RIT

University Magazine

Fall 2025

MANIFESTING quantum

Also inside:

RIT innovation illuminates lost history

Club sports help students find their fit

Inauguration of President Sanders

RIT University Magazine

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Editor
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Photographers
Carlos Ortiz
Traci Westcott '18

Writers
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Greg Livadas
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Mollie Radzinski
Nathaniel Smith
Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Print Production
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Art Director
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Photo Editor
Scott Hamilton '89

Graphic Design
Megan Bastian '05
Annie Browar '07
Alex Tong '99

Contributing Editors
Phillip D. Castleberry, University Advancement

Vanessa J. Herman, Government and Community Relations

Teah Terrance
University Advancement

Marketing and Communications
125 Tech Park Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
Email: umag@rit.edu

Office of Alumni Relations
Crossroads 41 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5603
Voice: 585-475-ALUM, Toll Free: 866-RIT-ALUM
TTY: 585-475-2764, Fax: 585-475-5308
Email: ritalum@rit.edu

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, publishes *RIT University Magazine*.

Vol. 27, No. 2, 136M-FY2500354-10/2025-RRD-JSA

Carlos Ortiz

During Fall Convocation for New Students, RIT President Bill Sanders began a tradition of taking selfies. More than 3,000 new undergraduates started this academic year.

Explore boldly, fail safely, succeed spectacularly

It is a tremendous honor to serve as the 11th president of RIT. Since arriving this summer, my wife, Emily, and I have felt the warmth and energy of this remarkable university and the greater Rochester community.

We are a place of creators, makers, researchers, and entrepreneurs. Our students are bold and curious. Our faculty are deeply committed to excellence. Our staff are the backbone of our operations. And our alumni—more than 154,000 strong—are shaping industries and communities across the globe.

This fall, we welcomed more than 3,000 new undergraduates and hundreds of graduate students to our Rochester campus, along with 1,300-plus new students at our global campuses in Dubai, Croatia, and Kosovo. They join a vibrant, eclectic, and purpose-driven community of 21,400 scholars. From our people to upgraded and new facilities, labs, studios, and athletic fields, RIT is alive with possibility.

We are also making historic strides in research and innovation. Last fiscal year, RIT secured $105 million in sponsored research awards—a record for our university. Our faculty are leading breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, quantum science, space exploration, health technologies, sustainability, and more.

At the same time, we are navigating real challenges. The higher education landscape is shifting—federal policy changes, demographic pressures, and global uncertainties require us to be nimble and strategic. But I believe RIT is uniquely positioned to lead. We are practical, visionary, and resilient. We turn disruption into opportunity.

That's why we're developing a new strategic framework to guide our next decade. Built on four pillars—transformative student experience and success, world-changing research and scholarship, community well-being and belonging, and global reach and mindset—this plan will reflect the collective wisdom of our university. It will help us stay true to our values while imagining what comes next.

I've found a home at RIT. I see a university where all can explore boldly, fail safely, and succeed spectacularly. I see a community that lifts each other up and leans into the future. And I see a shared commitment to improving the world through creativity and innovation at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design.

Thank you for welcoming me. I look forward to working with you and to building the future of RIT together with you.

Warm regards,

Bill

William H. Sanders, President
sanders@rit.edu

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Fourth-year student Riley Nassour, left, and alumnus Alex Newton '25 found their fit playing the club sport of roundnet. Scott Hamilton '89

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Cover: By harnessing single particles of light, RIT Professor Stefan Preble and his team are making advancements that are shaping the possibilities of a future powered by quantum.
Photo by Carlos Ortiz

2025 BIG SHOT

RIT Tigers temporarily traded their orange and black for red, white, and blue for this year's Big Shot.

On Oct. 11, the Big Shot team invited volunteers to illuminate the Buffalo Bills' Highmark Stadium, documenting the iconic location before it closes. A new stadium is set to open in 2026.

"This Big Shot will commemorate the history of the stadium for many Bills fans and the public," said Eric Kunsman '99, '01 MS, co-coordinator of the Big Shot and assistant professor at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

Big Shot, described as "painting with light," asks students and community volunteers to use individual light sources to illuminate a structure or location while the Big Shot camera team captures an extended-exposure image.

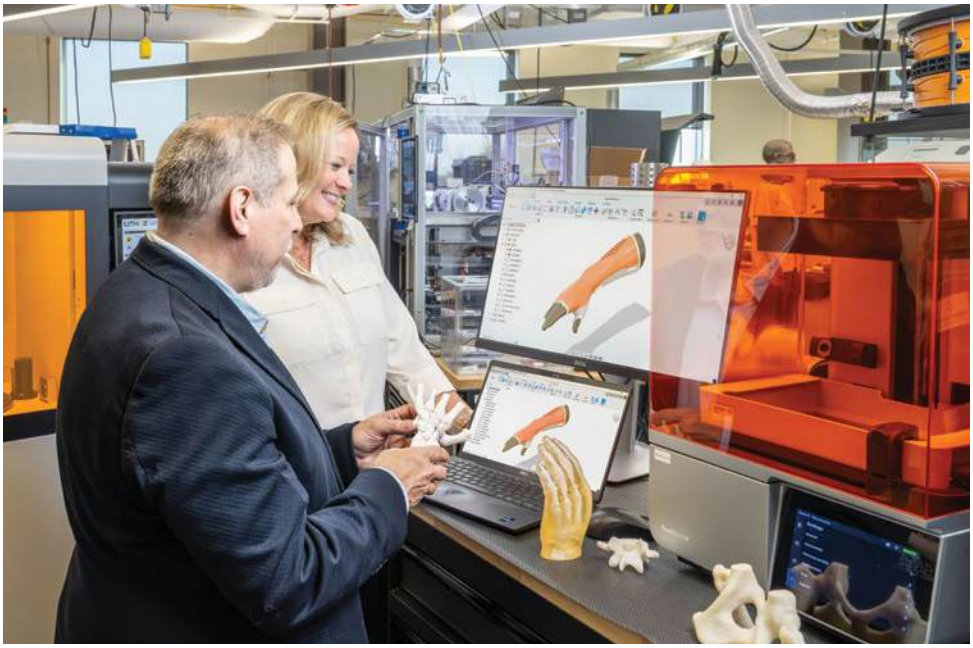
It's an annual event for the College of Art and Design and NTID and is led by the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. It was originally created to teach students about nighttime photography and how to solve complex problems with simple tools and teamwork. This was the 37th RIT Big Shot, and the event was sponsored by Nikon.

The 360-degree panoramic image, top right, is expected to hang in the new Highmark Stadium.

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Photos by RIT Big Shot team

This alternate-view photograph was taken from the top of the stadium with the **new Highmark Stadium**, set to open in 2026, illuminated in the background.



Pete Schuck

Christopher Alterio, left, leads RIT's occupational therapy doctoral program. He is shown here with Marcia Shea, academic field work coordinator, in RIT's AMPrint Center, where ongoing research holds potential applications for occupational therapy.

First clinical doctoral degree coming next year

RIT's newest doctoral degree offers a personalized approach to helping people with illnesses or disabilities participate in life.

An entry-level clinical doctorate in occupational therapy (OTD) will launch in June 2026. The program will focus on innovative interventions and adaptive devices that extend patients' functional skills.

The OTD program represents the university's first clinical doctoral degree.

"Occupational therapy is about function, participation, and adaptation," said Christopher Alterio, program director. "Occupational therapists work across a variety of different settings and diagnoses, helping people do the things they need and want to do in the context of their real lives."

The future-facing and collaborative program will develop clinicians who are comfortable working with engineers, designers, and data scientists to create meaningful solutions for people, he said.

"Our students will work in AR/VR environments and design custom orthotics and prostheses in 3D-printing labs," Alterio said. "They will learn how to evaluate emerging tools that are still being tested in research settings."

The program consists of nine consecutive semesters, a capstone, and required fieldwork, and blends a traditional curriculum with innovative technology and experiential learning.

Completion of the program qualifies graduates to sit for the national certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

The expansion of RIT's health sciences programs will help address workforce shortages in the health sector, starting with occupational therapy, according to Yong "Tai" Wang, dean of RIT's College of Health Sciences and Technology. OTD's focus on patient experience and capstone research distinguishes it from RIT's 13 Ph.D. programs.

"Healthcare workforce demands present an opportunity for RIT to make an impact beyond the region," Wang said. "Our OTD program will educate a new type of clinician who approaches patient-centered care with a technology mindset."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

Matt Thomas '98 said the opportunity to give back to the program and the university that helped shape his career is a dream come true.

Mathew Sluka

Caroline Solomon has devoted herself to encouraging and nurturing deaf and hard-of-hearing students in STEM fields.

Solomon steps into NTID's top role

Caroline M. Solomon, former dean of faculty at Gallaudet University, became president of RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf and vice president of RIT on Aug. 18.

Solomon became the first woman to lead the college in its nearly 60-year history. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1965, NTID is the first and largest technological college in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Solomon earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science and public policy from Harvard University; a master's degree in biological oceanography from the University of Washington; and a doctorate in marine, environmental, and estuarine sciences from the University of Maryland.

She joined the faculty of Gallaudet University as a biology instructor in 2000 and rose to the rank of professor in 2011. She was appointed the dean of faculty in 2024.

Solomon succeeded Gerry Buckley, who retired Aug. 17.

"As a Deaf scientist, I'm deeply honored to join the vibrant NTID and RIT communities—longstanding national leaders in advancing STEM education for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students," she said.

Susan Murad

Carlos Ortiz

Former captain takes over as hockey coach

RIT alumnus and former captain Matt Thomas '98 (criminal justice) began the 2025-2026 season in October as the eighth head coach in RIT Men's Hockey history.

Thomas jumped right into coaching after graduation and has over 26 years of experience at both the NCAA Division I and professional ranks, including the last four seasons as an assistant coach with the Providence Bruins—the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate of the NHL Boston Bruins.

"He brings a winning pedigree back to his alma mater and I am confident he will carry on the success our program has enjoyed since he was on the RIT bench," said RIT Executive Director of Athletics Jacqueline Nicholson.

Thomas succeeds Coach Wayne Wilson, the winningest coach in program history, who retired last spring.

Wilson transformed RIT into a national contender at the NCAA Division I level following the program's ascension from the Division III ranks. He finished his career 33rd in NCAA men's hockey victories.

"I truly enjoyed coming to work every day to push teams and players to reach their goals," Wilson said.

Tim Volkmann

Since making her pro-racing debut in 2024, **Kelsey Pinkowski** has raced in the U.S. and internationally.

Business student goes full throttle on global

Thirty minutes before the green flag drops, Kelsey Pinkowski retreats into her own world. She fuels up with electrolytes and runs the race in her head, then works the jump rope and the reaction machine with extreme focus. Finally, she straps into her race car, the engine growling impatiently as Mt. Fuji silently observes in the distant background.

For a long time, this was a dream for the fourth-year global business management student. Pinkowski's rise has been anything but conventional. Since first jumping into an open-wheel car in 2021, she's competing internationally in Japan's Toyota-backed KYOJO Series and the U.S. Ligier JSF Championship, all while balancing her studies and building a brand that could carry her to becoming racing's next sensation.

At 7 years old, Pinkowski unknowingly had her first racing lesson when she was involved in a severe karting crash in her Brighton, N.Y., cul-de-sac, which landed her in the pediatric ICU for weeks. Pinkowski raced recreationally afterward, but in 2021 a test drive in Florida reignited her passion.

"Originally, this was supposed to be a one-and-go thing, just to scratch an itch and see if I like it," Pinkowski said. "After a while, I talked to my dad, told him that I really liked the sport, and it was full throttle from there."

The 2025 season began with a grueling stretch: final exams at RIT, a flight to Fuji Speedway for the first KYOJO Cup rounds, and then a direct trip to Wisconsin for the Ligier JSF Championship series at Road America, where she finished in the top 10 in two races.

"We were expecting to be at the very back of the pack, but we finished stronger than we thought," she said. "The fans, especially in Japan, were so kind and respectful. I'm still getting used to the media and exposure, but it was a great starting experience."

Pinkowski credits much of her rapid development to Swedish driver and coach Nic Jönsson, a veteran of the Indy Racing League, NASCAR, and 24 Hours of Le Mans.

She made her pro-racing debut midway through 2024 and posted great results, including a second-place finish at Watkins Glen in the SCCA Majors.

"She's shown great potential," said Jönsson. "Most people she races against have 10-12 years of karting experience, so that's a steep learning curve. She is

Pinkowski, a fourth-year **global business management student**, chose RIT because it offered the business foundation she knew she would need to market her own racing career.

racing stage

someone with passion, someone who is willing to work hard and get better every day."

Pinkowski is just as focused on her growth outside the car. She chose RIT not only because it kept her close to home, but because it offered the business foundation she knew she'd need to thrive in motor sports.

Her father, Mike Pinkowski '84, also earned his degree from RIT in business administration. Her professors, she said, have helped her navigate coursework while training and competing internationally.

"A lot of them are surprised but very supportive," Pinkowski said. "The first reaction I always get is, 'Oh you're a race car driver?' They all ask questions to get familiar with the sport and what I do. I'm grateful for their support."

In March, she joined the ranks of Danica Patrick and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. as a recipient of the prestigious Gorsline Scholarship for outstanding up-and-coming drivers. She's built her social presence and has set a short-term goal toward the F1 Academy—a female-only Formula 4 series designed to elevate the next generation of drivers. The path ahead is challenging, but for Pinkowski it comes down to one thing.

"I think what sets me apart from a lot of racers and female racers is consistency," Pinkowski said. "Whether it's working out, doing simulation work, or staying on top of school, it's about knowing what I have to do, when to do it, and performing the best I can."

Nathaniel Smith

William H. Sanders installed as RIT's 11th president

RIT will become a destination not just for students but for ideas, Bill Sanders said as part of formal ceremonies to install him as RIT's 11th president.

The university, he said, will be a place where breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, sustainability, and cybersecurity are born; where artists and technologists co-author the future; that graduates leaders prepared for careers that don't even exist yet; where interdisciplinary research tackles real-world problems; and where the global footprint expands while the commitment to Rochester is deepened.

"None of what we aspire to do together can be done without passionate people," Sanders said. "We have a beautiful campus and the buildings and Tiger Athletics facilities that we have built in the last five years are best in their class. But I believe fundamentally that people are what drives RIT."

Members of the RIT community, delegates from 42 universities, and state and community leaders attended the tradition-filled ceremony on Sept. 26 at Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

In his inaugural remarks, Sanders announced that RIT has secured gifts to establish five new endowed professorships, adding to the 49 that exist today.

He outlined progress on the development of RIT's new strategic framework, which he calls a shared ambition to build a university that is more inclusive, innovative, and interconnected than ever before.

"As we stand at the threshold of a new chapter, I see a university that is not only ready for the future—but ready to shape it," he said.

Andreas Cangellaris, founding president of NEOM University in Saudi Arabia, served as keynote speaker at the ceremony. Cangellaris and Sanders worked together at the University of Arizona and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

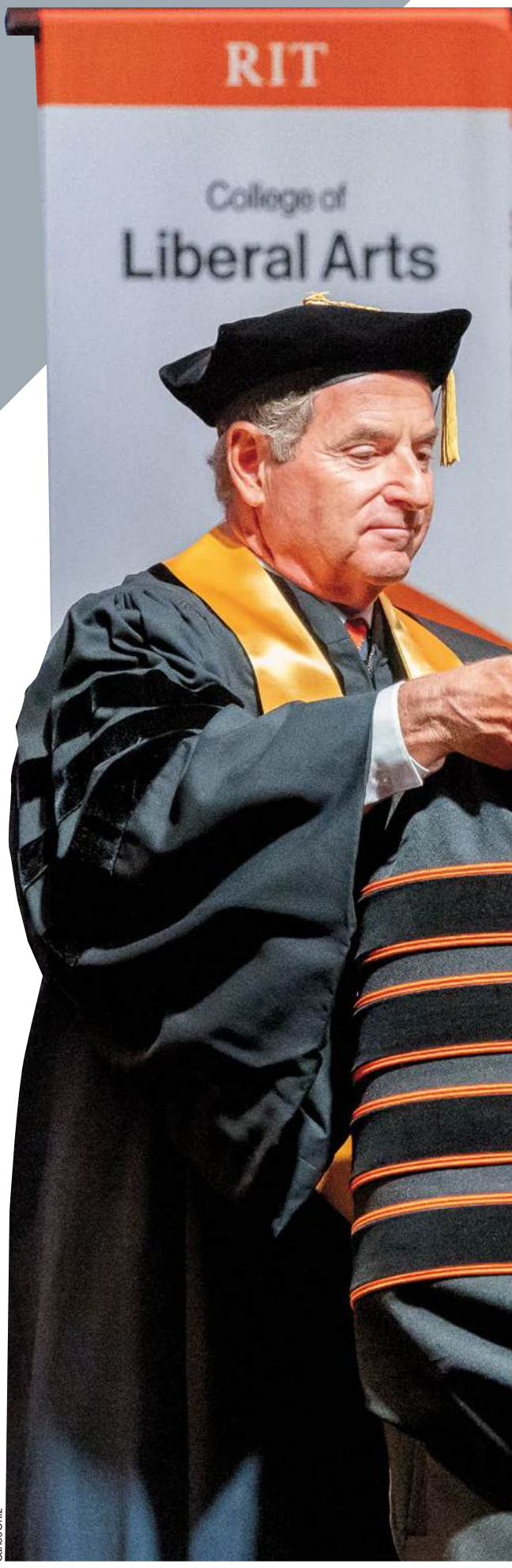
Cangellaris said Sanders is a natural leader who encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration and builds trust.

Those traits, he said, are especially valuable now because of the potential and promise of artificial intelligence. Universities must rethink how they teach and learn, research and discover, and inspire and innovate.

"To meet the moment, we need leaders who are wise, courageous, visionary, collaborative, and inspiring—leaders we can trust to bring the university community and all its stakeholders together, to comprehend the challenges and propose and advance the right path forward," he said. "Bill Sanders is that leader, for this very moment."

Mindy Mozer

Bill Sanders was officially installed as president by Susan Puglia, chair of the RIT Board of Trustees, and vice chairs Susan Holliday '85 (MBA), right, and Frank Sklarsky '78 (business administration accounting), left. They presented him with the Presidential Collar of Authority, created in 1983 by the late Hans Christensen, the first Charlotte Fredericks Mowris Professor of Contemporary Crafts in the School for American Crafts.



Carlos Ortiz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Science
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Sustainability

More coverage

- RIT in Conversation recap
- Full remarks
- Inauguration photos
- Video highlights

rit.edu/inauguration

Elizabeth Lamark '00

Thomastine Sarchet, assistant professor in the Department of Deaf Education, spoke about her experience leading deaf education development projects in Southeast Asia and Africa during inauguration events.

Andreas Cangellaris, founding president of NEOM University in Saudi Arabia, served as keynote speaker at the ceremony.

RIT in Conversation
University leaders discussed the shifting landscape of higher education as part of inauguration events. Panelists are, from left, moderator Sin Min Yap, vice president of strategy for Synopsys, Inc.; Gilda Barabino, former president of Olin College of Engineering; Andreas Cangellaris, founding president of NEOM University; W. Kent Fuchs, president emeritus of University of Florida; James Garrett, provost and chief academic officer at Carnegie Mellon University; and Sarah Mangelsdorf, president of University of Rochester.

Elizabeth Lamark '00

Carlos Ortiz

Elizabeth Lamark '00

From left, Rebecca Johnson, former RIT presidents Bill Destler and David Munson, Nancy Munson, and Bill Sanders's wife, Emily, observed as Bill Sanders officially became RIT's 11th president.

New endowed professorships

The creation of five new endowed professorships, together valued at $15 million, was announced Sept. 26 during the inauguration.

The Budington Family Professorship, which will support a faculty member in the College of Engineering Technology, is funded by Board of Trustees member Jonathan Budington '91 (graphic communications) and his wife, Susannah Budington, to retain and recruit top faculty.

The Jeffrey K. Harris Professorship will support a faculty member who exhibits multidisciplinary strategic thinking to solve important research challenges and advance RIT's unique approach to multidisciplinary education in ways that are important to the university's mission. It is funded by Jeffrey Harris '75 (photographic sciences), past chair of RIT's Board of Trustees, and his partner, Joyce Pratt, chair of RIT's College of Liberal Arts National Council.

The Ludwick Family Professorship will support the university's strategic objective of recruiting and retaining distinguished scholars and teachers. It is funded by Worth Ludwick '78 (MBA); her husband, Andy Ludwick; and their family, via the Santa Rita Foundation.

The Frank and Ruth Sklarsky Professorship will initially support a faculty member whose research focus is in artificial intelligence, while future appointees will address critical emerging topics in science and technology. It is funded by Frank Sklarsky '78 (business administration accounting), vice chair of RIT's Board of Trustees, and his wife, Ruth Sklarsky.

The Leo C. and Margaret J. Williams Professorship will support a faculty member in the College of Science. It is funded by Anna Williams, who is the mother of Molly Roesch, a 2023 graduate of RIT's chemistry program, to honor her parents and Roesch's grandparents.

Co-ed Wrestling

Nkodia Ndongala, a physics major, left, and **Emily Flückiger**, a cybersecurity major, are co-presidents of RIT's newest club sport.

Scott Hamilton '89

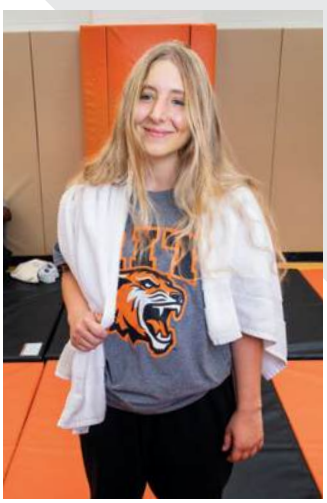
Club sports help students find their fit

Emily Flückiger likes to combat gender stereotypes. That's why she joined wrestling in high school.

"I was the only girl on the team, and it was tough at first," said Flückiger, a third-year cybersecurity student from Hartford, Conn. "But once you throw people around a little bit, they give you some respect."

When she got to RIT, she wanted to continue wrestling. For her, the exercise is a much-needed mind break from school.

This year, she helped create the RIT Co-ed Wrestling Club. As co-president of RIT's newest club sport, Flückiger is bringing together around 30 student-athletes who want to hone their skills and aspire to compete against other colleges.



Emily Flückiger

Club sports are a big part of student life at the university. Every year, about 2,000 students are involved with the nearly 50 different club sports. For many, it scratches that competitive itch. For others, it's a chance to try something new, find a community, and stay active.

Athletics at RIT come in several variations. The Tigers have 24 NCAA teams. Any member of the university community can also participate in friendly intramural sports. Sitting somewhere in the middle are club sports.

Many club sports are competitive, while some are geared toward recreational learning and teaching.

Competitive teams have tryouts, routine practices, and coaches. From alpine skiing to sailing, these athletes play against other collegiate teams and represent RIT on the national stage.

However, the time commitment for a club sport can be less than NCAA athletics—with fewer hours dedicated to practices and games. Club athletes don't have to travel during the week for competitions, and they can have fewer off-season responsibilities.

Each club is largely student-run, with the formation of a constitution and annual leadership elections. Students have a vested interest because they organize team practices, schedules, travel, referees, and fundraisers. As student interests evolve each year, some clubs become defunct and new teams are added.

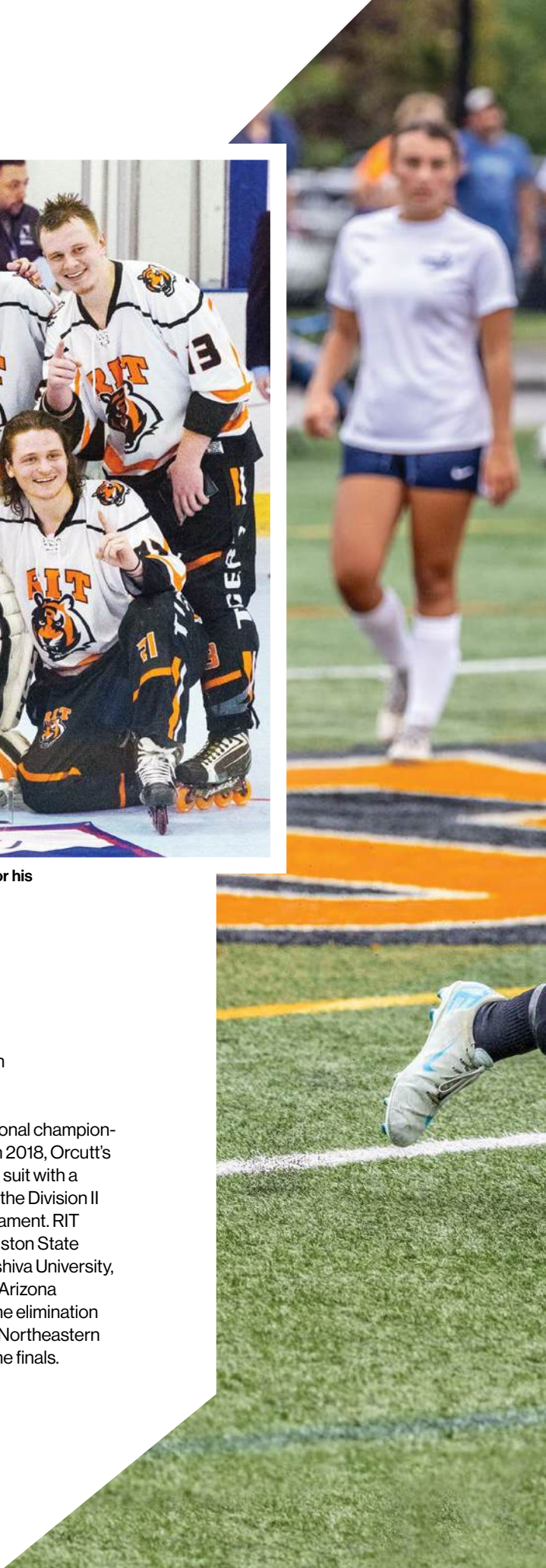
"We're here for the students and we cater to their needs," said Christopher Terwilliger, associate director of Club Sports and Intramurals. "Club sports are a big reason that a lot of students stay connected to the university. Plus, it's a great source of experiential learning that they can bring with them to the workforce."

To support the new Co-ed Wrestling Club and the rapid growth of women's wrestling nationwide, RIT recently opened a specialized Mat Studio in the Hale-Andrews Student Life Center. The space is home base for the Wrestling Club, Taekwondo Club, and Judo Club.

Meet a few club sports athletes—past and present—on the pages that follow.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Zachary Orcutt '20, center, wore No. 5 as the goalie for his championship-winning club team in 2018.



Roller Hockey

Zachary Orcutt

'20 (packaging science)
Job: Packaging engineer at Kraft Heinz in Pittsburgh

Zachary Orcutt skated before he could walk. He played ice hockey most of his life and continued with intramurals at RIT. When a co-worker at the hockey rink said they needed a goalie for the Roller Hockey Club, Orcutt made the switch and hopped right onto the tile. The team had a good history, with RIT winning the Division I collegiate national championship in 2001. In 2018, Orcutt's team followed suit with a magical run in the Division II national tournament. RIT beat Sam Houston State University, Yeshiva University, and Northern Arizona University in the elimination rounds—and Northeastern University in the finals.

Kiera Osier, front, is the president and attacking center midfielder for the club. In September, the team played a home game against Ithaca College.

Women's Soccer

Kiera Osier

Fifth-year mechanical engineering student from Greece, N.Y.

Kiera Osier was initially recruited for the RIT Division III women's soccer team but found that club soccer had the right balance for her. The club has fewer practices during the week and games are only on the weekends. Still, Osier stays competitive. While playing against University of Rochester, University at Buffalo, and other local colleges, RIT's club didn't lose a single league game in the last four years. The team stays in top shape by reserving RIT's specialized strength training rooms for team workouts and gets together for social events in the off season.

Scott Hamilton '89

The **Historical European Martial Arts Club** has about 30 students who participate in practices and tournaments.

Scott Hamilton '89

Dylan Levine, left, and Veran Stanek practice twice a week.

Historical European Martial Arts

Dylan Levine

Third-year mechatronics engineering technology student from Pleasantville, N.Y.

Veran Stanek

Fourth-year physics and materials science and engineering master's student from Hermitage, Pa.

Shiny longswords and daggers were enough to entice Dylan Levine and Veran Stanek at the RIT Club Fair. In the sport of Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA), athletes study historical manuals and learn medieval and Renaissance-era combat techniques. Members practice sparring two days a week, all equipped with dull period weapons and protective equipment. Stanek likes HEMA because it's more interesting than exercising with traditional weights and cardio. Levine has fallen in love with the welcoming community of people from all backgrounds. The club hosts tournaments and is part of a growing intercollegiate league in the northeast.

Even though he graduated, Alex Newton continues to stay in touch with teammates.

Roundnet

Alex Newton

'25 (chemical engineering and finance)
Job: Manager of financial planning and analysis at Aerosafe Global in Rochester

Alex Newton brought his roundnet set to RIT freshman year and it's how he met his best college friends. In the sport, which is also known as Spikeball, teams of two compete to bounce a ball off a small circular net. When Newton found out about the RIT Roundnet Club, he committed and started to play competitively. With practice, pickup games, and traveling to tournaments throughout the year, he created a strong bond with people around the net. Newton's team placed 11th at the 2025 Spikeball College Roundnet Championships, playing against teams from University of Connecticut, UCLA, and University of Richmond.

Scott Hamilton '89

Archery

Ye Htet Hlaing

Ashley Jablonski

'25 (cybersecurity)
Job: Cyber analyst at Illinois Tool Works (ITW) in Chicago

Ashley Jablonski first tried archery as a Girl Scout but took a break from the sport during high school. When she found RIT's recreational archery club, she took aim again. Many members have never touched a bow before, but the club provides coaching for students of all levels. As club president, Jablonski helped form a competitive RIT club team that travels to tournaments every month in the spring semester—competing in Olympic recurve, barebow, and compound bow divisions. Last year, the club hosted Alfred State and Pennsylvania College of Technology for RIT's first Stripes and Strings tournament.

Men's Rugby

Ric Kruszynski

Godfrey Pollydore

'23 (mechanical engineering technology)
Job: Mechanical engineer at WSP in Manhattan

As a high school football and track star, Godfrey Pollydore was bummed to find out that RIT doesn't have a football team. However, a few guys from the RIT Rugby Club told him to try out. Even though he had never played rugby before, he immediately fell in love with the sport and the club community. Today, he continues to play for the Old Blue Rugby Football Club of New York City, a premier USA Rugby team. He was also recruited for the Guyana national rugby union team and hopes to represent his country at the 2028 Summer Olympics.

By the numbers

49
club sports

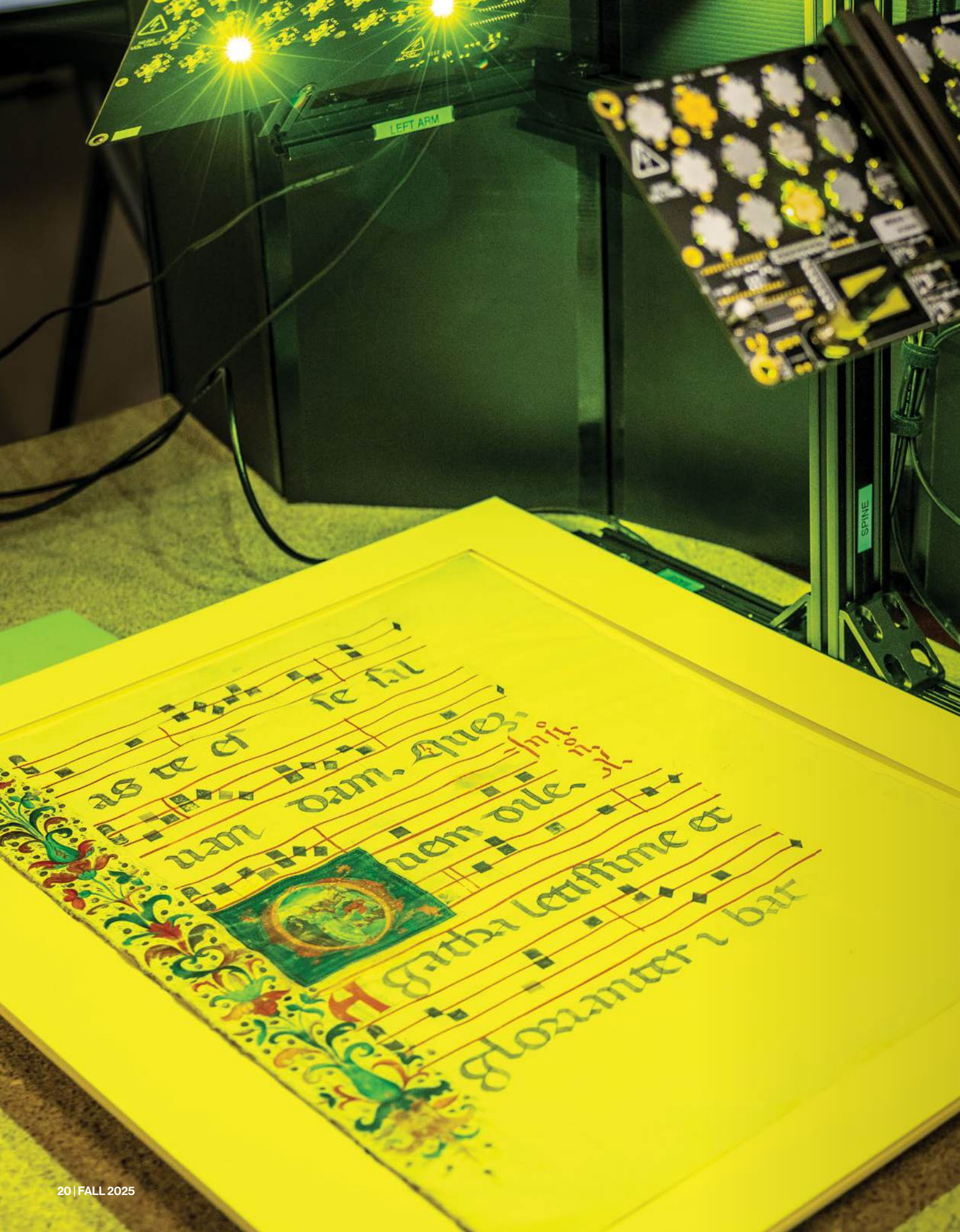
1,950
club sports athletes every year

17
states club sports competed in last year

12
clubs played in the post season last year

1
full-time athletic trainer dedicated to club sports

96%
of students say club sports improved their mental or physical health


LEFT ARM
SPINE

RIT innovation helps illuminate lost history

A system developed by RIT can photograph objects, like this leaf from a medieval antiphonary, across 16 wavelengths of light to uncover details invisible to the human eye.

In the late 2010s, cultural heritage and imaging researchers at RIT recognized a need.

The goal of libraries, museums, and archives around the world is to safeguard historical documents and artifacts for future generations. But some objects are damaged before coming into an institution's care, or they can deteriorate with time.

When text fades or illustrations are painted over, a scholar's understanding of the object's history is incomplete. There are imaging systems that can uncover those details, but they cost hundreds of thousands of dollars—much more than most institutions can afford.

Enter RIT's Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI) lab, run by experts from two thriving programs at RIT—imaging science and museum studies. Using funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the lab developed a relatively low-cost system that makes cultural heritage imaging methods more accessible.

The team officially launched Multispectral Imaging System for Historic Artifacts (MISHA) in 2024 with the release of the system and its open-source software. Since then, MISHA has visited institutions across the globe, like the United States Library of Congress, the Museum of Modern Art, University of São Paulo, and Bibliothèque nationale de France.

In South America, cultural heritage imaging helps National Library of Colombia employees gain a better understanding of the country's history. With support from RIT and the Whiting Foundation, the library acquired two MISHAs in 2024.

"We have a lot of books with redacted text, as well as deteriorated books, that we're now able to read," said Lucía Alviar Cerón, art conservator and restorer at the library. "We wouldn't be able to access the advanced systems that are much more expensive and difficult to use. With the help of RIT, MISHA has been very easy to use."

MISHA has been demonstrated at or loaned to more than 20 institutions in North and South America and Europe. Outside of RIT, 11 institutions have built their own MISHAs.

Juilee Decker, co-director of the CHI lab and museum studies program director, said forming these connections and increasing access to multispectral imaging can have a great impact on the cultural heritage field.

"MISHA is about reducing canonicity, to show that an object doesn't have to be incredibly prestigious or proven worthy enough to be imaged," Decker said. "It can be any object at any institution."

Photos by Traci Westcott '18

Cultural Heritage Imaging lab co-director David Messinger, center, explains how to build the system's hardware during the 2025 MISHA Summer Seminar.

Imaging science leaders

In the darkness of the CHI lab, bright LEDs flash in quick succession as a manuscript is imaged using MISHA. In less than a minute, the system takes 16 photos across 16 different wavelengths of light.

When the collection of images is combined in different ways, it can illuminate features that aren't visible to the human eye. This technique is called multispectral imaging.

Decker and CHI lab co-directors Roger Easton Jr. and David Messinger collaborated to develop MISHA with support from many students and research specialists. Kevin Sacca '16 (imaging science) and Tania Kleynhans '17 MS, '20 Ph.D. (imaging science) were key contributors during the early phases of MISHA's development.

Today, anyone interested in building a MISHA can access the blueprints and training materials free of charge.

Purchasing the hardware costs less than $10,000, a stark contrast to other systems that carry a six-digit price tag.

Scholars in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science have made contributions to cultural heritage research for over 25 years. Easton helped image and research several significant documents, including the Dead Sea Scrolls and palimpsests with erased text by Archimedes and from St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai.

"We've been able to image a lot of important documents ourselves, but we can't do it all," said Easton. "Now, there are scholars across the world who can do this themselves."

Multispectral imaging is one technique used within the multi-disciplinary field of imaging science. Imaging scientists combine physics, math, computer science, and engineering to develop imaging systems for satellites, drones, augmented and virtual reality, and more.

In addition to cultural heritage, multispectral imaging has been used to support the precision agriculture and aerospace industries.

Creating a system that catered to humanities scholars was an inviting challenge for Messinger, professor and Xerox Chair in the Center for Imaging Science. However, overcoming the challenge required working across disciplines.

"When you bring multiple perspectives together, you find solutions to problems that no one individual could find on their own," he said. "Checking our egos and respecting each other's expertise allows us to learn from one another as we focus on the bigger picture."

RIT's museum studies program takes an interdisciplinary, technology-infused approach to the field that prepares students for careers in museums, libraries, archives, and other cultural organizations. One of the few undergraduate museum studies programs in the nation, alumni can be found at organizations like the Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, the National Archives, and National Geographic.

Keeping both imaging science and museum studies students involved is a priority for the CHI lab. Students have worked with MISHA since the original system prototype, which was developed in 2020 by a team of first-year students in an Innovative Freshman Experience course.

Sam Casimir, a third-year museum studies and English double major from Lewisburg, Pa., said working with MISHA fed her technical curiosity and bolstered her confidence.

"When I meet people established in the field, there's often a moment of shock when I realize that my skills can help advance their research," said Casimir. "Contributing to the advent of a tool like MISHA as an undergraduate student is really valuable."

Juilee Decker, right, demonstrates MISHA for representatives from the National Library of Colombia. **Lucía Alviar Cerón**, center, **Maria Helena Vargas**, left, and **Angelica Avella** visited RIT in 2025 for training. In 2024, three other library employees visited RIT and brought back two systems for permanent use in Colombia.

During a visit to the Memorial Art Gallery, the RIT team showed curators MISHA's preliminary findings minutes after the initial images were captured.

Grgo.Jelavic

Izzy Moyer '24 received a 2024 Fulbright Scholarship to continue MISHA outreach with the State Archive in Dubrovnik.

Being part of the MISHA team gives fourth-year museum studies student **Bella Paniccia** direct hands-on experience serving local institutions.

Expanding access

With delicate expertise, Bella Paniccia assembles MISHA and prepares it for use at the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) of the University of Rochester. Once a manuscript is placed beneath MISHA's array of LED panels, Paniccia lowers a curtain to cut off external light while the system gets to work. The process has become almost second nature for the fourth-year museum studies major.

Bringing MISHA to local institutions for demonstrations is vital for outreach and education efforts.

"These visits help me learn what's expected and how to communicate when you go into a professional space," said Paniccia, a Rochester native. "I've met people working at cultural heritage institutions around the world because of MISHA."

When selecting manuscripts to image, Nancy Norwood, curator of European art at MAG, identified a leaf from a medieval antiphonary—a book of music used by a liturgical choir—as a good candidate. Due to the odd placement and theme of an illuminated initial on the leaf, she suspected it may have been added at a later date.

While imaging didn't give immediate answers, it sparked new questions that can guide exploration into the object's history. Enabling that exploration through non-invasive and non-destructive means, Norwood emphasized, is an invaluable service.

"The history of an object is like its life story. Exploring that story—what happened to an object in the 700 years since it was created—expands our knowledge of not just the object but the period in which it was created and the culture and people who used it," she said.

To support international outreach, the CHI lab hosted its first Cultural Heritage Imaging & Innovation Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in early 2025. The conference highlighted how imaging technologies can be integrated into cultural heritage research.

Izzy Moyer '24 (museum studies) helped coordinate the conference.

After working in the CHI lab for two years, Moyer received a 2024 Fulbright Scholarship to continue MISHA outreach with the State Archive in Dubrovnik. She delivered a MISHA there as a student and, as part of her Fulbright, she provided training and helped the archival team image collection objects. The conference was key in accomplishing her scholarship goal of spreading awareness about the value of cultural heritage imaging.

At the end of the conference, Moyer demonstrated MISHA for attendees. She said the excitement people have seeing MISHA for the first time reenergizes her.

"It sounds like a fantastical idea from a movie like *National Treasure*. But once people see it, they realize they can do it too. It's like lifting the veil to show our magician secrets," said Moyer.

Another large-scale outreach effort closer to home was the 2025 MISHA Summer Seminar. While the seminar was originally funded through a terminated NEH grant, alumnus Peter Blacksberg '75 (photography) and the estate of Catherine Carlson supported bringing 25 humanities practitioners and scholars to RIT for a week of hands-on training.

The seminar was an opportunity for growth for Alec Rouleau, a third-year museum studies student from Rochester. Seeing the varied backgrounds of attendees was eye-opening for her.

"Before working in the lab, this wasn't a field that I saw myself in," she said. "Meeting everyone helped me realize how many different ways I can use my skills with imaging."

International hub

Decker, Easton, and Messinger emphasize that the future of MISHA will be co-created. As more institutions use MISHA, researchers propose new questions to explore.

Dot Porter, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies curator of digital humanities, is in the early stages of building a MISHA at University of Pennsylvania. She plans to use it in her Vitale II Media Lab, which is focused on experimental, collaborative research centered on book history and digital humanities.

Multispectral imaging has been on Porter's radar for years, but securing an imaging system was never financially feasible.

"The combination of the price and simplicity of the system was the selling point," said Porter. "MISHA made it affordable to be experimental with multispectral imaging."

In addition to continuing outreach, Decker, Easton, and Messinger aim to increase MISHA's capabilities. With support from Tom Rieger '74 (photography), Professor of Practice in museum studies, they are exploring how 3D printing can enhance MISHA's hardware. The team is also prototyping MISHA 3D, which can image three-dimensional objects.

A prototype for MISHA 3D was created through Kate Gleason College of Engineering's Multidisciplinary Senior Design program. Lilli Kelley '25 (computer engineering) helped develop the new system software and joined the CHI lab after graduation to continue her work. This experience inspired her to pursue a master's degree in imaging science at RIT.

"I'm thrilled to have found a place where I can combine my technical skills and creative interests," said Kelley, from Charles Town, W. Va. "The most gratifying part is being able to contribute my skills toward something that does good in the world."

Ultimately, the lab's goal is to make RIT and Rochester an international hub for cultural heritage research. A key element to this, Decker said, is ensuring institutions of all sizes can benefit from MISHA.

"The opportunity to gain access to information that has been lost or unknown to current audiences inspires curiosity. We want to afford that opportunity to people across the world," said Decker. "I'm excited to see what we can all do together."

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

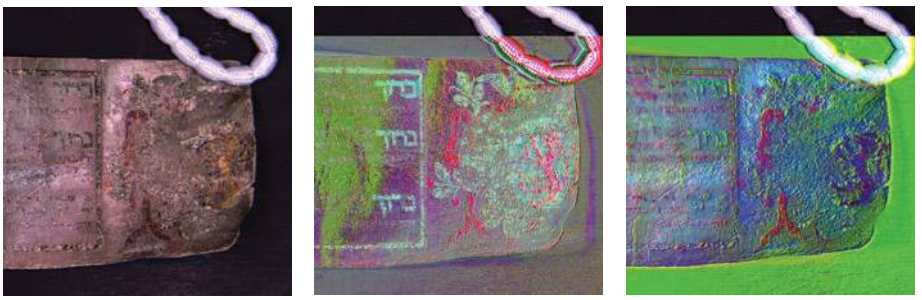
Lilli Kelley '25 helped develop a prototype for MISHA 3D. Kelley, left, explains the new system to Professor of Practice **Tom Rieger '74**, right, during the summer seminar.

See MISHA in action

rit.edu/exploremisha

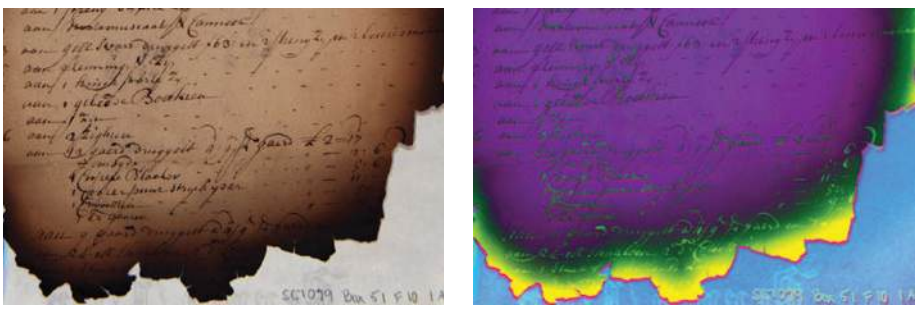
MISHA's discoveries

MISHA helps reveal details that are invisible to the naked eye. As scholars image collection objects, their discoveries spark new research questions. Below are three examples of objects imaged by MISHA.



***The Book of Esther* scroll – Cary Graphic Arts Collection, RIT**

The first illustration and text panels of this scroll were worn away over time. MISHA revealed the lost text and identified features from a coat of arms that enabled Curator Shani Avni, in collaboration with Jewish scholars Sharon Liberman Mintz, Dagmara Budzioch, and Yoel Finkelman, to re-date the scroll's creation from the 8th century to the mid-to-late 18th century.



Charred documents—New York State Library, Van Rensselaer Manor Papers

In 1911, a fire raged through the New York State Capitol, destroying or badly damaging thousands of books, manuscripts, and other documents. The remaining damaged objects were later transferred to the New York State Archives. MISHA illuminated some of the lost text on these charred fragments, which can be seen in green on the right.

***Certificates and Testimonials* (*Fides et attestata*), Volume 7, 1792–1794 — State Archive in Dubrovnik**

This object was selected for imaging after archivist Paula Zglav noticed traces of lettering on the volume's binding cover. MISHA revealed that, before being repurposed for binding, the document was a ship's certificate issued to Captain Stjepan Valjalo. Further processing revealed the name of the ship and the identity of Valjalo, while subsequent archival research uncovered the list of crew members and the captain's full story.

MANIFESTING quar

Quantum technologies are poised to reshape industries like communication, computing, and security. RIT has used its strength in optics to create a quantum communication network utilizing quantum photonic microchips, as seen here.

Photos by Carlos Ortiz

ntum

How RIT researchers are navigating the next frontier of physics

In 1925, German physicist Werner Heisenberg published a paper on quantum mechanics, upending classical physics and launching the world into the quantum age.

Now, 100 years later, researchers across RIT's campus are utilizing quantum in a variety of disciplines to continue to push the boundaries in science, engineering, and technology.

While classic physics explains the behavior of objects in everyday life, quantum mechanics examines how atoms and light interact on the nanoscale. Studying matter in its smallest form is complex, which is why understanding quantum has only really begun in the past century.

RIT researchers are zeroing in on quantum photonics, the creation, control, and detection of light. Photonics has long been a specialty of the university. RIT led the team that developed the first quantum photonic wafer, which is key to the future of mass-produced quantum communication systems.

"Using photons the way that we formerly used electrons is going to make everything smaller, cheaper, faster, better," said Ryne Raffaelle, vice president for Research.

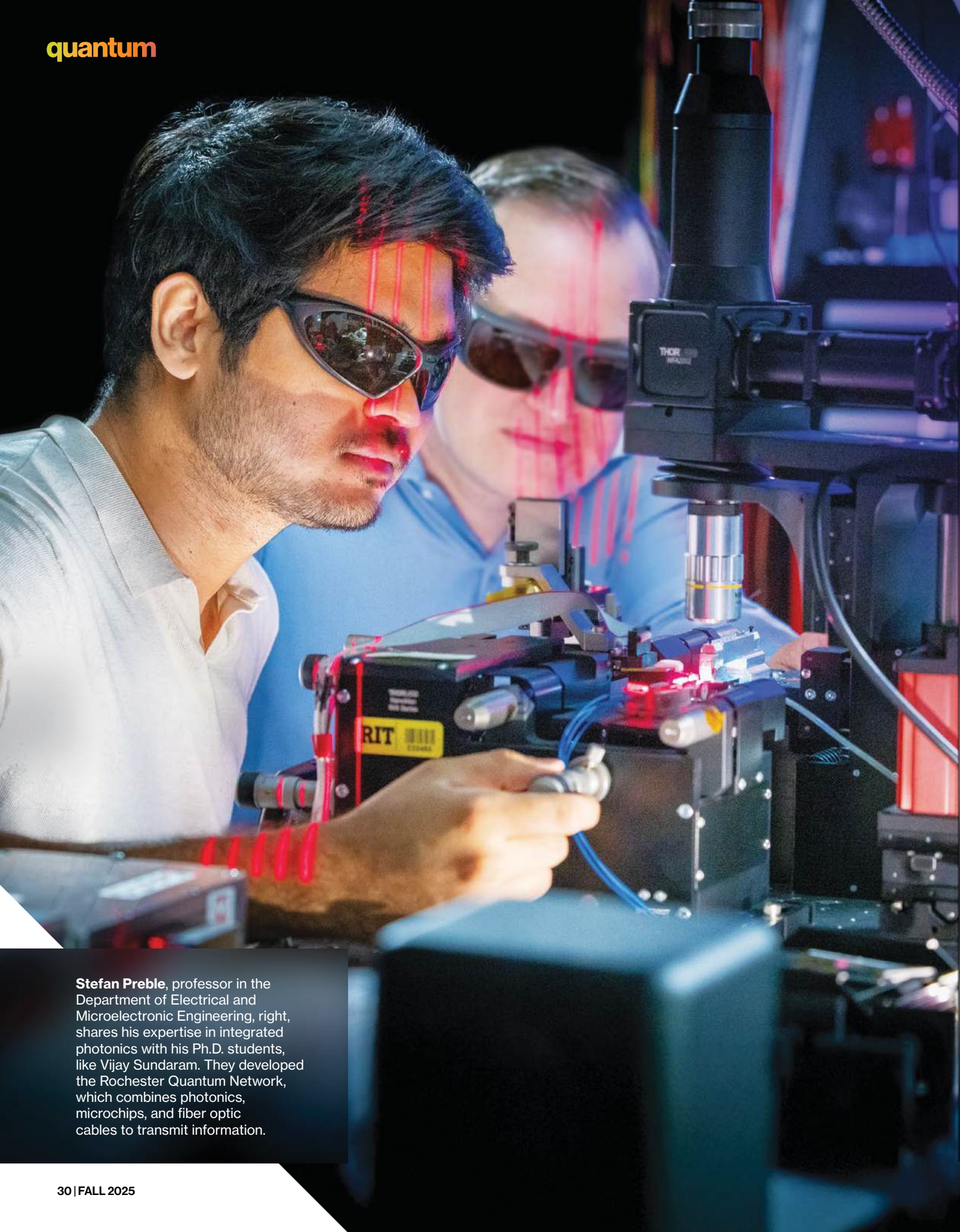
Researchers are also putting quantum theory into action with the goal of building quantum computing systems. At the same time, experts must prepare for cybersecurity threats in the quantum era.

"Quantum has been worked on and theorized for a long time, and we are at the point where it is manifesting," Raffaelle said.

In other words, RIT researchers are taking theory imagined in old science fiction movies and engineering it into reality. See how on the pages that follow.

Why study quantum?

If researchers can figure out how to control the unpredictable nature of atomic and subatomic particles and waves, they will be able to solve complex problems that are too difficult for current computing systems. This could include drug discovery; optimization of supply chains, logistics, and energy grids; and enhanced artificial intelligence.



Stefan Preble, professor in the Department of Electrical and Microelectronic Engineering, right, shares his expertise in integrated photonics with his Ph.D. students, like Vijay Sundaram. They developed the Rochester Quantum Network, which combines photonics, microchips, and fiber optic cables to transmit information.

Rochester's optics legacy powers the quantum future

Computers have always been an interest of Stefan Preble '02 (electrical engineering), professor in the Department of Electrical and Microelectronic Engineering.

In the early internet days, Preble was tying up his parents' phone line so much they got him his own dedicated line. Fast forward, and now Preble is working to change the world of internet communication with an experimental quantum network.

Through a partnership with the University of Rochester, the Rochester Quantum Network (RoQNET) is an 11-mile network that uses single photons to transmit information between the two campuses along fiber optic lines. While quantum communication networks exist around the country and the world, this is the first centered on quantum photonic chips.

Quantum communication networks have the ability to change the way information is sent and received because they provide a more secure network where messages cannot be cloned or intercepted without detection.

Quantum bits, or qubits, make these networks possible. Qubits can be created in numerous ways, but photons (individual particles of light) are proving to be the best type of qubits for communication networks because they can be transmitted over already existing fiber optic lines.

With its legendary history in optics, the Rochester region was the ideal place to make a photonics-based quantum network a reality.

"Rochester has always been a significant contributor to optics, so who else is going to do it?" said Preble. "It's on us to establish this and hopefully it will be a legacy down the line when we have these quantum technologies."

The region's expertise in microchip technology has also positioned RIT to be a leader in quantum communication. Sophisticated microchips are needed to process the photonic quantum states.

In 2020, Preble and a team of RIT's Future Photon Initiative researchers collaborated with the Air Force Research Laboratory to produce the Department of Defense's first-ever fully integrated quantum photonic wafer.

Wafers are used to mass produce integrated circuits or microchips and help with research in quantum photonics. The wafers allow for experiments that need a large, optical table to be scaled down to a tiny microchip, making it possible to explore bigger, more complex systems, specifically in quantum computing.

Preble's expertise in integrated photonics dates back to his days as an undergraduate student, where he first became interested in quantum. After completing his bachelor's degree at RIT, Preble attended Cornell University to receive his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering, where he was introduced to the new field of silicon photonics.

While light circuitry on a microchip had been investigated previously, it wasn't being done on silicon at the time. Nanostructures made with silicon were well developed for the electronics industry, so being able to adapt the same material for photonics allowed it to scale up commercially very rapidly.

Once Preble started job searching, a position at RIT in silicon photonics came to his attention. He applied, was hired, and now he is pushing the world of quantum silicon photonics forward.

"I was compelled by the silicon photonics research of my Ph.D. adviser, and I was attracted to the fact that I could combine my ongoing interest in quantum with the newly emerging field of photonic microchips," said Preble. "Microchips are able to address the challenges of scaling quantum photonic systems."

As the graduate program director of the microsystems engineering Ph.D. program, Preble guides the next generation that will keep moving quantum technology forward.

One such student, Vijay Sundaram '21 MS (physics), was the lead author for a RoQNET paper that was published in *Optica Quantum*. Like many kids, Sundaram wanted to be an astronaut when he got older, so he went into aerospace engineering in his home nation of India, but he shifted to physics for his master's degree at RIT.

During that graduate program, he discovered that astrophysics is math intensive, with a lot of work in computer simulation. Sundaram was more interested in experimental science and being in a lab. A quantum optics course steered him in the direction of microsystems engineering, where he is now on the forefront of a budding new field.

Sundaram recognizes that the first fully working quantum computer could be decades away, but his work now and in his future career makes it a possibility. Private companies like IBM and Google, and public entities like the Air Force, are already working toward a quantum future. There is a wide range of career opportunities for Sundaram in quantum technology.

"There's quantum for finance, for security, for communication," Sundaram explained. "You can apply this to pretty much everything. The applications are endless."

Just as it was fortuitous that Preble entered a Ph.D. program as a new field was growing, now Sundaram and Preble's other advisees can get involved in quantum as it begins to shape the world.

"Each one of my students has gone on to great success," said Preble. "They are at top research institutions in the world and leading global research. Working with students is the most rewarding aspect of this job."

Mollie Radzinski

What is photonics?

Photonics is the study of light and its uses. A photon is a single particle of light. Photons are quantum particles because they are the smallest units of light.

Experts prepare for cyber threats in the next era

Quantum technology is going to have at least one unintended consequence—cybersecurity threats.

Quantum computers will make many of the cryptographic methods used in today's secure systems obsolete. While quantum-resistant cryptography is being developed, the changeover process will still put many of the systems that people use every day at risk.

At RIT, cybersecurity researchers are preparing for a world with powerful quantum computers by making systems more reliable and safer. Most notably, faculty and student experts are improving the security of connected vehicles. In the process, the team hopes to reduce deaths on the road.

"Quantum-resistant algorithms will eventually help, but they aren't just plug and play—that could break the whole system," said Hanif Rahbari, associate professor of cybersecurity. "The transition from classical cryptography to post-quantum crypto needs to be done with no interruption to the function of systems. People aren't going to sit at home and wait."

Rahbari began researching vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication nearly a decade ago. When equipped with this technology, vehicles can wirelessly exchange speed data, location, and alarms to improve traffic flow and prevent accidents. Cryptographic integrity and authenticity are essential for ensuring that messages between vehicles are not malicious.

During his first years at RIT, Rahbari was approached by a group of mathematics and cryptography researchers from the University of Waterloo, Canada. They were developing quantum-resistant algorithms and wanted Rahbari's expertise.

"At first, I wasn't sure how I could contribute to quantum—it felt distant from where I was," said Rahbari. "But not everyone needs to know everything about quantum to be able to work in this multidisciplinary field. We need complementary expertise to collaborate and tackle these problems."

Right away, the team saw that quantum-resistant algorithms could disrupt the safety benefits of connected vehicles. These algorithms bring about a lot of bandwidth, latency, and other overhead issues. For systems with constraints, adding post-quantum crypto could be disruptive and even exploited by attackers.

Up on the third floor of RIT's ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute, Rahbari's research group is putting systems and protocols to the test. The work is part of his prestigious NSF CAREER award, a five-year grant.

While the researchers don't have 100 cars to test on real roads, they are developing an interactive digital twin as a measurement framework. The simulation resembles a racing video game and mirrors the real world.

Geoff Twardokus, an electrical and computer engineering Ph.D. student leading the work, also enjoys using RIT's Faraday Lab. The lab is a radio frequency-shielded space for safe wireless security experiments.

"We're building up to a gold standard of real-world hardware experiments with actual V2V equipment that would be installed in cars," said Twardokus, who is also a 2021 alumnus from RIT's cybersecurity BS/MS programs. "We want to make sure that we can adopt this security without crippling the system that it's supposed to protect."

Congress has passed the Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act to encourage the transition to quantum-resistant cryptography. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is currently searching for better cryptographic algorithms designed to withstand cyber-attacks enabled by quantum computers.

RIT's team is measuring the impact of different candidates. In 2022, Rahbari, Twardokus, and University of Waterloo experts published research that shed light on the implications of post-quantum cryptography on V2V. That work was cited by NIST in standardizing algorithms.

As a Ph.D. student hoping to become a faculty-researcher in the future, Twardokus noted that the quantum security problem is much broader than vehicle communications. For example, many networking and industrial control systems that manage utilities infrastructure have similar constraints.

"Quantum is an important direction for us to focus on in cybersecurity," he said. "You can develop a really fast quantum chip, but that could actually hurt us more than help us if we don't properly prepare to combat those who might abuse it."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

What is cryptography?

In computing, cryptography is the process of using codes or algorithms to secure information. Cryptographic integrity ensures that messages haven't been corrupted or tampered with by unauthorized parties. In the quantum computing era, cryptographic mechanisms will need to be more complex.

Ph.D. student Geoff Twardokus, left, and **Hanif Rahbari**, associate professor of cybersecurity, are creating a virtual replica of connected vehicles that traverse the roadways. Using this digital twin, they can put quantum-resistant cryptography to the test.

Doctoral student **Elijah Wangeman**, left, and **Sonia Lopez Alarcon**, professor of computer engineering, show preliminary information on quantum interfaces, the routing elements required to understand how data would be moved and processed on quantum systems.

Engineers route the best path for quantum computing

When Sonia Lopez Alarcon took a sabbatical as a visiting scholar at NASA in 2018, she sought to discover more about quantum computing. She knew that before quantum technologies could be used in space, they needed to be further developed on Earth.

Lopez Alarcon, who was based at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, worked with engineers and scientists who used high-tech computers to decipher intricate trajectory calculations and complex climate models.

"At the time, NASA was interested in understanding if quantum computing could effectively solve some of these problems," she said. "This was very early exploratory work, mostly based on discussions and research related to quantum computing. It served as great examples of what we hope can be done in the future when research advances to practical applications."

Today, Lopez Alarcon, a professor of computer engineering, is using her NASA experience—as well as her background in physics, integrated circuits, and computer architecture—to develop core computing functions to bring about those applications.

One of those functional areas is routing—how data moves across quantum computer systems. Figuring out how to move information through qubits—the quantum version of computer bits—puts researchers one step closer to building a quantum computing system that would allow people to work smarter and faster.

"The way that you tell electrons how to move is through high-level programming," said Lopez Alarcon. "But there is still this challenge that is very much a computer engineering and a computer architecture challenge of how you control these quantum systems from a high-level programming language."

In one of the many projects underway, Lopez Alarcon and her students are using machine learning to map optimal routes qubits must take along computer circuits. It is part of a new, three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) award that focuses on quantum compilation and routing to develop quantum circuits on specific computing architectures.

"The routing problem is a very big optimization problem where information from one part of the computing device must move to other parts of the device. It is computationally very intensive," said Lopez Alarcon.

Electrical and computer engineering Ph.D. student Elijah Wangeman '25 (computer science) likes that intensity.

As an undergraduate, he took several classes with Lopez Alarcon, including three master's level courses in quantum physics. He was hooked.

He came to RIT intending to become an astrophysicist, but his pivot toward quantum computing was not so much a shift away from one science but a shift toward combining interests in a growing field. It's a field he can contribute to as a student and later as a researcher at a company or lab.

"As a computer scientist, the focus of my degree is language theory systems, and one of the core aspects is how programming languages, or compilation, works—how you get from the language used to program to the actual instructions that are delivered to the chip. This is so relevant to computer engineering and is relevant to quantum computing," said Wangeman.

"If you want to work in quantum, it is dependent on you knowing so many things—the level of the infrastructure, the theoretical physics of quantum, and the mechanics," he added. "RIT is a leader in computer science, computer engineering, software development, and cybersecurity. We have a unique opportunity to combine all these skills in quantum research being done here."

Contributions that Wangeman and Lopez Alarcon will make are part of a larger, national effort to move quantum systems from theory to practice.

When Lopez Alarcon met with NSF program managers in fall 2024, she was among a large group of faculty-researchers from U.S. universities discussing their new grants and celebrating the 100-year anniversary of quantum theory. She and her peers were asked to consider the exciting possibilities their work might reveal a century later.

"Quantum technology is such an interdisciplinary domain and so many fields have a place in the quantum computing big picture," Lopez Alarcon said. "We are building this from many perspectives, and it is an open opportunity for us as engineers and for our students."

Michelle Cometa '00

What are qubits?

Qubits are bits of information implemented, stored, and manipulated by quantum means. Scientists are trying to corral and then scale qubits, the way transistors were developed and then improved over time to become the main components of classical computers.

Ben Zwickl, professor of physics and astronomy, is making sure RIT students are prepared to succeed in the emerging industry of quantum.

Researchers map quantum education efforts nationwide

As quantum continues to evolve from theory to application, an educated workforce is needed to scale up manufacturing and to adopt these tools in a range of industries, including aerospace, pharma, finance, and biomedicine.

Backed by funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, a research team led by Professor Ben Zwickl has mapped where quantum courses can be found at higher education institutions across the country. The team is also in the process of interviewing quantum industry professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the landscape and needs of the quantum workforce.

"In order to grow quantum technology, you need people that know how to make, design, and build that technology," said Zwickl. "There is a direct call to research the landscape of education opportunities in quantum science and quantum technology, to understand the jobs that are out there, and to bridge the gap between school and work."

After a year of research, Zwickl and his team have created a database of all quantum courses offered at nearly 1,500 higher education institutions. At the end of the study, their goal is to have a more comprehensive picture of the quantum information science and engineering (QISE) education landscape. With this clear picture, guidance can be given to make the path into QISE more transparent for students from all backgrounds.

Zwickl is also an adviser for an interdisciplinary minor in quantum information science and technology at RIT. Enrollment has grown every semester since it launched in fall 2022, he said.

The minor is highly interdisciplinary in nature, with faculty from the College of Science, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, College of Engineering Technology, College of Liberal Arts, and Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences offering classes that count toward the minor.

Classes available in the minor include introductions to quantum computing and other quantum technologies, linear algebra (the mathematical language of quantum computing), optics and lasers, quantum optics, quantum-resistant cryptography, photonic integrated circuits, and course options on ethics and technology.

With these offerings and research knowledge, RIT finds itself well poised to help fill the future quantum workforce.

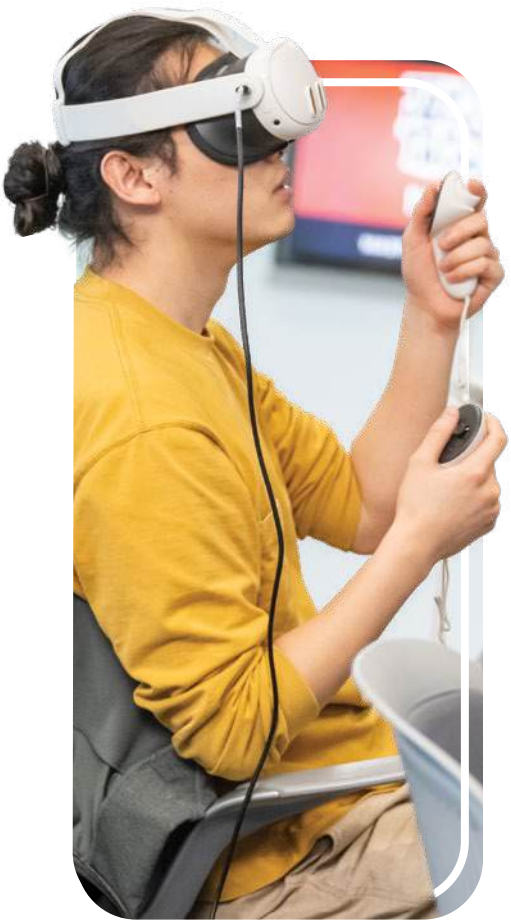
"We continue to develop the coursework in the minor with plans to grow it," added Zwickl. "Quantum is where things are changing, and there's a huge opportunity. It is becoming much more accessible for students from different majors, and we have courses at RIT that are part of that shift."

Mollie Radzinski

Scott Hamilton '89

Give back to move

RIT Forward.



Now more than ever, Tigers are channeling creativity, furthering innovation, and charting their own course to a bolder and better future. This is RIT's time, and your investment in our future can help us go further than ever before.

Join nearly 1,000 changemakers who have made the pledge to invest in the present and future of RIT for years to come.

Make your pledge today.

School of Interactive Games and Media graduate student Tsingtao Zhang uses virtual reality goggles while designing a game at MAGIC Spell Studios.

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RIT TIGER CREATES CA
CARING FOR CARNIVO

Lions, tigers, and bears—that's the everyday reality for Seneca Park Zookeeper Brenna De Angelis '16 (biology), a Rochester native who now works with the animals she grew up visiting.

De Angelis didn't really know what she wanted to do for her future career until the experiences she had while at RIT led her to zookeeping.

"I knew I was good at biology and good at science, so I said, 'Let me go to RIT and get my undergrad,'" said De Angelis.

During that time, she took an internship at the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester. She remembers one of the first days she got to touch a rhino—and that's the moment she could foresee her future career. After the internship, De Angelis continued to volunteer at the zoo once a week, and once a position opened a few months after she graduated from RIT, it was a natural fit.

As part of the carnivore team, De Angelis is the lead penguin keeper and the lead trainer for one of the California sea lions. Any given day she can be called on to assist with any animal in her department, whether that be the snow leopard, the red panda, the lions, the tiger, or the polar bear. Training sessions with the animals are the biggest part of her job. She makes sure the animals are active and engaged while balancing all their individual personalities and needs. The job also includes cleaning, food preparation, and continuing education.

Experiences while a student at RIT set De Angelis up for success. She had the chance to travel to the Galápagos Islands for a study abroad class with Emeritus Professor Robert Rothman—one of hundreds of students who had the opportunity to do so.

"Falling in love with the sea lions down in the Galápagos really made me want to pursue this path even more than I already had decided at that point," said De Angelis.

Getting outside to the High Acres Nature Area with Professor Christy Tyler showed De Angelis that she didn't want to be in a lab but wanted to spend hands-on time out in the field. Her specialized classes, like those learning about ornithology and invertebrates, helped provide familiarity with different species.

Outside of the classroom, De Angelis was involved in RIT's student-run radio station WITR. De Angelis deejayed for WITR, became the programming director her senior year, and even continued to DJ after she graduated.

"It really helped develop my public speaking, which is a huge thing in the zoo world," said De Angelis. "More and more, you're finding you have to do public education and telling people about conservation and trying to get people to care. You have to make it meaningful."

Her work with RIT has continued while in her role as zookeeper. Two years ago, she went to Madagascar with coworker Tom Snyder, director of programming and conservation action, and RIT Professor Tony

Big cats, like Katya the Amur tiger, are susceptible to COVID, just like humans. To keep them safe, caretakers wear masks to avoid spreading illness.

Photos by Carlos Ortiz

REER RES

Vodacek to conduct research that was then replicated at the zoo during the April 2024 solar eclipse.

Zookeeping is a competitive career with a lot of applicants for very few roles. For those interested in following De Angelis's career path, her advice is simple.

"The biggest thing is to get your foot in the door, however you can."

Mollie Radzinski

Brenna De Angelis '16 was led to zookeeping after experiences she had as a student. She now works at the Seneca Park Zoo.

These penguins are African, so they enjoy warm summer temperatures, unlike the arctic members of their species. All animals have distinct personalities, like Gizmo, who De Angelis says likes to be held like a house cat.

Carlos Ortiz

Jason Blythe '02, '05 MFA oversees efforts to make it easier for Amazon Prime Video's 250 million subscribers to find content.

Blythe takes digital user experience to next level

As a design leader in the tech sector, Jason Blythe '02 (graphic design), '05 MFA (visual communication design) has built a career anticipating and enhancing the way in which people use technology to search for information, shop online, and stream sports and entertainment.

Blythe joined Amazon Prime Video in early 2025 to lead a new User Experience (UX) division, composed of 30 designers, engineers, and product and project managers focused on user research, design features,

NTID alumnus is driven to lead

Blake Trauger '06 (applied mechanical technology), '08 (mechanical engineering technology) has spent the last decade building a career in manufacturing leadership at Mack Trucks.

As a business team leader at the company's Pennsylvania plant, Trauger oversees operations on the cab-over line, where the refuse collection trucks are assembled, with a focus on safety, quality, and delivery.

"It's very similar to an operations manager role," he explained. "I'm responsible for making sure the line runs smoothly, ensuring safety and maintaining the quality of our trucks from frame to finish."

Trauger has worked for major global companies, including at Avery Dennison, where he led training and development projects across Europe, Asia, and the United States. He believes these experiences taught him how to communicate and collaborate across cultures—and how to succeed as a deaf professional in predominantly hearing environments.

"RIT and NTID prepared me well," he said. "At NTID, I met international students, adapted to different learning styles, and built confidence. All of this prepared me to navigate the professional world, especially when I was often the only deaf person in the room."

Trauger is also proud of his advocacy work for accessibility and inclusion. He's actively involved in Mack Trucks' Diverse Abilities Network, which supports employees with a range of disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

"We have around 40 deaf employees companywide," he said. "It's really exciting to see sign language being used in the workplace. In fact, we even have deaf employees from Brazil, and I started learning Brazilian Sign Language on a work trip to that country. That kind of environment allows everyone to thrive."

Trauger maintains a strong connection with NTID and visits campus frequently. As a result, he is continuing to expand internship opportunities for deaf students at Mack Trucks.

"NTID was such a foundational experience. I made lifelong friends there," he said. "We still keep in touch—we're all over the country, but we're still connected."

and technology. As the UX director, Blythe oversees efforts to improve Prime's personalization, search capability, and content discovery for its more than 250 million subscribers.

Indispensable user data helps to improve digital interfaces and features, such as Prime's viewer recommendations. User behaviors, histories, and preferences give design and technology teams the big picture of subscriber activity. Likewise, Blythe said, zooming in on anonymous user behavior humanizes the data and lends insights that can also apply to the larger subscriber base.

Blythe gives an example from his previous 13 years working at Google, where he led design teams in Google Search Ads, Google Shopping, and Google Image Search/Video Search and rose to UX Director for Google Search Labs.

He redesigned Google's homepage and search results page, and often facilitated sessions with his team, filtering anonymous search data to use as case studies for improving search results.

A search that began with a query of men's dress shirts, for example, led a user to click on an article from *Gentleman's Quarterly* about what to wear at a job interview.

"Ten minutes later, presumably after they had read the article, they did another query about how to tie a tie," Blythe said. "You start to get a sense of what's going on with the user in the moment."

Comparing the query results with the user's selections can provide useful information for improving a particular type of search.

"Then you analyze 100 more sessions, and you come up with 100 different answers," he said. "For me, that's when the design process begins. I try to see the users in the human context. That gives me the best knowledge about what's working well and what we need to fix to make the users' journey better for them."

Today, Blythe looks to user behavior to measure the success of digital tools built for exploring the Prime library. Direct user feedback further helps his teams refine new products.

"A big part is stepping back from all of that and having some intuition and vision about where the product should be in the future," he said.

An active alumnus, Blythe maintains strong ties to RIT as a member of the College of Art and Design's National Council and as an invited speaker.

Because of him, Google representatives attend RIT's Creative Industry Days and encourage a pipeline of RIT design students. He hopes to do the same with Amazon Prime Video in the future.

"I wanted to support Creative Industry Days because they didn't exist when I was a student," Blythe said. "These kinds of experiences and feedback are really important to students."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

From a management and mentorship perspective, Trauger credits his time at NTID for shaping his leadership style. "College taught me that everyone has different learning styles and communication preferences," he said. "As a manager, I try to adapt to each person I work with. It's a two-way street."

And as a lifelong learner, Trauger practices what he preaches. In addition to his RIT degrees, he has earned a master's degree in manufacturing systems engineering from Lehigh University and is now working toward his MBA at Kutztown University.

"I never want to be limited. I'm always motivated to learn something new—and to help others succeed, too."

Vienna McGrain '12 MS

Louise Moyer

Blake Trauger '06, '08 enjoys his leadership role at Mack Trucks, where he oversees operations on one of the manufacturing lines.

Erica McCarthy '03 found her niche designing medical simulation tools to support women's healthcare. Here, she poses with the Miya Model Pelvic Surgery Training Model.

McCarthy develops groundbreaking

Mammography screening for breast cancer is recommended for all women over 40 years old in the United States, which is roughly 25 percent of the population. But, when it comes to learning the procedure, there is a lack of simulation tools to help train practitioners.

Erica (Neadom) McCarthy '03 (medical illustration), president of Bloom Medical Simulation, aims to meet this need. Bloom's flagship product, MammoVest, is the first and only anatomically correct training tool for breast positioning in mammography, providing access to hands-on training without using a real patient.

"Research shows that 10 to 30 percent of breast cancers can be missed by mammography due to positioning errors," said McCarthy. "A tool like MammoVest can help save the lives of women around the world."

Bloom is a division of One World Design and Manufacturing Group (OW DMG), which offers advanced educational products and simulations of complex drug delivery systems and human anatomy models. Founded in 2025, McCarthy's division finds gaps in medical education tools, with a focus on women's healthcare, and creates high-fidelity medical simulators and task trainers.

"The work we do gives practitioners a chance to physically walk through the steps, gain muscle memory, and ask questions along the way—a chance to learn and make mistakes," said McCarthy.

McCarthy was hired at OW DMG as a medical illustrator and quickly grew with the company. This growth was made possible through years of studying human anatomy, performing cadaver dissections, and observing and illustrating surgeries as a student at RIT. McCarthy added that woodworking, sculpting, and 3D-modeling

McCarthy demonstrates MammoVest for practitioners at Rochester Regional Health, a partner of RIT.

Photos by Traci Westcott '18

mammography tool

classes also aided her success.

"The education I received at RIT was so varied. It really built up my confidence to go out and innovate," she said.

Prior to MammoVest, McCarthy designed simulation tools like the PELVIC Mentor for Surgical Science, the Bladder Catheterization Simulator for Erler-Zimmer, and the Miya Model Pelvic Surgery Training Model for Miyazaki Enterprises.

MammoVest was originally concepted for Hologic, one of the world's largest manufacturers of mammography equipment. To avoid using a real person to market their new compression paddle at an industry convention, Hologic asked McCarthy to design a demonstration model.

"The attention the MammoVest prototype got in that booth was incredible. Mammography technologists told us that they were looking for a tool like this their entire lives," said McCarthy.

In response to demand, Bloom began a pilot program for MammoVest and sold 29 prototype units in seven countries. In 2020, McCarthy received a National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovation Research grant to fully develop the tool. Now, it continues to be employed worldwide.

McCarthy's passion is to explore solutions that enhance the delivery of women's healthcare. Another simulator in development, EpisioPants, will help practitioners gain more experience performing and repairing episiotomy, a procedure only conducted in emergency childbirth situations.

"Practitioners learn these procedures in school, but they don't get much of a chance to practice," she said. "Our goal is to contribute to this sphere in a very focused way."

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

When he accepted his position as CEO of Pacific Telecommunications Council, **Brian Moon '00** and his family relocated to Honolulu and fully embraced island life and culture.

Grad connects the globe

Marco Garcia

When Brian Moon '00 (communication) says he works in telecommunications, people often think of old-fashioned phone lines and dial-up internet. However, he explains, the industry helps drive innovation in digital infrastructure across the globe, connecting communities and opening new opportunities in sectors like healthcare, education, and business.

As the CEO of Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC), Moon is proud to help foster community in an industry that makes a tangible impact.

"Whether you call it technology, telecommunication, or digital infrastructure, it's making the world a better place by connecting as many people as possible," said Moon.

PTC is a not-for-profit member organization based in Honolulu that brings together global leaders in information and communication technologies. Its roots in Hawai`i date back 48 years. PTC's founders convened a meeting of business and government officials to pitch Hawai`i and the Pacific Rim as strategic connection points between North America and Asia.

"Our founders started what PTC is widely known for now. We own and produce, arguably, the most important digital infrastructure conference in the world."

Though its founding focus was on the Pacific Rim region, the organization now represents nearly 500 members globally.

Moon says the annual PTC conference is the highlight of his year. The 2025 conference welcomed over 9,000 C-level executives, technologists, thought leaders, investors, researchers, and academics from more than 80 countries and territories.

Prior to PTC, Moon held leadership positions in several industries, including tech, healthcare, and even hospitality. The common thread between his current and previous roles is that he acts as a relationship builder, facilitating connections among working professionals. Moon credits his skills—and his ability to hop between industries—to RIT.

Moon worked for *Reporter Magazine*, played volleyball, and enjoyed extending his network through co-ops. RIT's School of Communication, he says, offered a close-knit community of professors and peers with whom he continues to stay in touch. He also took marketing courses in Saunders College of Business to round out his skills.

"The vast variety of courses and experiences I had at RIT helped build a good foundation for me to enter the workplace and thrive," he said.

Much of Moon's CEO duties involve direct communication with members and industry stakeholders. Because of this, he often reflects on the value the industry provides for communities. A meeting in the Solomon Islands, where they discussed the future of digital infrastructure in the region, was particularly eye-opening.

"We were talking about getting people consistent connections to make phone calls, send text messages, and have reliable internet access. Many take these things for granted," he said. "It humbles me to see there are parts of the world that aren't connected yet."

He added, "There is a lot of work to be done in our industry, and I'm honored to be a part of it."

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Get ENGAGED, Stay CONNECTED.

Your RIT graduation is just the beginning—you can invest your time and talents to power up your RIT spirit. Attend alumni events, mentor students, or use your alumni benefits. Here are some ways to get involved.

Update Your Information

Stay in-the-know on campus news, new benefits for alumni, and the latest from all things RIT. You never know what opportunities you might be missing, so make sure we have your latest contact information!

Use Your Benefits

From shopping discounts and lifelong learning opportunities to on-campus perks the next time you visit. You earned a lifetime of rewards that RIT provides exclusively to the alumni community.

Join the Conversation

Follow RIT Alumni on Social Media. Celebrate alumni milestones and campus traditions, or network with fellow alumni to enhance your career. When alumni come together, they make RIT stronger.

Access resources, events, and more ways to engage with fellow Tigers and RIT by visiting **rit.edu/alumni**.

RIT | Alumni Association

Together, Tigers roar for their alumni.

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.

1960

Keith Campbell '60 (SCB) is now 94 years old and takes great pride in his age and longevity.

1962

Brian Shapiro '62 (CIAS) was flown to Congregation B'nai B'rith in Santa Barbara, Calif., for the unveiling of his 10-foot-wide painting depicting 50 recognizable people celebrating *Touching the Torah*.

1964

Ron Flicker '64 MS (KGCOE) has built thousands of bluebird houses and is in his 15th year playing duplicate bridge, attending the Duplicate Bridge Club in Lynchburg, Va., three times a week.

1967

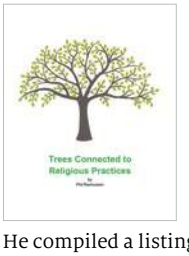
Dinah (Hebert) Simonini '67 (SCB), an Alpha Xi Delta sorority member, and **Donald F. Simonini '65 (CIAS)**, a Theta Xi fraternity member, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in August 2025.

1970

Michael Glenn '70 (CIAS) retired after 55 years of printing sales in the Capital District of New York state.

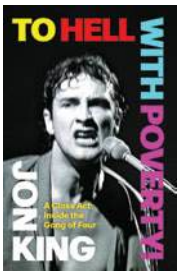
Fred Neveu '70 (CIAS) published a book in 2023 called *Seeing Beauty: A Lifetime of Landscape Photography*.

1972



Phil Rasmussen '72 MS (CIAS) published the 28-page booklet *Trees Connected to Religious Practices*. He compiled a listing of trees in Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and pagan and witchcraft practices.

1973



Larry Schorr '73 (CIAS) was a concert photographer in the San Francisco Bay Area. In the book *To Hell With Poverty!*, writer Jon King used a photo that Schorr took in 1979 when Gang of Four was supporting the Buzzcocks.

1974

Tom Litchhult '74 (COS) has retired after working for hospitals, Kodak, JNJ Labcorp, and in law enforcement.

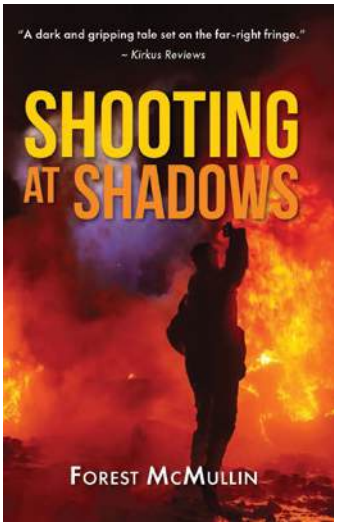
1975

Bill Truran '75 (CIAS) had a 15-year career as a head photographer for Nabisco and Kraft Foods, which fostered community and connections in New York City.

1976

Bruce Rubin '76 (SCB) retired, having served as CEO of Tribe Mediterranean Foods in the late '90s. He led the company to national prominence as the hummus category leader before selling the company to a subsidiary of Nestlé. Rubin is enjoying life with his wife, Kathy Mahony, and their two goldens, Buoy and Beacon.

1977



Forest McMullin '77 (CIAS) published his debut novel *Shooting at Shadows*. It is based on McMullin's experiences in 1993 photographing radical racists and neo-Nazi skinheads, some of whom went on to rob 22 banks in the Midwest. The novel is available on Amazon.

Joel Miller '77 (CLA) has been a Jewish communal professional for approximately five decades. Miller is currently director of operations at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Ill.

1978

Gregory Hitchin '78 (CIAS) has been elected the 2025 president of the 600-member Virginia Economic Developers Association.

Deb Marcuccilli '78 (KGCOE) was chosen by the U.S. Equestrian Federation to represent the U.S. in combined driving at the 2025 FEI Para Driving World Championships in Germany.

Wayne Oliver '78 (CIAS) enrolled as a freshman at RIT in 1974 and was assigned to the fourth floor of Sigma Pi. The students who occupied that floor for four years called themselves the Band of Brothers. In July, they gathered for their fifth reunion, including **Bill Bibbens '79 (KGCOE)**, **Jim Buckpitt '79 (KGCOE)**, **Jerry Decausemaker '80 (SCB)**, **Tony DiFlorio '79 (KGCOE)**, **Peter Jackson '79 (KGCOE)**, **John Tackacs**, and **Jim Whipple '79 (KGCOE)**.

1980

Fran Labate '80 (COS) retired after 45 years providing contract support to various agencies of the U.S. government. He ended his career as vice president for Advanced Analytics at Fuel Consulting LLC. Labate is pictured with his son, Paul, in Assisi, Italy.

1981

Don Campbell '81 (KGCOE), a former cross country and track and field member, hiked Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the continental 48 states at 14,505 feet. He reached the summit on July 10, 2025, and while at the peak took a moment and looked southeast toward the Mojave Desert with thoughts of the 1979 RIT Coast-to-Coast Relay run, their record-setting team, and their inspirational coach and runner, the late Peter J. Todd.

Michael Dailey '81 (CAST) retired in 2023. Dailey volunteers as a naturalist at the Appalachian Mountain Clubs' lodges and backcountry huts. He is pictured at New Hampshire's Mount Sam Adams.

1982

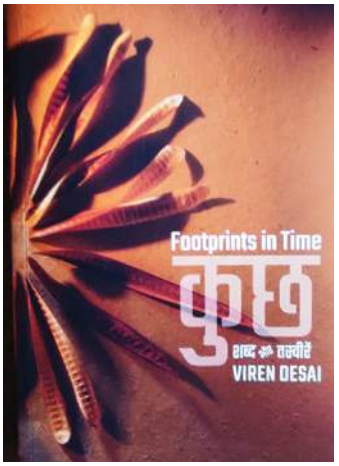
Gwendolyn Karen '82 (SCB) has retired with no debt, no money, and no complaints.

1984

Bruce Lovelace '84 (CIAS) retired from shooting location portraits as a traveling photographer.

Steve Stansbury '84 (CAST) worked for Google, Microsoft, Starbucks, T-Mobile, Boeing, Orbimage, Data IO, and McAfee. He published the world's first Windows 3.0 Zortech 2.02 C++ app, versions 1 and 2. He has been the owner of Buryware for 38 years. He retired in March 2025.

1985



Viren Desai '85 (CIAS) self-published *Footprints in Time*, a collection of Desai's poems in English and Hindi, juxtaposed with images Desai shot over the years.

Lance Johnson '85 (CAST) retired from General Dynamics Electric Boat after a 40-year career contributing to the design, construction, and quality assurance of U.S. Navy nuclear submarines, including the Los Angeles, Ohio, Virginia, and Columbia classes.

Kim B. (Arnette) Miller '85 (SCB) delivered her first TEDx Talk in May 2025, titled "17 Syllables To Stop The Blame Game." She served as keynote speaker for the 2025 S.E.A.L. Awards at Northern Virginia Community College and the 2025 Women's Leadership Summit at RIT.

Bonnie Traymore '85 (CIAS) is a full-time mystery and thriller writer. She lives with her husband in Honolulu, where many of her books are set. Traymore signed a deal with Podium Entertainment for audiobook rights.

Tom Turchioe '85 (KGCOE), of Reno, Nev., was promoted to chief architect, SAP Partnership Channel at TRC Companies.

1986

Sue (Czuba) Ake '86 (KGCOE) hosted other 1986 KGCOE alumni for a reunion weekend. Alumni included: **Mike Tosti '86 (KGCOE)** from California; **Tim Thiemel '86 (KGCOE)** from Rochester; **Jerry Skrzynski '86 (KGCOE)** from West Seneca, N.Y.; **Barry Wolff '86 (KGCOE)** from Jericho, N.Y.; and **Kirk Witherow '86 (KGCOE)** from Perkasie, Pa. The friends reunite every five years.

Ronald Klimley '86 (SCB) was named one of three vice presidents on the Board of Directors of the American Philatelic Society.

1987

Todd Eichas '87 (CCE) and his wife, Dani, own and operate the smallest estate farm winery in the Finger Lakes.

1988

Thomas Elmer '88 (KGCOE) was promoted to distinguished engineer at Arm Ltd., in Austin, Texas, where he works in R&D for computer arithmetic hardware in high-performance CPU chips. He is the sole or joint inventor named on more than 25 U.S. and foreign patents.

Michael Sciotti '88 (CLA) is practicing law at Barclay Damon LLP. In 2024, he was awarded the Honorable George Lowe Pro Bono Service Award by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. This is only the second time the award has been given in the history of the court.

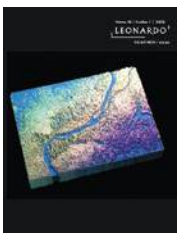
1989

Laurie (Maynard) White '89 (CLA), '01 MS (CAST) retired from more than 30 years in higher-ed communications. She wrote and published the sci-fi novel *Secrets in the Bay—Time Will Tell*.

Leslie Wilson '89 (CAST), '92 MS (CAST) celebrated her son, **Myles Wilson '25 (CAD)**, who graduated in May, adding to her legacy family.

1990

Shawn Burkholder '90 (CAST) has moved to CTE Inc. as plant manager after 29 years at TE Connectivity.



Scott Rummler '90 MFA (CIAS) published the article "Scalar Wave Paintings" in Leonardo/MIT Press. The paintings appear white to the naked eye but emit frequencies that disrupt digital cameras, transforming them into rainbow hues when photographed.

ORA
BRAND STRATEGY
+ DESIGN

Jeff Sugarman '90 (CIAS) has been running his design studio for 10 years. Ora specializes in elevating consumer brands with bespoke brand identities, websites, and packaging.

1991

Angelo Biasi '91 (SCB) is the founder of Solvably and Credably.ai, the first performance-based learning and certification platforms focused on AI literacy, human intelligence, and innovation.







Early retirement for engineering alumni Michael and Suzanne Pail means sailing across oceans by catamaran to see the world. The next leg of their journey is French Polynesia.

Sailing into retirement

Michael and Suzanne Pail met as engineering undergraduates during a first-year chemistry class. Since then, the two have kept a personal chemistry as engineers, business owners, and now shipmates sailing the ocean on Mira, their double-hull catamaran.

After more than 25 successful years in industry and as entrepreneurs, they retired early in 2021 and made the catamaran home and the ocean their neighborhood.

"It's a great way to see the world, to immerse ourselves in different cultures. And we're able to come back to our home every night," Suzanne said.

After graduation, Suzanne '98 (mechanical engineering) worked as a project manager for nine years at IBM in Raleigh, N.C. Michael '98 (electrical engineering) was at IBM for two years before going to a smaller company nearby.

But they both had an entrepreneurial spirit that they couldn't quash. In 2006, they opened a Closet Factory location, a custom closet and accessories franchise.

"It was more Mike's venture as I was still at IBM at the time," said Suzanne, who would help during off hours. "But when he started the business, he threw himself into it hard."

After about a year, they switched roles. Michael headed back to engineering in product sales and consulting and Suzanne took the helm at the franchise.

"Sue was much better at juggling tasks," Michael said. "She was really good at time management and balancing priorities. She was also ready for a change."

Both were trying to manage 60-plus hours a week. Their business was thriving; the economy was stable enough to consider selling their franchise and looking toward early retirement.

They had been thinking about early retirement since Michael's father passed away at the age of 47 when Michael was a student at RIT.

"It did give us the awareness that you can put all this time in, save for retirement, work really hard, and sometimes you just don't get to retirement," Michael said. "So, for us our goal was to retire by age 47, and we were able to."

They sold their business and moved to South Africa in early 2022 with four bags of clothes and some belongings, like a laptop.

For the next five months, they lived in Knysna and visited the factory to watch their catamaran being built.

They picked a sailing catamaran because it was more energy efficient, had larger living space and modern amenities like air conditioning, a washer/dryer, and a desalination system to make their own water. The catamaran generates 3,000 watts of solar power and has a 21-kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery bank to store all that power.

"And we have Starlink so we can stay connected to the world…and keep an eye on the weather and our routes," Suzanne said.

Living on a boat can be challenging, even as engineers. Breakdowns occur and often new parts can only be found at distant ports.

Since leaving South Africa, they have crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Grenada, which took 38 days, explored the Caribbean—Puerto Rico, Guadelupe, Martinique, Dominica—and sailed the northern U.S. coastline.

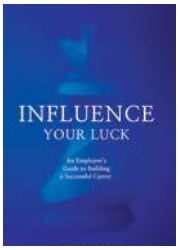
They map their travels through their vlog "On a New Tack," where they share adventures and post photos of places that most just dream about. They are looking toward sailing through the Panama Canal and into the Pacific Ocean to explore French Polynesia this spring as the next step in their travels.

They will do this until they decide not to or find an ideal island to settle upon, said Michael. He and Suzanne crossed another milestone in 2025—they both turned 50.

"We do have long-term plans, but we always say, 'Everything is in pencil.' There is no rush," Michael said. "We love the idea of seeing different places this way."

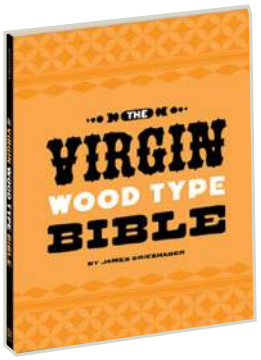
Michelle Cometa '00

Tom Blair '91 MS (CAST), iClerk AI founder, proudly employs RIT students, including **Josh Yoder '24 (GCCIS), '25 MS (KGCOE)**, to build AI agents that help universities and schools retain students, personalize curricula, and reduce the cost of education.



Fred DeBolt '91 MS (KGCOE) published a career guidebook titled *Influence Your Luck: An Employee's Guide to Building a Successful Career*.

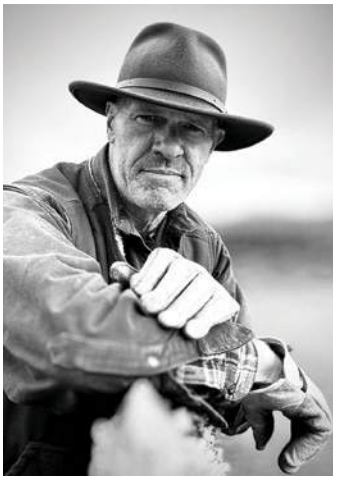
David Gianna '91 (CAST) is the chief information security officer and strategic advisor at Warden Command Cyber Group. Gianna serves as commander of the Hudson Valley Senior Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the worship bassist at Christian Life Church in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



James Grieshaber '91 (CIAS) published *The Virgin Wood Type Bible* to enable readers to identify over 500 historic wood type designs, while gaining insight into their history.

Ed Larson '91 (CAST) retired in May 2025 from Wells Fargo in Charlotte, N.C., after a 26-year career as an investment banker.

1992



Jeff Berry '92 (CIAS) left his corporate career in 2020 and relocated to the Adirondack Mountains in pursuit of a more purposeful and creative life. He is now a caretaker, serves as the team coordinator for Search and Rescue of the Northern Adirondacks, and concluded a solo photography exhibit titled *The Distorted View*.

Benjamin Grabski '92 (SCB) retired from the Army as a colonel after 30 years. Grabski moved to San Antonio and started working in a civilian status as an analyst for the Army.

Kim Young '92 (CLA) retired in December 2024.

1993

Amy Bridger '93 (CLA) created a startup company called Farmstead Scattering Garden, a mail-in service for spreading cremated ashes on a working farm in northwestern Pennsylvania.

1994

Fran Drew '94 MFA (CIAS) and the Lucky Strikes debut CD were nominated in the New Artist Debut Album category by *Blues Blast Magazine*.

Keith Maly '94 (CAST) completed a second MS in data analytics engineering at George Mason University.

1995

Jeremy Sniatecki '95 (CIAS) was chosen for a second time to design and illustrate the 2025 Rochester Lilac Festival poster and merchandise.

1996

Lynette Dubovik '96 (CIAS) is teaching 3D art at Streamwood High School in Illinois.

Brian Thomas '96 (CIAS), a former runner for RIT's cross country and track teams, qualified for the National Duathlon Championships and the World Duathlon Championships in Spain.

1997

Kathy McGuire '97 MS (CAST) retired after 40 years of executive healthcare leadership, creating McGuire Advisor LLC and taking on the role of executive advisor to several healthcare organizations and health-tech startups.

Liza Savage-Katz '97 (CIAS) is the founder of KaleidoscopeME. She launched and expanded after-school enrichment programs across multiple Rochester charter schools and secured over $400,000 in grant funding. She also serves as an adjunct professor at RIT.

1998

Erin (Maher) Moran '98 (CIAS) was named Higher Ed AV Media's AV Professional of the Year and took over as chair of the Higher Education Technology Managers Alliance. She was selected by *EdTech Magazine* as one of the 30 Higher Ed IT Influencers to Follow in 2024 and was called one of the Top 50 voices to follow in higher ed for 2025 by Vevox.

2000

Mike Heinecke '00 MS (CAST) joined OpenAI as a member of the Program Staff, working on AI and robotics.

Norma Morán '00 (CLA) was one of 54 participants selected for the Enlace Mid-level Leadership Program of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Morán, associate director of the Center for Latine Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University, is the first known Deaf participant in the program.

CJ Wurster '00 (CLA) was appointed as the fifth president of Chandler-Gilbert Community College in the Phoenix area.

2001

Richard Cavallaro '01 (CAST), '04 MS (KGCOE) celebrated the 10th anniversary of founding his company Command Computing. The company specializes in Microsoft 365 migrations, DNS configurations, and data backup solutions for businesses.

Jerome Fraillon '01 (CAST) co-founded Alder Packaging, a company specializing in sustainable packaging solutions in the personal care space. The company celebrated its fourth year in business.

Felicia Jefferson '01 (COS) was inducted as an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Jennifer Walkowski '01 (CIAS) accepted a position at the New York Office of General Services Design and Construction as capital restoration coordinator. She will oversee historic preservation of the state capitol, the Empire State Plaza, and the executive mansion.

2002

Douglas Alexander '02 MS (GCCIS) is the director of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College. He has been working to advance workforce development and influence legislation and policy.

Wilfredo Alvarez '02 (CLA) was promoted to associate professor of communication studies, with tenure, at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

1 **Audrey (Lallier) Braun '05 (SCB)** is celebrating her daughter, Sydney Braun. She might be dressed as a bear, but she is a tiger at heart.

2 **Ethan Feldman '07 (GCCIS)** and his wife welcomed their second daughter, Bexleigh.

3 **Eric E. Steck '13 (CET)** and his wife, Anne, are proud to announce the birth of their son and future RIT Tiger, Isaac Robert Steck, born in February 2025.

4 **Helaina (Hummel) Kolonay '14 (CLA), '16 MS (CLA)** and **Sean Kolonay '14 (CIAS)** welcomed their son, Quintin, in January 2024.

5 **John Bero '15 (COS), '18 MS (COS)** and **Elizabeth (Bruen) Bero '15 (COS), '15 MS (COS)** welcomed their first-born son, Dylan Bero, in October 2024.

6 **Brendan John '17 (COS), '17 MS (GCCIS)** and **Mikaela (David) John '17 (CLA)** met through RIT's American Indian Science and Engineering Society chapter and the Future Stewards Program in 2014. In June, they welcomed their daughter, Henrietta, named after the town where they met and fell in love.

7 **Katelyn (Whitburn) Reddy '19 MS (COS)** and **Anush Reddy '19 MS (GCCIS)** welcomed their first-born son, Henry Reddy, in August 2024. Henry is named in honor of Henrietta, the town where the couple met as students. The family now lives in Silicon Valley.

Christie (Bucalo) Gordon '02 (CIAS) and **Alan Gordon '91 (CIAS), '93 MFA (CIAS)** are proud legacy parents of **Asher Gordon '26 (CAD)**, who is entering his senior year in film and animation. He had an animated film accepted into the 69th annual Finger Lakes Exhibition and was one of eight award winners of the Arthur and Ronan Christopher Louis award.

2004

Bill Rodriguez '04 (CIAS) completed work on the Dark Universe land at Universal Orlando Resort's Epic Universe, featuring five worlds. He was responsible for the audio-visual design and integration on Monsters Unchained: The Frankenstein Experiment and Curse of the Werewolf attractions.

Deb Peluso '04 (CIAS) and **Karen Rhodes '91 (CLA)** won first place in the 2025 National Federation of Press Women Professional Communications Contest for their crisis communications submission "Converse University Hurricane Helene Response."

2005

Kara Austin '05 (CIAS) has been promoted to multimedia designer within the Division of University Advancement at RIT.

Bob Pittsley '05 (CAST) was promoted to senior design engineer at a startup called AirJoule, in Newark, Del.

Jemeul Thompson '05 (CAST) works with Delta Air Lines in cargo compliance and security, helping ensure that planes are safe.

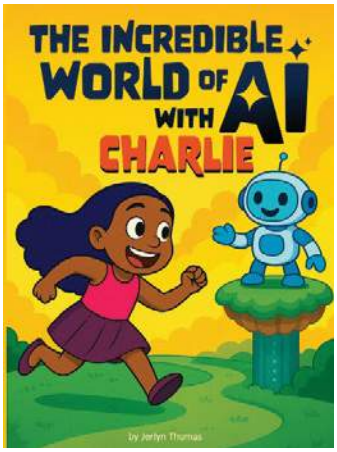
2006

Larry Courtney '06 (CIAS) became president of Lake Erie Graphics in Cleveland.

Monique Marsh '06 (SCB) accepted a new role at Integro Health as the head of qualitative research, leading primary market research and strategy engagements for life sciences, biotech, and pharmaceutical companies.

2007

Ethan Feldman '07 (GCCIS) was promoted to engineering manager at Northwestern Mutual.



Jerlyn (Thomas) O'Donnell '07 (CIAS) released her second children's book, *The Incredible World of AI with Charlie*, designed to teach kids how to use AI responsibly. She is an experience design director and Adobe Community Expert based in the Bronx.

Shqipe (Neziri) Vela '07 (CAST) has been named one of Reuters' Trailblazing Women in Energy 2025, awarded through a global nomination process. The award celebrates 10 exceptional women who are driving innovation, advancing inclusion, and shaping the future of the energy sector.

2008

Megan Charland '08 (CIAS) has been named executive director of the Strand Center for the Arts (SCA), in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Charland has been with the SCA as the artistic programming director since 2022.

Josh Kierpiec '08 (GCCIS), '11 MS (GCCIS) is the principal site reliability engineering lead at Blizzard Entertainment, managing *Diablo* and *Hearthstone* live services.

2009

Lisa Dreher '09 (CAST) is the senior dietitian at Dr. Mark Hyman's UltraWellness Center. She is also the director of nutrition for WeNatal.

Terry Ann (Hayes) Fernando '09 MFA (CIAS) published a memoir about training her vizsla, Zara, to be a hunting dog, called *The Accidental Bird Dog: My Journey with an Extraordinary Vizsla*. She used her graphic design skills to design the cover and layout for the book that is available on Amazon.

Keith J. Koster '09 (CAST) was elected commander of the American Legion Department of New York at the 106th annual department convention. He has completed travel to all 62 counties in New York state, sharing the message "Be the One," an effort to reduce veteran suicide through education.

Tim Wallenhorst '09 (SCB) was named marketing director at Nestlé USA. Wallenhorst is responsible for growing the DiGiorno and California Pizza Kitchen brands. He lives in Cleveland with his wife and three kids and loves getting to eat and sell pizza for a living.

Tisa M. Zito '09 (CIAS) has been acting as the DOCUTAH International Documentary Film Festival program director and film producer at Utah Tech University and is now working on her second feature documentary film about the nuclear industry. Her first film, *Forevermoore*; *The Angelo Project*, is on Amazon.

2010

Ilir Beqiri '10 (CAST) is an Infantry Regiment Commander with the rank of lieutenant colonel, one of the first appointed in this position.

Kelly Burns '10 MBA (SCB) is vice president of Marketing and Visitor Services at the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumford, N.Y.

Arianna (Valentini) Huffield '10 (CIAS), '12 MS (CIAS) was featured in Precisely's "Women in Technology" series, where she shared her insights on career growth, mentorship, and the power of diversity in tech.

Michael Lembo '10 (SCB) joined CoinTracker, a Series A startup, as the head of institutional and government products.

Marla Mrowka '10 (CIAS) and her husband, Luis, got married in 2023. She is currently a freelance creative director/graphic designer in Oneonta, N.Y.

2011

Daniel Corbin '11 (CAST) launched steel stamping components for a Caterpillar skid steel cab, John Deere Harvester components, John Deere Z3 mower, and various other project support.

2012

Karamjit Singh '12 MBA (SCB) was appointed as chief delivery officer for DG Matrix, a company revolutionizing power conversion and solid-state transformers.

Sharitta Gross '12 (SOIS) and **Rick A. Kittles '89 (COS)** made their commitment to one another official on Jan. 23, 2025. Despite an unexpected, crazy snowstorm that week, the universe saw fit for their wedding site, the Historic DeKalb County Courthouse in Decatur, Ga., to be open that day for the ceremony.

Mike Bradley '12 (CIAS) directed and produced *This Land*, a short documentary that was selected by the Tribeca Festival. The film tells the story of a traditionalist Mohawk community near Plattsburgh, N.Y. Photo by **Lauren Petracca '13 (CIAS)**.

2013

Michelle Mary Schaefe '13 MS (NTID) has established Annabelle Louise Productions, a grassroots and award-winning production company that values authentic stories where representation matters.

Christina Werth '13 (CHST) and **Hayley Bartkus '17 (CHST)** founded Echomentor, an online community for sonographers, which successfully hosted its first live, virtual event at Mentor Week 2025.

2014

Zach Cavuniewicz '14 (CIAS) was part of Nazareth University's TEDx event Bridging the Past, Present, and Future—Exploring Universal Principles and Modern Innovations. His talk, "Be More Creative by Doing Less," was selected as Editor's Choice by the TEDx team and can now be viewed on the YouTube channel.

Benjamin Fishman '14 (CHST) won the first-ever Newton Wellesley Hospital Lily Award, a peer-nominated award given to one member of the Med-Surg RN Float Pool.

Jeffrey Henstenburg '14 (CHST) accepted a position as an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. He will be taking over as their new pediatric spine surgeon.

2015

Cami Kwan '15 (CIAS) was awarded one of four grants as part of the Julia S. Gouw Short Film Challenge, which was hosted by the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment and Janet Yang Production. Her short film, *Paper Daughter*, is the first animated project awarded this grant and was featured in an article by *Variety*.

Marissa Maugeri '15 (CLA), a former member of women's hockey, and **Allister Warren '15 (SCB)**, a former member of men's lacrosse, were married on Oct. 19, 2024, in Toronto. They met at RIT and 10 years later had the good fortune of celebrating their wedding with over 30 alumni in attendance.

2016

Liz (Morgan) Platt '16 (CLA) was appointed director of individual giving at New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy, in Miami Beach, Fla. In addition to her nonprofit work, Platt is an experienced ceramic artist.

Deseree Cain-Arzu '16 MS (CLA) was selected, for the second time, as a recipient of a grant from Earth Journalism Network. This was a follow-up story to one she wrote in 2019, both published in the *San Pedro Sun*.

Kate Gunderson '16 (KGCOE) graduated from the National Test Pilot School's rigorous year-long Flight Test Engineer Professional course in 2024 as the only female student in her class. In addition to an EASA Cat I Lead FTE certification, she also earned an MS in Flight Test Engineering.

Christa Harvey '16 (SCB) and **Eddie Shealey '17 (CET)** were married on Aug. 25, 2023.

2017

Jaclyn Korfin '17 (NTID) and **Mark Gjestvang '18 (NTID)** were married on May 25, 2025, in San Diego.

Kartik Sathappan '17 (GCCIS) launched Families Fund, which backs founders rebuilding education, nutrition, and fertility for families.

2019

Maryah Glover '19 (COS) joined the University of Minnesota's Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology program in 2023 and passed her qualifying exam to become a Ph.D. candidate in immunology.

Kayla Nussbaum '19 (GCCIS) and **Matthew Mokary '16 (GCCIS)** tied the knot on Jan. 5, 2025, in New Jersey. Surrounded by their closest RIT friends and past colleagues, they celebrated the next chapter of their lives with joy, love, and a touch of Tiger pride.

2020

Ayriona Winston '20 (CLA) spent 10 years working with the city of Rochester and Monroe County. In less than a year at her new company, she was promoted from project analyst to business development analyst for a federal government contractor, where she has contributed to securing $1.2 million in awards.

Omkar Bhalekar '20 MS (CET) and **Apeksha Bamniya '22 MS (CET)** started at RIT as classmates and housemates, but soon became partners in love, ready to face the world together. They celebrate their marriage built on friendship, respect, and shared dreams.

2021

Joshua Fiegl '21 MS (COS) completed his certification as an aerospace materials engineer at Advanced Atomization Technologies.

Celia Mercovich '21 (COS) and **Gabriel von Kessel '21 (COS)** were married in January 2024 after meeting in the Honors Program.

Leah (Norris) Oakes '21 MS (NTID) met Heather on orientation day in 2019, and the rest is history. In February 2025, they finally said "I do." They are so grateful to the place that brought them together.

Robert Stone '21 MFA (CAD) was hired as a photography instructor at CT State Community College Manchester. This is a full-time, tenure-track position, a dream come true, and a journey a decade in the making.

2022

Adesola Adedewe '22 (KGCOE), '22 MS (KGCOE); **Marcus D'Aguiar '20 (KGCOE)**; and **Garret Brennan '21 (SCB)** have co-founded Epoch, an algorithmic trading platform that empowers users to build, test, deploy, and share trading algorithms without writing code.

Lavanya Ashok Swaminathan '22 MS (CET) works at Intel, where she has been employed for the last few years.

Dallas Calkins '22 (CAD) began her career at Mountain House Media, founded by **Jeremiah Gryczka '19 (CET)**, where she worked in camera for the NFL and A&E networks. She has worked with Snapchat, Formula 1, FaZe Clan, Pentatonix, and Chris Brown.

Thomas Delp '22 (GCCIS) and **Mackenzie Rhody '23 (GCCIS)** were married on June 5, 2025, at Lamberton Conservatory in Highland Park. Having first started dating exactly 10 years prior, they celebrated this new milestone with members of the RIT community.

Renzo Vizarreta '22 (COS) has been awarded the Donald M. and Janet C. Barnard Fellowship for the 2025-2026 academic year at University of Rochester. The fellowship recognizes Vizarreta's work on the DUNE and ICARUS neutrino experiments, as well as his commitment to mentoring undergraduate students in Peru.

2023

Rose Blanchard '23 MS (COS) started a new job as an EO/IR engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in May 2025.

Briana Mackey '23 (CAD) was hired as a junior multimedia designer for the Division of University Advancement at RIT.

Eric McPhatter '23 (CET) started a new job at Gleason in September 2024, working as a manufacturing assistant.

Jason Rakowsky '23 (COS), '23 MS (COS) started a career at Savannah River National Laboratory. He will be working on projects involving hydrogen storage and fusion energy.

Freddy Rondon '23 (GCCIS) launched Eficredit, the leading platform for comparing credit cards, in the Dominican Republic.

2025

Pranjal Sawai '25 MFA (CAD) is officially an author. Her first children's storybook, *The Clever Monkey and the Crocodile*, is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble.

Alumni

1942
Dorothy (Callan) Connor '42 (SCB) Dec. 19, 2024

1945
Virginia (Mason) Daring '45 (SCB) Jan. 25, 2025

1948
Joyce (Partridge) Anselm '48 (COS) Feb. 20, 2025

Norma (Weingrad) Gingold '48 (FAA) May 8, 2025

1950
Nancy (Sheffer) Bennett '50 (SCB) June 23, 2024

Donald Kimball '50 (KGCOE) May 10, 2025

Francis Lahr '50 (KGCOE) July 20, 2024

Howard Quick Jr. '50 (CCE) Feb. 26, 2025

Anne (Cahill) Vogel '50 (SCB) Jan. 7, 2025

1951
Judah Eliezer '51 (GAP) Dec. 16, 2024

Gennaro Gargano '51 (KGCOE) Jan. 7, 2025

Elsie (Elliot) Glendenning '51 (SCB) July 25, 2025

Richard Kearing '51 (COS) July 17, 2024

Norman Lampe '51 (GAP) July 26, 2024

Eugene Leitten '51 (COS) March 22, 2025

Cataldo Maggiulli '51 (COS) Feb. 8, 2025

1952
Edward Geier Jr. '52 (KGCOE) July 22, 2025

1954
John Cama '54 (CCE) March 25, 2025

Patricia Harris '54 (COS) March 10, 2025

1955
Carter Allen '55 (GAP) Jan. 13, 2025

Robert Breese '55 (GAP) May 17, 2025

John Losi '55 (GAP) May 22, 2025

Dominic Tarquin '55 (KGCOE) March 5, 2025

1956
Marion (Trembath) Anders '56 (FAA) Dec. 8, 2024

Jon Blanchette '56 (KGCOE) Nov. 30, 2024

Joseph Bucher '56 (KGCOE) September 2024

Lorraine (Shortino) Cassarino '56 (COS) Nov. 2, 2024

Edward Donaher '56 (FAA) Nov. 17, 2024

Donald Lunick '56 (SCB) Jan. 27, 2025

Robert Snyder '56 (COS) Nov. 27, 2024

1957
Donald Callanan '57 (GAP) Jan. 19, 2025

Ronald Carlivati '57 (SCB) May 17, 2025

Paul Dickinson '57 (KGCOE) March 27, 2025

Daniel Dour '57 (GAP) Dec. 15, 2024

Peter Jedrzejek '57 (GAP) April 7, 2025

George Norsen '57 (KGCOE) July 14, 2025

1958
Harold Brayley Jr. '58 (CCE) July 19, 2025

DeForest Colegrove Jr. '58 (COS) June 24, 2024

Peter Fiasco '58 (GAP) May 25, 2025

Dean Newcomb '58 (KGCOE) April 19, 2025

Phyllis (Lader) Richards '58 (SCB) July 13, 2025

Charles Smith '58 (CCE) June 17, 2024

James Whatford '58 (FAA) Jan. 24, 2025

Hans Witte '58 (KGCOE) May 5, 2025

1959
Mitchell Alepoudakis '59 (SCB) Jan. 2, 2025

Peter Maddalena '59 (SCB) July 1, 2024

Joyce Minnamon '59 (SCB) Dec. 27, 2024

Charles Penoyer '59 (GAP) July 24, 2024

Cecelia (Scialdone) Sommers '59 (SCB) June 7, 2025

Ronald Young '59 (SCB) April 25, 2025

1960
Albert Armstrong '60 (GAP) March 1, 2025

Richard Greene '60 (COS) April 18, 2025

Alfred Haas '60 (KGCOE), '68 MS (KGCOE) Jan. 7, 2024

James Knieser '60 (KGCOE) Feb. 25, 2025

Gerard Schmitt '60 (CCE) May 31, 2025

Ronald Stump '60 (KGCOE) March 9, 2025

George Travis Jr. '60 (SCB) Jan. 9, 2025

1961
David Bowersox '61 (SCB) Dec. 18, 2024

Edward Catapane '61 (GAP) July 28, 2024

Melvyn Kruger '61 (GAP) April 16, 2024

Robert Mahns '61 (CCE) Nov. 23, 2024

John Masson Jr. '61 MFA (FAA) May 7, 2025

David Morgan '61 (CCE) Jan. 17, 2025

1962
John Absalom III '62 (GAP) Feb. 26, 2025

Berdell Boss '62 (KGCOE) May 5, 2025

Gene DePrez '62 (FAA), '68 MFA (FAA) Jan. 24, 2025

Catherine (Ballister) Keller '62 (SCB) March 26, 2025

David Killenbeck '62 (SCB) Jan. 2, 2025

Delbert Ross Jr. '62 (SCB) April 16, 2025

Francis Solomon '62 (FAA) July 22, 2025

1963
Nancy Belfer '63 MFA (FAA) Nov. 17, 2024

Steven Dzurik '63 (GAP) Dec. 26, 2024

John Hartman '63 (KGCOE) Feb. 9, 2025

William Mlynarczyk '63 (KGCOE) April 29, 2025

Michael Rosenberg '63 (GAP) Dec. 5, 2024

Frederick Tucker '63 (KGCOE) Jan. 19, 2025

Robert Wallace '63 (CCE) April 11, 2025

Bonnie (Gillis) Waters '63 (SCB) Jan. 14, 2025

1964
William Buckingham '64 (SCB) May 17, 2025

William Kastner '64 (KGCOE) July 20, 2025

Edward Mroz '64 (SCB) Dec. 18, 2024

Leonard Myslewicz '64 (GAP) Jan. 22, 2025

Margaret (McCallen) Packer '64 (SCB) Nov. 16, 2024

Stephen Schneider '64 (GAP) June 11, 2025

Gary Skillman '64 (KGCOE) Nov. 27, 2024

Lowell Twitchell '64 (SCB) July 23, 2024

1965
Walter Banker '65 (CCE) Dec. 27, 2024

Guy Borrelli '65 (CCE) April 7, 2025

Roger Coleman '65 (KGCOE) Nov. 4, 2024

Robert Curtis '65 (COS) May 16, 2025

Frederick Gatesman '65 (KGCOE), '85 MS (COS) Jan. 6, 2025

Daniel Mills '65 (CCE) March 20, 2025

Eugene Page '65 (CCE) Feb. 3, 2025

Lucy (Desidoro) Sapp '65 (SCB) April 4, 2025

1966
Eugene Duffey '66 (GAP) Jan. 31, 2025

Robert Mitchell '66 (SCB) March 16, 2025

Earl Nick '66 (SCB) March 5, 2025

1967
Thomas Ash Jr. '67 (KGCOE) Feb. 8, 2025

Anthony Ligozio '67 (SCB) Jan. 12, 2025

Clayton Miller '67 (KGCOE) Oct. 29, 2024

John Morgan '67 (CCE) Jan. 19, 2025

Gerald Sage '67 (COS) July 28, 2025

George Varga '67 (FAA) Jan. 13, 2025

1968
Penny Davies '68 (FAA) Dec. 30, 2024

Beatrice Gorse '68 (COS) April 9, 2025

Paul Hageman '68 (GAP) Feb. 9, 2025

Robert Klink '68 (KGCOE) July 18, 2024

Thomas Oldfield '68 MBA (SCB) Dec. 6, 2024

Howard Schwartz '68 (GAP) May 5, 2025

John Wasula '68 (KGCOE) March 9, 2025

Bonnie (Evans) Webster '68 (CCE) Jan. 1, 2025

1969
Michael Bixler '69 (GAP) Sept. 1, 2024

Winton Guy Jr. '69 (CCE) July 13, 2025

Daniel Hunt '69 (KGCOE) Dec. 15, 2024

John Randall '69 MS (CCE) Dec. 22, 2024

James Rowbotham '69 (GAP) September 2023

Larry Vangee '69 (CCE) July 11, 2024

Karen (Foss) Venetian '69 (FAA) July 12, 2024

1970
Danny Beckman '70 (GAP) Nov. 3, 2024

Douglas Everhart '70 (COS) Dec. 8, 2024

Jay Johnson Jr. '70 MS (GAP) Dec. 9, 2024

Gary Reynolds '70 (SCB) Feb. 13, 2025

B. Stewart Snyder III '70 (KGCOE) April 29, 2025

1971
Harold Alexander '71 (CCE) May 15, 2025

Ernest Borer '71 (CCE) March 7, 2025

Roger Carr '71 MS (KGCOE) Nov. 11, 2024

Jerry Edwards '71 (NTID) Nov. 25, 2024

Howard Heffer '71 (CCE) Feb. 25, 2025

Charles Kernehan '71 (KGCOE) April 27, 2025

Robert Pellicciotti '71 (SCB) Jan. 5, 2025

Alan Ritsko '71 (GAP) March 22, 2025

Gerald Segelman '71 (GAP), '77 MS (CAST) March 29, 2025

Richard Sisson '71 (CCE) July 9, 2024

Robert Thiers '71 (CCE) June 19, 2025

1972
Martin Brown '72 (SCB) July 20, 2024

Crescent Ciliberto '72 (NTID) Jan. 7, 2024

Martha Flint '72 (SCB) Feb. 11, 2025

Gerald Robison '72 (KGCOE) Nov. 8, 2024

Rocco Scarano '72 (SCB) Feb. 6, 2025

Sherwood Snyder '72 (GAP) July 19, 2024

Charles Talley '72 (CCE) May 5, 2025

Donald Vermeulen '72 (CCE) Nov. 18, 2024

William Waldruff '72 (CCE) April 22, 2025

Robert Yates '72 (CCE) April 22, 2025

1973
George Godfrey '73 (KGCOE) July 22, 2025

Gary Krauss '73 (SCB) July 5, 2024

Douglas Lawson '73 (GAP) Feb. 3, 2025

David O'Neil '73 (SCB) Jan. 13, 2025

Arthur Renauto '73 (CCE) Jan. 13, 2025

Jack Valvo '73 (CCE) Dec. 14, 2024

Janice (Hartleben) VanGorden '73 (NTID) Jan. 18, 2025

Peter Vanrossum '73 (GAP) March 17, 2025

James Vinch '73 (KGCOE) Jan. 20, 2025

Nolan Williams '73 (GAP) Jan. 27, 2025

1974
Joseph Brady '74 MBA (SCB) Oct. 29, 2024

Gary Buer '74 (SCB) March 31, 2025

Joseph Cappon '74 (CCE) July 28, 2024

Warren Goldmann '74 MS (KGCOE) July 30, 2025

David Kaiser '74 (CLA) Feb. 6, 2025

Robert Maddamma '74 (CCE) July 4, 2025

Alvin Mature '74 (SCB) July 19, 2024

Robert Maxwell III '74 (GAP) May 17, 2025

1975
Andrew Chastek '75 (CCE) Feb. 24, 2025

John Ficarra '75 (GAP) June 12, 2025

Ronald Hess '75 (CCE) Jan. 2, 2025

Cynthia Kerigan-Lupo '75 (FAA) Nov. 11, 2024

Charles Militello Jr. '75 (CCE) July 23, 2025

James Seitz '75 (CAST), '77 MS (CAST) March 2, 2025

Thaddeus Tolpa '75 MS (GAP) May 3, 2025

1976
John Ames '76 (SCB) July 23, 2025

Paul Batista '76 (COS) July 16, 2024

James Blackburn '76 MS (CAST) September 2024

Ronald Cocilova '76 (SCB) Nov. 21, 2024

Duane Ford '76 (CCE) Jan. 1, 2025

Carol Hendershott '76 (SCB) Jan. 17, 2025

Peter Meyer '76 (CCE) Aug. 1, 2025

Martin Morse '76 MBA (SCB) Jan. 20, 2025

Hattie Otto '76 MS (CCE) June 1, 2025

1977

Nicholas Amodeo '77 (COS) March 18, 2025

Kevin McCarthy '77 (CAST) Dec. 16, 2024

Joel Spade '77 MS (CAST) Feb. 26, 2025

David Thomas '77 (CCE) Nov. 7, 2024

1978

William Banister '78 MS (CAST) Feb. 2, 2025

William Blazey '78 (CAST) May 20, 2025

Gregory Cywilko '78 (SCB) July 13, 2025

Richard Foley '78 (GAP) June 9, 2024

Philip Jones '78 MS (CCE) Feb. 3, 2025

William Karp '78 MFA (CIAS), '78 MFA (GAP) July 21, 2024

James Kowulich '78 (CLA) Feb. 10, 2025

Stephen Pajeski '78 MBA (SCB) June 15, 2025

Richard Saunders Jr. '78 (CCE) March 17, 2025

Kenneth Silver '78 (CCE) Dec. 3, 2024

David Templeton '78 (SCB) June 21, 2025

Konstantino Yannas '78 (SCB) Feb. 4, 2025

1979

Philip Cormier '79 (GAP) July 11, 2024

Dennis Courtright '79 (CCE) Dec. 11, 2024

James Eddy '79 (CCE) May 4, 2025

James Gates '79 MBA (SCB), '83 MS (CAST) Jan. 7, 2025

Carolyn Haines '79 MS (CAST) Nov. 26, 2024

Warren Hern '79 MBA (SCB) Dec. 27, 2024

Gary Kittrell '79 (KGCOE), '88 MS (KGCOE) Nov. 8, 2024

Edward Markowski '79 (CAST) Jan. 23, 2025

Lynn Rainone '79 (SCB) Dec. 29, 2024

Brian Rapp '79 (KGCOE) July 19, 2024

Cindy (Whitney) Smolinski '79 (NTID) Nov. 8, 2024

Douglas Swick '79 (GAP) Jan. 20, 2025

1980

Dana Gavenda '80 MBA (SCB) July 2, 2025

Joanne McDonald '80 (CLA) Dec. 12, 2024

F. Robert Mossey Jr. '80 MBA (SCB) May 31, 2025

Richard Roach '80 (CCE) June 27, 2024

Donald Shaw '80 (NTID) March 14, 2025

Danny Woolmaker '80 (FAA) May 7, 2025

James Woughter '80 MS (CAST) June 13, 2025

1981

John Alligood '81 (CCE) Nov. 10, 2024

Joy (Holtzman) Antar '81 (CLA) March 10, 2025

Nancy Beedon '81 (CCE) Nov. 21, 2024

Jimmie Bosley '81 MS (CAST) Nov. 26, 2024

James Erickson '81 (CCE) May 30, 2025

Christine Forde '81 (CAST), '02 MS (GCCIS) Jan. 12, 2025

Robert Fox '81 (CCE) Oct. 8, 2024

David Holbrook '81 (GAP), '81 MS (GAP) May 11, 2025

Andrew Hoyle '81 (SCB) Oct. 20, 2024

Karl Joyce '81 MBA (SCB) March 27, 2025

Phillip MacDonald '81 (CLA) March 11, 2025

1982

Patricia Albrecht '82 (KGCOE) Dec. 27, 2024

William Bartoo '82 MS (FAA) July 30, 2024

Wayne Binnert '82 (CCE) May 2, 2025

Nella (Jermain) Corryn '82 MS (CCE) Dec. 20, 2024

John Dehaan '82 (CCE) Dec. 18, 2024

Kathleen Grubaugh '82 (CCE) Nov. 1, 2024

Karl Kober '82 (CAST), '93 MBA (SCB) March 6, 2025

Alan Kolts '82 (CAST) April 19, 2025

Jill (Coopersmith) Lambert '82 (FAA) June 30, 2025

Wayde Lodor '82 (KGCOE) May 8, 2025

William Neel '82 (GAP), '84 MS (GAP) March 5, 2025

David Stenger '82 (CCE) Jan. 16, 2025

David Storch '82 MS (CAST) July 24, 2025

1983

Kathleen (Moriarty) Anderson '83 (SCB) May 11, 2025

Robert Buda '83 (CLA) June 23, 2025

John Cahill '83 (KGCOE) Sept. 22, 2024

Dana Marsh '83 ME (KGCOE) Feb. 1, 2025

Amanda (Tomer) Marshall '83 (SCB) June 11, 2025

Harriet Rifkin '83 MS (CAST) March 19, 2025

Robert Smith '83 (CCE) July 20, 2025

Martin Turner '83 (CCE) June 12, 2025

1984

Norman Dezalia Jr. '84 (CAST) July 25, 2024

Thomas Meehan '84 (CAST) May 16, 2025

John Mersmann '84 (GAP) May 2, 2025

Stephen Russak '84 (FAA) June 2, 2025

Carolyn Steel '84 (CCE) Jan. 29, 2025

Anna (Muto) Walter '84 (CCE) Dec. 23, 2024

1985

Douglas Bastian '85 (CAST) Dec. 30, 2024

Daryl Dates '85 (CAST) March 24, 2025

Lawrence Detorio '85 (SCB) Nov. 13, 2024

Joseph Quirk '85 (CAST), '07 MS (CAST) May 17, 2025

Robert Ratowsky '85 (NTID) June 2, 2024

Mark Sasahara '85 (GAP) July 31, 2025

Waltraud (Edelhoff) Siewers '85 MS (CAST) May 20, 2025

Stephan Twist '85 (COS) June 30, 2025

1986

Glynis Hunt '86 (SCB) July 10, 2025

Thomas Kausch '86 (SCB), '99 MS (CAST) July 17, 2025

Dawn Murley '86 (CLA) Nov. 27, 2024

1987

James Koudelka '87 (CAST) June 9, 2025

Anthony Liccione '87 (GAP) Feb. 23, 2025

Linda Prashaw '87 (CAST) Dec. 1, 2024

Michael Templeton '87 (GAP) April 22, 2025

1988

John Bonaker '88 (KGCOE) Oct. 15, 2024

Lillian (Porco) Kelley '88 (CAST), '00 MBA (SCB) Jan. 28, 2025

James Natelli '88 (SCB) Feb. 22, 2025

1989

Richard Balmer '89 (FAA) March 20, 2025

Catherine Bement '89 (CAST) April 12, 2025

Lisa (Rentschler) Lavelle '89 MS (GAP) Aug. 14, 2024

Francis Tempesta '89 (CAST) June 25, 2025

1990

David Heeks '90 MS (CCE) April 2, 2025

Jonathan Sam '90 (COS), '99 MS (CIAS) July 26, 2024

Jason Steitler '90 (CLA) Nov. 28, 2024

1991

Dennis Kelley '91 (CAST) Aug. 1, 2025

Margaret Proseus '91 MBA (SCB) Dec. 26, 2024

Diane (Wagner) Smith '91 (NTID) Oct. 13, 2024

1992

Tara Middaugh '92 (SCB) March 21, 2025

1993

Teresa Condor '93 (COS) March 25, 2025

Heather Haynes '93 (CLA) June 12, 2025

Wayne Lamicela '93 (COS) Feb. 7, 2025

Dean Smith '93 (CLA) June 2, 2025

1994

John Cordes III '94 (CAST) Feb. 10, 2025

Stephanie (Trauth) Hitchcock '94 (CIAS) July 20, 2024

William Hitchcock '94 (CIAS) July 20, 2024

Daniel Kane '94 (SCB) Jan. 6, 2025

Brad Phillips '94 (CCE) Feb. 23, 2025

Dave Rutherford '94 (CAST) Jan. 22, 2025

1995

Noah Bast '95 (CAST) June 3, 2025

David Roehrig '95 (SCB) Feb. 17, 2025

1996

Brian Genter '96 (COS) Oct. 10, 2024

Wayne Houghton '96 (CAST) June 6, 2025

Nathaniel Pepe '96 (CIAS) May 7, 2025

1997

Joseph Colindres '97 (CAST) Feb. 18, 2025

1998

John Ochs '98 MS (CAST) June 27, 2025

David Van Brunt '98 (CIAS) April 2, 2025

1999

Daniel Ganoung '99 (CIAS) Nov. 1, 2024

Jeffrey Ulrich '99 (CAST) Feb. 22, 2025

2000

William Elrod '00 MS (COS) June 1, 2025

Joseph McGoff '00 (CAST) June 10, 2025

2001

Mari Weaver '01 (CAST) March 20, 2025

2002

Dominique Hill '02 MBA (SCB) July 5, 2024

Kristopher Nettnin '02 (GCCIS) Feb. 1, 2025

2003

James Robertson '03 (SCB) Jan. 20, 2025

James Thomas '03 (NTID) April 15, 2025

2005

Jeannene Hoppe '05 (CIAS) May 2, 2025

Brendan Jackson '05 (KGCOE) June 15, 2025

2006

Amy Taylor '06 (CLA) March 25, 2025

2007

Gregory Dennis '07 (KGCOE) July 26, 2024

Travis Humiston '07 (CAST) April 21, 2025

Lenora Reid-Rose '07 MBA (SCB) Feb. 10, 2025

2008

Kyle Dorosz '08 (CIAS) Nov. 22, 2024

Tyler Guay '08 (CIAS) Feb. 15, 2025

2011

Anne Marie Sengillo '11 (CLA) April 14, 2025

2013

Eric Henderson '13 (COS) Jan. 12, 2025

2014

Noelle Kartik '14 (CAST) May 25, 2025

Andrew Kemp '14 (CLA) March 19, 2025

2016

Allison Perry '16 (CLA) October 2024

2017

Susan Rhodes '17 (KGCOE) Feb. 5, 2025

2021

Lucy Brown '21 (SCB) Feb. 15, 2025

2024

Oluwaseyi Onifade '24 (SOIS) Dec. 14, 2024

Faculty and Staff

Bruce Austin, Professor Emeritus in the School of Communication, March 16, 2025

Donald Boyd, RIT's first vice president for Research, Sept. 1, 2025

William (Bill) Buckingham, Board of Trustees chair emeritus, May 17, 2025

Barbara Huckabee, dining retiree, April 22, 2025

M. Joseph Klingensmith, retiree, May 3, 2025

Dian Miller, COLA dean's office retiree, April 5, 2025

Rich Notargiacomo, venture coach with Venture Creations, May 3, 2025

Stuart Hughes, ice operations manager, July 15, 2025

Patricia Whalley, GCCIS employee, March 31, 2025

Amy Engelbrecht-Wiggans, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, April 5, 2025

Todd Williams, service center analyst, April 29, 2025

Marcia Ellingson leaves a rich legacy.

Carlos Ortiz

The quiet influence of Marcia Ellingson

Few individuals have experienced and observed RIT's rich history quite like Marcia Randall Ellingson (1911-1993).

Marcia's life, as the daughter of RIT President John Arthur Randall (1881-1968) and the wife of his long-serving successor, Mark Ellingson (1904-1993), was interwoven with the university for over five decades.

This fall, students in Hands-On History, an undergraduate history course exploring archival research and storytelling, are diving into her legacy—a legacy that is rich, nuanced, and foundational to understanding today's university.

Marcia grew up in the shadow of Eastman Hall, surrounded by the early rhythms of campus life. Her father, who became president in 1922, championed the practical value of technical education and laid the groundwork for RIT's modern identity.

Marcia's memories of those early years—living downtown, attending graduations at First Presbyterian Church, and dining in a student-run domestic science kitchen—offer a deeply personal glimpse into a pivotal era.

Marcia first met Mark Ellingson when she was just 13 years old. He was in Rochester visiting the Eastman School of Music to study voice, having been encouraged by a faculty mentor who brought him to the Randall home for dinner.

Mark, already known for his background in economics and talent for public speaking, made a lasting impression. They married 10 years later. Soon after, Marcia's father resigned as president of RIT, and Mark stepped into the role—beginning a transformative presidency that would span over three decades.

But Marcia was never simply a presidential spouse. Her influence shaped both RIT and the broader Rochester community.

On campus she was a founding presence in organizations like the Women's Council, which played a crucial role in supporting student life and the creative arts. She organized teas for the Faculty Wives Club and helped host dignitaries and donors. Though often seen as social engagements, these efforts were essential to cultivating RIT's public image and internal culture.

In the Rochester community, Marcia was deeply involved in civic life. She was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Civic Music Association and was a passionate advocate for women's rights. Recognizing the importance of accessible healthcare and reproductive education, she helped bring Planned Parenthood to Rochester. She also championed the role of women in the military, working to ensure that women veterans and service members were acknowledged and supported.

As RIT approaches its 200th anniversary, a new generation of students, through the Hands-On History course, is turning to the archives to recover and reframe Marcia's story. Their findings will be published in a chapbook by RIT Press in 2026.

Elizabeth Call, university archivist

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No. 13, November 2025 – RIT (USPS-676-870) is published 13 times annually by Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603, once in January, nine times in March, once in April, once in September, and once in November. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to RIT, Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603.

BRICK CITY HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2025

A Bands, singers, and songwriters from the RIT Popular Music Collective performed in the Sklarsky Glass Box Theater.

B Ritchie the Tiger welcomed racers to the starting line of the Brick City 5K Fun Run and Walk.

C Dwight Williams, left, and Raymond Brown joined other members of the Class of 1975 to share memories at the Golden Circle event, which honors graduates celebrating 50 years or more as RIT alumni.

D Veronica Maynard, center, a second-year biochemistry major, attended Brick City with her parents, Robert and Barbara, from Gansevoort, N.Y. The family made a stuffed Bengal tiger at Build-a-Tiger, one of dozens of events during the weekend.

E Fans cheered on the men's hockey team, which beat Clarkson University 6-2 in front of a sold-out crowd at Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester.

F Comic Craig Robinson from *The Office* took the stage on Friday night.

G Members of the women's hockey team celebrated their 4-1 win against St. Lawrence University at the Gene Polisseni Center.

A, B, D, F. Myers Creative Imaging **C.** Keith Bullis **E.** Pete Schuck **G.** Colin Norland

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