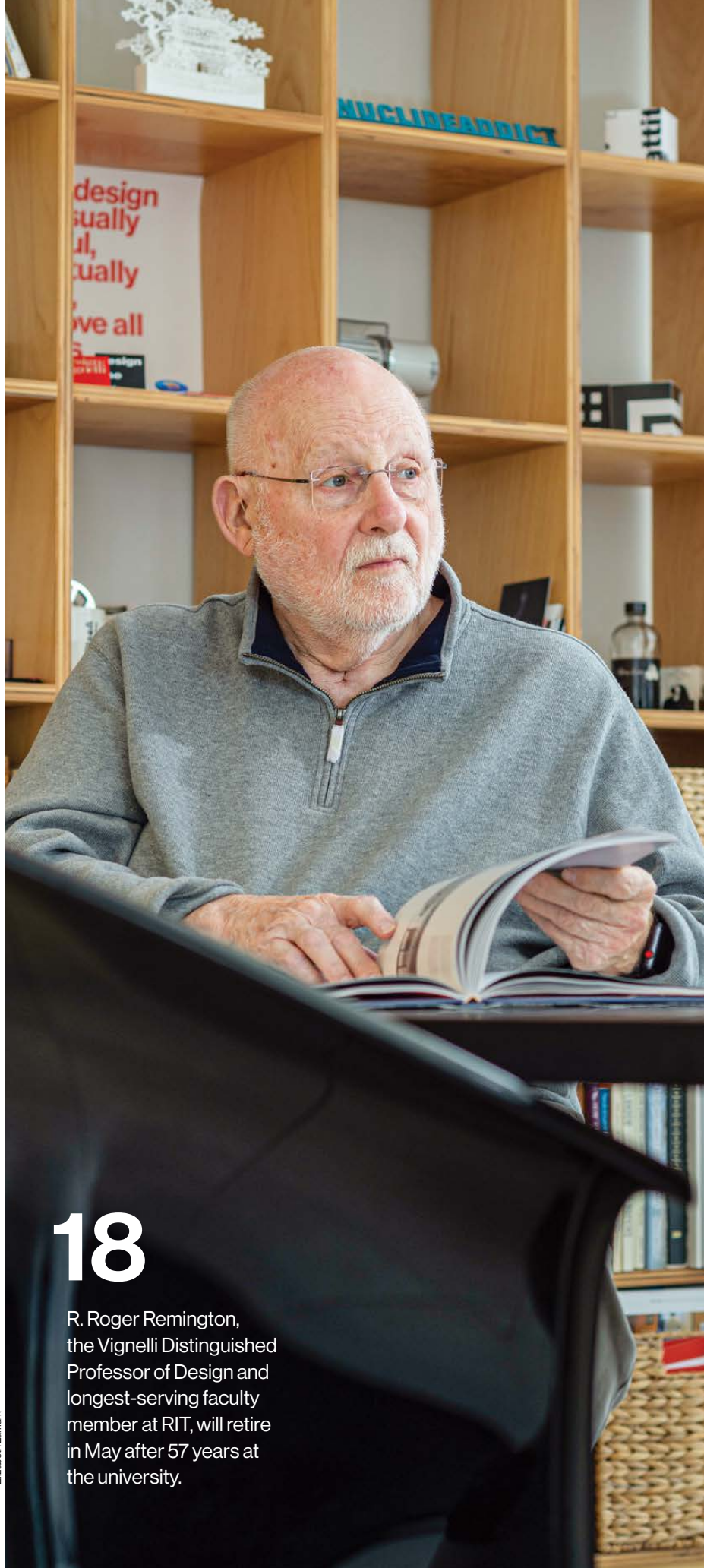


Elizabeth Lamark

### Cover

An electric wheelchair controller box driven by facial muscles was designed and built by student members of RIT's Neurotechnology Exploration Team. The project will soon be tested in RIT's LiveAbility Lab.

Elizabeth Lamark



# 18

R. Roger Remington, the Vignelli Distinguished Professor of Design and longest-serving faculty member at RIT, will retire in May after 57 years at the university.



The letters "RIT" in a large, white, serif font, positioned in the top left corner of the image.

# RIT

A photograph of three students walking on a paved path on a university campus. On the left, a young woman with glasses and a black cap is smiling and looking towards the other two students. In the center, a young man with glasses and a black jacket is pointing towards the right. On the right, a young woman with blonde hair tied back is smiling and looking towards the man. They are all dressed in casual clothing. The background shows a green lawn, trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves, and a building in the distance.

## Did you know...

**the #1 university in the nation also has the highest percentage of alumni donors?\***

\*According to *U.S. News and World Report*, **Princeton University** has a two-year average alumni giving rate of 59%. The university also ranks number one overall in the United States by the media outlet. RIT's alumni giving rate last year was 5.2%.

**As RIT strives to become one of the nation's top universities, the philanthropic spirit of our alumni must also rise to match our academic rigor and overall student experience.** When it comes to rankings, RIT is at the top in almost every category except alumni giving. In order to join this elite club of prestigious colleges and universities with significant alumni support, we need YOUR help.

**By making a gift to RIT each and every year — no matter the amount — you can help students in need, increase the value of your degree AND improve RIT's standing in the rankings.** Alumni giving is considered an indicator that you are satisfied with your educational experience—a key factor in ranking higher education institutions. We need you to help close the gap in alumni participation in giving.

**The best universities have the best alumni donors.** Tigers, let's be one of them.

**Make your gift today at**  
**[rit.edu/AlumniGive](https://rit.edu/AlumniGive).**

### In Brief

#### Commencement keynote



Peace Corps Director Josephine "Jody" Olsen will be the keynote speaker

for RIT's annual commencement celebration.

Olsen will speak at the Academic Convocation, set for 10 a.m. Friday, May 8, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

#### New vice president



RIT has selected Phillip D. Castleberry, a 20-year veteran of higher education

advancement and fundraising, as its new vice president for Development and Alumni Relations.

Castleberry was vice president for institutional advancement at St. John Fisher College. He began his RIT duties on Feb. 1.

#### New MS degree

A new graduate degree in health and well-being management will prepare students for careers in primary health care, corporate America, and community health programs, or for medical/dental school and health-related Ph.D. programs.

RIT's Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition is accepting students to the health and well-being management program for fall 2020.

## RIT gets greener

RIT offers Ozzi reusable containers at Gracie's and Brick City Café. They eliminate the use of 94,000 disposable containers (that's 4 tons) a year.



Chase Gurner

#### Plastic bags



#### Plastic straws



#### Plastic stirrers



Plastic bags, straws, and stirrers are a thing of the past at RIT as the university continues its "Ditch the Disposables" campaign to decrease plastic waste.

The initiative, which began Jan. 31, was in advance of a state ban on plastic bags on March 1 and was supported by students.

About 14,700 meals are served on the RIT campus each weekday. As alternatives, paper bags, paper straws, and wooden stirrers are being offered, with paper straws and bags being offered upon request at cash registers.

"Ultimately, we hope to see other universities our size follow suit to make a greater impact," said Kory Samuels, executive director of RIT Dining.

He said approximately 413,500 plastic straws, 140,000 plastic stirrers, and 324,000 plastic bags are expected to be diverted from landfills each year as a result.

It's the latest initiative on the RIT campus to help reduce food and plastic waste:

- In 2012, Recover Rochester, a student organization, began collecting and donating unused food from RIT to area meal centers and shelters. They have helped other area universities establish similar programs and collectively donate 7,000 to 10,000 pounds each year.
- Reusable food containers were

first available at RIT in 2013. As a result, 94,000 disposable to-go containers a year have been eliminated.

- RIT created a policy in 2013 to not use university dollars to buy bottled water.
  - Approximately 150 tons of food waste is diverted from landfills to anaerobic digesters annually.
- "We've been excited to be able to work so closely with RIT Dining in advancing sustainability efforts and reducing disposable plastics," said Enid Cardinal, senior advisor to the president for strategic planning and sustainability. "It is a major environmental problem globally."

There are no immediate plans to replace plastic spoons, forks, and knives on campus, but alternatives are being studied.

Hannah Emminger, a fourth-year mechanical engineering technology major from Buffalo and RIT Student Government's sustainability chair, said students have been asking for alternatives to plastic bags on campus since 2015.

"This change marks a monumental shift, not only for RIT but for our society as well," she said. "Reducing single-use plastic, in all forms, is the first step of many steps to a more sustainable future and campus here at RIT."

**Greg Livadas**



# RIT's K-12 program partners with Army



Donna Burnette, executive director of RIT's K-12 University Center, is leading the partnership with the Army Educational Outreach Program. The goal is to expose the next generation of students to careers in science, math, and engineering.

**R**IT's K-12 University Center is leveraging the university's strength in experiential learning and career readiness in a new partnership with the Army Educational Outreach Program.

RIT will receive \$14 million to expand the Army's apprenticeship programs and cultivate a STEM-literate workforce that reflects the nation's demographics.

The five-year grant is funded through the Department of Defense Army Material Command and administered through Battelle Memorial Institute.

The competitive award is RIT's single largest research grant to date and elevates the university's scope, said Ryne Raffaele, RIT vice president for research and associate provost.

"RIT is partnering with the Army to engage, inspire, and attract the next generation and expose them to STEM careers," Raffaele said. "Enabling the STEM pipeline is something that the RIT community has long been passionate about."

High school and undergraduate students gain mentorship and authentic research experiences at university and Army research laboratories through the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program, the High School Apprenticeship Program, Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, and the College Qualified Leaders.

"We're soliciting new sites and contributing programmatically by developing resources for apprentices and mentors to make the experience more enriching," said Donna Burnette, executive director of RIT's K-12 University Center and project lead. "We are also aligning the programming with the Army's career and workforce development initiatives. Now that we are part of the Army Educational Outreach Program, we've become part of the national conversation. We have a seat at the table in this kind of work at a level we haven't had before."

None of the existing Army apprenticeships takes place at RIT. This represents a

potential growth area for the university and a way to share the RIT brand, Burnette said.

"We are now interfacing with every single one of these students who will be part of our future workforce, and we get to bring the RIT flavor to their experiences."

Burnette joined RIT in 2016 from Virginia Tech, where she led the first consortium in support of the Army Educational Outreach Program.

Burnette has strengthened relationships between RIT and the K-12 community through increased grant-funded programming that draws upon the university's subject matter experts.

"I'm personally interested in the K-12-to-college-to-career pipeline," Burnette said. "RIT is already great at preparing students for careers. Connecting the pipeline to high schools and further down to middle schools is the next step, I think, and a natural fit for RIT and our K-12 program."

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**Susan Gawlowicz '95**



### Spotlight on performing arts

Members of the Latin Rhythm Dance Crew Performance Team took the stage in Ingle Auditorium with “Fuego Pulse” during President Munson’s Performing Arts Challenge on Jan. 31. They were among 12 student acts to compete for a \$1,000 top prize. RIT is working to develop the leading performing arts program in the nation for non-majors.







# RIT 365 teaches first-year students about RIT, and themselves

A college student's first year on campus can be adventurous,

To help make the transition into higher education a bit easier, RIT has started an innovative program to help students discover how they can be active on campus and engage with new people and places.

Called RIT 365, the program, believed to be the first of its kind, is intended to provide exposure to educational and social opportunities within a framework of reflection, self-awareness, and community.

Some 2,600 first-year students met

weekly all over campus during the fall semester, from visiting a cadaver lab to a glass blowing studio. They encountered others with diverse cultures and were able to consider study abroad options. They then reflected on these experiences in facilitated dialogue with their classmates.

"It helps them understand RIT in a broader sense," said Stacy Nation-Knapper, director of Year One Programs at RIT. "We're introducing them to a whole array of things available to them."

RIT 365 continues this semester with the first-year students who are new to campus, and will continue for the thousands of new, first-year students again in the fall.

Previously, first-year programs at RIT—and many other colleges—taught new students survival skills such as how to enroll in classes and manage their time, skills students often need when they arrive on campus.

Each RIT 365 class had up to 24 students of varying majors; no more than 10 students





### In this together

Michael Vernarelli, professor emeritus in the Department of Economics, hosts an existential discussion during an RIT 365 session for first-year students.

A. Sue Weisler

from the same college could be in a group. More than 100 second-year or higher undergraduates were also involved, helping facilitate the classes and sessions to reflect upon their experiences.

In 115 sections of the class, students engaged in experiential opportunities based on themes they ranked by preference: creativity, entrepreneurial, technology and society, well-being, innovation, and global citizenship.

In sessions about culture, students were told to bring items of significance to them.

Students brought chopsticks, headphones, even pizza slices.

Mason Lapine, a computing exploration student from Stamford, Conn., took off his necklace and showed his mezuzah which contained specific Hebrew verses from the Torah.

"I wear it every day," he said. "It reminds me what values I have."

Paavo Hegley, a mechanical engineering technology major from New York City, held up a postage stamp.

"I have family spread around the country, and this reminds me of just how important family and communication is," he said.

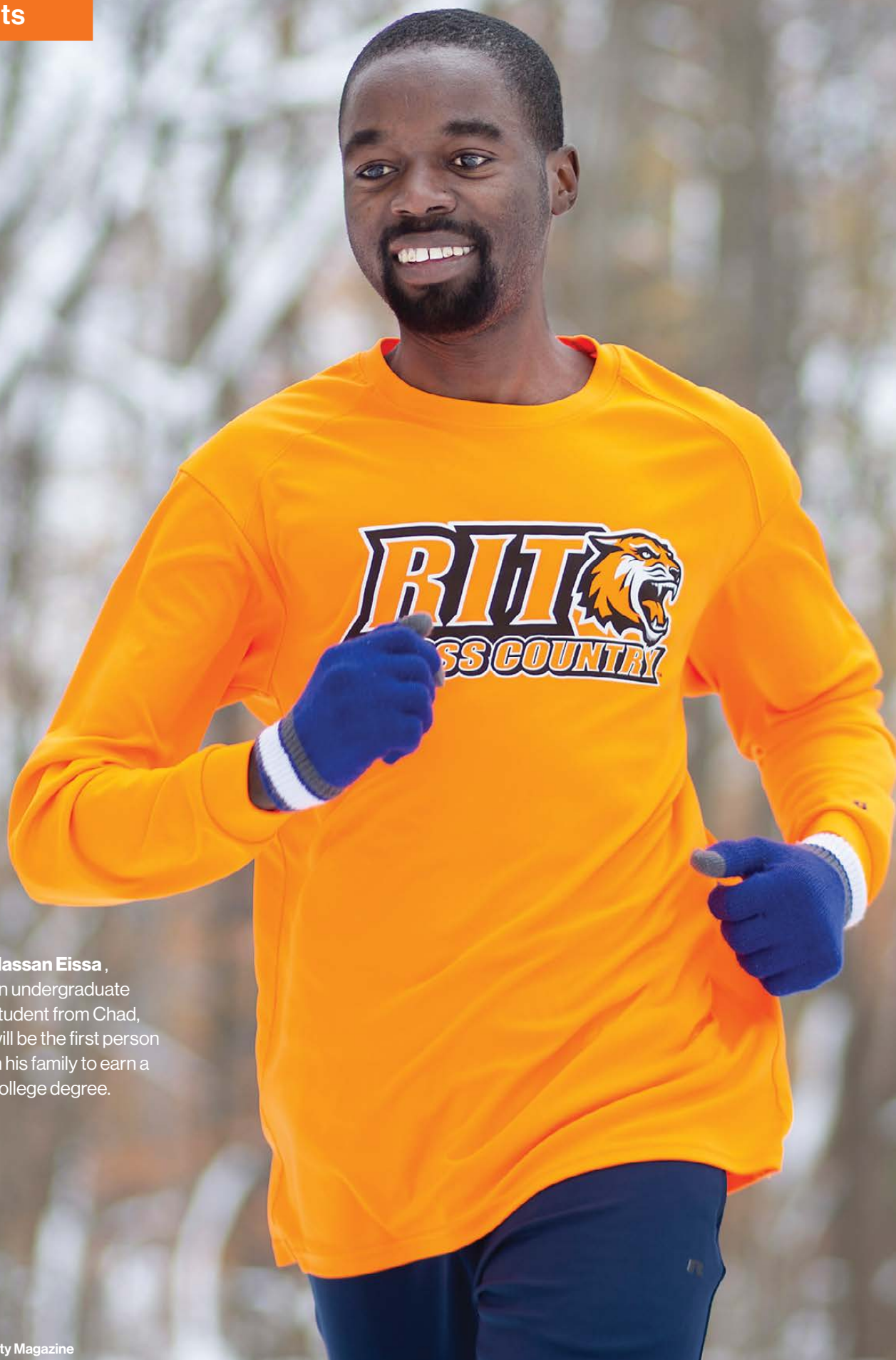
Taylor Liotta, a biomedical sciences major from Mississauga, Ontario, brought a hockey puck. She explained she's a goalie on the RIT women's hockey team.

"Hockey has been a huge part of my life and has given me the chance to meet so many people and travel around the world," she said.

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**Greg Livadas**





**Hassan Eissa**,  
an undergraduate  
student from Chad,  
will be the first person  
in his family to earn a  
college degree.



# Student crosses countries to reach academic and sports milestones

Running an 8-kilometer cross country race is hardly a challenge if you've already walked across the Sahara.

Hassan Eissa has a life journey that reads like a Hollywood script—born in Chad, left home at an early age, traveled across the continent before making his way as a refugee to the United States. And he has a résumé to match—shepherd, transporter of camels—and now engineering technology student and standout cross country runner at RIT.

**“I went through so many of the hardest tasks already—surviving a war, coming to America, seeing different places. When I look back to my past, my story, and my life, it encourages me that I have come so far.”**

Eissa said he knew from a young age that he would leave his North African village and seek his fortunes. He'd follow the traditions of his community, and it led to new experiences as well as some challenges.

He came from a large extended family, and he lived for a short time with his grandmother, helping manage her herds. Although he was happy with his family, he was drawn to seeing the rest of the world, to learn new languages, and perhaps start his own business.

At 15, he'd take that first step.

“I was young and I didn't tell anyone except my half-brother that I was leaving. If I told them they may not let me,” he said, remembering the morning in 2006 the two boys left for the countryside where they tended the family's sheep and goat herd. He asked for two of the animals to trade for a ride into a nearby city.

“My brother didn't refuse. ‘Hassan,’ he said, ‘I will give you the sheep. I will tell our family that they just got lost.’”

His first stop was a small village nearby where he went into a make-shift restaurant for a meal. When he went back outside, the sheep were gone. And he was alone.

“I walked that night. I grew up with mountains on all sides, but the night was a little bit scary,” he said. “But I was determined to leave.”

In 2008, he joined a caravan taking camels from Chad into Libya to sell.

“It was exciting,” he said of that first trip covering more than 750 miles. “I was the youngest, there were seven of us, and we had 400 camels together. It took us 16 days walking because you cannot rest too much.”

He said there were breaks, at noon and midnight. It was important to keep moving or risk injury, even death, because of the harshness of the desert with so little water or shade and blazing heat.

Eissa was with the caravan for a few years and made several trips between Chad and Libya. One trip in 2010 landed him in the middle of Libya's civil war. The caravan lost the camels; its herders, regardless of age, were suspected of supporting the Khaddafi government even as it was being overthrown.

Some wanted to return to Chad, but Eissa was determined to continue. With just the clothes on his back, he headed east to Egypt, joining thousands fleeing Libya to border refugee camps. By chance, he came upon one administered by the United Nations, and he saw it as a chance for passage out of Africa through refugee resettlement.

“After the first year, we started to believe we were going to a new country,” he said.

He taught himself the English alphabet, asking for help from case

workers in the camp to translate words.

In 2013, Eissa was allowed to go to Baltimore where he would live with other African refugees who were starting new lives in the U.S.

Now in the U.S., with no formal education, limited English, but a great desire to learn, Eissa told a case worker that he wanted to go to school. He started classes through a vocational school, eventually earning his high school equivalency within three years.

Eissa applied and was admitted in 2016 to Harford Community College, in Bel Air Township, a few miles north of Baltimore.

At HCC, he asked the cross country coach for a try out even though he had never been on a team. Despite his inexperience, he rapidly advanced with the team to regional and national championships.

In 2018, he began coursework in engineering technology, and he applied to nine four-year colleges. He was accepted at all of them, and he chose to attend RIT.

The third-year electrical engineering technology major came to the university this past fall.

He is excelling in classes and intends to use his degree to become part of the solar energy industry. He is also part of a strong men's cross country team at the university.

“He's incredibly disciplined, and so is cross country,” said David Warth, head coach of the RIT cross country team and the men's and women's track and field teams.

Eissa says his future looks bright.

“I went through so many of the hardest tasks already—surviving a war, coming to America, seeing different places,” he said. “When I look back to my past, my story, and my life, it encourages me that I have come so far.”

**Michelle Cometa '00**

### Quantum technology

The United States showed its commitment to developing quantum technology late in 2018 when it passed the National Quantum Initiative Act, committing \$1.2 billion in funding for quantum technology research over five years. In 2019, RIT received \$150,000 in funding from the NSF's Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes program to create a plan for an institute that would expand quantum science and technology capabilities through quantum photonic integrated circuits.

# Researchers help develop fully integrated quantum photonics wafers

Researchers from RIT's Future Photon Initiative, in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory, have produced the Department of Defense's first-ever fully integrated quantum photonics wafer.

Wafers are used to mass produce integrated circuits or microchips. The microchips produced by this wafer are intended to be used to explore how photonics can be used to

develop quantum computers.

Scientists are racing to develop quantum technology that would revolutionize fields such as computing, communication, imaging, and sensing.

Quantum technology leverages the effects of quantum physics at the atomic level, where different rules govern the universe and classical physics is defied.

The project is led by the Air Force Research Laboratory and

RIT. The wafer includes chip designs from both RIT and Air Force Research Laboratory, along with designs by collaborators at MIT, Purdue University, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Army Research Laboratory, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The wafer was fabricated by SUNY Polytechnic Institute, which leads the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM

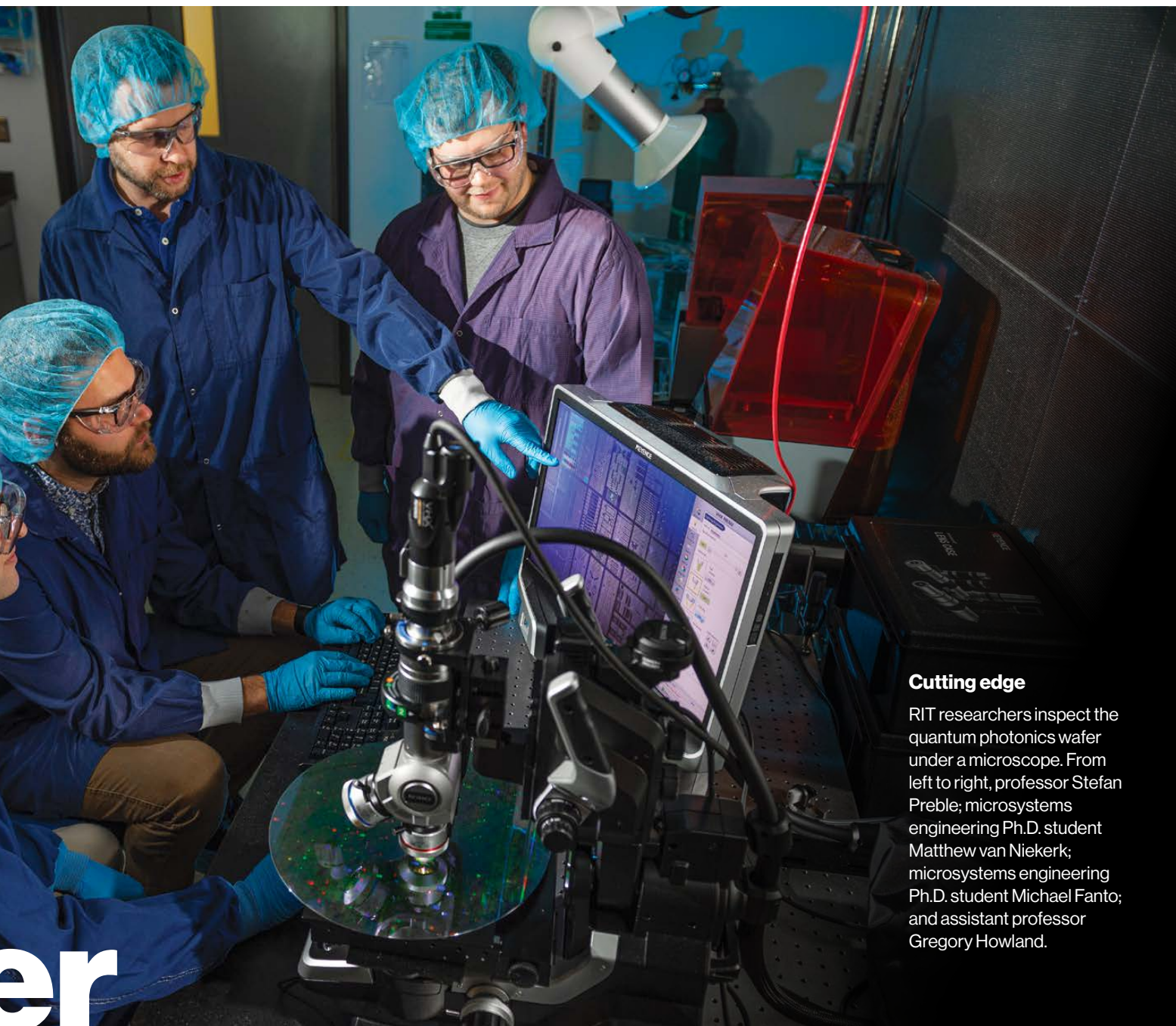
Photonics).

"The traditional quantum optics experiments done with single photons up until a few years ago were all realized on giant optical tables with lots of mirrors, lenses, lasers, and other bulk optics equipment," said Stefan Preble, RIT's lead on the project and a professor in microsystems engineering.

"That's not very scalable because it obviously takes up a lot of space," he said. "Through







### Cutting edge

RIT researchers inspect the quantum photonics wafer under a microscope. From left to right, professor Stefan Preble; microsystems engineering Ph.D. student Matthew van Niekerk; microsystems engineering Ph.D. student Michael Fanto; and assistant professor Gregory Howland.

Elizabeth Larnark

this project, we are taking that giant optical table that proves these quantum concepts and miniaturizing it down onto a microchip.”

Once the 300mm wafer was created, it was divided into individual chips and the chips were distributed to the collaborators so they can begin using them in experiments to develop quantum photonics devices and circuits.

By scaling these experiments

down to chips that are about one square millimeter, they can explore bigger and more complex systems.

Other RIT collaborators working on the project include Gregory Howland, an assistant professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, and microsystems engineering Ph.D. students Matthew van Niekerk and Michael Fanto. Fanto is also a research physicist at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

“There are a lot of important building block experiments on here,” Howland said. “We’re working on making good sources of photons, circuits for manipulating them, and calibration circuits. We’re refining these individual devices and, in the future, they will be combined together to make a quantum computing device.”

---

**Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS**

### If you go

RIT will host the Photonics for Quantum Workshop June 23-25 to explore how photonic devices will impact quantum science, technology, and applications. The workshop will feature international pioneers in the advancement of photonics for quantum devices and in their use in five applications: computing, communication, imaging, sensing, and clocks. Go to [rit.edu/fpi/pfq2](http://rit.edu/fpi/pfq2) for details.



# RIT gifted 177-acre estate

to expand research, educational offerings

**R**IT will use a substantial gift of real estate in Penfield, N.Y., to expand the university's research and educational offerings in ecology, agriculture, sustainability, and other fields.

Amy Leenhouts Tait and Robert C. Tait, Rochester natives and highly successful real estate entrepreneurs, have gifted to the university their 177-acre property, which includes a 60-acre lake and a private mile of Irondequoit Creek adjacent to Ellison Park.

The site, home of a former Dolomite sand quarry, will be dedicated as the Tait Preserve of RIT.

"With this generous donation, the Tait family is providing RIT a transformative opportunity to expand our experiential education and research opportunities in many of our programs," said RIT President David Munson. "The Tait Preserve of RIT will provide nearly endless possibilities for RIT. We are deeply grateful to the Taits for their





### A transformative opportunity

Amy Leenhouts Tait and Robert C. Tait donated their property near campus to establish the Tait Preserve of RIT and Leenhouts Lodge.

The property stretches over 177 acres and includes a 60-acre lake and a private mile of Irondequoit Creek adjacent to Ellison Park.

magnificent gift and commitment to this university and the Finger Lakes region.”

Over the past four years, the Tait family has worked to clean up the abandoned industrial site and restore its natural beauty, constructing a 5,000-square-foot luxury lodge amidst its wooded hills and open meadows.

The Leenhouts Lodge, named in honor of the Leenhouts family members, has geothermal heating and air conditioning,

a chef's kitchen, a massive stone fireplace, and an open concept interior with huge sections of glass walls that mechanically open to the outdoor patios, firepit, and view of the lake and surrounding hillsides.

“Bob and I are delighted that this property, which has special meaning to our family, will be loved and enjoyed for generations to come under the responsible stewardship of RIT,” Amy Tait said. “We are so inspired by RIT’s vision, which will benefit its constit-

uents, the Penfield community, the broader region, and potentially even the planet.”

The Tait Preserve of RIT is located 25 minutes from RIT’s Henrietta campus and 10 minutes from downtown Rochester.

RIT expects to use the facility for a wide variety of education, research, and conservation activities including:

- Environmental education and research, incorporating K-12 programming.
- Agriculture and aquaculture research



## Tait Preserve

### Educational possibilities

The gift is expected to expand RIT's research and educational offerings in ecology, agriculture, sustainability, and other fields.

### Transforming RIT

RIT is in the midst of "Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness" which aims to raise \$1 billion to fund the university's future. With this gift, the campaign has now secured more than \$680 million in gifts, research grants, and other support.

and education, including sustainable agriculture and community engagement.

- Conservation, sustainability, and urban ecology research and training.
- Events and hospitality community functions.
- Youth recreation.

"With the Tait Preserve's close proximity to downtown,

we also see this as an opportunity to offer the city of Rochester's K-12 students unique experiences they would not otherwise have access to," said James Watters, RIT senior vice president for Finance and Administration and treasurer. "The Leenhouts Lodge will provide a first-class event center where we can engage the RIT and Rochester

communities in ways that fascinate and inspire."

RIT is committed to preserving and protecting the ecosystem and only anticipates adding infrastructure as required to maximize the site's potential.

Portions of the land have been earmarked for agricultural research and education to develop farming practices that

benefit both the land and community.

"The Tait Preserve's local field sites will be highly advantageous for our environmental science and biology programs," said Sophia Maggelakis, dean of RIT's College of Science. "Exclusive and protected access to the property is particularly valuable, as it will give access





Photos by Clyde Giliam

**The Leenhouts Lodge has a massive stone fireplace and an open concept interior with huge sections of glass walls that mechanically open to the outdoor patios.**

of the available field sites to our faculty and undergraduate and graduate students to work on research projects in a number of areas such as ecology, agricultural biotechnology, wildlife management, plant biology, wetland biogeochemistry, and geographic information systems, just to name a few.”

The Taites are longstand-

ing business and community leaders.

Robert and Amy Tait, together with Norman Leenhouts, co-founded Broadstone Real Estate in 2006, following their leadership roles at Home Properties.

Their involvement with real estate and their demonstrated support of the community is

modeled, in part, after Amy’s parents, Norman and Arlene Leenhouts, and Norman’s twin brother, Nelson Leenhouts, founders of Home Properties.

This is the second major gift the Taites have made to RIT. The former Rochester Savings Bank building, located at 40 Franklin St., was donated to RIT in 2012 by Amy and Robert Tait through

Rochester Historic Ventures.

The building, now called the RIT Downtown Center for Entrepreneurship, is home to RIT’s Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, which provides business, mentoring, and consulting services targeting new urban entrepreneurs.

**Luke Auburn ’09, ’15 MS**



# Retiring Remington leaves legacy of design

**R. Roger Remington**, the Vignelli Distinguished Professor of Design and longest-serving faculty member at RIT, will retire in May after almost six decades.



<b>1958</b> Remington graduates with BFA from RIT	<b>1960</b> RIT establishes College of Graphic Arts and Photography	<b>1963</b> Remington begins teaching at RIT	<b>1970</b> Remington becomes chair of new Department of Graphic Design	<b>1978</b> Remington receives RIT's Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching	<b>1983</b> RIT hosts Coming of Age History of Design Conference
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While he'll soon step away from the day-to-day at the university to which he has dedicated nearly six decades, R. Roger Remington wants people to know, "I'm not going anywhere."

The Vignelli Distinguished Professor of Design and longest-serving faculty member at RIT will retire in May after 57 years at the university.

In addition to building a nationally recognized graphic design program in RIT's College of Art and Design, the 83-year-old Remington has transformed the university into an international archival resource for design, earning many of the industry's most distinguished accolades along the way.

"It doesn't feel at all like I'm closing

the door and walking away because I don't intend to," Remington said. "I'm planning to stay around and be as much help as I can to my successor and to others involved in the Vignelli Center for Design Studies and the college."

He leaves an indelible mark on the university—and the design industry at large.

"Roger has been the face of design at RIT for nearly six decades, raising the profile of the college and the university in the design world to new heights," said Ellen Granberg, RIT provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. "He leaves a wonderful legacy that will benefit the university—and the design world—for years to come."

Todd Jokl, dean of the College of Art

and Design, said Remington's impact on RIT students has been immeasurable.

"Roger Remington has been a titan in the field of design both at RIT—through his efforts that established design as a pillar at our university—and in the broader world of design, where he is known as a world-class historian, scholar, and designer, at large," he said. "The impact Roger has had on the College of Art and Design as well as the field of design, overall, cannot be overstated."

Continues on next page

## Tributes

### Marvin Hardee Jr. '59

Sorry such a great guy is retiring. I know why he aged so well. Roger, Bob Brown, John Boyd, and I roomed together at RIT in the late '50s. We had to be very quiet every night because Roger went to bed at 8 o'clock sharp. He teased me about my photography clipping files, but apologized when he needed some of my files when he was working on one of his degrees—way before computers. *Pictured top right.*

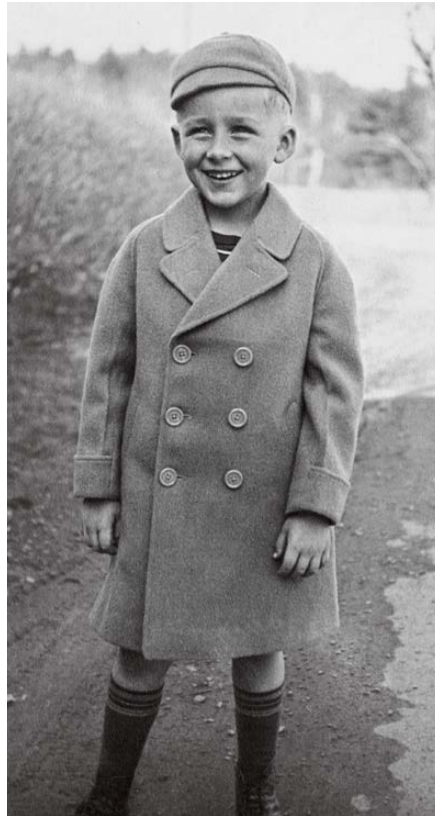
### Martha de Lyra Barker '80

I was a student of the mid-to-late '70s, fresh from Maine, a little out of sorts as to what I was doing at RIT. I was overwhelmed by the campus, the environment, and my classmates—all of whom had so much more talent than I ever thought I would have. But the entire staff of the College of Fine and Applied Arts was wonderful. And when I chose communication design as my major, it was because I found my stride with a handful of faculty who pushed us, made us think and work harder, made us ask ourselves (and each other) “why,” and helped us master the craft.

Roger Remington was no exception. Senior year, when we spent days and nights in the studio, Roger was there to critique, advise, encourage, and laugh along with our foolishness. He emphasized learning and understanding the history of all the great designers, who paved the way in editorial, advertising, and corporate design.

Roger, congratulations on your retirement and from my heart, I thank you for laying a foundation of knowledge and curiosity. I learned more than just design in those classes, and I appreciate everything that you did to help me shape and enjoy a design life.

In 1959, Remington, left, shared this house with other RIT students including Marvin Hardee Jr., Robert Brown, John Boyd, and Chris Mayer.



Remington in the early 1940s. He grew up in upstate New York near Lake George.



Remington in a 1955 self portrait with art tools in the style of El Lissitzky.

### From student to chair

Remington, who grew up in Glens Falls, N.Y., was first introduced to RIT in the 1950s when he was an art and design student.

The head of the School of Art and Design at the time, Stanley Witmeyer, began transitioning the program from a traditional Beaux Arts academy to a modern design program. As a result, Remington recalled, he graduated from RIT in 1958 with a strong foundation in both styles.

He applied to several graduate schools and was attracted to the University of



1984

Cary Graphic Design  
Archive collections  
begin with designer  
Lester Beall

1989

Remington and Barbara  
Hodik co-author *Nine  
Pioneers in American  
Graphic Design*

1993

RIT acquires George  
Giusti archive

1998

RIT forms  
School of Design

2000

RIT acquires  
Will Burtin archive

2002

Massimo Vignelli  
awarded an honorary  
doctorate and Lella  
Vignelli awarded the  
President's Medal



This portrait of Remington was taken in 1958 by a classmate.



Remington is pictured here in 1967 working on graphics for RIT's new campus.

Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied printmaking and took advantage of the school's art history program.

After graduating, he returned to New York state and worked in packaging design for three years before the call to teaching grew stronger. Montana State University in Bozeman needed a design teacher and Remington took the job, "sight unseen," he recalled, becoming the only graphic designer in the school's small art department until 1963.

"Then I got a call from Stan Witmeyer," Remington said. "He said, 'Would you like to come back to RIT to teach? We are building a new campus, and we would like to have you be part of our faculty.'"

Remington said those early years at RIT were "both challenging and exciting at the same time." The transition from an intimate downtown setting to the sprawling Henrietta campus was stressful, yet exhilarating.

He had the opportunity to work on

the branding program for the new school, which was used by RIT for two decades. He helped build the first graphic design department, which he chaired for seven years, while he began to make a significant impact on students in the classroom.

Remington considers himself primarily a teacher who has critical interests in design studies and graphic design practice. He received the Eisenhart Annual Award for Outstanding Teaching—RIT's highest recognition of teaching excellence—in 1978.

## Remington

### Kevin Hall '77

As a communication design major from 1974-1977, Roger Remington was one of my RIT professors. He was someone I respected very much. He brought out the best in his students and encouraged us to strive for creative excellence in all of our design pursuits. Role model and mentor, Mr. Remington taught me to appreciate the value and importance of graphic design.

### Darryl Degelman '73 MFA

As a graduate design student under Roger Remington in 1972-73, I enjoyed the family environment that he helped create with all of the students. In addition to the challenging assignments, we shared personal stories that were documented on a large chart. We repeated experiences about gorillas and unusual sculptures made from items purchased at a drug store. It was fun and informative. Thanks, Roger! You made your mark on me and many others!

### John Malinoski '87 MFA

Roger was my mentor in graduate school at RIT. He created and brought countless meaningful and impactful stories to the studio that continue to influence and measure my design practice. His teaching introduced me to design with a capital D, with great rigor, professionalism, passion, form, expectations, experiences, and joy accompanied by an amazing level of energy, activity, and realization. He changed me. I remain grateful and very proud to be one of his students.

### Trista Finch '20

Roger has been an incredible mentor to me for a few years now. I've taken his classes, served with him on the Vignelli Council, and received a great deal of advice and many books from him—all of which I will treasure for the rest of my life. The legacy that Roger is leaving behind at RIT will last forever.



Remington enjoys working with students. From left are graduate students Emma Canfield, Marie Fabozzi, and Samantha Maida in an avant-garde typography workshop.



Remington talks with Massimo and Lella Vignelli, who attended the unveiling of the Vignelli Center for Design Studies in 2010.



2008

Remington inducted into New York Art Directors Club Hall of Fame

2010

RIT opens Vignelli Center for Design Studies

2011

Vignelli Design Conversations lectures begin

2012

Remington inducted into membership of Alliance Graphique Internationale

2013

RIT hosts Vignelli Master Designer Workshop

2014

Remington receives RIT Trustees Lifetime Achievement award



Remington and Josh Owen, director of the industrial design program, hold up a “V” for Vignelli in the Vignelli Center for Design Studies.

Elizabeth Lamark



The Vignelli Center for Design Studies opened on campus in 2010 in a building designed by Massimo Vignelli.

Kalle Bailey

## Archives catalyst

Remington is renowned worldwide for his critical interests in design studies, research, writing, and graphic design practice. Since 1982, he has been engaged in the research, interpretation, and preservation of the history of graphic design.

He was the leading catalyst in establishing RIT's Cary Graphic Design Archive, which now features 45 existing graphic design collections of Modernist American graphic design pioneers such as Lester Beall, Will Burtin, Cipe Pineles, William Golden, and Alvin Lustig.

The crown jewel of his archival efforts, the Vignelli Center for Design Studies, houses the archive of the late renowned designers Massimo and Lella Vignelli, whose graphic and product designs are icons of international design.

When Massimo Vignelli, whose friendship with Remington began in 1979, decided it was time to downsize his New York City

business around 2005, there was only one place in the world where he wanted his archive housed. The problem was that the collection was too large to fit with the others at The Wallace Center.

Following five years of planning and substantial institutional support, the Vignelli Center for Design Studies opened on campus in 2010 in a building designed by Vignelli himself. Inside, students have access to original source materials and examples of the late couple's finished work, which includes corporate identity campaigns for Xerox, American Airlines, and Bloomingdale's; street signage; jewelry; glassware; and furniture. The Vignelli Center is currently marking its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At the time of the center's dedication, Vignelli said the project would never have been built without Remington, whom the late designer called the center's soul who made the archive a teaching instrument

and a formidable legacy to RIT.

“Roger was the driving force at bringing the Vignelli archive to RIT, establishing and growing the world-class collection now housed in the Vignelli Center, and in realizing the remarkable building that now houses this astounding archive,” Jokl said. “Due in large part to Roger’s tireless work, the Vignelli Center for Design Studies now serves as an invaluable resource to our students, our faculty, and design scholars around the globe.”

Josh Owen, director of the industrial design program, said the Vignelli Center is a landmark gift to the world. Owen said the center's archive is a uniquely valuable tool for RIT students.

“The center is like an eternal flame for design education—Roger has provided the fuel,” Owen said.

Remington said his ambition since opening the center was to make it even more



## Remington

### Carla Tedeschi '92 MFA

I have held faculty positions at the University of North Texas, Metropolitan State College in Denver, and am currently the graphic design program coordinator at Texas Tech University. Professor Remington has influenced my teaching style, curriculum development, and professional research for the past 27 years.

I have fond memories of our group critiques and Professor Remington's thoughtful and gentle guidance. He never directed but asked poignant questions that made one think and pursue different paths into the unknown. After years of working as a professional designer in the field, the experience was unfamiliar—where was the map I was supposed to follow? He introduced me to creative methodologies and interdisciplinary theories that changed the way I look at everything from the way I design, teach, and think. I am and will forever be grateful for the experience of working with such a profound and wise professor.

### Albert Paley, world-renowned metal sculptor, RIT artist-in-residence

Education is transformational and Roger has served as a pioneer and visionary, one of the educational driving forces behind design's evolution into an independent discipline. He was there at the beginning to help usher in this transformational change in the 1960s. Seeing Roger in the context of his many contributions at RIT would be myopic; he's raised what was once a trade school onto the national and international stage. Very well done, my friend.”

### More tributes to Remington

We ran out of room for the dozens of tributes and had to edit some for space. Read more at [rit.edu/news/tributes-roger-remington](http://rit.edu/news/tributes-roger-remington).

Elizabeth Lamark

valuable. He achieved that by expanding educational programming, including workshops and lecture series presented by modern-day design leaders.

“It has been my major goal to help students achieve the highest possible level of visual aesthetics in their work,” Remington said. “Developing the Cary Graphic Design Archive and the Vignelli Center for Design Studies has been a major contribution to students, to RIT, and to the profession.”

### Design accolades

Remington has won many of the design industry's most prestigious awards. He received the Ladislav Sutnar Prize from the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic, in 2015. The Ladislav Sutnar faculty of Design and Art has awarded the prize to honor outstanding international designers, educators, artists, and institutions for their contributions to design and art.

In 2012, he was asked to join Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI), an elite society of graphic design professionals worldwide. Widely considered the Academy Awards of the design industry, AGI only admits members who have achieved high professional standing in the field of graphic design in their native country or internationally. Nominated by Massimo Vignelli, his official induction in London came after he celebrated 50 years at RIT.

The impressive list of inductees into the New York Art Directors Club Hall of Fame throughout nearly 50 years includes such luminaries as Walt Disney, Andy Warhol, Ray Eames, and Paul Rand. Remington became a laureate for the Hall of Fame in 2008.

He has published seven books on design history and “has another one in the pipeline,” he said. To that point, Remington said he doesn't plan on slowing down in retirement.

“I'm still going to be in Rochester... and I'd like to continue in an active role, but work on my own unique projects,” he said. “I'm not really seeing retirement as the end of my relationship to RIT at all.”

Rich Kiley



2015

Remington honored  
with Ladislav Sutnar  
Prize

2017

Vignelli Center  
sponsors Norman  
Ives Exhibit in Bevier  
and University  
Galleries

2018

Remington opens  
Vignelli exhibit  
and lectures at  
Italian Embassy,  
Washington, D.C.

2019

Vignelli Center  
embarks on  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
programming

Remington has been  
called the soul of the  
Vignelli Center for  
Design Studies,  
which is celebrating  
its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
this year.





Third-year interior design students Emma Canny, left, and Thomas Richter demonstrate the capabilities of MO:KI, a mobile kitchen, to Ann Kurz, an AI Sigl Community of Agencies board member who has cerebral palsy.



# Students combine technology and

For more than a year, third-year interior design student Emma Canny has been working with a multidisciplinary team on a universally designed kitchen that meets the needs of people with disabilities.

Canny's project is more than a classroom assignment. It is one of several working prototypes that is being tested in RIT's LiveAbility Lab so end users can provide students with immediate feedback.

The LiveAbility Lab is a partnership between RIT and the AI Sigl Community of Agencies, a collaborative network of organizations in Rochester that serves children and adults with special needs. The lab, which is located on AI Sigl's Wolk Campus, opened in 2018.

The goal is to develop a pipeline of accessible technology projects that are conceived at RIT and take root at the LiveAbility Lab on their way to development in the marketplace.





A multidisciplinary student team exhibited the mobile kitchen at the 2019 International Contemporary Furniture Fair as part of New York City Design Week and most recently at the Toronto Interior Design Show.



"I've been able to attend worldwide design exhibitions, while learning about designing for people with disabilities," says RIT student Emma Canny, who has worked on MO:KI for more than a year.



The mobile kitchen is a collection of modular units that push the boundary of the cooking experience and traditional work triangle.

Photos by Elizabeth Lamark

# design to help others

Data gathered from the World Health Organization and the World Bank estimates that more than 1 billion people in the world live with some form of disability, of whom nearly 200 million experience considerable difficulty in their daily lives.

Along with the mobile kitchen, current projects in the lab include an accessible bathroom, 3D-printed prosthetic devices, and a functional car door that enables individuals with mobility challenges to safely

enter and exit a vehicle.

Dan Phillips, an associate professor in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and faculty associate for the Partnership for Effective Access Technology Research and Development at RIT, leads the lab, which is a collaboration across colleges.

He said the unique space is designed to incorporate teaching and experiential learning.

The goal is to develop projects that will

positively impact the lives of people with different abilities.

"Not only are our students designing and revising prototypes based on the feedback of the end users, they are engaged in hands-on learning about universal design, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and the daily challenges faced by individuals with special needs to fully participate in life's opportunities," he said. "When that happens, the entire community benefits."



## LiveAbility Lab

### LiveAbility Lab projects

The LiveAbility Lab is home to interdisciplinary projects that impact people living with different abilities. In addition to MO:KI, projects at the lab include:

- **Upper-arm prosthetics:** Jade Myers, a Ph.D. student in Kate Gleason College of Engineering, is developing low-cost, context sensitive, upper-arm prosthetics for people with limb abnormalities in under-developed countries.
- **Accessible bathroom:** Industrial design MFA students and students in the multidisciplinary senior design program in Kate Gleason College of Engineering are developing an accessible lavatory designed for people who use walkers and wheelchairs.
- **Assessment tools:** Zhi Zheng, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, is working with a team to develop sensory abnormality assessment and intervention tools for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and a robot-mediated cognitive and physical exercise device for older adults with mild cognitive impairments.
- **Brain imagery and brain-computer interface testing:** This project is coordinated by students on RIT's Neurotechnology Exploration Team, a student-run research group that builds assistive technologies that use electrical signals in the brain and muscles to help people with neuromuscular disorders move and communicate.
- **Turn About:** Multidisciplinary senior design program students have partnered with BZ Design to develop an automated device that uses swiveling and lifting technologies to allow a driver or passenger to easily enter and exit a vehicle. The device is designed for those who have mobility issues associated with disorders such as ALS.
- **Therapeutic and sensory play devices:** Students in the industrial design MFA program and electrical engineering students have continued to develop interactive modules that use textures, lights, and sounds to increase the attention spans of children with special needs. They are also developing a rock climbing wall and an interactive toy for children with autism.
- **Accessible toilet:** The project is being evaluated by multidisciplinary senior design students.
- **Pediatric stander:** This device, under the direction of Steven Day, chair of RIT's biomedical engineering program, allows for upright maneuverability opportunities for children with certain mobility impairments.



Projects that are tested in RIT's LiveAbility Lab often begin as sketches or tabletop models. The idea for an accessible bathroom was created by industrial design MFA students and students in the multidisciplinary senior design program.

### Real challenges

Canny, from Rochester, N.Y., is working with industrial design students to refine the mobile kitchen, called MO:KI.

The kitchen is a collection of modular units that highlight work zones for cooking, cleaning, and food preparation.

The free-standing, multifunctional MO:KI system is interchangeable and uses a plug-and-play approach, a grid with custom pegs, and hard and soft storage solutions with varied height work surfaces. Set on casters, the units mobilize to fluidly reset the cooking environment based on changing needs.

"In the past, we would try to test our projects with us sitting in wheelchairs, but it's not the same," Canny said. "Seeing our partners from Al Sigl use the kitchen,

push around the movable components, use them as they would in their lives and homes is invaluable."

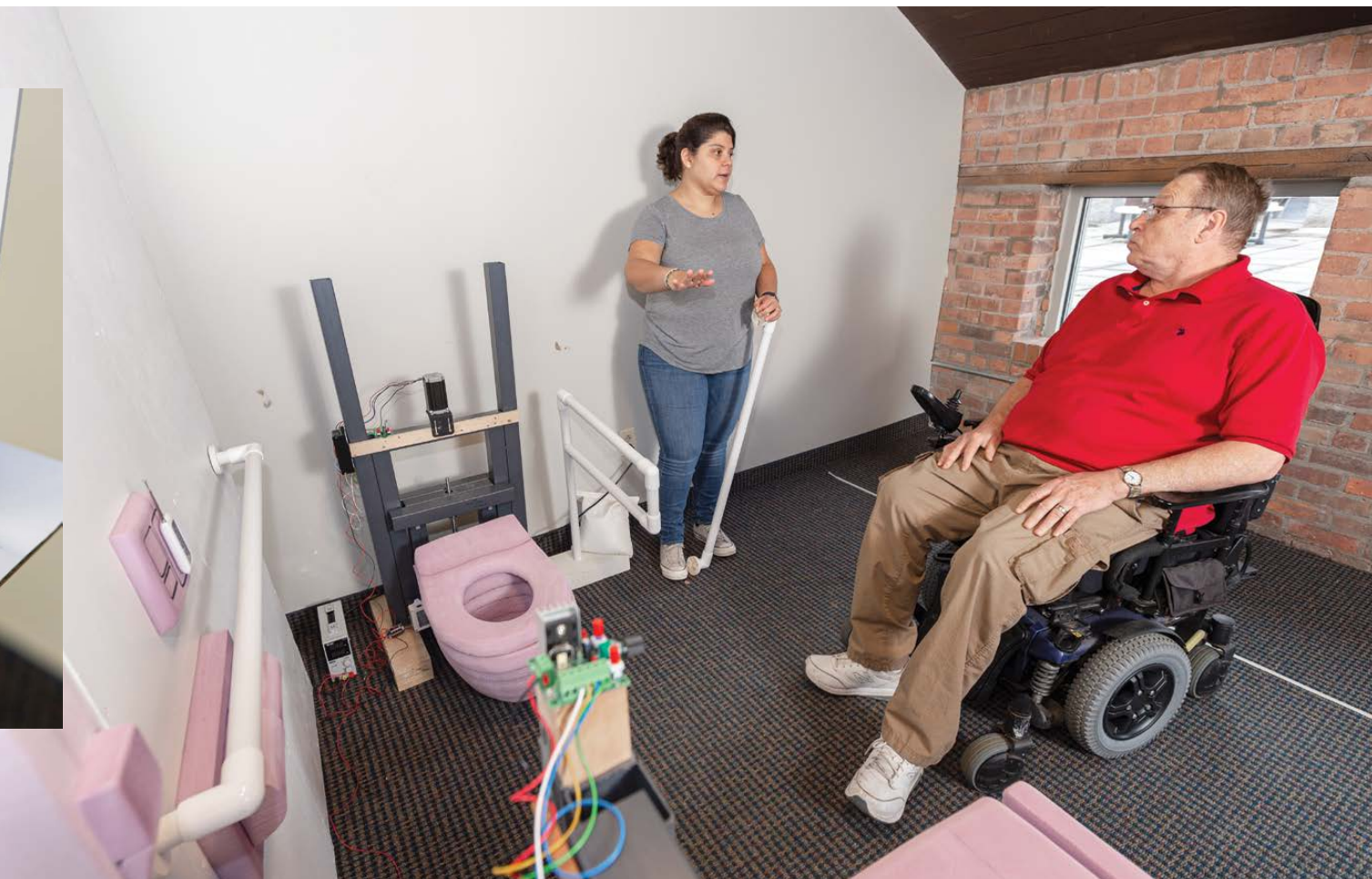
Because of this experience, Canny said, she plans to implement universal design into all of her projects. And after RIT, she wants to work in medical design, designing for people with disabilities.

The MO:KI system began with RIT Assistant Professor Mary Golden, who brought the discussion of universality and aging in place for the cooking experience into her interior design studio at RIT. A select team of students, including Canny, furthered the premise.

LiveAbility Lab projects start in a variety of places on campus.

RIT's Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is an incu-





Photos by Elizabeth Lemark

Projects that are selected for the LiveAbility Lab and have reached the prototype stage are tested by volunteers working through the AI Sigl Community of Agencies. Here, **Andrea Gonzalez**, an MFA student in industrial design and the LiveAbility Lab manager, explains the accessible bathroom to volunteer Frank Seilier. Seilier's role is to provide feedback to the students on this particular space in the lab that has been designed for people who use walkers and wheelchairs.

bator where students from any major gather to work with coaches on idea generation and business development.

Idea Lab employs multidisciplinary student teams to solve unique problems identified by organizations or institutions such as AI Sigl, Rochester Regional Health, and others.

Each year, senior engineering students work on team-based projects as part of the multidisciplinary senior design program. This two-semester capstone experience builds upon earlier coursework by integrating engineering theory and practice within a structured, collaborative environment.

Phillips said that if there is a definitive problem that can be solved and an engaged end user, chances are the project is a good fit for the LiveAbility Lab.

For example, a mind-controlled wheelchair and a thought keyboard are being developed by RIT's Neurotechnology Exploration Team, a student-run research group that builds assistive technologies that use electrical signals in the brain and muscles to help people with neuromuscular disorders move and communicate.

The wheelchair and keyboard projects will eventually move to the LiveAbility Lab for a large human subject research trial to collect brain signal data—and the team will also conduct usability testing in the facility.

"It is incredibly motivating and rewarding to know that the problems we are addressing within the Neurotechnology Exploration Team directly impact individuals in a significant way," said Adam Del Rosso, a fourth-year software engineering

student and team leader.

Projects also come from Studio 930 Design Consultancy, led by Associate Professor Stan Rickel, who had the initial vision for the LiveAbility Lab. Studio 930 is an interdisciplinary studio focused on the design of access and health technology products.

Rickel said the group is motivated equally by real-world learning and helping people with disabilities in the community. He added that it's emotional when students understand that there is a person behind the product that they are designing.

"As soon as the students meet the users, it's no longer a school project, it's real life," Rickel said. "It brings a whole new level of empathy and the students are proud of the work they are doing."



## LiveAbility Lab



Elizabeth Lamark

Students, clockwise from bottom left, **Arthur Thompson Johnson**, third-year mechanical engineering; **Andrew Dettor**, a first-year student at the University of Rochester; **Andrew Doran**, sitting, fifth-year biomedical engineering; and **Adam Del Rosso**, fourth-year software engineering, are building an electric wheelchair controller box driven by facial muscles. The wheelchair is expected to move into the LiveAbility Lab this fall, contingent on human research approval.



### Meaningful solutions

Yueyue “Zoey” Zhang, an industrial design graduate student from China, is working on several projects within the LiveAbility Lab.

One of Zhang’s projects is an interactive toy for children with autism. The project started in Studio 930 about three years ago, but through the LiveAbility Lab, Zhang is now regularly working with children at Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, a member of the AI Sigl Community of Agencies, to refine the design.

It’s in the final stages of product development, which includes adding textures, colors, and lights.

Another project, in conjunction with Rochester Regional Health, is a design for a hospital bedside table that will enhance the experience of patients with mobility issues. Zhang also will soon begin work on a device that encourages children with special needs to feed themselves.

“It’s been amazing to spend time with the children and observe how they play with toys they already have and how they interact with their physical therapists,” she said. “I take that information back to the lab and think about the toy we’re creating—the shape, the form, and how all of that impacts the interaction, their learning,

and their development.”

Zhang also enjoys connecting with an interdisciplinary group of engineers and researchers and the sense of fulfillment working in the field of access technology.

“From the beginning of my academic career, I knew that I wanted to be an industrial designer, working to make the world better. Based on this experience showcasing my projects in the LiveAbility Lab, I feel like I’m prepared to do this in the real world.”

RIT’s partnership with AI Sigl began in 2012 with conversations about how the university could study the barriers for people with disabilities and special needs and how



**Yueyue “Zoey” Zhang**, an industrial design graduate student, regularly brings a therapeutic toy she is developing, shown below, to Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, a member of the AI Sigi Community of Agencies. As the children test the prototype, Zhang makes careful notes regarding necessary modifications. The toy is in the final stages of product development, which includes adding textures, colors, and lights.



Elizabeth Lamark



Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

RIT could contribute to solving these problems using technology and innovation.

“We are so fortunate to be aligned with a world-class institution like RIT,” said Tom O’Connor, CEO of AI Sigi Community of Agencies. “When you look at the talent of the students, the professors, and the administrators, and knowing the innovative model that the AI Sigi community presents to the nation, it’s a perfect match. Together we’re trying to develop ideas and products that will advance people of varying abilities.”

Phillips said the LiveAbility Lab will eventually reach a point where projects are staggered—some in the conceptual stage

and others that are close to finalization and market launch.

Ultimately, Phillips said, he hopes the LiveAbility Lab becomes a place where members of the community can go if they’re looking for distinct and meaningful solutions to accessibility problems.

“The LiveAbility Lab is a real example of how our students are combining technology, art, and design to create new solutions that can change the world.”

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**Vienna McGrain ’12 MS**

## Imagine RIT

Several projects associated with the LiveAbility Lab will be on display April 25 at Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival. The campus-wide event that showcases the creative and innovative spirit of RIT students, faculty, and staff will feature therapeutic toys, MO:KI, and the accessible bathroom, among others. The festival is open to the public. Learn more at [rit.edu/imagine](http://rit.edu/imagine).





# RIT alumni hop on the

**W**hile dating in college, Aaren Simoncini '09 (finance) and Precious Putnam '09 (ASL-English interpretation) wanted to take a class together. They settled on Wines of the World, which then led to Simoncini taking a Beers of the World elective.

"It was like a great awakening for me," said Simoncini.

"Beer pong was never the same for us,"

Putnam said. "We became the odd couple that brought craft beer to a keg party and asked for a glass, instead of a Solo cup."

Today, Simoncini and Putnam live and breathe craft beer as owners of Beer'd Brewing in Stonington, Conn.

They are just two of many RIT alumni who have tapped into the craft-beer boom that has swept across the country in the past 10 years.



An IPA, a chocolate milk stout, and a watermelon wheat are just a few of the beers created by Scott DeLap '88 (computer science). More than a dozen RIT alumni have opened breweries.

# craft-beer boom

In the U.S., the number of craft breweries grew from fewer than 1,600 in 2009 to 7,346 in 2018, according to the Brewers Association.

This growth can be attributed to the legalization of home-brewing in the late 1970s and recent policy changes on how craft breweries can sell their beer.

Even more, consumer tastes have changed, stressed Genesee Brewmaster

Steve Kaplan '05 (mechanical engineering).

"People are more educated about beer now than ever and realize that traditional lagers, while still representing the majority of beer sold in the world, really only represent one of thousands of styles of beer out there," said Kaplan. "People want to experience new flavors and go to a local brewpub to interact with the brewers themselves.

"And they are willing to pay more for something special."

That's good news for the RIT alumni who have founded their own breweries.

Some never imagined managing a company, while others are fulfilling a lifelong dream of being an entrepreneur. Through brewing, these Tigers get to flex their scientific and technical backgrounds, while showing off a little creativity.





Aaren Simoncini '09 (finance) and Precious Putnam '09 (ASL-English interpretation) went from a Wines of the World course at RIT to building a brewery in Connecticut.

## Beer'd Brewing

Not many couples approach each other with a business proposal. That's what Simoncini did to tell Putnam about his idea for what would become Beer'd Brewing Co.



The founders recently celebrated "Seven Years of Beers," after opening their Stonington, Conn., brewery in 2012. Beer'd now is known for its clear double IPAs, has 30 employees, and opened a second taproom in Groton, Conn., earlier this year.

After meeting at RIT, the couple moved to Simoncini's hometown of Mystic, Conn., where he got a job in accounting.

"I was raised in a family that has a history of entrepreneurship, and that job just wasn't scratching my itch," said Simoncini.

Simoncini's mother and Putnam knew

what would cheer him up.

"We bought him a homebrewing kit," said Putnam. "We figured, since he was spending so much on craft beers, why not save some money and make the brews himself."

Simoncini calls brewing an artistic expression and a practice in science. He was so into it that he thought about starting his own brewery. To gain some more experience, he began volunteering at a local brewery.

"At that point, I knew this was the life for me," said Simoncini. "It meant I could be my own boss, that the sky was the limit, and I could climb the ladder as high as I wanted to. But we would also have to bare the risk of falling off."

His initial business plan called for a 15-barrel system. They agreed on three barrels. Financing it themselves, the couple built the taproom and brewhouse over seven months.

"We don't want a middleman, so we

do all of our own manufacturing, distribution, and sales," said Putnam, who worked for several years in disability services before committing full time to the brewery. "When I started my interpretation degree, I never thought I'd be managing people and controlling a business."

The Beer'd Brewing name was inspired by the beard that Simoncini grew in college and still has to this day.

"And it all started at RIT," said Putnam. "Not only is it the place where we met, but it's the place that gave us the knowledge and skills needed to run a successful business as a team."



## What to try

Putnam recommends Dogs & Boats—a big juicy Imperial IPA.



Mashing is just one step in the brewing process for Scott DeLap '88 (computer science), as he makes his "Chapter Haze Reboot" beer.



Photos by A. Sue Weisler

## Tiger Brewers

### Next Chapter

Scott DeLap '88 (computer science) spent 30 years doing information systems work. Now, as owner of Next Chapter Brewpub in Auburn, N.Y., he has the chance to get in front of his customers and see how they enjoy his products.



"It's a lot of work, but it's quite rewarding," said DeLap, who opened the brewpub in 2018

with his wife, Michelle.

The DeLaps moved to Rochester from their hometown of Auburn in 1985—one week after getting married—so Scott DeLap could get his bachelor's degree from RIT. After graduating, he went on to work for Kodak and then Frontier Communications, where he helped create some of the company's first data warehouses. The couple started a family and moved around the northeast.

When they ultimately decided to make their way back home to Auburn, DeLap had a choice.

"I asked myself, 'do I want to go back to IT or try something new?'" he said. "We were both passionate about beer and we already had some practice with homebrewing."

The Next Chapter Brewpub has a relaxed atmosphere, where elements of the DeLaps' past are showcased around the building. The pub is known for its wood-fired pizza and "sessionable beers," which DeLap said are lower in alcohol. For DeLap, a brew day is about 12-hours long.

"You can relate brewing to computer science because it's analytical and you need to be able to follow a process and repeat beers that people really like," he said. "At the same time, there is really no limit on what you can put together, so I get to experiment and create things that people enjoy."

### What to try

DeLap recommends *Chapter Hopped Up Blondie*—a sessionable dry hopped blonde ale with a light tropical fruit flavor.





## Tiger Brewers



It's a team effort for Nica (Crowley) Bellenger '03, Rick Solomon '05, Joe Provo '04, Doug Bellenger '04, and Matt Bolton '02—five packaging science majors who opened a brewpub.



## Well Crafted

It wasn't until after college that the group of five packaging science majors really started getting together as a group.



**WELL CRAFTED**  
BEER COMPANY

Rick Solomon '05, Doug Bellenger '04, Joe Provo '04, Matt Bolton '02, and Nica (Crowley) Bellenger '03 each took jobs in the Philadelphia area and started reconnecting over a few craft beers. What started as a homebrewing collaboration turned

into an efficient assembly line where the team could experiment with different hops, malts, and yeasts.

Today, the RIT group meets up at their own brewery, Well Crafted Beer Co. in Lansdale, Pa.—just outside of Philadelphia.

"Rick, Doug, and Joe had been homebrewing separately, but in 2007 realized that if they brewed together it would be

more efficient," said Nica Bellenger.

"Everyone was assigned a specific job."

It was Solomon, now the head brewer, who took it to the next level by getting a brewer's degree and part-time commercial brewing job. Along with the business development expertise of the Bellengers, Bolton, and Provo, the company began to form in 2017.

"The name was inspired by the well water that we used to make our homebrew beer," said Nica Bellenger. "We think it's a great starting point for beer, and although we don't have a well water source at our commercial brewery, we replicate that same well water with filtration and minerals in today's brew process."

Well Crafted is housed in a 100-year-old building that used to be a Masonic Temple. The brewpub normally has 15-20 different beers on tap, along with live music, events, and food.

Solomon and Nica Bellenger now work at the beer company full time, while Bolton, Provo and Doug Bellenger split their time

between jobs in the pharmaceutical and home automation industries. When it came time to start packaging their beer for distribution, the group said they felt pretty well prepared.

Well Crafted has also held two RIT alumni nights, where the group gets to socialize with many alumni and parents of current students.

"It's nice to reminisce and hear stories about how RIT has changed over the years," Nica Bellenger said.

**Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA**



## What to try

Nica Bellenger recommends Hop Monger—a super fruity double dry hopped IPA with notes of peach ring candy.



# Tiger beer trail

RIT alumni around the world get to flex their entrepreneurship, creativity, and scientific skills as brewery owners. Here's the story behind 10 other establishments with RIT roots.



## **Crafty Dee's Brewing Co.** Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Chintu Patel '02 (management information systems) gained a love for craft beer while living in the U.S. He then moved back home to open the first craft brewery in Tanzania.



## **St. Pete Brewing Co.** Saint Petersburg, Fla.

Michele Conklin Williams '94 (food marketing and distribution) started a brewery with her husband in 2014. She also serves as vice president of sales for Taylor Farms Florida.



## **Sabaja Craft Brewery** Prishtina, Kosovo

Alex Butler '11 (MBA) and Etida Zeka '09 (applied arts and sciences), '10 (MBA) introduced American-style craft beer to Kosovo in 2013.



## **Dublin Corners Farm Brewery** York, N.Y.

Justin Grant '00 (mechanical engineering), '04 MS (manufacturing management and leadership) and his wife started a brewery on his family farm after several years of growing hops. They recently opened a taproom in Geneseo, N.Y. Grant also works as a plant manager at Dolco Packaging.



## **Resurgence Brewing** Buffalo, N.Y.

Orchard Park native Jeff Ware '04 (business management) saw the need for an indoor/outdoor beer garden that celebrated his beloved Buffalo, N.Y. He has opened two locations and hosted a free Intro to Beer webinar with RIT Alumni Relations. Watch the webinar at <https://www.rit.edu/alumni/node/85547>.



## **Deep River Brewing Co.** Clayton, N.C.

Paul Auclair '02 (civil engineering technology) and his wife used their engineering backgrounds to design the first legal brewery in Johnston County, N.C.



## **Fifth Frame Brewing Co.** Rochester, N.Y.

Jon Mervine '07 (economics) and Noah Morgenstern '07 (finance) opened a micro-brewery and scratch kitchen in 2017.



## **Element Brewing & Distilling** Millers Falls, Mass.

Daniel Kramer '86 (printing management) co-founded Element Brewing in 2009, after more than 20 years in the brewing industry. In 2015, the company added a distillery to the operation.



## **ROC Brewing Co.** Rochester, N.Y.

When Chris Spinelli's mother bought him a homebrewing kit in 2009, she was just trying to give him something to do. Since then, Spinelli '08 (economics), '09 (MBA) co-founded a brewery in downtown Rochester that has won national awards. Nick Mesrobian '08 (photojournalism) serves as head brewer for the company.



## **Stoneyard Brewing Co.** Brockport, N.Y.

Jeff "Oz" Osborne '08 (mechanical engineering) went from being an aspiring homebrewer to starting a new career as head brewer at Stoneyard. Today, as part-owner, he enjoys crafting many Rochester-themed brews.

**Did we miss you?**  
Are you a graduate with a brewery?  
Tell us about it at [umag@rit.edu](mailto:umag@rit.edu).



## Faculty Profile

A fan of jazz, he once worked as the host of a radio jazz show on WBFO in Buffalo.

An avid cyclist, he used to ride 250 miles a week each summer when he raced competitively. Now he only rides about 150 miles a week, often from his home in the Park Avenue area of Rochester to Mendon, N.Y., and back.

# Richard Newman

When Richard Newman graduated from high school, he never imagined he'd wind up being a college history professor.

"I was going to be a physical therapist, or a journalist, or work in business," he said. "I never had any intrinsic love for history."

That changed in his junior year at the University at Buffalo, when he realized history was more than names, dates, and facts.

"It's about argumentation and debate," he said. "It's about how changes occur throughout time and how certain issues get put on political or social maps, and I got really excited about that."

Newman, a professor of history in RIT's College of Liberal Arts, came to RIT in 1998. He specializes in early American, African-American, and environmental history.

In 2014, Newman took a leave of absence from RIT for nearly three years to work as the executive director of The Library Company of Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin's library founded in 1731.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life because it wasn't just a history institution which I had fallen in love with—you have original copies of the Declaration of Independence and Ben Franklin's books there," he said. "It was also a small business. I had to think about accounts payable, balanced budgets, endowments... learning about all those things was invaluable."

That experience helped when he returned to the classroom.

"I think that's a really important lesson for students that their whole college education is what makes them a powerful candidate for a job, not just their major," Newman said. "It's everything you learn."

### Does living in Rochester offer unique opportunities to teach local history?

Rochester is a great place to research and teach about early American history because you've got all these reformers such as Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, and you also have a very interesting business and technology history with Kodak, Bausch & Lomb, and Xerox. Those topics make their way into some of my classes. It's a great place to study women's history. It's a great place to study religious history. It's a great place to study business history. I find it constantly inspiring.

### What can your students expect in class?

I want them to be excited about history and the study of history. We're constantly shifting from little mini lectures to discussions to some video to maybe some debate to some historical role play because I think that's the best way to really keep people excited about history. Sometimes I'll ask them an open-ended question about a contemporary issue. I try to use media and technology as much as possible, so often I'll put up an image of a monument and have a discussion about that.

### Have you kept in contact with students who have graduated?

Yes, I'm always interested in hearing their stories about what happened in the job market and in their careers. Some have worked on digital mapping, communications, in city government, public radio, helping businesses work on digital applications that relate to history, museums, education. Some have gone to Silicon Valley to become entrepreneurs, some become dentists...all of them have passed through my classes and hopefully learned something about the importance of history and the importance of liberal arts.

### Do RIT students learn history differently than other college students?

For their final exam in my introduction to history class, they get the option of either doing a traditional final paper, based on class research, or they could do a final project where they could do a digital project, an online exhibit, even a video montage. That's because students with all their technical or artistic majors have all of these different tools at their disposal to do some really interesting things in the classroom, so I'm letting them run with that.

### You've authored or edited seven books. Do you have other books you plan to write?

Yes, two. One is a 200-year history of emancipation and civil rights struggles in America, which tries to retell the history of civil rights all the way back to 1776. In a weird way, we're still in a cycle of advancement and entrenchment like the people before the Civil War were involved in. The other book will look at the debate about Confederate statues in America from the end of the Civil War to the present with a focus on putting up statues of African-Americans. Rochester is a key place for that debate because it's the city associated with the statue dedicated to Frederick Douglass in the 1890s.

## Tune in

*Intersections: The RIT Podcast* is a twice-monthly conversation between people whose daily work is making a difference in the world. To listen to Richard Newman's episode, go to <http://bit.ly/RITpodcast>.



He's authored four books about abolitionism, Love Canal, and a biography about Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. All have remained in print by their publishers.

He's involved in animal rescue and has four cats and a dog. "I'm a huge animal nut. We love them all. If I wasn't married, I'd probably have 20 cats and five dogs."

He met his wife, Lisa Hermesen, at RIT's College of Liberal Arts, where she was an English professor and now the Carolyn Werner Gannett Chair in the Humanities. They married in 2007 in the house they moved into the same day.



Elizabeth Lamark





Madeleine Rabil '13 (3D digital graphics) works as an environment artist for Bethesda Studios, developers behind video games such as *Fallout*, *The Elder Scrolls*, and *Starfield*. She uses 3D modeling to build out virtual environments for game players to explore.

A. Sue Weisler

## Role with game developer took root at RIT

During a 2008 visit to RIT while she was in high school, Madeleine Rabil '13 (3D digital graphics) learned that the university's then-called College of Imaging Arts and Sciences had just announced the creation of a new major for incoming students.

"It was a program focusing specifically on 3D as a medium," said Rabil, referring to what is now 3D digital design in RIT's College of Art and Design. "A lot of other colleges offered programs that covered 3D in one or two classes, but I knew I needed to specialize in it."

"I was very fortunate," she added. "I knew immediately that RIT was where I needed to be."

Rabil combined that good fortune and hard work into a job as an environment artist for Rockville, Md.-based Bethesda Game Studios, developers behind highly successful role-playing video games like *Fallout*, *The Elder Scrolls*, and *Starfield*.

A self-described "gamer" since a young age, Rabil grew up in nearby Montgomery Village, Md., a short distance from the video

game publisher.

"Funny enough, I had no idea that a major studio resided just 20 minutes away for the majority of my life," she said. "Being local to Bethesda ended up being a huge part of what enabled me to do my internships in quality assurance and later as an environment artist because I didn't have to relocate my home."

Today, she's feeling right at home at Bethesda.

"My main responsibility is to help build out the environments for our games in virtual space," Rabil said. "I use different 3D modeling and texturing packages to create and edit various assets like trees, rocks, and walls before using our game engine to assemble everything into a complete scene or environment for players to explore."

Her favorite project thus far is the highly popular *Fallout 4* game. "I was so proud of how it turned out," she beamed.

Rabil said she thrives on the "highly collaborative" creative process that she enjoys with her Bethesda colleagues, which harkens her back to when she was at RIT

working with students from university-wide programs.

"I was involved in a multidisciplinary project of some kind every single year I was at RIT," recalled Rabil, the most notable of which was an augmented reality (AR) golf project showcased at Imagine RIT.

That experience has served her well at Bethesda.

"Video game development is such a collaborative process that spans multiple disciplines," she said. "Learning to be able to communicate effectively with people who think differently, or have different priorities, isn't something that is easily learned in the classroom—mostly because you're often interacting with other people who specialize in the same things as you."

"After I graduated, I found that experiences working with students outside my expertise was really the closest thing to my real-world circumstances in the workplace. I think that's something that RIT in particular is uniquely suited to offer," she said.

Rich Kiley





**Reuben Zielinski '85 (electrical engineering), '96 (EMBA) has developed patented vacuum drying technology that removes moisture from electronic devices including cell phones, tablets, and hearing devices.**

Megan Wiseman

## Get your cell phone wet? Redux has a solution

Entrepreneur Reuben Zielinski '85 (electrical engineering) '96 (EMBA) believes that generating a great idea is actually the easiest part of the product development process.

The hardest part? Convincing other people that what you have is a great idea and getting them to buy what you have developed.

Zielinski's latest great idea—patented technology that removes moisture from delicate electronics like phones, tablets, laptops, and hearing devices—is not only helping people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, but it has also found its way into the hands of consumers everywhere in more than 2,300 retail stores of the nation's largest cell phone carrier.

A western New York native living in Indianapolis, Zielinski co-founded Redux in 2013 and has developed a patented vacuum drying process that turns the water trapped inside electronic devices into gas within minutes and allows the gas to escape through crevices.

Zielinski explained that although vacuum

drying has been around since the 1940s, his patented technology, which boasts a greater than 80 percent success rate, allows for the measurement of the amount of vapor coming off of the device and records the amount after it has been dried—something no other technology in the marketplace can do.

"I actually used what I learned from my Executive MBA studies at Saunders College of Business to write a successful business plan," said Zielinski. "Rather than just wait around for people to get their cell phones wet, we instituted a membership model. When people purchase cell phones, they have the option to purchase the Redux Protection Package, too. It's a great way to sell peace of mind."

To date, Redux has sold more than 2.6 million memberships in mobile phone retail stores, and the company is negotiating contracts with other cell phone carriers in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Brazil, and Europe.

In 2019, Zielinski, who is also a member of the RIT President's Roundtable, began looking at new ways to use the technology.

"When I was at RIT, there were always

deaf and hard-of-hearing students in my classes, and I thought that NTID was the coolest place," he said. "When the company decided to branch out and develop a hearing aid and cochlear implant drying system, I thought it would be important to somehow partner with NTID."

Two hearing aid and cochlear implant dryers have since been donated to NTID.

In addition, Redux technology has been used to dry drones, high-tech objects for the military, game controllers, and high-end cameras.

After Hurricane Michael hit in 2018, the company dried and saved hundreds of hard drives holding precious data and memories.

"In my experience, engineers want to perfect things before they get into the market," he said. "What's worked for me is progress before perfection. Get it into the market, see if people buy it, and then perfect it. Continuously improve it and always keep moving forward."

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**Vienna McGrain '12 MS**



Charles Gaines '67 MFA (art and design), a leader in the conceptual art movement, received the Edward MacDowell Medal in August. About 1,400 people gathered at The MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire for the award ceremony.

## Gaines receives prestigious Edward MacDowell M

Charles Gaines '67 MFA (art and design) made his name working outside of the boundaries of traditional western art practices. Now, he's on a list of artistic legends as the 60<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Edward MacDowell Medal.

The Edward MacDowell Award is presented every summer to an American artist who has made an "outstanding contribution to the national culture."

The medal is given to artists of all trades, whether it be musical, written, or visual

arts. Previous recipients include Toni Morrison, Nan Goldin, Georgia O'Keefe, Robert Frost, and others.

"The MacDowell is a funny medal because not everyone has heard of it, but it's one of the most important recognitions you can get as an artist. The history of the medal is really impressive," said Gaines. "When they called me and asked me if I would accept it, I couldn't believe it. I thought someone was playing an April Fools' joke on me."

People saw Gaines had creative talent

from a young age and he was encouraged to pursue a career in art or music.

After completing his undergraduate degree from Jersey City State College, he applied and became the first black man to be accepted into RIT's MFA program.

Gaines, from Newark, N.J., learned what it meant to pursue a professional art practice during his time as an RIT student. Rather than working within the structures given to him, he wanted to explore other methods of creating art outside of the status





Jeff McLane

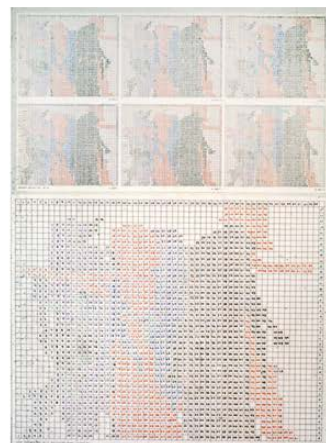


Jeff McLane



Hauser and Wirth

Images of trees have been prominent in Gaines' work. From left to right: *Numbers and Trees: Central Park Series II: Tree #3*; *Numbers and Trees: Central Park Series IV: Tree #7*; and *Night/Crimes: Taurus*, a black-and-white photograph with silkscreened text.



*Motion: Trisha Brown Dance: Set #10* includes four small drawings, two large drawings, and two photographs on Strathmore paper.

## edal

quo, which is part of the reason why his work is so unique.

"Art was defined by intuition and expression. I took the idea of undertaking that binary by introducing the idea of rational systems to art making. By using rational systems, I would form a critique of the standard western practices of making art. Even though I thought it was purely a conceptual critique, I really started doing it because it's also a reflection of my own temperament and interests," said Gaines.

After graduating, Gaines taught art at Mississippi Valley State University for one year before accepting a job at Fresno State University.

Now, he lives in Los Angeles, owns his own art studio, and teaches at the California Institute of the Arts because he enjoys working with students.

Like many of the professionals before him, Gaines sees this award as a benchmark of his progress, and he feels his art and vibrant career can only improve from here.

"It's hard to imagine that you are properly located in that kind of company. My friends always tell me that I underestimate myself," said Gaines. "But the people on that list, to me, are super-humans. They've reached the maximum point of contributions to society. I don't feel that way about myself, but, the more I think about it, they probably didn't either."

**Felicia Swartzenberg '19**



A. Sue Weisler

**Karen Braun '96 Ph.D. (imaging science) returned to her RIT roots in August as the associate director for the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. Braun is the first woman to earn her Ph.D. at RIT.**

## Alumna returns to guide the next generation of imaging scientists

**K**aren Braun had a clear picture of what she wanted to do with her life at a young age.

“My childhood dream was to be an inventor,” she said.

As Braun grew up, she developed a wide variety of interests including photography, psychology, and physics. She ultimately found a new cross-disciplinary Ph.D. program in imaging science at RIT that let her pursue those interests all at once.

She earned her Ph.D. at RIT in 1996—becoming the first woman to do so—and with several offers on the table, she jumped into a 20-year career at Xerox.

Throughout the course of her career, she was granted 25 patents in areas including color reproduction, skin tone mapping, and gamut mapping, fulfilling her childhood dream. As she rose to the management level, her research branched out into areas

including data visualization, gamification, and medication adherence.

Now she has returned to her roots at RIT, helping to guide the next generation of imaging scientists to achieve their aspirations. In August, Braun joined RIT as the associate director for the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

“I was so happy to get back to imaging and back to this place, which is very special,” said Braun. “I feel happy when I drive up in the morning. It feels like coming home.”

In her role she works closely with Director David Messinger to run the center. Braun’s responsibilities include helping with day-to-day operations, planning special events, prospective student outreach, and helping to guide students in the Center for Imaging Science’s Innovative Freshmen Experience class.

Braun said she is energized by getting to work in a program that emphasizes hands-on, interdisciplinary research.

“It’s so nice to see the undergrads involved in research from day one,” said Braun. “From the freshman project all the way through to the senior research project, they’re working closely with faculty members. I think that’s so critical. The fact that the students are doing real research and publishing and going to conferences is so great.”

She also loves that RIT provides such a career-focused education and draws upon industry experts to help guide its students.

“RIT sees value in hiring people with long industrial careers such as myself,” she said. “RIT appreciates people who have practical experience.”

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**Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS**



# Entrepreneurship— blazing new trails, believing in yourself and inspiring others to join in the journey.

Fostering a robust entrepreneurial culture maximizes economic and social success on a local, national and global scale, and it begins by growing the next generation of entrepreneurs.

At RIT, entrepreneurship education equips students to seek out problems, think creatively, take risks, accept failure as part of growth, and appreciate the hard work necessary in order to achieve success.

With your help, we can provide both learning and practice in all facets of entrepreneurship to students from all areas of the university.

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[rit.edu/transformingRIT](https://rit.edu/transformingRIT).

Drive progress.  
Shape what's possible.  
Transform the future.

Transforming **RIT**  
The Campaign for **Greatness**

“

“I have the instincts and am cultivating my knowledge and abilities here at RIT. I am working on exciting projects with some of the best and brightest students imaginable. It is invigorating knowing that with the research work we’re doing, coupled with drive and ambition to move our prototyping project ever forward, my team and I have the ability to change lives for the better.”

— Anika Aftab '20  
(neuroscience and entrepreneurship)



# Class Notes

## Abbreviations

### CAST

College of Applied Science and Technology (now CET)

### CAD

College of Art and Design

### CCE

College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)

### CET

College of Engineering Technology

### CHST

College of Health Sciences and Technology

### CIAS

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (now CAD)

### CLA

College of Liberal Arts

### COS

College of Science

### FAA

Fine and Applied Arts (now CAD)

### GAP

Graphic Arts and Photography (now CAD)

### GCCIS

Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

### KGCOE

Kate Gleason College of Engineering

### NTID

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

### SOIS

School of Individualized Study

### SCB

Saunders College of Business

### SVP

NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

## About Class Notes

Class Notes are edited for space, clarity, and style. Share information by going to [rit.edu/alumni/class-notes](http://rit.edu/alumni/class-notes).

1974



**Theodore Braggins '74 MST (FAA)** retired in June from Arlington High School in LaGrangeville, N.Y., after 33 years as an art teacher. In addition to teaching, Braggins and his wife, **Melissa Katzman '76 (CAD)**, have operated Pondsides Press Graphics Workshop & Gallery ([pondsidesspress.com](http://pondsidesspress.com)) in Rhinebeck, N.Y., since 1985. They produce their own original graphic art using lithography, relief printing, and monotype.

1975

**Robert Dawley '75 (SCB)** recently retired as a code enforcement officer. He is a published author of book one in a series of three titled *Pink isn't the only Cancer*, a personal story on his cancer odyssey, most recently with prostate cancer.



**Gary Staffo '75 (KGCOE)**, a resident of Springfield, Va., this past summer was able to visit RIT and spent three hours walking the campus and sharing memories from his undergraduate days. With the help of the RIT Alumni Office, he was able to contact his roommates and another friend who was also a resident of Kate Gleason floors 6 and 7. They are: **Brad McCarthy '73 (KGCOE)**; **Bill Provinski '73 (KGCOE)**; **Joe Widay '74 BS/ME (KGCOE)**; and **Pat Muscarella '73 BS/ME (KGCOE)**.

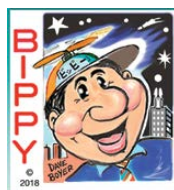
1977



**Sherry (Taylor) Miller '77 (GAP)** worked for 26 years at Moore Business Forms Research Center in Grand Island, N.Y., where she

managed print quality testing, product development, government standards, and launched the company's first intranet. She retooled her skills by achieving a certification in project management in 2003 and joined HSBC Bank Information Technology Services. She retired in 2018. She is president-elect to the Grand Island Rotary Club and launched a 4-H Club to service children in the community, which includes her granddaughter, Kinsey.

1978



**Dave "Bippy" Boyer '78 (CAST)** celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working freelance as a cartoonist,

world noted caricaturist, past president of the Rotary Club Rochester Southeast, 2020 President "Country Dancers of Rochester," and news photographer. He credits his success to his spouse, Cindy Boyer. They celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September.



**Deborah Marcuccilli '78 BS/ME (KGCOE)** and her daughter, **Alyxandra Sherwood '15 MS (CLA)**, both completed the October 2019 Detroit Marathon with personal best finish times.

1979



**John Voymas '79 (SCB)** was re-elected to a second two-year term on American Mensa's national board of directors. Besides

supporting the members of the 16

local groups in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Region, which includes Rochester, he is one of 15 voting members at the national level.

1980



**Barbara-Ann Mattle '80 (CCE)** has been selected by the *Rochester Business Journal* as a 2019 Icon

Honors award recipient. Icon Honors recognizes Rochester business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership within and outside their fields.



**David Price '80 MS (GAP)** was visited by retired CIAS professor **Bob Chung '76 MS (GAP)** in summer 2019. They earned degrees together from the School of Printing and lived near each other at Perkins Green.

1981



**Kimberlie Barrett '81 (SCB)** is proud to announce that the company she founded, owns, and operates in Rochester, Magellan Inc.

Real Estate and Relocation, is celebrating 25 years serving the real estate industry.

1982



**Thomas Newberry '82 (KGCOE)** has the honor of coaching a great bunch of boys in the Westborough, Mass., varsity soccer program. They created a Cinderella season in earning a berth in the district semi-finals game. Newberry coaches in addition to operations management and helping companies present to investors.



1983

**Sharon (Chesson) Cochran '83 (CAST)** is a principal packaging engineer at Conagra Brands, Omaha, Neb. Before that, she was employed at Pinnacle Foods as a senior packaging engineer.

1985



**Catherine (Spilman) Lane '85 (FAA)** and **Brett Lane '82 (CAST)** are proud to have a double legacy student, son **Cody T. Lane '20**. Cody is in the industrial design BFA program.

1987



**Edward Shanshala '87 (COS), '00 MS (CAST)** has been appointed by the New Hampshire Commissioner of Health and Human

Services to serve on the State Health Assessment and the State Health Improvement Plan Advisory Council. He is also part of the working group on the plan preparation of a Medicaid adult dental benefit.

**Timothy LaLonde '87 (SCB)** started a new job in April 2019 in Los Angeles as chief financial officer at Overhill Farms, one of the leading frozen food manufacturers in the USA, and part of CP Foods.

1988

**Peter Gousios '88 (KCGOE), '99 MS (CAST)** earned his AWS system architect associate's certification.

1990

**Jeffery Wilkins '90 (KGCOE)** started a new segment of his career with Collins Aerospace in Fairfield, Calif., as the site senior quality manager in November 2019. This is after spending 19 years in the semiconductor industry with Lam Research and then Comet Technologies.

1993

**David Finkelstein '93 (GAP)** is proud to announce that the RIT Venture Fund has made an investment in his company, BDEX. The company is excited to work with RIT as it scales its proprietary consumer data exchange platform business.

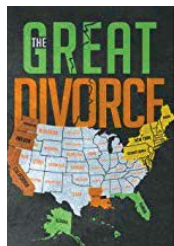
1994



**Bob Wagner '94 MBA (SCB)** has been named chief communications officer at Ithaca College, reporting to the president. Before joining Ithaca College, he spent 30 years at Xerox Corp. in marketing and communications roles.



**Charles Bjanas '94 (CIAS)** and **Chris (Mino) Bjanas '94 (CIAS), '95 MST (CIAS)** visited the RIT campus in June to celebrate a 25-year graduation anniversary. Upon entering the residence hall tunnels, they were excited to see that "Wolverine" still existed. They fondly remember painting this mural as freshmen with classmates including **Jen Pogorzola '94 (CIAS)**, **Josh Maruska '95 (CIAS)**, and **Phil Hoff '94 (CIAS)**, with a shout-out to **Derick Burns '94 (CIAS)**.



**David Loy Frishkorn '95 MBA (SCB)** has retired from both Xerox and Xura Inc. and published his first novel, *The Great Divorce*.

**Jeffrey Salava '94 (CIAS)** recently quit his position as a lead graphic designer to direct his full attention to his fine art reproduction business. He started Archival Arts out of his basement in Baltimore in August of 2000 and it has grown into a full-time business servicing more than 2,000 local and national artists. Learn more at [archivalarts.com](http://archivalarts.com).

## Alumna's paintings featured in car magazine



**Christine Tisa '92 MFA (painting)** was featured in a recent issue of *Audi Magazine* for using her car to transport her artwork.

**Christine Tisa '92 MFA (painting)** has made a living as an artist, educator, gallery owner, and yoga instructor since she graduated from RIT. Most recently, her art has jumped off the gallery walls and onto the pages of *Audi Magazine*.

*Audi Magazine* is published annually and highlights new innovations and general news about the luxury German car company.

After seeing a story in a previous issue about a surfer who transported her surfboards in her Audi, Tisa was amused because she used her car in the same way.

"I sent the editor the photo that appears in the magazine, of my car with the painting outside of it, and said 'look at

the cargo I carry in my car,'" said Tisa, explaining how her art, and her Audi Q3, ended up in the magazine. "The very next day, they called me back and asked if I would consider being their featured artist in the magazine for the following year."

Even though a car magazine isn't a place one expects to see art, Tisa encourages people to share their art in non-traditional formats.

"I did it because I think out of the box. Some artists think that their work only belongs in places like the Metropolitan Museum, but that's not true," said Tisa, from Clayton, N.Y. "I'm always looking for new places to feature my art, and for new patrons. I'm trying to raise my bar and be exposed to different people."

Liz Price Kellogg





John Lawrence '93 (packaging science), left, and his wife, Maryjane, are proud that their sons, fourth-year dual-degree student John B., second from left, and incoming freshman Jared, are RIT Tigers.

## Tiger blood flows in Lawrence family

When new students come to RIT, they join the ever-growing Tiger family. For John B. Lawrence and his younger brother, Jared Lawrence, the Tiger family is more than just a proximal community; it's also based on actual bloodlines.

John B. is a fourth-year dual-degree computing security student getting ready to graduate with his master's degree in May. Jared is an incoming freshman who will major in packaging science. John B. and Jared's father, John Lawrence, graduated from RIT in 1993 with a degree in packaging science.

When both of their sons began looking at colleges, John and his wife, Maryjane, from Spring, Texas, made sure they didn't pressure either son to attend RIT. They knew the value the university offered, but they

didn't want to make the final choice for them.

"My wife and I planned for the kids to go where they wanted and do what they wanted, within reason. RIT was always on the list of their college selections, but we kind of left it up to them. We aren't the kind of parents that force their kids to do things, but we did encourage them to make choices based on what they wanted out of their education and career," John said.

They wanted to give their kids freedom, but, like any parent, John and Maryjane wanted to make sure that their kids would be supported and able to thrive in whatever environment they chose. Having knowledge of the RIT student experience eased their parental worries when John B. headed off to college.

"It really lightened the load

because we knew what to expect. We knew it was without a doubt an engaged academic community, and he wouldn't just be one of many students on a roster. His advisers know him, his professors know him, and that gives you a good feeling as a parent," said Maryjane.

John B., the Lawrences' oldest son, was originally hesitant about attending the same university as his father. However, after visiting several other colleges, RIT was a clear fit for him.

"RIT really makes you feel like a professional in your field while you're in school. The co-op program, how the courses are structured, and generally just the people who are around you create a pretty good environment for you to develop into the person you need to be when you leave college," he said.

Now that Jared is ready to

head off to college, he said his dad's and brother's experiences at RIT have made him more comfortable with his decision to attend the university.

"I'm already comfortable with the campus, especially having been up there on visits," Jared said. "I look forward to moving on to RIT. I am excited to leave the comfort of my own home and start on the next journey of my life."

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Felicia Swartzenberg '19

### Future Tigers

If you are an RIT alumnus/a, you can request one \$65 application fee waiver for a prospective RIT student per year. Learn more at [rit.edu/alumni/admissions-fee-waiver-request-form](http://rit.edu/alumni/admissions-fee-waiver-request-form).



## Honoring a brother



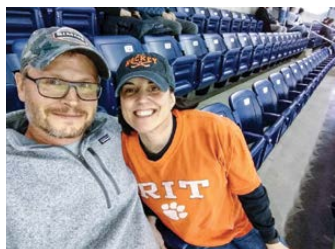
Matteo Bracco

Members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, alumni, family, and friends attended a tree rededication ceremony during Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend last October to honor the memory of Kevin Smith. Smith was a sophomore at RIT and a member of Phi Delta Theta when he died in a car accident near campus in 1991. His Phi Delta Theta brothers, family, and friends also launched a fundraising initiative last fall which raised more than \$26,000 to further support the endowed scholarship which bears his name.



**David Cox '94 MS (CAST)** worked for a few years at Xerox after graduation and then moved to Raleigh, N.C., in 2001. Since 2001, he has worked at ABB Corporation in

the U.S. Corporate Research Center. In 2010, he completed his Ph.D. in computer science. In 2015, he was elected to the Raleigh City Council where he represents 90,000 citizens in northeast Raleigh.



**Nancy Weigle '94 (CIAS)** and her husband celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall of 2019. They also celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by attending an RIT Women's Hockey game at Penn State. She still gets together with her friends from Photo House.

1996



**Timothy Cosgriff '96 MS (CAST)** had work in the Sweet Creations exhibition at the George Eastman Museum. His work, "Le Voyage Dans la Lun, Possible!" was a celebration of the work of Georges Méliès and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing. Cosgriff also had work in the International Art of the Book at the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County. His work, "Young Frankenstein Steampunk Bookends," is an altered book creation. He used discarded books, found objects, and discarded hardware to make this creation.



**Stacy Johnson '96 BS/MS (KGCoe)** received a Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

Spark Award at the SWE National Conference. The Spark Award honors an individual who has contributed to the advancement of women by mentoring those around them.

**David Stern '96 (KGCoe)** received two notices of allowance for his first two patents from the United States Patent Office, both within the cyber domain.

1997



**Kyle Bates '97 (CIAS)** assumed the position of clinical assistant professor

at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in August. He has taken on the role of Paramedic Program Director, which is one of 13 accredited bachelor degree programs in the United States. Prior to this, he was an educational designer and developer for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Maryland, College Park.

2000



**Brian Moon '00 (CLA)** was promoted to vice president, sales and business development at the Consumer

Electronics Association. In his new role, he oversees global sales and business development for CES, the world's largest technology event, and CES Asia, Asia's premier technology event.

2004

**Nathan Gardner '04 (COS)** has been appointed as the program director of the Center for Physician Assistant Studies at Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. He currently holds the faculty rank of assistant professor in the college.



## Tiger Cubs



**1 Ryan Griske '98 (CAST), '00 MS (CAST)** welcomed Jasper Patrick Griske in November 2019.

**2 Annie Browar '07 (CIAS) and Will Browar '07 (CIAS)** celebrated the first birthday of their second son, Owen, in June 2018.

**3 Alexander Gartley '07 (CIAS)** and his wife, Cristin, welcomed their second son, Coda Levi, in December 2018.

**4 Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito '07 (CIAS)** and her husband, Joe DeVito, welcomed their daughter, Penelope Marianna, in June 2019.

**Craig Nairn '11 (CLA)** and Colleen Nairn welcomed William J. in February 2019.

**5 Stephany (Wedgwood) Frey '14 (CHST) and Jeremy Frey '10 (CAST)** welcomed their first child, Jackson, in May 2019. He loves to hang out with his dog, Beckham.

**6 Jessica Wiltey '17 (CIAS)** and her fiancé, David Cassidy, welcomed Connor Michael in June 2019.





**Orlando Ortiz '04 (CAST), '08 MBA (SCB)** and **Denishea Ortiz '04 (SCB)** received the 2019 Young Philanthropist of the Year Award from NextGen Rochester in November 2019.

## 2005



**Stacy Lake '05 (SCB), '07 MBA (SCB)** started in a new role as corporate communications manager for Bergmann, a full-service architecture, engineering, and planning firm headquartered in Rochester.

## 2007

**Matt DePersis '07 MBA (SCB)** recently started a new opportunity at BounceX as director, strategy consulting. BounceX is an international marketing technology solution helping brands drive revenue through identification, personalization, and retargeting.



**Juan E. Rodriguez '07 (SCB)** works as an accountant in accounts

receivable at the NASA Shared Services Center located at Stennis Space Center. His duties involve monitoring, reviewing, reconciling, and analyzing NASA's accounting transactions and data to ensure that all are in compliance with federal regulations and that the NASA Shared Services Center is delivering quality service to its sister agency centers and customers. He is also the Special Emphasis Program manager for individuals with a disability at the NASA Shared Services Center.

## 2008



**Emilio Frattaruolo '08 (CAST)** started in a new role as vice president of innovation, passive systems with CSafe Global in Dayton, Ohio. CSafe Global is the only full-line provider of both active and passive cold chain packaging solutions addressing the temperature management needs of pharmaceutical and life science companies around the globe.

## 2011



**Elizabeth Kiefer '11 (CAST)** and **Patrick Ciambone '11 (KGCOE)** were married on Aug. 10, 2019, on Seneca Lake in Dundee, N.Y. They met on move-in day in 2006 as members of Engineering House. Many RIT and Engineering House alumni were in attendance to celebrate.

**Sarah Bicsak '11 (COS)** recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as a chemist at Paragon Laboratories in Livonia, Mich.

## Griffith takes over as new alumni board president



Ken Fletcher

**New Alumni Association Board President Victoria Decker Griffith '93 (hospitality)** wants alumni to know that RIT is there for them.

**V**ictoria Decker Griffith '93 (hospitality) says she is who she is because of RIT and that doesn't just include her time as a student.

"I was a student for four years but I have done more with RIT since then," said Griffith, who took over as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors in January. "RIT continues to be a resource for people long after they graduate."

The Alumni Association Board serves as the advisory body of the RIT Alumni Association, which represents RIT's more than 135,000 alumni. The board's primary responsibility is to provide leadership in developing and executing alumni programs and activities.

Griffith, who is vice president of quality assurance and purchasing for the Farmers Restaurant Group, began serving on the board in 1999. She has been active in the RIT community for years, attending

regional events, participating in ROAR Day initiatives, and being involved with her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. In 2009, she was the recipient of RIT's Volunteer of the Year award.

As president, engaging alumni is her top priority. The Alumni Association is for everyone, she said. That includes helping alumni stay relevant in their careers, offering volunteer activities that make a difference, and encouraging fellow alumni to stay connected, stay informed, and create a great RIT for future Tigers.

Griffith said she will also work toward achieving RIT's vision of getting 10 percent participation in alumni giving. "We know it is a tall mountain but we have to talk about it, focus on it," she said.

"It is a super exciting time at RIT," she said. "There are opportunities for change, opportunities to make a difference. We want alumni to remember that RIT is here for them."



## Alumnus named to *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 List



Jordan Darling '15 improved jet ski designs by incorporating more durable materials that he tested while he was an undergraduate. He'd go on to establish a company that was later acquired by Nikola Motor Corp.

Jordan Darling's career has soared as rapidly as the sleek watercraft he designs. The vice president of Nikola Powersports was named one of *Forbes*' 30 Under 30, the

prestigious designation given annually to top entrepreneurial talent in the United States and Canada. The College of Engineering Technology alumnus is among an elite group of trailblazers from 20 industries chosen from thousands of nominees who are considered today's bold risk-takers.

Darling '15 (mechanical engineering technology) is a designee in *Forbes*' Manufacturing & Industry category emphasizing individuals "creating the products, methods, and materials of tomorrow."

At Nikola, he oversees the divisions of both land and sea vehicles. While at RIT, Darling founded Free Form Factory Inc., creating and manufacturing technology for personal watercraft and building the first mainstream electric personal watercraft.

His high-flying jet skis were made of novel, more durable materials and its e-vehicle technology would outperform other more well-known watercraft.

Free Form Factory was acquired by Nikola in 2017. It became the company's newest

division to further expand its market, and Darling became the start-up company's 21<sup>st</sup> employee.

Darling had several options for his successful Free Form Factory. Instead of selling it or seeking expansion funding, he became a part of Nikola Motor Corp., the parent company of Nikola Powersports that is getting a lot of attention for its quick rise in the highly competitive trucking and powersport industry.

"I believe in Nikola and thought this is one of those rare opportunities to literally be on the ground floor of fulfilling a bold vision—one that will make a significant impact in how we live, and move, in the future. In the three years since becoming part of the team, Nikola Motor Corp. is now valued at more than \$3 billion," said Darling, who holds patents in powersports and manufacturing technologies.

When the company produces Darling's version of a personal watercraft, it will be among the top battery-powered jet ski products with zero emissions and reduced noise—and fast.

The Nikola team will bring several new off-highway vehicles and personal watercraft to market in 2021.

"I am honored to be one of the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 and plan to uphold this honor by continuing to drive innovation forward for decades to come."



Jordan Darling '15 (mechanical engineering technology) is vice president of Nikola Powersports. He was named to the *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 list in Manufacturing & Industry 2020.

## 2012



Kathryn Goodridge '12 (CIAS), '19 MS (SOIS) married Leo Rausch '13 (GCCIS) in Richmond, Va., on Oct. 11, 2019. They met through Greek Life at RIT through mutual friends. Other Tigers at their celebration included several members of their wedding party. The bridesmaids were: matron of honor Emalee Shea '13 (CAST); Liane (Schneegass) Sauda '12 (CHST); Anna Hazelwood '12 (CIAS), '19 MS (SOIS); and Lia Schapero '21 (SOIS). The groomsmen included: best man Greg Warchol '13 (GCCIS); Alex Bowden '12 (GCCIS); John McCall '12 (GCCIS); Stephanie Johnson '13 (CHST); and Katie Burke '12 (CIAS), '15 MS (SOIS).



E. Nicole Arroyo '12 (COS) successfully defended her Ph.D. in immunology from the University of Washington, Seattle, on July 24, 2019. She then married Jeremy Fowers in Snohomish, Wash., on July 27, 2019. Several RIT alumni were in attendance, including: Jeremy Allston '10 (GCCIS); Brittany Ambeau '13 (COS), '17 Ph.D. (COS); Alexandra Atzl '12 (CIAS); Nicholas DeFiore '14 (KGCOE); Bryan Fitzgerald '12 (CHST); Sarah Hannon '12 (CAST); Josh Kramer '13 (KGCOE); Kristen Kramer '12 (SCB); and David Stalnaker '13 BS/MS (GCCIS).

## 2013

William Craig '14 BS/MS (KGCOE) successfully completed his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland in June of 2019. During his Ph.D. program, his wife, Anna (Guthrie) Craig '13 (CHST), worked as a hospitalist physician assistant at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Md. They moved to Boston this summer where William



began work at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory. Anna started a new job at Boston Medical Center's gastroenterology clinic and has been appointed faculty at Boston University School of Medicine.

## 2014

**Emi Sano '14 (CIAS)** self-published two books in 2019. *Voices: A Short Story Collection* is a collection of 15 short stories written over a course of a year, and *We Don't Talk About That* is a young adult novella focusing on teens struggling with mental health and suicide.



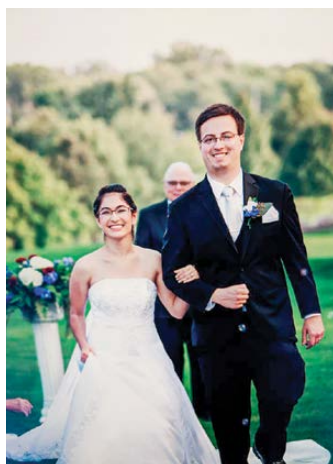
**Samantha Robinson '14 (SOIS)** married **Ryan Thompson '14 BS/MS (COS)** on Aug. 10, 2019. Their ceremony was officiated by **Jay Howson '13 (COS)**. They were joined by many other alumni, including members of their bridal party: **Tricia Chapman '12 (COS)**, **Chelsea Viele '16 (COS)**, and **Tim Shank '11 (COS)**. Their photographer was **Bob Kniley '05 (CAST)**.

## 2016



**Sophie Phillips '16 (CIAS)** and **Patrick Seyppura '16 (SCB)** were married on June 22, 2019, in Tarrytown, N.Y. After meeting during their freshmen orientation, they quickly became best friends and later fell in love. RIT alumni in their wedding party included **Christina Rizzetta '16 (SOIS)**, **Kelly Jo Hill '17 (SCB)**, **Alex Saunders '17 (CHST)**, **Justin Simmons '17 (CAST)**, and **Matt Ballerini '16 (KGCOE)**.

## 2017



**Nicole Casacci '17 (KGCOE)** and **David Gooden '17 (KGCOE)** got married in Buffalo, N.Y.



**Andrea Shaver '17 (CIAS)** and **Andrew Carpenter '17 (GCCIS)** were married on Sept. 28, 2019, in Telluride, Colo. They met in Student Government their second year at RIT. Twenty RIT and SG alumni were in attendance to celebrate, including the best man, **Jumoke Ridley '17 (GCCIS)**; two bridesmaids, **Claire Fleming '17 (CLA)** and **Rebekah Geller '17 (CLA)**, **'18 (SOIS)**; and **Kathy Hall '68 (CCE)**, who was the SG office manager when they met.

## 2019



**Sophia Dower '19 (CET)** and **Evan Oslakovich '17 (KGCOE)** met at RIT and are planning to get married in October 2020.



# Picnics, Parties and Pictures— Oh, my!

Your perfect summer event can be held at the **Lobozzo Alumni House**. Schedule a family reunion, hold a graduation party, celebrate an engagement or bridal shower, even let us host your wedding.

**Coming back to RIT with a new Tiger in August?** Book the house as a stunning backdrop for your Tiger Legacy Family portrait.

For more information and to book your next event, visit [rit.edu/alumni/lobozzohouse](http://rit.edu/alumni/lobozzohouse) or call 585-475-7412.

**RIT** Joseph M. Lobozzo  
**Alumni House**

## Alumni

<b>1942</b> Rita (Argana) Cinquino '42 (SCB) Oct. 15, 2019	<b>1958</b> Theresa (Olszewski) Binkley '58 (COS) Sept. 6, 2019 William F. Elsabee '58 (KGCOE) Sept. 19, 2019 Donald F. Rice '58 (COS) Oct. 12, 2019 Boyd Reynolds '58 (GAP) Nov. 3, 2019 Emil E. Deutschman '58 (GAP) Oct. 30, 2019	Walter J. Yovaish '64 (FAA) Oct. 13, 2019 Robert R. Eckenbrecht '64 (KGCOE) Oct. 13, 2019 John E. Reigelsperger '64 (SCB) Nov. 6, 2019 William M. Brown '64 (FAA) Dec. 24, 2019	Dennis M. Carpin '72 (SCB) Dec. 5, 2019 Donn W. Meade '72 (FAA) Dec. 29, 2019 John A. Berry '72 (GAP) Nov. 7, 2019	James Charles Szczepanski '78 (CCE) Oct. 19, 2019
<b>1947</b> Jane M. Milne '47 (SCB) Sept. 16, 2019	<b>1949</b> John Charles Miller '49 (GAP) Dec. 25, 2019 John C. Muldowney '49 (GAP) Dec. 9, 2019	<b>1965</b> Gerald Madalena '65 (CCE) Oct. 27, 2019 Keith Henry '65 (SCB) Nov. 25, 2019 David W. Jones '65 (GAP) Sept. 27, 2019 Robert A. Fuss '65 (SCB) Nov. 16, 2019	<b>1973</b> James R. Kraut '73 (FAA) Dec. 29, 2019 Brian H. Sutton '73 (CCE) Jan. 1, 2020 Irwin E. Magerkurth '73 (SCB) Dec. 2, 2019 Bernard R. Whaley '73 (SCB) Sept. 7, 2019	<b>1979</b> Vernon E. Collier '79 (CCE) Oct. 5, 2019 William James Ross '79 (KGCOE) Sept. 21, 2019 James R. Nederik '79 (CCE) Oct. 15, 2019 Drexel S. Andrews '79 (SCB) Nov. 29, 2019
<b>1950</b> Harry G. Steinorth Jr. '50 (KGCOE) Oct. 18, 2019 Gilbert Stark '50 (GAP) Nov. 4, 2019 Robert G. Martin '50 (KGCOE) Dec. 6, 2019	<b>1951</b> Casimer Pawluc '51 (GAP) Nov. 27, 2019 Gerald Gilbert '51 (KGCOE) Dec. 23, 2019 Robert L. Gates '51 (SCB) Dec. 11, 2019 Edith (Purdy) Steele '51 (SCB) Oct. 29, 2019 Carl Frederick Miller '51 (CCE) Dec. 12, 2019	<b>1967</b> William J. Schweickhard '67 (CCE) Dec. 24, 2019 Joyce M. Kleber '67 (SCB) Sept. 25, 2019	<b>1974</b> Addis V. Adams Jr. '74 (CCE) Oct. 29, 2019 Dieter W. Arendt '74 (CCE) Dec. 31, 2019 Ronald R. Wallace '74 (SCB) Sept. 10, 2019 Richard L. Tallinger '74 (SCB) Oct. 19, 2019 Charles W. Reed '74 (NTID) Oct. 9, 2019 Richard Moore '74 (KGCOE) Sept. 29, 2019 Gary W. VanScoter '74 (CCE) Oct. 17, 2019	<b>1980</b> Charles H. McCain Jr. '80 (CCE) Dec. 9, 2019 Donald Lee Bowman '80 (CAST) Nov. 18, 2019
<b>1952</b> Kenneth L. Shelter '52 (KGCOE) Nov. 21, 2019	<b>1961</b> Lee K. Austin '61 (KGCOE) Dec. 4, 2019	<b>1968</b> Dennis D. Ryan '68 (CCE) Dec. 11, 2019 Linda (Enlund) Lyons '68 (SCB) Sept. 13, 2019 Roger W. Wahl '68 (FAA) Nov. 19, 2019 Douglas A. Rieger '68 (CCE) Nov. 12, 2019 Donald P. Cottriss '68 (CCE) Dec. 25, 2019	<b>1976</b> Jo E. Albert-Smithe '76 (CLA) Oct. 17, 2019 William R. Legott '76 (SCB) Oct. 30, 2019 Steven A. Barnes '76 (CAST) Dec. 13, 2019 Joan Mary Dowdell '76 (CCE) Dec. 7, 2019	<b>1981</b> Cheryl R. Cooper-Caster '81 (SCB) Oct. 6, 2019 Kathleen (Helmer) Barone '81 (SCB) Dec. 2, 2019 Cheryl Jean Leclair '81 (FAA) Oct. 7, 2019
<b>1953</b> Neil C. Montanus '53 (GAP) Sept. 9, 2019 Edgar W. Daley '53 (COS) Sept. 14, 2019	<b>1962</b> Margery (Bronson) Adams '62 (SCB) Sept. 11, 2019 Frederick H. Dear '62 (KGCOE) Nov. 22, 2019 Donald J. Robertson '62 (KGCOE) Dec. 22, 2019 John R. Spangenberg '62 (FAA) Oct. 21, 2019	<b>1969</b> James D. Otis '69 (GAP) Dec. 3, 2019	<b>1977</b> Colleen D. Daviton '77 (NTID), '83 (COS) Nov. 29, 2019 Norman E. Minekime '77 (COS) Sept. 21, 2019 Richard S. McElwain '77 (CCE) Sept. 26, 2019 John A. Castellani '77 (CCE) Dec. 8, 2019	<b>1982</b> Mike Loftus '82 (SCB) Dec. 21, 2019 Karl H. Ruppertsberger '82 (CCE) Sept. 23, 2019 Alva Hood Angle '82 (CAST) Sept. 23, 2019 Valerie (Bamann) Rozestraten '82 (CCE) Dec. 19, 2019
<b>1955</b> Paul J. Worthington '55 (SCB) Sept. 13, 2019	<b>1963</b> Raymond A. Vereecke '63 (CCE) Dec. 14, 2019 Albert J. Goellner '63 (FAA) Oct. 31, 2019 Betsy Teeter '63 (FAA) Dec. 7, 2019	<b>1970</b> Ludwig J. Bloechl '70 (CCE) Nov. 27, 2019 Stephen R. Jaques '70 (GAP) Sept. 29, 2019 Richard H.A. Miller '70 (CCE) Dec. 11, 2019 Robert C. Nichol Sr. '70 (CCE) Nov. 10, 2019 Richard J. Burlingham '70 (CCE) Sept. 9, 2019 James A. Weeks '70 (GAP) Oct. 12, 2019	<b>1978</b> Albert S. Smith '78 (CAST) Nov. 30, 2019 Paul Raymond Flanders '78 (SCB) Sept. 7, 2019 Joseph G. Jurczynski '78 (KGCOE) Nov. 14, 2019 Frederick A. Watts Jr. '78 (CCE) Dec. 8, 2019 Fred Spencer Gerlich '78 (GAP) Sept. 11, 2019	<b>1983</b> Michael Francis Hohler '83 (CLA) Sept. 28, 2019 Peter Vincent Lechner '83 (CCE) Nov. 11, 2019
<b>1956</b> Albert Braverman '56 (FAA) Sept. 30, 2019 Edward P. Rosenberg '56 (FAA) Dec. 20, 2019 Ronald E. Griffith '56 (KGCOE) Dec. 13, 2019	<b>1964</b> Richard L. DeSarra '64 (SCB) Sept. 6, 2019 David E. Colway '64 (SCB) Oct. 13, 2019 Chester D. Doverspike '64 (GAP) Oct. 25, 2019 Terry J. Deglau '64 (GAP) Sept. 14, 2019	<b>1971</b> John J. Owsinski '71 (KGCOE) Nov. 28, 2019 Daniel Markese '71 (SCB) Sept. 27, 2019		<b>1984</b> James M. Kyanka '84 (CAST) Sept. 28, 2019 Clarence E. Simpkins '84 (CCE) Nov. 7, 2019 Osita E. Obieke '84 (CAST) Nov. 18, 2019 Nancy L. Heuer '84 (CCE) Sept. 15, 2019
<b>1957</b> Jackie C. Underwood '57 (SCB) Sept. 11, 2019 John Owen Nelson '57 (CCE) Dec. 2, 2019		<b>1972</b> Joseph G. Baker '72 (CAST) Nov. 11, 2019		<b>1985</b> Michael Philip Allette '85 (CAST) Nov. 1, 2019 David Frank Noyes '85 (GAP) Nov. 18, 2019
				<b>1986</b> Mark A. White '86 (CAST) Nov. 18, 2019



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**1987**

**John Jameson Arnold '87**  
(CIAS) Sept. 7, 2019

**1988**

**Helen McCaffrey '88 (CAST)**  
Oct. 31, 2019  
**John B. Tickell III '88**  
(KGCOE) Nov. 8, 2019

**1989**

**Frank John Schmidt Jr. '89**  
(KGCOE) Oct. 30, 2019

**1991**

**Linda E. Doyle '91 (FAA)**  
Oct. 25, 2019  
**Robert M. Olmsted '91 (GAP)**  
Nov. 9, 2019

**1992**

**Frances M. Nellist '92 (CCE)**  
Dec. 1, 2019  
**Eric Gardner Butterfield '92**  
(KGCOE) Dec. 1, 2019

**1994**

**Thomas Michael Settle '94**  
(KGCOE) Nov. 30, 2019

**1995**

**Timothy L. Van Der Meid '95**  
(SCB) Dec. 7, 2019  
**Daniel Lee Fisher '95 (CIAS)**  
Jan. 3, 2020

**1996**

**Jennifer Lynn Baker '96**  
(CAST), '97 MS (CAST)  
Oct. 31, 2019

**1998**

**Anne Laura Klahn '98**  
(CAST) Oct. 3, 2019

**1999**

**Michael N. Daly '99 (COS)**  
Nov. 27, 2019

**2000**

**Ronald D. Gumberts '00**  
(CAST) Jan. 3, 2020

**2002**

**Leslie P. McKinney '02**  
(CAST) Oct. 8, 2019

**2003**

**Noreen (Traino) Naud '03**  
(CLA) Nov. 10, 2019

**2006**

**Philip D. Thorpe II '06**  
(KGCOE), '06 MS (KGCOE)  
Dec. 28, 2019

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**2008**

**Joel E. Kunkler '08 (CAST)**  
Oct. 15, 2019

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**Faculty and Staff**

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**Laurie Brewer**, vice dean and interim associate vice president for academic affairs, Dec. 20, 2019

**Doris N. Chest**, retired staff member, Jan. 2, 2020

**Irene Evans**, professor in the Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences, Dec. 11, 2019

**Vivian Gifford**, staff member in Academic Affairs, Jan. 8, 2020

**Steven Good**, former staff member in ITS Network Communications, Jan. 10, 2020

**Jennifer Gravitz**, chair of NTID's Department of Liberal Studies, Jan. 24, 2020

**Charles W. Haines**, former department head for Mechanical Engineering, associate dean of Engineering, assistant provost, mathematics department head, and chairman of Faculty Council, Dec. 25, 2019

**Roger W. Kober**, trustee emeritus, Jan. 25, 2020

**Julie Pitcher**, Margaret's House teacher, Nov. 12, 2019

**Albert Smith**, former NTID assistant vice president for college operation, Nov. 30, 2019

**Luther J. Troell**, former department chair of the Networking, Security, and Systems Administration Department, chair of the School of Informatics, and interim president of RIT Dubai, Oct. 19, 2019

## Remembering RIT administrators

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**Paul Bernstein**

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**P**aul Bernstein, who served RIT for nearly four decades in multiple leadership roles, died in late October 2019. Professor Emeritus

Bernstein arrived at RIT in 1966, where he served as dean of Liberal Arts until 1976. He then served as dean of Graduate Studies from 1976 to 1992.

Later, he taught international business from 1993 to 2003.

He also served as RIT's liaison with the New York State Education Department and was instrumental in securing approval for RIT's first doctoral program, imaging science, by the state.

"He left an indelible mark on the College of Liberal Arts," said Dean James Winebrake. "We wouldn't be as successful as we are today without his many contributions in our nascent years."

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**James DeCaro**

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**J**ames DeCaro, RIT dean emeritus and former dean of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, died on Oct. 23. DeCaro joined RIT/NTID in 1971

as the first faculty member in NTID's civil engineering technology program. Over his 47-year career at RIT/NTID, he served as a staff chairperson, instructional developer, department chair, and division director.

From 1985 to 1998, he was dean for NTID and served as NTID's interim director from 1995 to 1996.

He joined the Department of

Research in 1998 after returning from Sweden, where he was a senior Fulbright Scholar.

He served as interim president of NTID from 2009 to 2010 and founded and served as director of the NTID Center on Access Technology.

One of DeCaro's major achievements was the establishment in 2001 of the Postsecondary Education Network—International (PEN-International).

PEN-International was a first-of-its-kind effort to establish a world-wide postsecondary education network for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

He retired from RIT/NTID in 2018.

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**Dane Gordon**

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**D**ane Gordon, beloved professor emeritus, Presbyterian minister, and author of two books on the history of RIT, died Jan. 22. Gordon, who retired

from RIT in 2000, was 94.

In his 38 years at RIT, he served as a professor of philosophy, department chair, and acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

In 2014, he and his wife, Judith, committed \$300,000 from their estate plans to create The Dane R. Gordon Endowed Fund for Philosophy Student Success.

The fund aids students conducting research and scholarship leading to the completion of their philosophy degree, supports philosophy students pursuing academic internships that further their professional and career goals, and supports the Dane R. Gordon Lecture Series in the Department of Philosophy that hosts distinguished philosophy scholars who address the RIT and Rochester communities.

In 1997, he earned the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching, RIT's highest honor for teaching.



Cary Graphic Arts Collection

An aerial photo of the energy house shows the back garden and “solar collectors” on the roof of the house. The house was located at 3204 E. River Road, on the southern edge of campus near the Riverknoll and University Commons apartments.

## RIT ‘energy house’ ahead of its time

To see if solar power was viable in Rochester, professor and mechanical engineer Paul Wojciechowski conceptualized the RIT “energy house” in the 1970s. In November of 1977, construction of this two-story, live-in-experiment home was finished.

Amid the 1973 oil crisis, there was a debate about the feasibility of solar power in areas that are overcast for the majority of the year. To prove that solar power can provide heat throughout the long Rochester winter, RIT teamed up with Rochester Gas & Electric Corp. and the Rochester Home

Builders Association to make Wojciechowski’s conceptualized design a reality.

When the house was finished, the Wojciechowskis were unable to move in because of a new baby in the family. Jasper “Jake” Shealy, RIT professor emeritus for the industrial and systems engineering program, stepped in as a co-investigator when he and his family moved into the home in July 1978. He lived in the house with his wife, two young daughters, and their dog until July 1981.

“Richard Kenyon, the dean of the College of Engineering, held a search for a test guinea pig

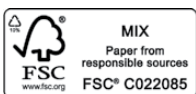
family to try out the energy house,” said Shealy. “We thought it would be an interesting experience. Kenyon was looking for a family that would be a typical urban family—a husband, wife, two children, a dog, and a station wagon—and we fit the bill.”

The 1,830-square-foot house, located on the edge of campus at 3204 E. River Road, had nine rooms, three bathrooms, and several living areas. The main feature of the house was the 38 solar collectors on the roof, which provided between 50 and 65 percent of the power used for central heating and hot water.

While the project was finished and abandoned when they moved out in 1981, Shealy and his family cherish the time spent in the energy house.

“That experience had a large and lasting effect on me personally and professionally. It caused me to become more energy conscious and it had a big impact on the choice of our next house,” said Shealy. “I also used the experience in many ways in the courses I was teaching in engineering design, ergonomics, and engineering economics, among others.”

**Felicia Swartzberg ’19**



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