Celebrating 50 Years at the Henrietta Campus

Campaign for Greatness will Transform RIT
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Transforming the landscape, transforming RIT

RIT’s history is fascinating and eclectic. Our university started with a progressive vision and uncommon ambition.

First, we were born of an unlikely institutional marriage of an influential cultural association, the Rochester Athenaeum, founded in 1829, and a technical training school, the Mechanics Institute, founded in 1885.

Yet it was the 1961 decision to leave downtown Rochester for farmland in the town of Henrietta that put RIT on its path to preeminence as a global university. This bold move allowed the university to start fresh with a new canvas. The new landscape also led to RIT being chosen as the home campus for the federally sponsored National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

The rest, as they say, is history as creativity and innovation began to flourish on the modern-day campus at a brisk pace. We have continued to transform the Henrietta and higher education landscape since we opened our doors in 1968.

What’s next? Together, we have many more chapters to write in the evolving RIT story. I am convinced that we have covered only the early volumes. This is why I am excited to announce we have launched a $1 billion campaign, the largest external support effort in the university’s history.

This blended campaign—including philanthropic, research and government funds—will allow us to build upon our updated strategic plan, engage alumni, grow our status as a research university and build deeper relationships with government and corporate partners. The campaign will impact every area of the university. Priorities include attracting exceptional talent, enhancing the student experience, improving the world through research and discovery, and leading future special initiatives.

Each time we combine the power of technology, the arts and design to make good things happen, we’re one step closer to greatness. Please join us on our journey as we work together toward a shared destiny.

We’re driving progress. We’re shaping what’s possible. We’re transforming the future, by transforming RIT.

We also hope to see you for Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend, Oct. 19-21, where we will be celebrating the 50-year milestone in Henrietta. This includes a rededication of our sprawling 1,300-acre campus, which now includes lots of glass and steel, in addition to our 15.7 million bricks!

We are eager to celebrate our past and look forward to reimagining the future.

Yours in Tiger pride,

David C. Munson Jr., President
munson@rit.edu
Fallen tree is being turned into three projects

Souvenirs — A keepsake

A limited production of RIT-branded commemorative souvenirs made of wood and glass—wood embracing RIT’s history and glass celebrating the present—will be given to honored members of the RIT community and also sold through ShopOne.

50th Anniversary Benches — A place for conversation

The proposed location of the group of monumental benches will be near the University Services Center building and Crossroads, representing the cusp of the original RIT campus edge.

“Sprout” — A place for learning at the Henrietta Library

The winning design of a place for reading and play in the Henrietta Public Library features an abstract tree in Wendell Castle's style where children can read, listen to stories and watch shows.
2018
Revisit the Campus:
October 19–21, 2018

Register now:
rit.edu/brickcity

1968

Departments

2  On Campus
6  About Students
8  Research
30 Alumni Updates
46 Class Notes
48 Tiger Love

Features

10 Transforming RIT
The Campaign for Greatness sets $1 billion goal. See how students are already benefitting.

16 College bound
RIT helps prep Rochester seniors for next step.

22 50 years in Henrietta
The story of how RIT transformed from a downtown college into a top-100 university coincides with a changing nation.

39 Alumni awards
The Outstanding Alumnus, Volunteer of the Year and the Distinguished Alumni will be honored during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend.

42 RIT Ambulance
RIT Ambulance members turn volunteerism into careers.

Cover
The black and white photo of students in the Infinity Quad, taken in 1972, is a window into how different the campus looks today. (Illustration by Jeff Arbogast)
More than 3,000 alumni of RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf returned to campus, many for the first time since graduating, for the college’s 50th anniversary reunion June 28-July 1. Activities included entertainment, a silent auction, mini reunions celebrating affinity groups, theatrical performances, an art exhibit celebrating deaf artists, workshops and a golf tournament.

Throughout its 50 years, NTID has become a catalyst for diversity and inclusion on the RIT campus, creating a post–secondary learning environment never before seen in this country. Today, NTID-supported students can take advantage of more than 200 majors, research and performing arts opportunities and doctoral degree readiness programs.

To read more about NTID’s history, go to http://bit.ly/NTID50.
Two colleges change their names

Two of RIT’s larger colleges are changing their names to better reflect their academic missions and opportunities for students.

College of Art and Design will be the new name for what is now known as the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

College of Engineering Technology was chosen for what is now the College of Applied Science and Technology.

The new names take effect with the fall 2018 semester, so diplomas of students graduating in December 2018 will bear the new college titles.

RIT has nine colleges, with schools and academic departments within each.

The College of Art and Design includes five schools, many of which offer nationally ranked graduate and undergraduate programs in the fine arts: American Crafts; Art; Design; Film and Animation; and Photographic Arts and Sciences. The School of Media Sciences is moving to the College of Engineering Technology to better align the curriculum with printing industry trends.

The College of Art and Design, which has some 25,000 alumni around the world, currently has more than 1,600 undergraduates and 290 graduate students, and more than 140 full-time faculty.

The College of Engineering Technology includes four departments: civil engineering technology, environmental management and safety; electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology; manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology; and packaging science, plus RIT’s Army and Air Force ROTC programs.

The college, which currently has 1,586 undergraduate and 303 graduate students, and 77 full-time faculty, offers 10 undergraduate and seven graduate academic programs. The School of International Hospitality and Service Innovation will move to Saunders College of Business, effective in 2019.

Ellen Rosen

National recognition

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine named RIT a Diversity Champion for the third consecutive year. The national distinction aims to identify schools that exemplify an unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus communities, across academic programs and at the highest administrative levels.

Goldwater Scholar

A student at RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Nicole Pannullo, is among 211 undergraduates from across the nation to be recognized as Barry Goldwater Scholars. It is the highest undergraduate award of its kind for the fields of the natural sciences, math and engineering.

Pannullo is the first hard-of-hearing RIT student to earn the award. She is a biochemistry major and research scholar from East Patchogue, N.Y.

Ranking high

RIT’s School of Film and Animation is ranked among the top animation schools in the country by Animation Career Review.

RIT places No. 10 nationally and No. 9 nationally among private schools and colleges.

Animation Career Review also named RIT the top game design school on the East Coast and second on the list of Top 50 Game Design Schools in the U.S., moving up from third in 2017.
Students designing city’s future sustainably

A research and design collaborative between RIT architecture students and faculty with community partners in and around the city of Rochester is bringing new thinking to neighborhoods in need.

More than 40 Master of Architecture students and several faculty members are working on projects ranging from designing affordable housing for Rochester’s poorest neighborhoods to adding to the city’s “ROC the Riverway” initiative with the design of a trendy hotel overlooking the largest urban waterfall in the world in High Falls.

“These are all examples of projects demonstrating scholarship of engagement—an important focus of RIT and certainly a strength of our architecture program,” said Jules Chiavaroli, a professor in the program.

The initiatives also demonstrate a commitment to urbanism, one of the four cornerstones of RIT’s architecture program, which received accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) earlier this year.

Urbanism studies how inhabitants of towns and cities interact with the built environment around them and is an essential component of sustainable urban planning and architecture.

Some sections of Rochester have been experiencing a renaissance in the last several years as more empty nesters and young people move back to the city.

Not all parts of the city have been experiencing such revitalization, however.

“The way Rochester has been developing, you have these ‘hot spots’ with voids in between,” Chiavaroli said. “Our students have been helping fill those critical voids.”

RIT students, for example, held design charrettes with city residents and worked closely with the Community Design Center Rochester and the Coalition of NorthEast Associations to help with the revitalization of the Hudson Avenue neighborhood.

After one team of students conducted initial research resulting in recommendations to the mix of housing types, another group produced drawings and identified potential delivery methods for affordable housing options, cost-reduction opportunities and energy-performance analyses.

Other students produced residential designs ranging from single-family homes and co-housing to multi-family apartments. Students also considered the project in a holistic way, identifying the appropriate mix of housing, greenspace and commercial development to achieve a sustainable neighborhood environment.

“City residents were so touched that our students cared enough about them to come up with such well-developed designs,” Chiavaroli said. “These are the people who are going to inherit the city when we’re done planning. Why shouldn’t they have a place at the table?”
Imagine this: RIT’s Innovation + Creativity Festival
Edited by Bruce A. Austin
Photography edited by A. Sue Weisler
Every year the Imagine RIT: Innovation + Creativity Festival brings thousands to campus to engage with creative exhibitions and innovative demonstrations in engineering, science, design, the arts, business, and more. Featuring six chapters and more than 150 photographs, Imagine this reveals the story behind the festival’s creation, development, and growth.

Transforming the Landscape: Fifty Years on the New RIT Campus
Edited by Becky Simmons
Essay by Sarah Thompson
In 1968, RIT moved from downtown Rochester to an undeveloped plot of land in Henrietta, N.Y., where it would undergo astonishing growth. Transforming the Landscape uses extensive archival images to provide an insider look at the planning, construction, and architectural design of the modern university.

A Shining Beacon: Fifty Years of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Edited by James McCarthy
RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf transformed the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing students. A Shining Beacon illuminates NTID’s accomplishments through the multifaceted perspectives and memories of its contributing writers—the faculty, staff, and students who experienced and shaped NTID’s growth and global influence.

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$34.95 each/$90 for all three titles
Members of WITR noticed something was missing last school year among its participants—women. “As a radio station, we have a voice. It’s important that our voice is representative of everyone at the university,” said Cole Johnson, a fourth-year human-centered computing major and previous member-at-large for the WITR Executive Board.

Johnson led an effort to step up recruitment efforts to make sure everyone was given an opportunity to be part of the more than 40-year-old college radio station. Although there have been female members in the past, the ratio of men to women has always been skewed.

Four of the six executive board positions for WITR elected last spring are held by women. Overall female membership has increased by 40 percent since 2017. “If you look at the previous board, it was all male, and in years before it was mostly men who held these positions,” said Nasha Torres, a third-year new media design major and the member-at-large for WITR. “I think this can show other clubs on campus that more women can and should get involved in these positions.”

Alessandra Santarosa, a third-year political science major and the general manager for WITR, explained that they weren’t recruiting women to simply meet a diversity quota. “We aren’t looking for anyone specific to join our station; anyone can join,” said Santarosa. “There is a place for everyone at WITR.”

All four new board members said it’s important for women to hold positions of power and emphasized how representation can help offset stereotypes. “There’s a stigma and negative stereotypes about women in leadership positions,” said Claire Koval, a second-year new media interactive development major and the program director for WITR. “I think it’s really important to break that stereotype and show that positions of power aren’t just for one gender.”

In addition to creating a more diverse image of WITR on campus, these four new officers have goals of continuing to increase the quality of the WITR community. They want the station to seem more approachable for people of all backgrounds and music tastes so other students are more inclined to take the first step and see what WITR has to offer them. “The reason I stick around is because of the community,” said Liz Kuhlman, a second-year computer engineering major and the WITR event coordinator. “Joining WITR was one of the best decisions I made in college.”
Despite temperatures in the 30s, brisk wind and snow, some 200 students as well as faculty and staff members got a warm feeling by helping others as they joined Flower City Habitat for Humanity to construct walls and frames for two homes to be erected in northwest Rochester. The project was part of Service Week, with dozens of opportunities for students to volunteer in community services. The April event was organized by RIT’s Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement. RIT students will be invited to help finish the homes on site before the residents move in by the end of the summer.

RIT joins Habitat for Humanity in Framing Frenzy

RIT is securing its legacy as one of the best colleges in esports after winning its first Collegiate Starleague (CSL) Dota 2 Grand Finals Championship April 28. The student team bested a bracket of North America’s 32 top universities to take home the $10,000 grand prize.

The team also made it to the finals of the American Video Game League’s (AVGL) April Anarchy. The RIT team flew to Huntington Beach, Calif., to take on McMaster University in the final four of the CSL Grand Finals. After winning the series 2–1, RIT moved onto the finals where they beat University of California, Davis.

“It’s been an eight-month marathon to get to this point, and the guys were ecstatic to bring home this championship,” said Sam Belisle, a second-year game design and development major from Shelburne, Vt., and team manager. “Going into the playoffs, we had a target painted across our back, and the expectations couldn’t have been higher.”

“The dedication and drive this team has to be the best is immense, and I strongly believe it’ll be the staple of RIT esports for years to come,” Belisle added.

The students battled on stage in front of more than 200 fans in-person and thousands more online. As the top team, the RIT players will each get a championship ring.

“This team represents the best in our students, with unparalleled passion and dedication to their sport,” said Chad Weeden, assistant director of RIT’s School of Interactive Games and Media in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, who attended the finals. “They give RIT pride and they are champions.”

The RIT Dota 2 team includes Belisle; Reed Cogliano, a second-year computer science major from Carlisle, Mass.; Nicholas Giordano, a third-year software engineering major from Warren, N.J.; Benjamin Morgan, a fourth-year game design and development major from Peru, N.Y.; Jazib Rao, a third-year management information systems major from Queens, N.Y.; Will Dickinson, a fourth-year game design and development major West Hartford, Conn.; and Carter Kerstetter, a fourth-year computer science major from Lewisburg, Pa.
Research

Integrated Photonics
Integrating photons onto microchips, which will address key computing, energy, communications and sensing challenges of the future.

Scaled Electronics
Building structures in electronic devices that approach the single nanometer scale.

Photovoltaics
Improving the efficiency at which photovoltaics converts sunlight to electricity.
RIT’s Future Photon Initiative is developing a system of quality-control protocols for a national photonics manufacturing hub located in Rochester.

The system will test and validate photonics devices produced at the American Institute for Manufacturing (AIM) Integrated Photonics facility, RIT, a Tier 1 Academic Member of AIM Photonics, is building software and hardware to interface with technology in development at Columbia University and at Precision Optical Transceivers Inc.

The Future Photon Initiative, an RIT signature research area led by Don Figer, will deliver the operational system to the AIM testing and packaging (TAP) facility in 2019.

Advanced photonics seeks to tap the speed and energy of photons, or light. The emerging technology could have wide-sweeping influence in potential markets including solar energy, biophotonics, high performance imaging, astrophysics, communications and electronics and computing. The industry’s success is tied to developing scaled-up manufacturing processes that can mass produce functional photon devices.

The AIM consortium is building the infrastructure and inventing the photonics products. It is building the photonics industry from the ground up.

“The tests don’t exist yet. The devices don’t exist yet. The software to design the devices doesn’t exist,” said Figer, whose team is developing the test station. “All these tools are in bits and pieces of the photonic ecosystem that we’re building. It’s the whole collaboration—AIM Photonics. One of the little pieces is the testing and verification.”

Figer has experience designing tests for emerging technology. He tested imaging sensor technology for the James Webb Space Telescope and created the testing plan for infrared detectors on the Hubble Space Telescope. He is currently the co-chair of the detectors technology working group and a member of the High Definition Imager instrument team for NASA’s future Large UV/Optical/IR Surveyor.

RIT has received multiple grants from AIM Photonics since 2015 for research projects in integrated photonics (circuit-sandwiches of new optical devices and traditional semi-conductors) and workforce education.

The majority of the funding supports research conducted by Stefan Preble, director of the RIT Integrated Photonics Group and professor of microsystems engineering in Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Preble coordinates AIM Photonics research projects at RIT.

Preble was instrumental in establishing a connection between RIT and Precision OT, a Rochester-based company that develops technology used in optical communication systems.

Precision OT’s chief technology officer is Bryce Tennant ’97 (electrical engineering), ’04 (electrical engineering), a Ph.D. student researcher in microsystems engineering.

Precision OT is a member of the Future Photon Initiative’s Industrial Partnership Program and occupies office space on the RIT campus for ease in collaboration. Equipment Precision OT purchased is used for research with RIT faculty and students.

“Precision’s strategic partnership with the Future Photon Initiative has provided for a fruitful relationship between our company and the university,” Tennant said. “Through the FPI we have been able to effectively build relationships with RIT, sponsor working projects with both faculty and students, and recruit new talent for our business.”

Precision OT is working in tandem with Figer’s research group to develop the integrated photonics reference design and programmable integrated circuits that will enhance the testing system’s performance and efficiency.

“The Rochester TAP testing/verification project that Don’s team is running at the Future Photon Initiative is a highly complex integrated system involving many intricate systems coordinating together to validate a multitude of integrated photon devices,” Tennant said. “The Future Photon Initiative’s involvement with the software development and maintenance for the Rochester hub provides a critical component of the TAP’s functionality.”

Susan Gawlowicz ’95

AIM Photonics

The American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics is part of the federal government’s Manufacturing USA initiative. Created in July 2015, it is run by a consortium of 90 university, government and corporate partners, led by SUNY Polytechnic Institute, RIT, University of Rochester and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
RIT has publicly launched a $1 billion campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the university’s history. The campaign, which was announced at a gala on July 12, is unique because it is a blended campaign, said Lisa Cauda, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations. A blended campaign seeks support from a variety of investors, including alumni and friends, government and corporate partners, and research foundations and agencies.

“By blending these contributions, corporate, government and private dollars can work together to achieve our shared goals,” Cauda said.

RIT President David Munson said the campaign is aptly titled, “Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness.”

“This campaign will allow us to build upon our updated strategic plan, engage alumni, grow our status as a research university and build deeper relationships with government and corporate partners,” he said.

The blended campaign impacts every area of the university. Priorities include attracting exceptional talent, enhancing the student experience, improving the world through research and discovery, and leading future special initiatives.

The public phase of the campaign follows five years of giving.

To date, more than half of the $1 billion has already been raised.

The following stories are examples of how students are already benefitting.

Watch for future magazines as we explore other ways campaign dollars will transform RIT.
Connor Draughn wanted to get out of his comfort zone and try something new, so the hospitality and tourism management major decided to spend a semester studying at RIT Croatia.

“I learned a lot about myself,” said Draughn, who is from Raleigh, N.C. “For sure it is a highlight of my time at RIT.”

Draughn was helped by the Constellation Brands Study Abroad Fund, which supports hospitality students who want to study in Croatia.

Ginny Clark, senior vice president of Public Affairs for Constellation Brands, said given the importance of global learning, Constellation felt that this opportunity for RIT students would be a meaningful way to give back.

“Today’s business world is global—and the key to a successful global business is building strong, trusted relationships,” said Clark ’06, ’08 (hospitality and service management, service leadership and innovation). "Constellation believes that creating this scholarship opportunity for students to study abroad supports the experiential educational efforts that RIT sees as a critical component to a student’s education.”

Supporting hospitality students, Clark added, made sense for Constellation Brands, which is a global beverage alcohol company—but at its core is a hospitality company.

“It was quite natural that Constellation would see a strong connection with our philanthropy and the School of International Hospitality and Service Innovation,” she said.

Draughn, who got his associate degree in hospitality and services management from NTID in 2016, started pursuing a bachelor’s degree last year. He spent the fall semester of 2017 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, taking hospitality and tourism classes. He is minoring in history, he said, so he enjoyed living in the historic city and learning about the culture and the country.

After he graduates from RIT, Draughn said, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in hospitality and tourism. He hopes to one day become a travel coordinator for a professional sports team or for a Fortune 500 company.

The study abroad experience had such an impact on Draughn that after he returned, he got a job as a Global Ambassador coaching other RIT students about opportunities abroad.

“I like helping people,” Draughn said. “I like telling other students about my experience so they will think about doing something different while they are in school.”
To get a position in the financial leadership development program with aerospace company BAE Systems, Emily Young ’18 (finance) had to stand out in two days of interviews.

The first activity was a dinner, where she had to talk to people in the program in a social setting. “I had done that social networking multiple times before,” said Young, who was offered the full-time position six months before she graduated.

Young learned how to network on three trips she took with other Saunders College of Business Honors students. Each spring break, Honors students spend a week visiting companies and alumni in different cities. Young, a Buffalo, N.Y., native, went to Chicago, Seattle and Dallas and estimates she visited a total of 18 companies to learn about different industries.

The trips are paid for by a fund set up by RIT Trustee Charles Brown Jr. ’79 (MBA) and his wife, Renee Brown. The Browns set up the fund in 2006 to give students an experiential opportunity and endowed it last year so it will continue to benefit students into the future.

The idea for the fund emanated from an experience Charles Brown had as part of the MIT Sloan Fellows Program in 1992. That graduate program for mid-career managers included an international and domestic trip, which Brown said was the highlight of the one-year program.

Brown took a year sabbatical from his job as manufacturing materials manager at Eastman Kodak to participate. He retired from Kodak in 2006 as a senior vice president.

The RIT students not only research the companies in advance, but they present that research, along with what they learned during the visit, to Brown when they return.

“My hope is that the trip gives Honors students an opportunity to engage in a well-run experiential trip that exposes them to a broad range of career opportunities and further allows them to mature in their business acumen,” Brown said.

That certainly was the case for Young, who began to think about working for an aerospace company after visiting Boeing in Seattle.

“You go to the other cities, you are like, ‘I could go to a museum. I could work for a nonprofit,’” she said. “The trips definitely show you there is a lot of opportunity out there.”
Shantinique Cowans ‘18 (media arts and technology) enrolled at RIT instead of at other colleges because she was offered a full-tuition scholarship through the Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars Program.

The scholarship, though, didn’t cover housing expenses, so she took out a loan her first year on campus. The second year, she became a resident adviser to help cover room and board expenses.

“I was hoping to continue as an RA but I started having health issues, which created financial issues,” Cowans said.

She was diagnosed with lupus and was in and out of the hospital. She finished her year as an RA but Cowans said there was no way she could take the job again because of her health.

She reached out to the Multicultural Center for Academic Success and learned about a scholarship that helps students with housing expenses.

The M. Forrest and Robert Hurlbut Residence College Fund was established in 2012 to provide on-campus room and board support to students in the Rochester City Scholars Program, said Robert Hurlbut ’84 (hospitality), who named the scholarship after his sons.

“I think it can be a game-changer for a lot of these students to be able to live on campus,” Hurlbut said. “In college you are supposed to be separated from home. This is your chance to break off from home and be your own person. That to me is just huge.”

It was huge for Cowans, who said commuting wasn’t an option because she is the oldest of eight children and focusing on school work at home would have been difficult.

The fund was the first at RIT designated solely for housing. Hurlbut, president of Hurlbut Care Communities, said he hopes it inspires others.

“A lot of money is given to buildings and books and scholarships but not for people to live on campus,” he said. “I wish more people would think about doing this.”

Mindy Mozer

Shantinique Cowans was a recipient of the M. Forrest and Robert Hurlbut Residence College Fund, which allowed her to live on campus.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler
Robert McLaughlin ’18 (software engineering) has made an augmented reality sandbox, turned a table into a touch surface for a computer and helped create a digital assistant similar to Amazon’s Alexa—before Alexa came out.

McLaughlin worked on the projects in his spare time, with other members of the Society of Software Engineers. All of the projects were funded by the Alex A. Kipman ’01 Endowment for the Department of Software Engineering.

McLaughlin, president of the Society of Software Engineers, said the group, which has about 60 members on campus, has four pillars: social events, networking, mentoring and projects.

The Kipman fund, which was championed by Kipman through Microsoft, fully supports the projects. Some exhibit their projects at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival.

“The students are free to explore what they want,” he said, adding that there are usually three projects going at a time. To create the sandbox, students used a Microsoft Kinect camera to track activity in the sand in real-time. When the sand was moved around, a digital projector put color onto the landscape.

“Equipment for these projects for an average student would be difficult to procure,” said McLaughlin, who is from Philadelphia.

Kipman, who was also a software engineering major at RIT, is Technical Fellow, Cloud and AI at Microsoft. Kipman has led four major break-through products for the company, including Kinect in 2010. Microsoft HoloLens is his latest product creation, bringing holograms to Windows.

McLaughlin said the projects gave him talking points on his résumé, which helped him land three co-ops and an internship.

“Being able to go in depth about a project is really pretty great,” he said.

McLaughlin’s last co-op was at Microsoft, which offered him a full-time position. He started in July as a software engineer.

What does he think about working for the same company as the guy who made the projects possible?

“Maybe I’ll bump into him out there and say, ‘Hey, thank you.’”

Mindy Mozer
RIT alumni shape the world through their creativity, innovation, and, now, service! Join fellow Tigers from around the globe on our annual day of service and give back to your community. Together, let’s spread Tiger Pride worldwide.

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<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
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In front of a crowded auditorium at Rochester Prep High School in May, Ismael Cortes Jr. took the stage. The occasion was “Decision Day,” when seniors from the charter school’s first graduating class proudly declare where they will go to college.

“In four years, I will be graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology,” said Cortes to cheers.

While Cortes looked elated by this announcement, he did not seem overwhelmed by the thought of college life. That’s because he’s already gotten a heavy dose of college-level work courtesy of Rochester Prep’s strategic partnership with RIT.

Since the high school’s inception in 2014, RIT students, faculty and staff have been helping to prepare Rochester Prep students to succeed at college through coursework, tutoring and mentorship.

From the beginning, the charter school has placed the focus on graduating from college, as Cortes noted on Decision Day. But while Cortes and his classmates already have their eyes focused on the endgame of earning a college degree, they took a day to celebrate the first big step of getting accepted.

The graduating class of 25 students received 96 college acceptances, and 100 percent of these students will attend college in the fall, including at prestigious national universities such as RIT, George Washington University and Carleton College.

That is significant compared to their peers in the Rochester City School District, where last year 69 percent of graduates planned to go to college, according to state data.

Sixty-six percent of the Rochester Prep graduates, like Cortes, will be first-generation college students. Cortes, who will study new media marketing at RIT, will be joined by classmates Zaid Abdulsalam (undeclared art) and Justice Marbury (photojournalism), as well as more who plan to transfer to RIT in two years after first taking classes at Monroe Community College.

“We have a really small school and everyone is close to each other,” said Cortes about declaring his college decision before family, friends and underclassmen who are starting to think about college themselves. “Seeing
the love that everybody showed for us made everybody excited.”

**A shared dream**

In 2013, Uncommon Schools announced they would launch a new charter school, and RIT became a strategic partner thanks to longtime RIT Trustee Ronald L. Zarrella, who contributed the funding necessary to support the development and delivery of RIT’s contributions.

“Our vision was to get every kid to and through college, with a special push on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),” said David McBride, principal at Rochester Prep High School. “I think one of the things that was important for us—which is why the partnership with RIT has been so great—is trying to give our students a path to a STEM field.”

When the school’s doors opened a year later, RIT faculty and staff served on an advisory board for the school, RIT students worked as tutors for Rochester Prep students and RIT created and staffed a digital design course. Rochester Prep students also began to visit campus.

The partnership would grow each year and RIT would offer more and more opportunities for the Rochester Prep students as their skills advanced.

Marbury was among the first Rochester Prep students to do intensive work at RIT. In the summer of 2015, she came to RIT for a photography workshop with William Snyder, chair of the photojournalism program.

She quickly became hooked on photography, and RIT became like a second home.
She returned for multiple photography workshops with Snyder, took photographs at Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival for a project and eventually became one of seven students who would pilot a senior capstone project program last fall.

For her capstone project, Marbury and Cortes explored new avenues of photojournalism with RIT Assistant Professor Josh Meltzer. The students produced a short documentary about the future of Parcel 5, a key piece of open real estate in the city’s center, that featured interviews with Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren and other community members.

Marbury seemed to relish the extra work. “She’s always so busy between school, work and also doing her capstone and socializing,” said her mother, Mia Marbury. “Somehow she’s able to get everything
I wanted to be a surgeon or anything else. And all my friends and family were like, ‘Zaid, you’re good at art—you should do something like that.’"

With a little help from one of his teachers, he soon discovered that the medical and the art worlds intersect in a program taught at RIT. "We had an art club and one of my teachers told me about medical illustration and I was interested," he said. "I looked it up over the summer and when I dug into it, I was like, ‘Oh, this could actually be a good way to use both my art skills and my interest in medicine.’"

Abdulsalam will enter RIT as an undeclared art major but plans to hone in on medical illustration for his degree. He visited RIT in May for accepted student open house with his sister, Afnaan, and his mother, Dilia Corujo.

Marbury and Ismael Cortes Jr. worked on senior capstone projects with RIT Assistant Professor Josh Meltzer last fall. The students produced a short documentary about the future of Parcel 5, a key piece of open real estate in the city’s center, that featured an interview with Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, right.

About the partnership

RIT has been a strategic partner of Rochester Prep High School since the public school, which is free and open to all families living in the city, opened in 2014. RIT’s efforts were led by Kit Mayberry, vice president for strategic planning and special initiatives, who guided dozens of RIT faculty, students and staff involved in designing and running the partnership. RIT Trustee Ronald L. Zarrrella contributed the funding to support the development and delivery of RIT’s contributions. Rochester Prep expects to have 378 students this school year.
Abdulsalam, top center, participated in a senior capstone project designing characters for an experimental computer game that uses colored visors to distort what players see. He showed off the game at the first Capstone Showcase in March to, from left, RIT Associate Professor Robert Ospood; Rochester Prep teacher Charles Doerflinger ’87, ’15 (graphic design, visual arts); and his mother, Dilia Corujo.
Ready for college life

The partnership between RIT and Rochester Prep doesn’t just get the students exploring new subjects and applying their skills in ways they normally wouldn’t in high school. Being in a college atmosphere and around college students has helped the Rochester Prep students pick up the soft skills and work ethic they need to succeed at the next level.

“The goal for Rochester Prep High School, as it grows, is to produce full cohorts of students that are ready for college,” said Christy Hendler, director of Strategic Initiatives at Rochester Prep. “They’ve had the AP classes, they have the SATs, they have the independent thinking, the drive and everything that they need to be successful.”

Abdulsalam also participated in a senior capstone project last fall, designing characters for an experimental computer game that uses colored visors to distort what players see. His mother, Dilia Corujo, saw him and his classmates start to engage in their work in a whole new way.

“I think it was a great, amazing experience,” she said. “If anything, it definitely taught them time management in regards to the real college world. You can’t just go in and say, ‘I’m not going to do my homework, I’ll go to class and that’s it.’ You have to put in the work, the effort and the extra time.”

All of this extra work paid off for her son, who was accepted to RIT, his first choice, via the Early Decision Plan and was offered a scholarship through the Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars program. That scholarship provides free tuition and academic and social support for graduates from Rochester City School District and approved charter schools with financial need.

The New York State Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) also will support some of the RIT students.

As a whole, the Rochester Prep senior class received more than $3 million in scholarship offers.

And as they tend to do in most things, the three Rochester Prep graduates attending RIT got an early start on their studies this summer. They were among the 70 students chosen to participate in the RIT Division of Diversity and Inclusion Summer Experience, an intensive four-week summer program that consists of two four-credit hour courses, developmental workshops, academic coaching, exposure to research and community service programs.

The road ahead

RIT and Rochester Prep are planning to build on the successful collaborations they’ve had so far. For starters, officials plan to significantly grow the senior capstone program. This school year they aim to have eight RIT faculty members working with about 20 Rochester Prep seniors.

And with bigger cohorts ahead—next year’s senior class will be 60 students, more than double the size of this year’s—RIT and Rochester Prep will look for additional ways to get the high school students ready for college life.

“Because we started from ground zero, my expectation with the initial grant was to get the groundwork of what is possible seeded so it can perpetuate itself, and I think we’ve done that,” said Zarrella. “I still have really big expectations for this program going forward. I hope more and more of their top students will come to RIT.”

On signing day, Cortes and his classmates reveled in their moment. It was the culmination of all their hard work and the hours they’ve sacrificed, knowing that uncertain but bright futures lay ahead.

“So today was an amazing experience,” said Cortes. “Most of the people in my family were here. I was trying so hard not to look at them just because I knew I was going to break out and cry, especially because I’m the first one from my family to go to college. It was hard for me to keep my emotions in check.”

Luke Aubum ’09, ’15

Abdulsalam, left, and Cortes declared to their classmates that they will be graduating from RIT in four years.

Sixty-six percent of Rochester Prep graduates will be first-generation college students. Cortes, pictured here studying for a math test at Rochester Prep, is among that group. He will major in new media marketing at RIT.
The sixties turned sour in 1968. A decade that began with optimism suddenly saw an escalating Vietnam War, two assassinations and a nation in civil unrest.

Yet, at RIT, the future was looking a little sweeter.

The campus was moving from downtown Rochester—where it had been since 1885—to fields in the town of Henrietta. After seven years of planning, RIT had transformed 1,300 acres of farmland into a modern university. It was affectionately referred to as “Brick City” and became a place for bright minds to come together to learn and grow.

Fifty years later, that transformation hasn’t stopped.

Throughout 2018-2019, RIT is celebrating this milestone with a year of activities. Highlighting the 50th anniversary is a Henrietta campus re-dedication ceremony and downtown campus ceremony during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend Oct. 19–21.

“In the middle of the 20th century, RIT was already making an indelible mark in higher education, shaping careers for its students, providing the workforce that served as the economic backbone for the Rochester region and acting as an invaluable partner to companies and industries across the country,” said Bill Buckingham ’64 (business administration), honorary chair of the 50th anniversary. “In the last 50 years, RIT has expanded its reach and reputation around the globe and deepened its impact on the lives of our students and alumni.”

The story of how RIT transformed from a downtown college to a top-100 doctoral university coincides with a changing nation in the 1950s and ’60s. Like many Americans, RIT was looking toward the future when it moved to the suburbs.
Choosing Henrietta

One year before President John F. Kennedy gave his impassioned speech persuading the American people to land on the moon, the RIT community was preparing to make its own giant leap.

It was 1961 and suburbanization was sweeping the nation, as more than 41,000 miles of new expressways were being built.

Unfortunately, one of the miles that would help connect Rochester’s new Inner Loop was going to divide RIT’s downtown campus in half. The question—should RIT stay or should it go?

“It was really a push and pull situation,” said Becky Simmons, RIT archivist. “With a growing student population and the fact that they were literally running out of space, RIT was already looking to expand.”

In Rochester, the skilled technical economy was booming, with Kodak, Xerox and Bausch and Lomb at their peaks. Helping to supply that economy was a growing number of people in higher education, fueled by the flourishing population and threat of a Cold War.

After World War II, “higher education, especially scientific and technical education, was regarded as the answer to almost all national and personal hopes and ambitions,” wrote Dane Gordon, RIT Professor Emeritus, in his book about RIT history.

To meet the demand, RIT began offering bachelor’s degrees in the 1950s. The disjointed downtown campus adapted too—turning an old house into the Student Union, redesigning a bakery into the school library and converting the old Manger Rochester Hotel into the men’s dormitory.

As a member of the 1955-1956 undefeated basketball team, Fred Moss ’58 (graphic arts) remembers practicing and playing home games in RIT’s new athletics complex, the Ritter-Clark Memorial Building. The gym and ice rink were just a short walk from his dorm on Spring Street.

“At the time, half of my fellow students were veterans attending school under the GI Bill; the other half were recent high school

Planning and construction of the Henrietta campus lasted seven years. From top left clockwise, varying stages of construction can be seen on the Frank Ritter Memorial Ice Arena, Clark Gymnasium and what is now Thomas Gosnell Hall, which houses the College of Science.

THE HENRIETTA CAMPUS
A combination of factors led RIT to decide that it would leave downtown Rochester. A new highway was being built through campus and the Clark Building, pictured above in 1947, struggled to house new students in the growing printing and photography programs.

graduates, such as myself,” said Moss, who ran his own graphics and printing company in New Jersey for more than 50 years. “This mix of ages and experiences was a very special grouping for our college life.”

For many of the school’s working part-time students, parking was a major problem. But students fondly remember the close-knit urban campus, area bars and hangouts, the end of the Rochester Subway and the opening of Midtown Plaza.

Nevertheless, the incoming Interstate 490 gave RIT leaders a deadline. When considering to move RIT’s more than 8,000 students, one of the strongest proponents for getting plenty of land was James Gleason, a longtime chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“Don’t get 100 acres,” he would say. “Buy enough land for the next 100 years.”

After some vigorous debate by trustee members and a surprise $3.27 million donation (which would be $27 million today) from Grace Watson—a Rochester resident who had taken some courses downtown—the move was decided in November of 1961.

When RIT President Mark Ellingson made the announcement, an excited group of students took an impromptu trip to the farm-land. They also began raising money for a student union on the new campus and even printed a special edition of the Reporter.

The headline read: “We’re Coming, Henrietta!”

Building the future
Right away, President Ellingson and RIT’s board set out to fulfill their vision for a modern and functional campus.

“Most universities start in one place and grow outward,” said Simmons. “Here is President Ellingson with the opportunity to start something brand new.”

He stated that the school should look like a technical institution, not a traditional Ivy League university. He dreamed of monu-

mental buildings that

Remembering the farmland
Don Eddy ’63 (photographic illustration), ’01 (multidisciplinary studies)

“A huge picnic was planned for a nice summer day at the newly purchased campus in 1963. One caveat—all of the picnic tables would have to be put together. That was accomplished almost immediately, as throngs of people arrived to complete some of the first construction on campus. Someone brought an armored personnel carrier that gave many thrilling trips down the slopes of the hilly terrain and into the small marsh of cattails and shrubs. My wife, 3-year-old daughter and I attended that day and I made a few black and white photos.”

RIT’s campus, shown here in 1968, sits on the bank of the Genesee River. The Red Barn, bottom right, was built by farmers in 1908 and is the old-
est building on campus. Today, the barn is a rock climbing gym.

Photo by Don Eddy
were strongly unified, as opposed to the dis-parate collection of old buildings downtown.

Five architecture firms were hired to construct the Brutalist-style buildings located on two small hills above the flood level of the property. The separated academic and residential sides would be connected by a causeway, later named the Quarter Mile.

But while RIT was preparing to break ground on Eastman Hall in 1964, tension was building near the downtown campus.

Over the course of three days in July, Rochester was shaken by unrest and riots that resulted in the National Guard being called into the city and nearly 1,000 people being arrested. The 1964 Rochester race riot was a backlash against institutionalized discrimination and overcrowding that was happening in the Third Ward—which today is known as the Corn Hill area.

“The Institute was at the heart of one of the most badly disturbed areas,” wrote Gordon. “Yet nothing happened to it, not a window smashed.”

Still, campus safety became a debated topic. The moving plans went on. Each academic department had to think about the needs of its students and supplies. Where will the printing presses and materials testing machines go?

In 1968, the campus was ready for move-in—just one year later than scheduled. Diana (DeSio) Hauman ’69 (retail management), who had lived her first three years downtown, remembers thinking that the move was less than ideal. Nevertheless, during her resident adviser orientation she volunteered to be part of a crew moving furniture from downtown to the new campus to make sure everything was ready in time.

“We wanted to help

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 1968

1974 A new complex for the federally sponsored National Technical Institute for the Deaf is dedicated.

1979 The Eisenhower College, located in Seneca Falls, N.Y., is acquired by RIT. Eisenhower’s liberal arts programs are infused into RIT.

1982 RIT establishes the first microelectronic engineering undergraduate program in the U.S.

1989 The Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science is dedicated. One year later, RIT’s first Ph.D. program in imaging science is established.

1996 An undergraduate program in software engineering, the first of its kind in the U.S., is established.

1997 The Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, created with $20.75 million in federal and state funding, opens with a mission to increase the competitiveness of manufacturers through technology solutions and training.

Campus architecture

The buildings of RIT’s Henrietta campus are unified by Brutalist-style architecture, which is known for being massive in character. The term Brutalism originates from “brut,” the French word for “raw,” and refers to its typical building material: raw concrete. Today, new buildings on campus incorporate more glass, open spaces and sustainable design.
because we were excited,” said Hauman, who ran her own performance management company for 25 years and now serves on the city council in her hometown of Bloomington, Ill. “The campus wasn’t really finished yet, but hey, it was new."

Transferring to a new campus

One year before the Woodstock music festival produced a 10-mile-long traffic jam on the New York State Thruway, the first day of classes at RIT’s new campus was creating its own bottleneck on Jefferson Road. Newspapers congratulated RIT on its “Warm bricks” and “Glass that doesn’t scream at you.” Students played Jimi Hendrix from the balconies of their two-story lounges, outfitted with spiral staircases. The campus was officially dedicated at a ceremony during homecoming weekend.

In addition to a new landscape, a new freshman class had arrived, entering the newly formed National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

“NTID students would put big signs in their windows saying ‘Deaf Power,’ a play on the popular ‘Flower Power’ phrase,” said Hauman. “We learned some sign language and the students helped us integrate into their world—I thought it was pretty cool.”

However, there were growing pains.

Greg Evans ’69 (art and design) had to drive back to the downtown campus for classes during the first quarter,
because parts of the art building weren’t ready yet.

“I also remember that President Ellingson waited until spring to put some of the sidewalks in, because he said, ‘Let’s wait and see where the students actually walk,’” said Evans, who was student body president at the time. “We trudged through a lot of mud and grass that year.”

At times, the campus seemed less than welcoming with its sparse trees and lackluster landscaping. Jim Booth ’71 (business administration) remembers having to triple up in his dorm room for the first three months, serious problems with a lack of heat in some of the buildings and one friend who became quite skilled at catching field mice in Kate Gleason Hall.

But in the back of everyone’s minds was something far more disconcerting than unfinished buildings—the ongoing Vietnam War. Many young men were attending RIT to further their education but also to postpone being drafted.

“It loomed over everything and you were just hoping the war would end before you graduated,” said Evans, who eventually joined the Navy and later worked as vice president for Development at the College of Charleston. “We weren’t holding demonstrations on campus like University of Rochester, but several of us went to Washington, D.C., and we discussed the news every single night.”

For some alumni, the move to Henrietta was like transferring to a new school—it was difficult to grow attached to the new campus. However, the relationship with their alma mater never seemed to falter.

“I’ve always paid attention to how RIT has been developing into a world-class university over the years,” said Evans. “It makes you feel proud.”

For Booth, that relationship has gone one step further. In 2016, after 24 years working in logistics at Xerox and subsequently his own business in Rochester, he came back to campus for the second time in nearly 50 years. He watched his grandson move into Kate Gleason Hall, the same residence hall Booth lived in when he first arrived in 1968.

“I got to campus and I must have looked like an owl, with my head spinning around everywhere,” said Booth. “Everything is so exciting here and the campus has grown so much.”

Since Booth graduated, RIT has added more than 50 buildings, eight Ph.D. programs and international locations in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo. For the first time, the university is now ranked among the top 100 national research universities by U.S. News and World Report.
Computer science student AJ Nagashima and his grandfather, Jim Booth ’71 (business administration), were both residents of the Kate Gleason Hall dormitory, nearly 50 years apart.
For AJ Nagashima, who will start his third year as a computer science major this fall, his grandfather’s legacy wasn’t the reason he chose RIT.

Although he does admit that he was coerced into taking his first campus tour.

“RIT was just the best option for the program that I wanted to do, and I knew the culture was the right fit for me,” said Nagashima, who is from Valhalla, N.Y. “Although, I was a little disappointed when I got here and I couldn’t find the two-story lounges that my grandfather had raved about.”

Today, nearly 19,000 students are taking advantage of the land that Gleason urged RIT to buy. Researchers in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability are finding ways to make manufacturing more efficient, while students in the Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship learn how to create and commercialize their ideas.

After classes, members of the RIT community can be found relaxing outside at Global Village plaza, coasting down designated bike paths and cheering on the Division I hockey teams in the Gene Polisseni Center.

“Over the past 50 years, RIT has transformed and Brick City has become a beacon of knowledge and innovation,” said Buckingham. “However, I think we are only at the beginning of RIT’s story.”

Scott Bureau ’11, ’16

Join the celebration

Throughout the 2018–2019 academic year, RIT will celebrate the 50-year milestone with many events, including:

- **Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend, Oct. 19–21:** The annual bash includes a special Henrietta campus re-dedication ceremony and downtown campus ceremony. Register at rit.edu/brickcity.

- **Futurists Symposium:** Held at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on April 27, 2019, the event will showcase the future of technology and innovation, including what’s next at RIT.

Share your memories of RIT, view historical yearbooks, read stories, watch videos and stay up-to-date on the latest anniversary events at rit.edu/henrietta50.
Michael Oshetski ’03 (electrical engineering) started Micatu, which provides next-generation optical sensors. He recently visited RIT and talked with students about entrepreneurship and how he built his company from the ground up.

Michael Oshetski ’03 (electrical engineering) was watching the sun rise from an airport in Hong Kong when he turned to his good friend and co-worker, Atul Pradhan, and asked if he wanted to start a company.

“We are both tired and he’s like, ‘Sure, yeah, whatever.’ I’m like, ‘No really, do you want to start a company.’”

Eight years later the company—named Micatu after the first three letters of each partner’s first name— is a multimillion dollar business changing the way the world senses with light.

Oshetski started working as an electrical engineer right after graduation and worked his way up at various telecom companies. He landed a position as program manager, overseeing engineering and manufacturing teams and managing tens of millions in annual sales.

“It was fun, it was exciting,” he said. “But I always had this nagging thing in the back of my head. What would happen if I tried my own thing?”

He thought Pradhan, who has a Ph.D. in physics from MIT and was a co-designer of Google’s Streetview lens, would be the perfect partner.

Like many start-ups, Micatu began in a garage with three people. The cofounders knew they wanted to go into optical sensing because they could see the opportunities in that area, everything from electric cars to utilities to industrial sensing.

“The market was really searching for solutions,” Oshetski said. “The timing was just perfect.”

Their optic sensors monitor vibration, acceleration, vector and displacement. Sensors that use optics are more precise than electronic sensors.

The company has won about $10 million in state and federal grants since 2012 and now works with every major utility in New York state, helping them better regulate their operations and reduce energy use.

In 2016, Micatu was the grand prize winner in the state’s first-ever clean technology business competition called 76West.

The $1 million prize, funded by NYSERDA, has helped the Horseheads, N.Y., company grow, including expansion to a new 70,000-square-foot manufacturing facility.

That growth is expected to continue. In April, Micatu signed a deal with power management company Eaton to provide optical sensing technology. Eaton had $20.4 billion in sales last year.

Oshetski said he is proud he has been able to bring high-tech jobs to his hometown. He is thankful for his RIT degree, which gave him a strong technical background, as well as his father, who passed along a business sense.

At the age of 38, he is just getting started. Oshetski said he wants to continue to grow his company as well as pursue side projects, such as speaking and coaching students.

His advice: “Entrepreneurship is a journey. It’s not a destination. Only do it for the right reasons. Do it because you are passionate about it and you want to fundamentally help people. If you focus on that, you’ll be fine.”

Mindy Mozer

CEO of optics company senses bright future
An RIT photojournalism alumnus was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team announced in April.

David Wallace ’01, a photographer with The Arizona Republic, helped the newspaper staff and the USA TODAY NETWORK win the prize for explanatory reporting for a project on President Donald Trump’s proposed border wall.

“The Wall: Unknown Stories, Unintended Consequences” included more than a dozen stories and documentary videos, a podcast series and a digital map with video of every foot of the 2,000-mile border showing existing fencing.

Wallace, who has been a staff photographer for The Arizona Republic since 2006, was one of a few videographers who worked on the 15 documentary videos that were part of the project.

He spent three-and-a-half months in 2017 with a reporter and photographer in the field talking to the people most affected by the border. That was followed by another three months of editing “around the clock.”

“The stuff I worked on focused on trying to put a human face on the border, whether it was people who live on the border or people whose lives are impacted by the border,” he said, adding that it was the only time in his career in which he has worked on only one project.

“It was really something special and I knew it while I was working on it. I don’t think we knew we would win a Pulitzer, but the way we were working on it was really unique.”

Wallace is one of nine RIT graduates who have won a combined 13 Pulitzer Prizes. At The Arizona Republic, Wallace has also covered wildfires, the 2011 Tucson shooting that wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, Mormon fundamentalism in Arizona, environmental issues on the Navajo Nation, meth addiction, inner-city education, mental health and Super Bowls XLII and XLIX.

He shoots still photography and videos. Before The Arizona Republic, he worked at newspapers in Michigan, Florida and Iowa.

Wallace said he still uses what he learned at RIT, especially the importance of telling the human side of the story and bringing dignity to your subjects. “I learned visual journalism is not something that comes easy,” he said. “You have to go out there and get it.”

Mindy Mozer

Other RIT Pulitzer winners

When David Moffitt ’07 (film and animation) began studying at RIT, he never imagined he would design labels for beer inspired by his alma mater.

“I didn’t even like beer when I started college,” said Moffitt. “It wasn’t until I took a class called Beers of the World that I realized that beer actually tastes really good when you have the right one.”

Today one of Moffitt’s many duties as the creative director and co-owner of the Rochester-based marketing agency Grid Marketing is designing the beer labels and packaging for Three Heads Brewing, a client of his since 2012. When Moffitt was tapped to create the labels for cans of Tiger Blood India Pale Ale, the RIT-themed beer Three Heads Brewing will release again this fall, he was elated to work on a project that brought him back to his roots.

“I was super excited,” said Moffitt. “When I started talking to (Three Heads Brewing President) Dan Nothnagle about it and I saw the art from Al (Firlit ’99, ’01 [illustration, MST]), I was like, ‘this is going to be so much fun.’ Anyone from RIT can look at it and recognize the Infinity statue, the bricks, Ritchie the Tiger. You just get a big joy looking at it.”

Moffitt got his start in the marketing business in 2004 while working at his father’s Montana-based company, Going to the Sun Marketing. He said he felt uniquely prepared to handle the demands of the workplace.

Moffitt recalled that “the professors are really good about bringing in your work early for critiques and going through the process and not just setting students loose and saying ‘all right, go do something cool and show it to us.’ Having that level of review and feedback prepares people, whether it’s working with clients or the internal department, for a collaborative process.”

He credited the co-op program with providing him an early jump on his career path.

“Having such excellent co-op placement opportunities and such strong support for that, I basically embarked on my career several years before graduating,” he said. “I officially graduated in 2007 even though I started professionally in 2004 and was essentially working full time and completing my studies in addition to that.”

When his father retired in 2014, Moffitt and his wife, Cassandra, purchased the company, rebranded it Grid Marketing and relocated it to Rochester. As creative director, Moffitt oversees all projects his company takes on from a creative, quality control and production standpoint. On a daily basis, he might be working on a beer label for Three Heads Brewing, overseeing a digital ad campaign for Fort Knox Federal Credit Union, creating a billboard for Sony or even helping with product design and industrial design for some of his clients.

He said his versatility is a product of RIT’s emphasis on cross-disciplinary studies. While working toward his degree in film and animation, he picked up skills in graphic design, photography and printing that he still uses daily.

“It’s cool,” he said. “I get to kind of flex the geek muscles. I get to do creative things as well as technical things like code. There’s definitely never a dull moment.”

Luke Auburn ’09, ’15
Inventors develop ring to combat cyber threats

Most couples would agree that living together and working together can be tough on a relationship. But husband-and-wife entrepreneurs and RIT graduates Steve and Melanie Shapiro wouldn’t have it any other way.

The pair is celebrating the success of their third start-up, Token, an identity technology company that manufactures a biometric, encrypted ring with a fingerprint sensor with two-factor authentication. The Token ring can be integrated into computer logins, mobile payments, transit cards and “smart” locks for home and auto. The Rochester-based company has sold out its initial pre-production run and will begin shipping to customers this fall.

“We believe that identity is at the core of all of the problems that we have today, and we want to change that,” explains Melanie ’07, ’08 (fine arts, MBA), who also co-founded Bitcoin wallet company Case in 2014, which was a precursor to Token. “We are creating an ecosystem that we want to live in, too. Our hope is to eradicate identity fraud and to have our customers able to securely carry their identities with them wherever they go.”

In addition to building their company with people who are “curious, creative and good humans,” the co-founders are committed to hiring RIT graduates who can seamlessly assimilate into Token’s culture.

“We are an engineering company by nature, and fortunately I think a lot of RIT’s engineers were engineers deep down before they even came to the university,” said Steve ’04, ’06 (information technology, MBA). “That kind of curiosity is hard to find, and I think RIT is one of a few engineering schools where that curiosity thrives.”

Token’s founding team was entirely made up of RIT graduates in 2015. Today, more than 80 percent of the company’s employees have connections to RIT.

For Steve, his tenure as RIT Student Government president in 2003-2004 developed his organizational behavior skills as well as his ability to encourage others to rally around a vision or set of goals. Melanie remains grateful for the support that RIT provides, including a nurturing environment for students and alumni to grow and succeed.

In 2014, the duo joined RIT’s Venture Creations technology business incubator with Crypto Labs. In 2015, their company Case Wallet became the first to acquire financing from RIT’s Venture Fund, which provides investment capital to entrepreneurial ventures with strong connections to the RIT community. Token graduated from the incubator in 2017.

In addition to running the business and traveling back and forth from Rochester to their Manhattan home, the Shapiros are avid runners, regularly participating in 200-mile, 36-hour footraces around the country.

So, how does this power couple keep their relationship in check?

“We’ve been together for nearly 15 years, and we have a lot of respect for one another,” said Melanie. “I get to see what Steve is passionate about, and there’s nothing more attractive than seeing your spouse excel.”

Added Steve: “They say that starting a business with a co-founder is like a marriage. And it is. You are invested in this thing together and you need to be able to trust that person beyond the shadow of a doubt. I can’t think of anyone that I trust more than my wife.”

Vienna McGrain ’12
By 1954, Mike Blain ’57 (printing) had survived the Holocaust and the Korean War and wanted a college education. The 26-year-old was interested in printing and journalism, so he went to the Veterans Administration in Manhattan for advice on where to go to school.

“The man said, ‘Oh I’ve got the perfect place for you—RIT,’ Blain recalled. ‘You can have both a college education and learn about printing. The next day I took a bus to Rochester and enrolled.’

He finished college in three years by going to summer school, worked as an associate editor for Reporter magazine and started Hillel, the Jewish student group that continues 64 years later.

The accomplishments are among a long list that 90-year-old Blain can celebrate today. Of the 13 members in Blain’s immediate family, he was one of only three to survive the Holocaust. He survived, he said, because of a number of lucky breaks, including leaving Czechoslovakia and moving to Budapest, Hungary, at the age of 14. His family in Czechoslovakia was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944.

After the war, he joined a group of orphaned Holocaust survivors, who were taken to London. In 1949, he moved to New York and was later drafted by the U.S. Army to fight in Korea.

When he started college, Blain said, he became involved with the Hillel chapter at the University of Rochester because there wasn’t one at RIT.

But one night he was at an interfaith dinner with Catholic and Protestant RIT students when the chaplain said the next dinner would be hosted by Hillel.

“I said, ‘We don’t have a Hillel,’” Blain said. “‘The rabbi from the University of Rochester was there and he said, ‘Well, start one.’ So I called together a few of the boys and girls and we started one. It was very successful.”

Today, RIT Hillel serves 30 students, said Nora Chernov, Jewish student life engagement coordinator.

“Without Hillel there is simply no way we could even start to meet the needs of Jewish students and build the strong and intimate community that Jewish life at RIT has become,” she said.

After RIT, Blain moved to Cleveland to work for the World Publishing Co. In 1971, he was transferred to Indianapolis, where he later joined the Israel Bonds organization. He retired in 2007 after 33 years as executive director of Israel Bonds.

Blain and his wife, Sylvia, have three sons, 12 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, and now live in Cleveland.

Along the way, Blain has stayed involved. He lectures and frequently speaks to student groups about the Holocaust, volunteers for organizations and writes for Jewish newspapers. He is the recipient of many awards and honors.

“I am proud that I ended up going to college. I was the first one in my family to even finish high school. It was a big achievement,” Blain said. “I feel good for a 90-year-old. I can’t believe I have lived this long. I never would have expected it.”
Tom Brenner ’16 (photojournalism) almost quit before starting his career as a photojournalist. After years of pushing himself to be the best in school, he needed a break.

“I didn’t want to go home to my parents with my tail between my legs, so I decided to take an internship in Michigan,” said Brenner. “I did OK at the start, but I started to get really burned out and was feeling like I didn’t want this anymore.”

Brenner left the internship early and moved back in with his parents in Fair Haven, N.J.

At home, he did some freelance photography but ultimately decided to enroll in the firefighter academy.

Shortly after he enrolled, Brenner started getting calls from news agencies such as Smithsonian magazine and National Public Radio. He dropped out of the academy and gave photography a second chance—a decision that would lead to a job he once thought was unattainable.

Brenner was offered an internship at The New York Times in July 2017. After the internship ended, he received a six-month contract from January to June of 2018.

He was part of the White House Press Corps as a New York Times photographer. His duties included taking photos of the president and anyone who visited the White House for a public event.

“I was so shocked when I got the job, it still excites me to think about that day. I would be working alongside people I was Googling a month earlier, working beside my heroes,” said Brenner. “Here I am, this 23-year-old kid, working for one of the biggest newspapers in the world. The whole thing just put me in awe.”

The first time Brenner saw President Donald Trump in person, he said, was surreal.

“Everyone knows the president and you are always seeing him, but it’s on TV or the internet,” said Brenner.

“I could walk around freely. I wasn’t held back by security, and it was just a very casual moment. You see that he’s human, he’s a normal person.”

Brenner said he grew accustomed to President Trump’s presence and after awhile could read his body language and predict his movements. That helped him get the perfect shot.

Brenner encourages students to challenge themselves in classes and work on making positive connections to help with their future career.

He also said to not be afraid of taking a break.

Brenner said he is happy he took a break and didn’t lose his love for photography. Now that he’s back in the game, he won’t give up any time soon.

“I always want to bring something new to the table,” Brenner said. “If photographers from other organizations are all piled up on the far right, I’m going to go on the far left and do something different. I try to do that every day.”

Tom Brenner ’16 (photojournalism) poses for a photo inside the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House during his first month working in Washington, D.C., for The New York Times. He is part of the White House Press Corps.

Felicia Swartzenberg ’19
Shehzil Malik ’14 (visual communication design) is a designer who has extensive experience as an advocate for social change. She believes in gender equality with every fiber of her being and hopes her work can help women around the world realize the power they have as individuals.

From Lahore, Pakistan, Malik creates art based on her life experiences. Working primarily with digital art, her work covers feminism, colorism and other issues that are important to her.

After graduating from RIT, Malik returned home to work as art director at Ogilvy & Mather’s Lahore office. She then taught at Beaconhouse National University in Lahore before making the decision to become a self-employed designer and illustrator.

Currently, she is affiliated with Behbud, a 50-year-old nonprofit organization that uplifts women economically in Pakistan. She wants to reach out to less economically privileged regions so they can enjoy and feel represented in art.

“I want art to be accessible. I want art, beauty and color to be a part of all our lives,” Malik said. “It’s also a personal challenge for me to step outside of my comfort zone and to tell the stories of women with a background different from my own.”

Making art more visible is a passion of Malik’s. She’s happy that her artwork has increased visibility by gaining traction on social media, specifically “Noor Jehan” and her “Brown is Beautiful” series, but she is still a little unsure of how to handle her internet fame.

ALUMNA CREATES FEMINIST ART AND CLOTHING LINE

Shehzil Malik ’14 (visual communication design) is an artist from Pakistan who uses her work to share her beliefs.

Photos by Natasha Zubair
Model Eman Suleman walks down the street in Pakistan in a piece from Malik’s clothing line inspired by the original illustration on the right. Malik said she believes that women should be allowed to be “true to themselves” without their clothing defining their fate.
"I think art plays its part in spreading a message of change," she said. "It continues to blow my mind that the lives of women, their struggles, their achievements and their stories have to be put into a separate category. We are half of the human race. We need girls to realize that they deserve the same right to happiness and freedom, and we need stories that makes this a commonplace part of every culture."

One way Malik has increased the visibility of her art is through her clothing line. Making clothes with her artwork printed on them allows a person to become a living canvas. The original collection sold out quickly.

“I realized the power of clothing to transform a person into a walking message that can trigger conversations. It’s amazing to see the art in public spaces and not simply as an image online or inside houses and gallery spaces,” said Malik.

Looking back, she is thankful for the guidance of Chris Jackson, associate dean for the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, and Adam Smith, associate professor and program chair of new media design. They helped enhance her perspectives of design, she said.

For blossoming artists who are unsure whether they have the authority to create powerful, disruptive works of art, Malik provides some comfort.

“If you think you don’t have the experience or don’t know what you’re doing, that’s normal and true for all of us,” said Malik. “We are all learning by doing, and that’s what makes life interesting.”

Felicia Swartzenberg ’19
Carcaci named RIT’s 2018 Volunteer of the Year

One of RIT’s longest serving staff members now has a new title: RIT’s 2018 Volunteer of the Year. Kathy Carcaci ’95 (applied arts and sciences), who retired as manager of staff recruitment and a senior human resources representative in January after 52 ½ years, will accept the award on Oct. 19 at the Presidents’ Alumni Ball during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend.

Carcaci began her career at RIT in 1965, when she was 18, working in the administration building on Plymouth Avenue in downtown Rochester.

She worked for six RIT presidents and witnessed the construction of every new building on RIT’s current campus. She watched RIT transform from a close-knit downtown campus into the sprawling, state-of-the-art community that it is today.

During her more than 52 years at RIT, Carcaci has a long list of volunteer activities. “I thought, I am in a higher education organization, I want to get involved with the students,” she said. “I started volunteering outside of my job.”

She served as a Greek advisor for many years and was named Outstanding Advisor of the Year.

She co-chaired or chaired several campus committees, including the 175th anniversary celebration planning committee, the 2002-2006 Faculty/Staff Capital Campaign and the Campus Security Committee.

Carcaci said chairing the Capital Campaign was especially meaningful to her because she learned about fundraising and the importance of engagement. She also enjoyed working as a Greek advisor and getting to know the students.

She volunteered at the Puttin’ on the RITz Dinner, commencement, ROAR Day, Tiger Walk, RIT United Way Day of Caring and served on the Institute Hearing Board regarding student discipline issues. She also served on the Beautification Committee and was the first to approach artist Albert Paley about donating a large piece of artwork to campus, which resulted in The Sentinel.

Carcaci said she is thankful she was given the opportunity to work in an environment where she met people from around the world and could grow as a person. She expects she will continue to stay involved with RIT in some way.

“I retired from RIT the employer but I did not retire from my friendships at RIT,” she said. “That will be forever.”

Mindy Mozer
The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented annually by each of RIT’s nine colleges and the School of Individualized Study to an alumnus/a who has performed at the highest levels of his or her profession or who has contributed to the advancement and leadership of civic, philanthropic or service organizations. It is the highest award an RIT college can bestow upon its alumni. The 2018 recipients will be honored on Oct. 19.

1st

While at RIT, Anna Sweet ’04, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, took the university’s first game development course. Since then, Sweet has gone on to become a tech innovator with a career spanning virtual reality, esports, video games and social media platforms. She is currently the senior vice president for Caffeine, a live-streaming platform for the video game industry.

Delta Sigma Phi

The support and leadership of David ’87 and Patty Keinath, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, was instrumental in bringing the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity back to RIT in 2016 after an eight-year hiatus. The ASL-oriented Greek organization now boasts 47 members and seeks to make an impact on the community through its members’ courage, action and excellence.

5,000,000

Jim Goff ’91, Saunders College of Business, is the president and CEO of Landsman Development Corp., a Rochester-based real estate development firm. Since its founding in 1971, the company has developed, built, leased, owned and managed more than 5 million square feet of commercial, industrial, educational and residential property in central and western New York.

365,000

D. Kimo Kippen ’93, College of Applied Science and Technology, launched Hilton Worldwide University (HWU), Hilton Worldwide’s internal training platform, while serving as the company’s chief learning officer. Today, HWU provides Hilton’s 365,000 employees with the support needed to be successful in their roles through classroom training, online courses, webinars and ebooks. Kippen is now the founder of Aloha Learning Advisors.

As CEO of The Raymond Corp., a top global provider of electric forklifts and warehouse solutions, Michael Field ’86, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, leads 1,700 employees to strive to increase productivity and efficiency for the company’s clients. After Field became CEO in 2015, The Raymond Corp. was recognized as one of the best companies to work for in New York the following year.
In 2015, the American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine recognized Lisa Allen ‘90, College of Health Sciences and Technology, as the Distinguished Sonographer of the Year, acknowledging her for her significant contributions to the growth and development of medical ultrasound. Allen specializes in the prenatal diagnosis and management of congenital anomalies with a special interest in fetal echocardiography at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Helping bring Tiger Pride worldwide, Rudi Winsberg ’01, School of Individualized Study, is president of the RIT Alumni Association Andean Chapter. Started five years ago, the chapter boasts members from Peru and Ecuador, with plans to expand. Splitting his time between Lima, Peru, and Miami, Fla., Winsberg navigates business development in Latin America for U.S. and European companies.

As co-founder and a member of the board of directors of Integrity Applications Inc. (IAI), Steven Wear ’90, College of Science, has hired 21 fellow RIT alumni to join the engineering services and software development company. IAI primarily supports the intelligence community and other civil, defense and intelligence customers with a focus on reconnaissance systems.

Rhonda Frederick ’80, College of Liberal Arts, is the president and CEO of People Inc. The Williamsville, N.Y.-based nonprofit offers a wide variety of programs for children, senior citizens and people with disabilities. The organization provides community outreach, health services, family support, vocational services and housing, impacting the lives of more than 12,000 individuals every year.

Inspired by her family’s experiences during World War II, Wendy Maruyama ‘80, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, designed The Tag Project—a recreation of each of the 120,000 tags that were issued to every Japanese American man, woman and child in 1942. Maruyama is a renowned furniture maker, artist and educator whose work can be found in both national and international permanent museum collections.
Oren Cohn ’18 (environmental sustainability, health and safety) was named EMS Provider of the Year in 2018 by the National Collegiate EMS Foundation for his service and leadership.

An all-volunteer, student-run organization, RIT Ambulance is a New York State Department of Health Certified Transporting Ambulance Corps. Volunteers answer more than 650 calls on campus each year.

Over its 50 years, RIT Ambulance has become one of the most decorated collegiate EMS crews in the country.

From transport to patient care
In 1968 when RIT’s campus moved to Henrietta, emergency calls were dispatched to the university’s campus safety officers. If emergency care was needed, they’d contact Henrietta or Rochester ambulance crews.

This sufficed for nearly 10 years, supplemented by a handful of RIT student-volunteers who assisted in non-emergency transport to and from local hospitals.

By the late 1970s, student-volunteers created a plan to prove to campus administrators that a dedicated EMS service was viable, could be staffed 24/7 and training beyond basic first aid could be provided that met standards for certified ambulance teams.

It was looked upon with skepticism, said Paul Whalen. How could a group of students fulfill the safety needs of a campus rather than a group of trained professionals?

“We had to build what was needed, and we wanted an ambulance,” said Whalen ’81 (photo processing and finishing management), president of the Emergency Medical Unit, as the RIT Ambulance was called in 1980. His group worked on the administration’s requirements—including a business plan to pay for an ambulance—meeting them all within the year.

RIT became one of the first universities in New York state to have its own ambulance.

Then, as now, RIT Ambulance—a name change that occurred in 1982 to reflect its broader services—would work large campus events such as graduation and Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend. They would be available at sporting events, concerts and involved directly in campus emergency calls.
Building leadership skills
Since 2003, RIT Ambulance has served more than 11,000 patients—from students and adults to the 4-year-olds at RIT’s day care center. Prior to 2010, both RIT Public Safety and the Monroe County 911 Emergency Communications Department (ECD) dispatched RIT Ambulance. It is now solely dispatched by ECD for campus and community emergencies.

Today, there are 60 active members—students, faculty and staff serve as volunteers—and numerous alumni, including 42 lifetime members. Current members are a mix of students from different colleges, some in environmental and emergency management programs. Others are in political science, history, information technology and, like Daniel Hoffman, a computer science major who graduated in May.

Hoffman began in his freshman year, and his final year was president, overseeing administration of RIT Ambulance. “Not only did I get a chance to grow as a leader, I was able to see my fellow students grow alongside me as leaders,” said Hoffman, who is from Albany, N.Y.

One of those leaders is Cohn, who manages operations, providing training and emergency preparation as well as doing research as part of the university’s comprehensive active shooter response initiatives.

On campus, Cohn represented the agency during planning meetings with members of RIT Risk Management. Off campus, he earned a seat on the Town of Henrietta’s Unified Emergency Management unit, established in May 2017.

“Increasing our role in the local community was a big goal of mine this year,” said Cohn, who is from Bedford Hills, N.Y., and followed in his father’s footsteps as a volunteer firefighter.

Cohn, who will complete his degree in environmental sustainability, health and safety this year, intends to continue in emergency management like many RIT Ambulance alumni before him.

Past, present and future
Alumni from around the country returned this spring for a 50th anniversary celebration. Experiences with RIT Ambulance influenced their futures—either leading to careers in emergency management or as EMS volunteers in their own communities.

Whalen remains dedicated to the profession. He continued as an EMS volunteer in New Hampshire where he has lived since graduating from RIT.

RIT Ambulance alumnus Ted Van Horne ’95 (health systems administration) has made a career out of emergency services. He is president and CEO of American Medical Response, a national provider of emergency medical services, equipment and health care solutions.

“Twenty years go fast,” Van Horne said. “That time working together, learning together, taking care of patients and your peers, that’s one experience you can’t get anywhere else. RIT Ambulance was foundational for me and for hundreds of students.”

Michelle Cometa ’00
CELEBRATE
50 YEARS
ON CAMPUS!
Join us as we kick off the celebration of 50 years at the Henrietta campus with these fun events and much more:

- Golden Circle Luncheon
- Classes Without Quizzes
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- Pumpkin Chunkin’
- Student Gov. Speaker
- Men’s Hockey
- Women’s Hockey
- 50th Reunion
- Athletic Reunions
- Greek Reunions
- Brick City 5K
- Dueling Pianos
- Family Fun Zone

Don’t wait. Register today! Visit rit.edu/brickcity
1964
Donald Kingston ’63 (SCB), ’64 (SCB) was re-elected in December 2017 for a fourth term as the mayor of Duck, N.C. He was also elected in September directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, which represents all of the towns and cities in North Carolina. He retired in 2007 from his business career as a vice president/officer of Kelly Services Inc., located in the District of Columbia metropolitan area.

1967
Andrew Davidhazy ’67 (GAP), ’69 (FAA) made a stroboscopic photograph of a dancer a few years ago. A dance group in Costa Mesa, Calif., was interested in making a mural about 13 feet by 90 feet and applying it to the wall at the entrance to the Center for Dance and Innovation at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

1968
David Folkman ’68 (FAA) recently designed a book cover for a Holocaust survivor’s memoir, The Boy Who Outwitted Mengele. The art for the cover is from a mural he painted for the Hillel House at Cal State Northridge, Calif. The memoir is the true story of 13-year-old Michael Popik, who was incarcerated with his family at Auschwitz. The paperback is available on Amazon.

1973
A photo by Jonathan Atkin ’73 (GAP), ’78 (CIAS) was selected by the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution to be included in its permanent collection. The photo features Ellen Stewart (1919 –2011), who founded La MaMa E.T.C. (Experimental Theatre Club). It originally appeared on the front page of the New York Times Arts & Leisure section in 1986.

1974
William Zarycranski ’72 (GAP), ’74 (GAP) accepted a position at Sandoz, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, as director of early phase clinical development. Zarycranski was previously employed at Teva Pharmaceuticals as director of biopharmaceutics. In his new role, Zarycranski evaluates early-phase human studies as part of the due diligence evaluation of potential product acquisitions.

1975
Laurie Klein ’75 (GAP) was asked to write two articles as a Canon influencer with Shutterbug magazine. Her first article describes her mentor Nile Root ’79, who was chair of the biomedical photographic communications program. Go to bit.ly/LaurieKleinRIT to read the story.

1976
Jay Levine ’76 (SCB) was recently elected to the North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). The URJ is the umbrella organization for Reform Judaism.

1977
John Brandt ’77 (SCB) now has his own law firm, Brandt Law PLLC, and continues to practice in wills, trusts and estates, as well as elder law. He also participates in the Domestic and Other Violence Emergencies (DOVE) program supporting victims of domestic violence on a pro bono basis.

1978
Nicholas Whitman ’77 (GAP), former Whaling Museum curator, is exhibiting a selection of his recent photographic work adjacent to the Whaling Museum’s Albert Pinkham Ryder painting. Landscape. Whitman’s exhibit is titled “After Ryder: Photographs by Nicholas Whitman” and runs until Sept. 3, 2018, at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in New Bedford, Mass.
Gerard Kiernan '83 (CAST) has assumed the responsibility of coordinating all of the emergency responders at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., home of the Big E, New England’s Great State Fair. The annual event has more than 1.5 million visitors each September. He has been the director of operations at the exposition for more than 28 years.

Kevin Huff ’85 (GAP), ’87 (GAP) now enjoys making custom cuff links in his spare time. His “Hufflinks” on Etsy have allowed him to incorporate his imaging science engineering rigor with the ideas that were inspired by the works of fine art he admired while with the ideas that were inspired by his imaging science engineering rigor.
Brianna Schlitt ’11, ’13 (psychology, professional studies) and Brynjar Leifsson ’11, ’13 (multidisciplinary studies, deaf education) thought it was love at first sight when they met on the RIT campus in 2009. But they later learned they had attended the same elementary school, shared some of the same teachers and even ate lunch together there.

“People don’t believe that we had met when we were little kids and then met again 15 years later,” said Schlitt. “It’s pretty surreal.”

Schlitt and Leifsson were married on July 13 on Long Island, N.Y.

Leifsson proposed to Schlitt on top of a glacier in his native Iceland on April 13, 2017.

“I first saw her and I thought she is the one,” Leifsson said. The couple has been together since 2009.

Brianna Schlitt and Brynjar Leifsson

“I first saw her and I thought she is the one,” Leifsson said.

The couple has been together since 2009.

Leifsson proposed to Schlitt on top of a glacier in his native Iceland on April 13, 2017.

Not quite love at first sight for RIT couple

From different parts of Long Island but at that time, Schlitt said, some of the deaf and hard-of-hearing children attended one school.

They were only together for one year. After kindergarten, Schlitt transitioned to the public school in her district.

Fast forward to 2009 and Schlitt decided she wanted to transfer to RIT after attending James Madison University and Long Island University Post. Leifsson had been a student at RIT since 2005.

Schlitt was visiting RIT and attended a party with a friend. Leifsson was there.

“How do you like somebody after meeting them for an hour?” Schlitt said. But when she ran into Leifsson again two days later, she knew she was smitten.

So was Leifsson.

“I first saw her and I thought she is the one,” he said. “But I didn’t think it was possible. I can’t get someone this beautiful.”

They exchanged numbers and kept in touch over the summer before they were both on campus.

A year later they attended a meeting about deaf and hard-of-hearing services on Long Island and they ran into an audiologist who knew them both.

“She was like, ’How do you guys know each other. You were in the same school when you were little and I had both of you guys,’” Schlitt said. “She couldn’t believe how life brought us back together.”

The couple has been together ever since.

Leifsson works as an American Sign Language teacher on Long Island and Schlitt is a lawyer who will begin a job later this year as an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County.

Leifsson proposed on April 13, 2017, when they were visiting his native Iceland. He popped the question at the top of the Snaefellsjökull glacier overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

“I had to go over the top,” Leifsson said. “She had been waiting eight long years for me to propose. I had to make it amazing, and it’s my favorite place to be.”

“I was like, ‘Oh my God, is it really happening?’ Of course, I said, ‘Yes,’” Schlitt said. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Mindy Mozer
Christine Lang ’92 (CLA), ’17 (SOIS) is proud to announce that her son will be attending RIT this fall, joining the civil engineering technology program. She loves that he’s a Tiger like his mom.

Michael Ryan ’92 (SCB) published The BOOM! BOOM! Book: Practical tips to make sure your career doesn’t go BUST! He travels the country speaking about concepts from the book. He has appeared on national media promoting the book, including on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” He is president of Ryan Media Consultants, a strategic marketing and communications company. He is also a former editor at the Gannett Rochester newspapers. He lives between Florida and Arizona and spends his summers in Rochester.

Joseph Brennan ’93 (FAA) announces another unique specialty gift from his company, Brennan Designs. After selecting that perfect bottle of wine for that special occasion, why not comfortably welcome it to your guests in style?

Jeffrey Clark ’93 (NTID) has been promoted to engineering designer I at Barton & Loguidice. A resident of Mexico, N.Y., Clark is a member of the firm’s highway group.

Robin Nichols ’93 (CCE), ’94 (CIAS) was appointed media/communications chair for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT in February. In this role, Nichols will be responsible for broadcast and print media, community awareness of the program’s purpose and activities, and will provide content oversight on marketing for all printed materials and the organization’s website to assure consistency of message.

1994

Thomas Roman ’94 (CCE), ’11 (CAST) is the GMP senior training and employee engagement specialist for Fresenius Kabi USA. His current projects include management and design of mixed media/DTP delivery for pharmaceutical manufacturing training.

1995

Douglass White ’95 (CIAS) is pictured with his family: wife, Laura; and children, August, 4, and Willow, 1. White is currently a territory manager with Mid Continent Cabinetry working in the Tampa Bay, Fla., area.

1996

Daniel Pipitone ’96 (CIAS) was promoted after one year from senior information designer at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University to team leader/creative director within Communications Design. Pipitone also led design for his team at RadNet Inc. in a submission awarded first prize for the “A Bill You Can Understand” Design and Innovation Challenge.

1997

William Traut ’97 (CIAS) makes good with invention. Often shaped like a candy-cane, septic vents have generally been viewed as a necessary eyesore for private septic systems throughout the country. But for Traut, this was a source of inspiration. He had an idea on how to create a product that could vent household gases and look nice. Working directly with engineers, he came up with a design for a fully functional septic vent that was shaped like a bird bath. He called it the Dirty Bird.

Timothy Webber ’97 (CAST) has been appointed to vice president at LaBella Associates. He currently serves as regional manager for civil engineering services in Rochester. His recent projects include athletic fields for the Town of Pittsford, N.Y.; YMCA’s regional campus for healthy living; and campus-wide improvements at Clarkson University. Webber lives in Brighton, N.Y.

1999

Sheri Scavone ’99 (CAST), executive director of the Western New York Women’s Foundation, was honored by the Women in Human Services Hall of Fame in Albany, N.Y. Scavone was nominated by New York State Sen. Tim Kennedy for her advocacy work on behalf of women and children.

Alumni start-up featured as one of the coolest

Gaia, a company founded by RIT alumni, was featured in March in an Inc. article listing the top eight “Coolest College Startups” as named by the Student Startup Madness competition at South by Southwest. This company is almost entirely run by RIT students and alumni.

Co-founded by Brent Chase ’17 (biomedical engineering), Joseph Clifford ’17 (mechanical engineering) and Liam Herlihy ’17 (electrical engineering), Gaia’s aim is to “help prevent, mitigate or decrease the frequency of meltdowns for children with autism” by utilizing wearable technology to detect these intense responses to overwhelming situations before they occur.

Inspired by his little brother Alec who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Chase, co-founder and CEO of Gaia, wanted to find a way to help his brother avoid the pain and loss of normalcy that these meltdowns brought him.

“I’d watch how a blissful walk through the park would turn into complete agony at the mere sight of one of his triggers,” Chase said.

Much of the current solutions are reactionary and can only help the problem once it’s started, so Chase needed a better solution.

To help both his brother and other individuals with autism, Gaia is able to utilize smart apparel to create an emotional profile for the individual wearing the clothing. Using this information coupled with a mobile or web app that is in development, a parent or caregiver would be able to sense and monitor that information to be used as a way to detect or predict meltdowns in an individual with autism.
1. John Villard ’84 (CAST) would like to introduce Cassiopeia Anna Marie Villard. She was born on March 10, 2018.

2. Cynthia Gray ’88 (CCE), ’91 (CCE), ’07 (SCB) is proud to share a photo of her grandson, Max Michael Gray, born July 2017. RIT spirit runs in the family.

3. Joshua Zatulove ’03 (GCCIS) and Jessica Peltz-Zatulove are thrilled to announce that their daughter, Raya Hannah Zatulove, was born on Oct. 26.

4. John Nuszkowski ’03 (KGCOE) and his wife, Jodi, welcomed a baby boy named Mac on Dec. 5, 2017. Nuszkowski was recently promoted to an associate professor at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla.

5. Neha Goyal ’05 (GCCIS), ’10 (GCCIS) and Kart Goyal welcomed their baby boy, Kavi Ramesh Goyal, in October 2017.

6. Erica ’06 (CIAS) and Travis Thomas ’09 (CAST), ’09 (GCCIS) welcomed Lucy Thomas into the world in March 2017.

7. Erhardt Graeff ’07 (GCCIS), ’07 (CLA) and Kate Graeff welcomed Nikolai Leonard Graeff on Oct. 8, 2017.

8. Emily Nachring ’09 (CIAS) and Edward Case (CAST) ’10 welcomed a daughter, Eleanor June Case, in November 2017.


10. Anthony Schimizzi ’10 (GCCIS) and his wife, Meghan, welcomed a baby girl named Zoe in late 2016.

11. Benson Pearson ’12 (CIAS) and Hayley Pearson ’12 (CLA) announced the birth of Evan James Pearson on Dec. 5, 2017. Evan is the grandson of Robert Pearson ’78 (KGCOE), ’81 (KGCOE), ’86 (KGCOE) and Susan Pearson ’82 (KGCOE). He is also the great grandson of Milton Pearson ’64 (CIAS) and Carol Pearson.

12. Elizabeth Abdeen ’13 (KGCOE) and Danny Abdeen ’13 (KGCOE) are excited to announce the arrival of their daughter, McKenzie Addison Abdeen. She was born on Feb. 25, 2018.

13. David Royka ’14 (CIAS) and fiancée Amber Dawn Bay joyfully welcomed Roniehtakéhte Alexander Bay Royka on Jan. 13, 2018, in Rochester. Roniehtakéhte honors his mother’s dominant Mohawk heritage (Wolf Clan of the Akwesasne/Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe). He was named according to tradition and his name means “he brings the storm.”
Michael Heinecke ’00 (CAST) joined X Development, the moonshot factory of Alphabet Inc., in September 2017. He is working on an unannounced project as a program manager. Heinecke and his family live in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Darik Jordan ’00 (CAST) has been promoted to managing environmental scientist. A resident of Canandaigua, N.Y., Jordan is a member of the firm’s environmental group.

Deborah Cate ’01 (CAST) had a manuscript that she co-authored published this spring by The Chemist, an online science journal. It details an expert witness’s testimony that the medication a parolee was taking likely caused a false positive during a routine drug test. The consulting chemist’s expert opinion resulted in the parolee’s release. Cate works at the American Institute of Chemists, a small nonprofit professional society.

James Masula ’01 (CAST) joined Clark Patterson Lee, a full-service design firm that has served public and private-sector clients for more than 40 years. In his new position as mechanical engineer, Masula will be responsible for mechanical design work on a variety of project types. He lives in East Nassau, N.Y.

Mark Rozum ’01 (GCCIS) opened Black Dog Wine Co. in 2017. One of his wines recently won Best Sweet White Wine at the Pennsylvania Wine Competition, which is exclusive to Pennsylvania wineries using Pennsylvania grapes. He has also had wines win awards in other competitions, including the Denver International Wine Competition, the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition, the Lone Star International Wine Competition and the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

Kevin Sheldon ’02 (SCB) was recently promoted to chief operating officer for CareJourney, a health care analytics firm based in Arlington, Va. Sheldon’s role oversees client delivery, business and product development, marketing, finance and investing strategy. He lives in Leesburg, Va., with his wife and three children and is a member of the RIT Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Robert Hochstetler ’04 (KGCOE) recently graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Clemson University specializing in Regional Sustainability. He is president and CEO of Central Electric Power in Columbia, S.C. He lives with his wife, Linda, and son, Carter, in Chapin, S.C.

Brett Hall ’05 (CIAS) eloped with his longtime partner, Rebecca Phillips, in Ireland on the first day of spring this year. They circled the country in a whirlwind week-long trip, with memories to last a lifetime together.

Michael Murawski ’05 (CIAS) has taken a role as packaging operations quality specialist at MillerCoors in Milwaukee, Wis. He previously worked at Adelsheim Vineyard in Newberg, Ore., as an enologist and cellar worker. He and his wife, Melissa Backus, currently live in Milwaukee.

Lonnie Parker ’06 (KGCOE), an electrical engineer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport, has been named Modern-Day Technology Leader by the U.S. Black Engineer and IT magazine at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference for 2018.

Chelsie Armbruster ’07 (COS) is now assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo.

Steven Van Slyke ’88 (materials science) was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for coinventing the organic light-emitting diode, or OLED.

Digital display screens—from smartphones and smart watches to computers, high definition and ultra-high-definition televisions—use the flexible light-emitting technology for improved image quality, power efficiency and battery life. “Being selected to join the National Inventors Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor for me and is in recognition of the work that I have done on the development of the Organic Light Emitting Diode technology,” he said.

“I am humbled to be included in such a distinguished group.” Van Slyke and Ching Tang, also among this year’s inductees, invented the new organic material and the first OLED device at Eastman Kodak Co. in 1987.

Van Slyke is the chief technology officer at Kateeva Inc., which specializes in ink-jet printing manufacturing equipment for the mass production of OLED displays.

He was inducted into the Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame in 2013 and received a Thomson Reuters Citation Laureate for his invention in 2014.

David Nieves ’07 (CLAS) had his artwork selected as one of the posters supporting the March For Our Lives movement on March 24 in Washington, D.C., and across the country. Earlier this year, AdAge.com introduced “The Brief,” an ongoing feature that asks the advertising and creative community to come up with ideas on how to tackle gun violence in the United States. This poster, along with a dozen others, will be on rotation in a Times Square digital billboard and was selected to go on digital billboards nationwide.

Steven Praino ’07 (GCCIS) recently completed a Master of Business Administration with a focus on technology management from SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, N.Y.
Scott Bailey '08 (NTID) got married to his childhood sweetheart on July 29, 2017.

Cynthia Roberts '09 (SCB) and Nicholas Lombardi were married Nov. 4, 2017, in a gorgeous Vermont barn wedding. More than 17 RIT alumni were in attendance, including matron of honor Rebecca Post '09 (CIAS), officiant Brian Lopipero '10 (CAST) and photographers Sarah Porter '10 (CIAS) and Jeff Porter '10 (CIAS) of Two of Us Photography. Roberts is most excited to spend the next five years of blissful marriage trying to convince her husband to move to Rochester.

Kelly Burns '10 (SCB) accepted a position as recruitment marketing specialist for Xanterra Travel Collective. She will be working with their Yellowstone National Park Lodges property. She has recently moved into housing in Yellowstone National Park where her daily commute involves keeping an eye out for bison, elk, mule deer and bears. She previously worked as a marketing manager at Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch in Winston, N.M., and as a research associate at KJT Group in Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

Nicholas Cheong '10 (CLA) hosted the Singapore consul general in Denver in March 2018. The visit culminated in a meeting between the consul general and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to discuss greater cooperation. Cheong was also recently promoted to vice president of business development in the Consumer Real Estate Services division of Bank of the West, part of BNP Paribas.

Ashley Armitage ’11 (CIAS) won a Gold Addy Award in March for a logo she designed. She received this award along with a Judge’s Choice Award from one out of the five judges in one of the 64 categories at the show.

Wendy (Arnold) DiMatteo ’12 (SOIS) enjoys interacting with new people that she meets on a daily basis as the audiology technician at NTID, as well as reuniting with those who have graduated and return for services as alumni. Prior to her current position, she worked as a library technician at the Wallace Library, a staff specialist at Substance and Alcohol Intervention Services for the Deaf and as a sign language interpreter at Department of Access Services.

Sean Cooney ’14 (KGCOE) has earned his LEED AP BD+C credential. He is a mechanical engineer in the facilities engineering and design services core business of Erdman Anthony’s Rochester office.

David Boyka ’14 (CIAS) taught graphic design at RIT’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences from 2008 to 2013. After five years of teaching and completing an MFA in computer graphics design, he started working for Hearst Digital Marketing Services in Amherst, N.Y. In December 2015, he was promoted to creative director of the 700-person division.

Jay Skye ’14 (SOIS) started working at Texas A&M University in August 2017. Skye serves as the adviser to the Multicultural Greek Council and the chapter operations specialist in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Michael Andrews ’16 (CAST) has been promoted to engineer II at Barton & Loguidice PC. A resident of Endicott, N.Y., he is a member of the firm’s water/wastewater group.

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In Memoriam

1938
Nellie F. (Schrader) Bishop ’38 (SCB), Feb. 12, 2018

1940
Donald P. Wolz ’40 (KGCOE), January 2018

1942
Rita (Fox) Dermody ’42 (FAA), Jan. 7, 2018

1948
Audrey (Lowe) Sawyer ’48 (SCB), Jan. 8, 2018

1949
Donald P. Gladwin ’49 (FAA), April 3, 2018
Harold R. Hughes ’49 (COS), April 2, 2018
John D. Hilton ’49 (GAP), Feb. 21, 2018
Jean M. (Burns) Duffy ’49 (FAA), Dec. 19, 2018
Robert M. Feldman ’49 (GAP), January 2018

1950
Leonard T. Pimental ’50 (GAP), Feb. 18, 2018
Wardwell C. Leonard Jr. ’50 (COS), Dec. 8, 2017

1951
Harlin F. Schanz ’51 (GAP), Feb. 3, 2018
Martha N. Magnuson ’51 (SCB), Jan. 1, 2018
Jean (Tidd) Cougler ’51 (SCB), Jan. 5, 2018
Jesse A. Solomon Jr. ’51 (GAP), Feb. 23, 2018
James C. Wheeler ’51 (KGCOE), Jan. 30, 2018

1952
Arthur R. Kuchta ’52 (GAP), April 17, 2018
John L. Hoerth ’52 (KGCOE), March 9, 2018
Eugene F. Feuerstein ’52 (GAP), Feb. 9, 2018
Dorothy (Belo) Smith ’52 (SCB), April 3, 2018
John Paul Murphy ’52 (GAP), Feb. 19, 2018

1953
Stephenie (Slaboc) Eisenschmid ’53 (SCB), Jan. 23, 2018
Anne (Graves) Cassidy ’53 (SCB), Feb. 19, 2018

1954
Richard H. Brouse ’54 (FAA), Dec. 21, 2017
June (Kellogg) Furnari ’54 (FAA), Jan. 7, 2018
Rolf E. Brynildsen ’54 (SCB), Jan. 15, 2018

1956
John J. Lawson ’56 (CCE), Jan. 20, 2018
John D. Marshall ’56 (GAP), February 2018
Loren E. Wetzl ’56 (KGCOE), April 7, 2018

1957
Carl E. Taylor ’57 (CCE), Dec. 25, 2017
Marion P. Carruba ’57 (CCE), March 2018
David J. Genova ’57 (COS), Jan. 12, 2018
Hugh Johnston ’57 (FAA), Jan. 12, 2018
David S. Maddock ’57 (SCB), Dec. 21, 2017
Eugene P. Thomas ’57 (CCE), March 16, 2018

1958
Mary A. Lenhardt ’58 (FAA), February 2018
James H. Trott ’58 (GAP), Jan. 5, 2018
Thomas J. Gardner ’58 (FAA), April 2018
James V. Calista ’58 (GAP), Jan. 11, 2018

1959
Paul L. Gottshall ’59 (KGCOE), April 2, 2018
Ronald W. Sutorius ’59 (CCE), Feb. 22, 2018
James R. Dollar ’59 (KGCOE), April 1, 2018
Melvin J. Bushart ’59 (KGCOE), March 18, 2018
Robert P. Gelder ’59 (SCB), Jan. 29, 2018

1960
Phillip L. Markham ’60 (SCB), March 13, 2018
Henry E. Manzler ’60 (GAP), Jan. 12, 2018
William E. Finn ’60 (CCE), Feb. 26, 2018
Arnold E. Cardillo ’60 (KGCOE), Dec. 28, 2017
Walter T. Czyzewski ’60 (CCE), Feb. 3, 2018

1961
Donald R. Ritter ’61 (KGCOE), Dec. 14, 2017
Anthony W. Zamiara ’61 (CCE), Dec. 1, 2017

1962
Paul E. Kreckel ’62 (CCE), Dec. 20, 2017
Jack Poray ’62 (CCE), March 16, 2018
Kenneth N. Hartman ’62 (SCB), Jan. 15, 2018
Earl E. Vanderwall ’62 (CCE), Dec. 29, 2017
Robert C. Tyner ’62 (CCE), Dec. 26, 2017
David R. Hassett ’62 (SCB), Dec. 23, 2017
James C. Lethbridge ’62 (GAP), March 11, 2018

1963
Frank J. D’Agostino ’63 (SCB), March 6, 2018
Paul J. McLaughlin ’63 (CCE), Dec. 18, 2017
Richard J. Wallenhorst ’63 (CCE), Dec. 8, 2017

1964
Francis P. Elii ’64 (CCE), Dec. 21, 2017
James D. Gagnier ’64 (CCE), Dec. 29, 2017
James A. Hubbard ’64 (CCE), Jan. 21, 2018
Jacob V. Lichty ’64 (GAP), Dec. 14, 2017

1965
Raymond V. Jankowski ’65 (CCE), April 10, 2018
Alexander R. Viola ’65 (CCE), Dec. 4, 2017

1966
John F. Kennelly ’66 (CCE), March 13, 2018
Edward J. Hassett ’66 (CCE), Dec. 23, 2017

1968
John F. Rehbach ’68 (CCE), April 6, 2018
Robert M. Kenworthy ’68 (GAP), April 4, 2018

1969
Robert P. Westfall ’69 (SCB), April 2018
Henry R. Luss ’69 (COS), March 29, 2018
Richard C. Mathis ’69 (CCE), Feb. 24, 2018
Arthur R. Chase ’69 (CCE), Dec. 5, 2017
George I. Alexander ’69 (CCE), Dec. 7, 2017
Peter B. Zaleski ’69 (CCE), April 7, 2018
Walter B. Standhart ’69 (KGCOE), Feb. 14, 2018
Marla Friedrich ’69 (FAA), ’70 (FAA), June 12, 2018

1970
Clifton S. Pettit ’70 (CCE), March 31, 2018
Ted C. Ringman ’70 (GAP), Dec. 31, 2017

1971
Charles E. Duschen ’71 (CCE), Jan. 16, 2018
Robert A. McNeil ’71 (CCE), Feb. 21, 2018
Tim Sacher ’71 (GAP), Feb. 7, 2018
Joseph G. Damico ’71 (CCE), Jan. 6, 2018
James R. McCrosson ’71 (SCB), Jan. 10, 2018
Donald G. Monfeldt ’71 (CCE), March 14, 2018

1972
Jacob Schuenklopper ’72 (CCE), Dec. 17, 2017
Carl E. Vander ’72 (CCE), Feb. 22, 2018
Charles B. Westfall ’72 (GAP), March 16, 2018
John R. Ragaisis ’72 (KGCOE), March 30, 2018
Joshua A. Irish ’72 (CCE), March 14, 2018
Thomas W. Roberts ’72 (CCE), Jan. 3, 2018
John E. Hardel ’72 (NTID), April 8, 2018
1973
Kenneth L. Howell ’73 (CCE), Dec. 11, 2017
Arthur G. Barrett ’73 (SCB), Jan. 11, 2018
David P. Lefevre ’73 (KGCOE), April 1, 2018

1974
Carl Schulte ’74 (GAP), Jan. 5, 2018
James V. Kluga ’74 (KGCOE), March 12, 2018
Richard R. Wahl ’74 (SCB), Dec. 10, 2017
Katheryn A. Sims ’74 (FAA), March 16, 2018
Robert Longdue ’74 (CLA), Feb. 5, 2018
Christian G. Roebuck ’74 (FAA), Jan. 12, 2018
Nelson E. Almeter ’74 (NTID), March 16, 2018
Peter T. Cook ’74 (CCE), March 25, 2018
Eugene F. Coon ’74 (CCE) (SCB), April 11, 2018

1975
J. Kevin Meath ’75 (SCB), Dec. 15, 2017
John H. Jackson ’75 (CCE), Jan. 7, 2018
Barbara E. Mignemi ’75 (SCB), March 5, 2018

1976
Linda L. Bowman ’76 (NTID), Dec. 31, 2017
Michael A. Desantis ’76 (KGCOE), Jan. 14, 2018
Kenneth P. Nellis ’76 (GAP), Jan. 22, 2018
Joan M. Johnson ’76 (CAST), ’82 (SCB), March 14, 2018
Gregory S. Slater ’76 (SCB), Jan. 4, 2018
Jeanne M. (Vickery) Carretto ’76 (CLA), Dec. 5, 2017
Beverly J. Longbine ’76 (SCB), Feb. 21, 2018
Roger W. Kopec ’76 (CCE), March 23, 2018

1977
Frank C. Binsack ’77 (CCE), March 17, 2018
Edward E. Brady ’77 (GAP) ’79 (GAP), Feb. 27, 2018
Margaret Mary Jones ’77 (CCE), ’81 (CLA), March 26, 2018
Ronald W. Farley ’77 (KGCOE), April 12, 2018
Janice E. Bennett ’77 (GAP), Jan. 8, 2018
Joseph M. Germonto ’77 (CCE), March 9, 2018
David A. Craw ’77 (CCE), Dec. 12, 2017
Richard A. Denise ’77 (CCE), March 13, 2018

1978
Lawrence A. Hill ’78 (CCE), April 12, 2018
John R. Little ’78 (SCB), Jan. 28, 2018
Ray Douglas McIntyre ’78 (SCB), March 21, 2018

1979
Frederick Kaltenbach ’79 (SCB), Jan. 6, 2018
Terry A. Seyler ’79 (KGCOE), Dec. 7, 2017
Christina M. (Dallesandro) Montalbano ’79 (SCB), ’81 (SCB), April 3, 2018
Patrick Jason Wing ’79 (GAP), Feb. 16, 2018

1980
Betty (Springer) Pospesel ’80 (CCE), ’81 (CCE), Dec. 7, 2017
Kurt F. Biesecker ’80 (GAP), ’80 (GAP), Dec. 11, 2017

1981
Michael D. McKinney ’81 (NTID), Feb. 13, 2018
Gordon G. Proskine ’81 (SCB), ’88, April 12, 2018
Mark D. Kemmerer ’81 (NTID), Jan. 10, 2018

1982
Sophie Ferenc ’82 (CCE), April 5, 2018
Harry Woosley Jr. ’82 (CLA), March 2, 2018

1983
Mary W. Randall ’83 (CLA), Dec. 7, 2017
Andreas Rosenbruch ’83 (COS), Dec. 2, 2017

1984
Salvatore P. Arnone ’84 (CCE), March 28, 2018
Dorothy Lucille Krause ’85 (CCE), Dec. 28, 2017
Theresa Louise (Decuirico) Jackson ’85 (NTID), Dec. 21, 2017
Victor K. Lundell ’85 (KGCOE), April 13, 2018

1985
Steven Kenneth Patridge ’86 (CCE), ’94 (KGCOE), Dec. 19, 2017
Edward R. Szozda ’86 (CCE), March 6, 2018

1986
Gregory James Ringelberg ’87 (CAST), March 15, 2018
Jean Louise MacConnell ’87 (COS), Jan. 28, 2018

1987
Michael D. Cook ’88 (GAP), March 22, 2018
Frederick K. Waechter Jr. ’88 (GAP), Dec. 31, 2017
Allen F. Erwin ’88 (CAST), January 2018

1988
Thomas L. Callaghan ’88 (CAST), Dec. 24, 2017

1989
Margaret Mary Jones ’89 (KGCOE), ’93 (KGCOE), Dec. 21, 2017

1990
Douglas B. Pickett ’90 (FAA), April 11, 2018
Dennis Bruce Koch ’90 (CCE), March 21, 2018

1991
George M. Yuna ’92 (KGCOE), Feb. 10, 2018

1992
Kenneth David Alexander ’94 (CAST), March 21, 2018

1993
William S. Gegg ’95 (CCE), ’97 (CAST), Jan. 17, 2018

1994
David M. Schanz ’97 (SCB), Feb. 3, 2018

1995
Joseph E. Mahar ’98 (CAST), Jan. 7, 2018
Thomas J. Livingston ’98 (CAST), Dec. 12, 2017

1996
Randall J. Jansen ’00 (CAST), ’00 (CAST), Dec. 24, 2017
Jason E. Meiring ’00 (KGCOE), Dec. 15, 2017

1997
Patricia A. Young ’03 (CAST), Jan. 17, 2018

1998
Robert I. Wallace ’05 (CLA), Dec. 22, 2017

1999
David P. Love ’07 (GCCIS), Dec. 22, 2017

2000
Frank G. Hill Jr. ’09 (CAST), Dec. 22, 2017

2001
Thomas J. Livingston ’98 (CAST), Dec. 24, 2017

2002
David M. Schanz ’97 (CAST), Dec. 24, 2017

2003
Mary R. Wright, former professor in hospitality and tourism management, Nov. 8, 2017

2004
Frederic Gardner, former professor and associate dean of the College of Continuing Education, Nov. 7, 2017

2005
Doug Manchee, chair of the advertising photography program in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, March 2018

2006
John D. Paliouras, former professor and dean of the College of Science, June 10, 2018

2007
Douglas Sigler, Professor Emeritus at School for American Crafts, April 11, 2018

2008

2009
Mary R. Wright, former professor in hospitality and tourism management, Nov. 8, 2017

2010
No. 14, August 2018
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A century-old oak tree that majestically stood at RIT’s Henrietta campus entrance when the first students arrived will be incorporated into the 50th anniversary celebration.

This year marked the fifth iteration of the T-Minus 151 project, the industrial design program’s annual design blitz in which students have about one week—151 hours to be exact—to complete a sponsored project. This collaboration featured a partnership between the university and the late, iconic and treasured RIT Artist-in-Residence Wendell Castle, who died on Jan. 20.

In all, 48 student teams created concepts that embody RIT’s spirit using reclaimed wood from the long-standing oak tree that was felled by a windstorm in the spring of 2017.

Teams that best captured Castle’s unique conceptual and making process as a model won for the creation of three projects that were selected by a juried panel. Winners are:

- A group of monumental benches for the RIT campus, the proposed location of which will be near the University Services Center building and Crossroads at the cusp of the original RIT campus edge and much of the growth experienced since.
- “Sprout,” a place for reading and play in the Henrietta Public Library that features an abstract tree in Castle’s style, creating an area for children to listen to stories and watch shows. The library project is a demonstration of the connection between the Henrietta campus anniversary and the town, while also serving as a gift from RIT to recognize Henrietta’s bicentennial.
- A limited production of RIT-branded commemorative souvenirs made of wood and glass—wood embracing RIT’s history, glass celebrating the present—that will be given to honored members of the RIT community and sold through Shop One.

The winning designs are scheduled for production and installation in time for the university’s anniversary celebrations feting the Henrietta campus during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend Oct. 19-21.

Josh Owen, a professor and chair of the industrial design program, said Castle would have been pleased with the students’ work during T-Minus.

“In addition to marking this important anniversary for RIT, these creations celebrate Wendell’s legacy and his profound impact on the industrial design program and the university as a whole,” Owen said.

To learn more