RIT

University Magazine
Fall 2023

AI AT RIT

Also inside:

The Zine Scene

Inside the SHED

A Transformative Campaign

RIT University Magazine

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Traci Westcott

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in September for RIT's new music performance theater, which will feature a 750-seat theater and rehearsal studio.

Transforming RIT by inspiring imaginations

For six years—even amidst the global pandemic—the RIT community kept busy brainstorming, conceptualizing, designing, problem solving, collaborating, and building a new place where ideas, creativity, and innovation can come to life.

We engineered the largest construction project in our history with one timeframe in mind: fall 2023. Our time has arrived! The doors are open to the Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED), where we are emblematically and demonstratively unlocking creativity.

The SHED showcases technology, the arts, and design at RIT. This creative hub includes the Brooks H. Bower Maker Showcase, the Sklarsky Glass Box Theater, and music and dance studios.

The SHED's focus on hands-on learning extends to 27 new classrooms—five extra-large learning spaces designed for active learning and 22 regular-sized flexible classrooms in the totally renovated Wallace Library.

We are transforming RIT by building places and spaces for thinkers, creators, and makers unlike any other university in the nation. Big ideas can turn into reality. And that message is energizing our students.

From morning classes into evening extracurriculars, the SHED is the new heartbeat of the campus. I am confident that incredible things will be produced and invented in the SHED. And some of those things will form the basis for student start-up companies.

RIT is more than about taking five courses each semester and working as hard as you can to get A's. The SHED is allowing our students to think laterally, to be creative, and to apply what they've learned in the classroom to innovate and solve real problems.

RIT is a university where engineers and scientists pursue the performing arts, techies tackle the humanities, and artists learn to code. To further facilitate this, we began construction this fall on a 750-seat music performance theater designed primarily for musical theater productions at RIT. This venue, designed by renowned Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan, is expected to open in 2025.

I envision that the entire RIT community will have an opportunity to engage with this "making" facility—be it as an actor, singer, dancer; or building sets, programming displays, designing costumes; or working on sound, lighting, or stage crew.

We are always on to the next big thing to inspire creativity, collaboration, and expression, which ultimately leads to innovation.

Yours in Tiger pride,

Dave

David C. Munson Jr., President
munson@rit.edu

P.S.: Many of you may be wondering where RIT stands on artificial intelligence as a learning tool. See pages 28-35.

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Cover photo
A portrait reimagined using generative AI. Juan Noguera, assistant professor of design, challenges his students to explore AI tools.

Photo by Scott Hamilton
AI elements by Stan Kaady

Scott Hamilton

Traci Westcott

Photos by Carlos Ortiz

RIT plans to offer 50 percent plant-based menu items, like this chocolate avocado pudding, by the end of 2025.

Food offered at Loaded Latke, including handcrafted sandwiches, matzo ball soup, and other Jewish comfort food, is certified kosher.

Chorizo tofu enchiladas were prepared during a training session on how to incorporate more plant-based foods into RIT menus.

Anyone hungry?

A kosher deli, a food truck serving gourmet burgers, and more plant-based options welcomed RIT students back to campus this year.

Earlier this year, RIT signed a "Forward Food Pledge" with the Humane Society of the United States to offer 50 percent plant-based menu items by the end of 2025. In return, RIT is receiving culinary training, ongoing consultation, hands-on support, and greenhouse gas assessments.

RIT chefs received training in May to show what can be done with protein and high-fiber ingredients such as chickpea flour, soy, tempeh, tofu, lentils, and kidney, pinto, and black beans.

> **"Our goal is to provide diverse menus that meet dietary needs and preferences and become more sustainable."**

"We have been making more plant-based options available because students have been asking for more plant-based choices," said Herlan Manurung, RIT's corporate executive chef and associate director of RIT Dining. "Our goal is to provide diverse menus that meet dietary needs and preferences and become more sustainable."

Loaded Latke is the first kosher dining option for students on campus and is serving handcrafted sandwiches featuring premium meats, housemade pickles, bagel chips, and Jewish comfort food such as matzo ball soup, potato salad, and latkes.

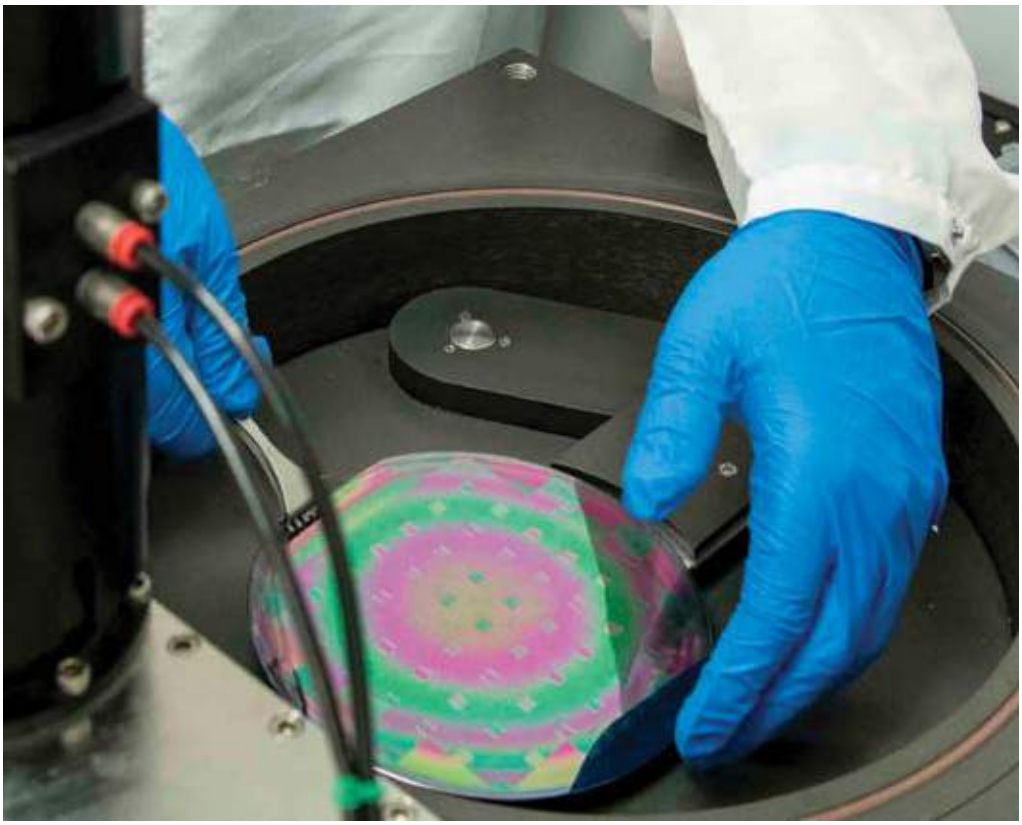
The station is kosher-certified by the STAR-K Kosher Certification agency. Yousef Aurit '19 (information technology) is the deli's mashgiach, or kosher supervisor, who ensures that the traditional customs, quality, and cleanliness of the food required by Jewish law are being followed.

RIT's new food truck regularly appears during food truck rodeos on Fridays offering gourmet burgers. The artwork on the truck was designed by Molly Van Dyke '23 (graphic design).

"Food trucks became really popular 10 or 15 years ago, they are well-received and extremely popular, so it's been a goal of mine to acquire a food truck and build it from the ground up," said Autumn Geer, director of event operations for RIT Catering and Concessions. "It's another avenue to explore as a dining department and offer the students something they can't get elsewhere."

Greg Livadas

RIT takes its place on an international stage



Elizabeth Lamark

RIT's microelectronic engineering degree program is one of the oldest in the country. There are more than 1,500 alumni working in the semiconductor field.

RIT is one of six U.S. universities named as part of an international partnership to improve competitiveness in computer chip design, development, and manufacturing.

Micron Corp. and the National Science Foundation announced the partnership—the U.S.-Japan University Partnership for Workforce Advancement and Research & Development in Semiconductors (UPWARDS) for the Future—and signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the 2023 G7 Summit in Japan.

Aimed at expanding engineering education and research to underrepresented students and faculty, the partnership will pair universities for shared learning across the two countries.

Other participating universities are Hiroshima University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Tohoku University, and Tokyo Institute of Technology, from Japan; and RIT, Boise State University, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Washington, and Virginia Tech, from the U.S.

With an established microelectronic engineering degree program, one of the first in the country, RIT currently has more than 1,500 alumni working in the semiconductor field.

The university's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, the College of Engineering Technology, and RIT Certified will be key contributors to the UPWARDS for the Future partnership.

Both colleges offer multiple workforce development programs at the university and at corporate-partner sites to help build the skilled workforce needed by the semiconductor and electronic packaging industry.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students and faculty," said Doreen Edwards, dean of the Kate Gleason College.

"Our college has been educating microelectronic engineers for the semiconductor industry for over 40 years. The UPWARDS for the Future program will attract a whole new generation of diverse engineers who will be well prepared to contribute to this important global industry."

Michelle Cometa '00

What's new

New doctoral degree

Saunders College of Business entered its first cohort of students into the college's new Ph.D. in business administration this fall, marking the university's inaugural social sciences doctoral program.

According to Shal Khazanchi, the Ph.D. program director and associate dean for research and graduate programs, the degree pushes the boundaries of conventional business disciplines of marketing, management information systems, strategy, and finance and accounting.

Tiger moves home

The RIT Tiger returned to the Quarter Mile on Aug. 11, following a three-year sabbatical on the edge of Fountain Park along the path to Global Village.

A temporary perch near Hugh L. Carey Hall kept the tiger safe and accessible during the construction of the Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED).

NRH gets new name

RIT renamed Nathaniel Rochester Hall after Fredericka Douglass Sprague Perry, granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and a former student of the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, which later became RIT.

The change follows the spirit of RIT's Action Plan for Race and Ethnicity. In recent years, historians have brought to light that Nathaniel Rochester, the businessman who was one of Rochester's founders, made a significant portion of his fortune buying and selling enslaved persons.

Jesse Winter

Students who thrive at RIT dominated advertising space inside Grand Central Terminal and Station last spring. The campaign was made possible by Austin McChord '09, pictured here. Some students, at right, even walked through busy Grand Central to find their ads.

Tigers turn Big Apple orange

That familiar RIT orange covered the walls, poles, turnstiles, stairs, and digital boards of Grand Central in New York City throughout spring 2023. And so did many RIT faces.

An advertising campaign showcasing RIT's creativity and innovation as a leading university took over Grand Central Terminal and Station, and even some rail cars traveling to Westchester County and Connecticut.

The campaign showcased more than 60 of the unique artists, advocates, explorers, academics, and athletes who thrive together at RIT.

RIT Trustee Austin McChord '09 (bioinformatics), founder of tech company Datto and current CEO of Casana, funded the campaign.

McChord said he hopes the campaign drives a connection between prospective students and the university.

"I gave a commencement speech a few years ago at RIT," said McChord. "I told the graduates to make connections. And those connections will serve them for many years. I hope that if I can help even one student connect with RIT and all that it can offer, a school that helped me, then it's worth it. That's why putting RIT students front and center in this ad campaign made sense."

New York City resident Kenneth Holley '02 (information technology) was shocked and pleased to see the ads in Grand Central one day. As he admired the RIT takeover, he made a connection.

Kelly Weber, a fourth-year photographic and imaging arts major from Avon, N.Y., was with her parents taking pictures of the ad featuring her.

Holley walked over to greet them.

"It was an incredible experience and I've had several positive exchanges when I see the RIT logo on community members, even when I wear it myself," said Holley, who works as a consultant in Digital Transformation and Program Advisory Services. He also serves as director of leadership and strategy for the Metro New York Chapter of the National Black MBA Association.

"RIT's logo represents Tiger Pride and I would love to see it more," he said.

Weber was one of several students who represented RIT in the campaign who made a special trip to New York City to see their ads in person.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

A Kelly Weber, fourth-year photographic and imaging arts major

"I went down with my family and as soon as I saw the RIT orange, I got super excited. It was like seeing a piece of home in a new place. It was a very busy area and a few of the people walking by did some double takes or gave me a thumbs up as I took photos."

B An alumni connection

New York City resident **Kenneth Holley** '02 (information technology) posed for a picture with **Kelly Weber**. "It was cool finding a connection with someone new in a busy place because of RIT," Weber said.

C Sam Su, third-year photographic and imaging arts major

"Before I went to see the ad, a few of my friends from New York City had sent me pictures of themselves next to my photo. When I went to look for the photo, I thought it would be funny to wear the same shirt. I have always planned for my art to make it onto billboards and ads around cities like New York, so this is definitely a start to see myself first."

D Ben Thompson, fifth-year marketing major

"I took the New Haven line down to the city, so I rode in one of the cars plastered with RIT ads. Then the entire long overpass walking into Times Square had RIT everywhere. It took me about five minutes to find my photo. My parents stopped random people to say, 'Hey look, it's the same guy as in the photo.'"

E Jayla Alston, fourth-year film and animation major

"My friends volunteered to drive with me so I could see it in person. It was such a surreal moment because when I was a little girl I used to visit the city with my mom all the time. She used to always make us take the subway and I just never imagined one day I would be on a poster down there."

F Ryan Bliss '23 (mechanical engineering technology), '23 MS (manufacturing and mechanical systems integration)—works at B&R Industrial Automation in Boston

"I was just an hour train ride away and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to take graduation photos with a poster of myself. I love that they advertised RIT with their own students and showed their interests and accomplishments."

The RIT Zine Scene

Carlos Ortiz

Grabbing a piece of paper fresh off the printer, Neil Williamson makes the first fold of many to finish his new zine. He digs through a mess of washi tape, markers, and other craft supplies to complete the finishing touches before he can share it with friends, family, and maybe even a stranger.

Williamson is a fifth-year student working toward both a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and a master's degree in science, technology, and public policy. He started making zines while working at a summer art camp as a teen.

"Each zine I make is a time capsule of either the drawings that I was doing at the time, what I was feeling, or what I was experiencing in my life," said Williamson.

Zines—which are loosely defined as small-circulation, self-published mini-magazines—have long existed in alternative subcultures. In recent years, a growing number of RIT students, staff, and faculty across campus are using this unique medium to express themselves and communicate ideas.

Some faculty members, like Hinda Mandell, have introduced zines as alternative classroom assignments to get students to engage with their studies in a new, tactile way.

"Bringing zines into the classroom is like opening up a very positive Pandora's Box," said Mandell, a professor in RIT's School of Communication. "It offers students a type of creative freedom with guardrails. There are still some basic requirements, but it gives them a lot of leeway to connect to their own individual interests."

Beyond the loose definition, zines can be as diverse and varied as the humans creating them. Some follow a more cut-and-paste, scrapbooking aesthetic, while others include more polished graphics, illustrations, or text. Mandell shared that the endless possibilities can leave some students uncertain at the start of their zine journey, but the end result is overwhelmingly positive.

"What really pulls at my heartstrings is the careful and curious way that students interact with their classmates when sharing their work. They're not just flipping pages, they're really digesting and engaging with their classmates' zines as they read," said Mandell.

Outside of the classroom, RIT community members find joy in sharing their zines with their communities.

Frances Chang Andreu, digital initiatives librarian at RIT Libraries, has drawn comics for most of her life. Making zines to promote her work motivates Andreu to follow through with creative projects and allows her to communicate with her readers more authentically.

"When pitching through traditional means, you're beholden to someone else's decisions. Making and distributing your own work allows you to be more creative. It allows creators to reach their audience directly with no gatekeeping or hurdles to go through," said Andreu.

Andreu has led zine workshops for the RIT community and, along with Mandell, is a key player in organizing the annual RIT Zine Fest—an event that invites the local community to distribute their zines and other artwork.

"Making zines can get people to think about alternative ways of presenting information. For students, it can also potentially extend the 'life' of their assignments. Students don't tend to share their essays beyond their instructor, but they may be more inclined to distribute copies of a zine," said Andreu.

Here is a glimpse at four student zinesters who enjoy communicating through zines.

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Because of the loose definition, a zine can take any form or aesthetic the maker chooses. The final product can be as varied and diverse as the people making them.

Discover the history of zines at RIT on page 56.

Carlos Ortiz

A fifth-year biomedical engineering student from Kernersville, N.C. He is also getting a master's degree in science, technology, and public policy.

Neil Williamson

Neil Williamson discovered zines as a teen. In addition to his personal work, he's created zines for some of his biomedical engineering course assignments. He believes the infographics and visuals a zine provides can better communicate high-level ideas in a more accessible, convenient way. He sold his first piece of original art at the 2023 RIT Zine Fest, and he has plans to sell his work at other festivals and craft fairs whenever possible.

> "My zines can give other people a taste of my feelings and experiences. In a sense, they can start a conversation where others can reflect on their own experiences."

Gabriella Licona

Carlos Ortiz

A fourth-year communication student from Miami.

Gabriella Licona learned about zines during a Technology-Mediated Communication class offered through the College of Liberal Arts. When she was tasked with creating a zine to show how she built her personal brand, she fell in love with the medium.

Licona was always artistically inclined, but she says creating her first zine opened her eyes to the variety of ways she could express herself and share her work with the world. In the future, she'd like to start a business to sell her zines and bullet-journaling templates.

"I believe that making zines is really an outlet for expressing yourself. It's never just been art to me–this is who I am, and this is what I love to do."

Carlos Ortiz

> I'm a very visual person, so I love making zines because I can use collage, text, and pictures to present my ideas. It's a really nice medium for the type of art I like to create.

A fourth-year museum studies student from Rochester, N.Y.

Etta Arnold

Etta Arnold made her first zine about disco culture, with a focus on Black and LGBT+ communities, for an Art and Activism course at RIT. She shared that learning the history of how zines have been used to support social activist movements had a profound impact on her and prompted her to further explore the medium. Arnold describes zine making as a collaborative process that can open a genuine line of communication and connection when sharing her work with others.

A second-year physics student from Rochester, N.Y.

Brett Renaud

Carlos Ortiz

Brett Renaud's first exposure to zines was in a School of Communication class called Ethnic Press in the U.S., where he created a zine about journalist Gwendolyn Ifill. Through the assignment, he was able to flex his creative muscles and discover the value of different communication methods. He shared that creating a zine was a "welcome break from writing lab reports" and he would urge any STEM major to take a shot at zine making so they can experience something new in their studies. Renaud plans to further his education in astrophysical sciences after completing his bachelor's degree.

"When we had to make a zine in class, it felt like something new to explore. I was hyped that I got to show my work in a different kind of way."

HOW TO MAKE A ZINE

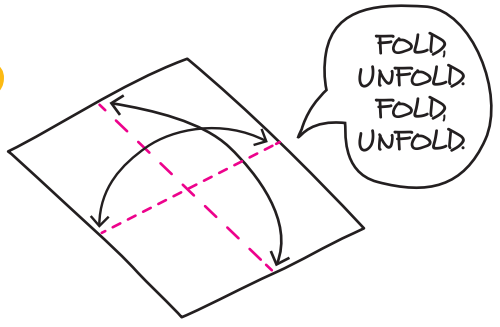
FLIP THIS OVER TO SEE YOUR NEW RIT ZINE!

TADA~!

Tear out this page to get started.
Take a picture of these instructions for easy viewing.

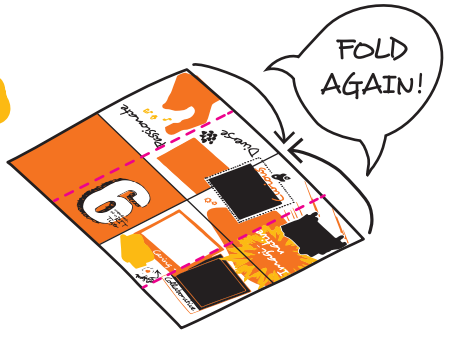
!HINT!!

1



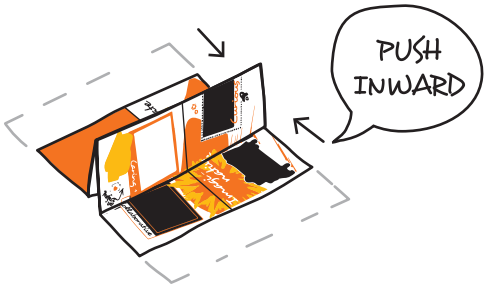
Instruction side up.
Fold both long and short sides of the paper in half.

2



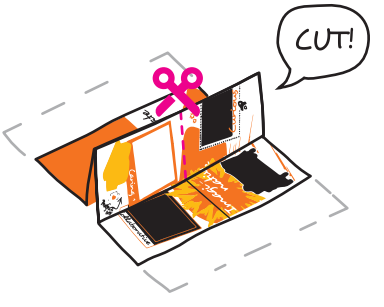
Flip the page over and fold into quarters again.

3



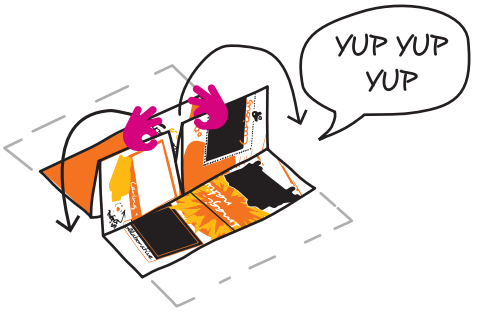
Unfold, then push paper inward so two center columns are flush together.

4



Holding the two columns together, cut down along the center crease, indicated above by a dotted line.

5



Fan out from the center cut.

6

Make a crease on each new fold, then close the pages into a book shape.

7

Adjust folds so the two orange covers are visible.

Passionate

Diverse

Curious

Imagi-native

Caring +

Perfect Day

Collaborative

5 ingredients of an RIT Tiger

Take a selfie with your new zine and share it on social media.

@RITtigers

The Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED) showcases technology, the arts, and design in one place. The complex opened this fall.

SHED

serves new generation of makers, performers, and active learners

Peli Doyle and the students at his table had 30 minutes to design and build a 12-inch observation tower out of a deck of cards and a roll of tape. The tricky part was that the students' design had to accommodate a random pair of scissors and withstand the wind from a fan.

Teams of students sitting at more than 20 tables engaged in the same mini-design challenge in the revamped Engineering Exploration Seminar held in the new Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED).

"The design challenge tested our creative problem solving and was a fun activity that helped us get to know each other," said Doyle, a first-year student from Delmar, N.Y. "The seating arrangement is better for working in groups and trying to make friends."

The Engineering Exploration Seminar has been taught for nearly 20 years at RIT for undeclared engineering majors to sample the different engineering disciplines before declaring a major. But for the first time, the entire group of 110 students can learn together in the large classrooms in the SHED. And that learning is more active.

With its five extra-large classrooms, seven makerspaces, performing arts studios, and glass box theater, the SHED complex is made for a new generation of RIT students like Doyle, who see themselves as makers and doers, performers, and active learners.

The $120 million SHED, which opened this fall, is RIT's biggest capital project since the campus moved to Henrietta in 1968.

The SHED spans the Quarter Mile from Wallace Library to the Student Alumni Union in 209,000-gross-square-feet of combined renovated and new construction. The SHED complex includes extensive renovations in Wallace Library, including two floors of regular-sized classrooms.

An estimated 15,000 people walk through the SHED and Wallace buildings daily, drawing pedestrian traffic past the RIT Libraries' special collections and introducing them, perhaps for the first time, to the Cary Graphic Arts Collection, the RIT Archives, and the RIT Press.

When he first proposed the new building, RIT President David Munson envisioned the SHED as a place that celebrates RIT's intersection of technology, the arts, and design. From the start, he predicted the SHED would become "the new heartbeat of campus."

"We're educating the whole person at RIT," Munson said. "The SHED is where students can think laterally, be creative, and apply what they've learned in the classroom. We've opened the SHED doors; now watch for student start-up companies, solutions, and inventions that make the world better."

William Rawn Associates Architects designed the SHED with layers of interior glass walls to extend transparency into the active spaces.

A 98-foot atrium towers above the first-floor hub, filling the new nexus on campus with natural light. This is where students' paths cross on their way to class, practice, or club meetings; it's where they hang out, study or meet friends, perform for passersby, and build a new kind of community at RIT.

Tiffany Brodner, SHED executive director, sees inspiration everywhere she looks in the glass building. "Students and groups are sharing space for the first time and even working alongside each other and making new connections," she said. "It is exciting to think about what might be born out of the intersections of different worlds at RIT."

Carlos Ortiz

First-year student Peli Doyle, center right, builds an observation tower with his teammates out of a deck of cards. The SHED allows for all engineering exploration students to learn together for the first time.

New connections

For Amelia Charles, a second-year applied mathematics major from Monrovia, Md., the SHED classrooms promote interaction with her peers and her General Biology I professor.

"In a lecture hall, you could really only talk to two people at a time, if there was even anyone next to you, and now you have five other people and the professor walking around so they can be near you," Charles said. "It's great for learning because it establishes a better student-professor relationship. I feel more encouraged to come to office hours or ask questions."

General Biology serves students from across campus, and Charles interacts with students from different majors, such as Ruqiah Ali, a first-year student from the physician assistant program.

"I feel like in a group setting there are more people you can collaborate with, more people you can ask," Ali said.

Charles and Ali work together on a DNA model with other students enrolled in applied statistics, diagnostic sonography, and the physician assistant program.

Sandi Connelly, principal lecturer in the Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences, was an early proponent of active learning, a teaching style that engages students in the material and with each other. It encourages students to become active participants in their own learning.

After a brief lecture, Connelly asks her students to apply their learning to the day's group activity—building a strand of DNA with beads and pipe cleaners. The model needs to be accurate for the following class session that will introduce RNA and proteins.

Professor Matt Marshall, associate dean of engineering, has long wanted to add hands-on learning to the Engineering Exploration Seminar based on feedback from previous classes. He jumped when the SHED presented the opportunity.

Traci Westcott

Traci Westcott

First-year physician assistant student **Ruqiah Ali**, right, likes how the large SHED classroom allows for collaboration. She is working with **Louise Liu**, a first-year diagnostic medical sonography student, in General Biology.

During one day this fall, a class activity focused on patience and problem solving when trying to complete a project with changing specifications. The common real-life scenario played out as student teams tried to build a house of cards for a fictitious and indecisive client.

"Engineers experience this when working with customers as a career," Marshall said. "It's a useful exercise for engineering students to experience because it deviates from traditional textbook problems."

Marshall plans to take advantage of the proximity to the makerspace on the lower levels and assign students a project to build something of their choice with the equipment.

He also will arrange for students in many of RIT's performance teams, including the seven now housed in the SHED, such as the electric vehicle Hot Wheelz team, the VEX robotics club, and the aerospace Launch Initiative, to talk to his class.

"I am helping students understand that their education at RIT only begins in the classroom, that they have opportunities to learn so much more beyond their classes—including the teams and clubs and co-ops," he said. "I think the more we can emphasize that message in their first semester, the better."

About SHED learning spaces

- 5 extra-large classrooms
- 674 classroom chairs
- 154 movable whiteboards
- 56,818 miles of ethernet fiber optic cable in the SHED/Wallace complex

Maker culture

Marshall's hands-on approach to engineering exploration is working for students like Doyle, who is excited to be creating things in the SHED.

There are multiple makerspaces in the SHED. The general makerspace is strategically located in the center of the complex and offers an entry point into the world of making. The room holds basic maker staples, 3D printers, and laser cutters.

The room is attached to a classroom and a materials resource center. It's a space to bring students up to speed or to introduce them to the equipment before they explore on their own or join a club that uses the machinery. The general makerspace is a resource for students coming in at any level of experience.

Other makerspaces are arranged thematically, said Michael Buffalin IV, SHED makerspace director. Different technologies facilitate ideation, prototyping, building, and testing, including 3D printing, woodworking, metalworking, textiles, and electronics.

"Some of the spaces in the makerspace are standard, but it's adding to the capacity of the campus," Buffalin said. "We have a woodshop in the College of Art and Design. So now we have a woodshop for the whole campus, which then gives groups like RIT Players (a student-run theater group) and others more resources they didn't have before."

The Launch Initiative team is excited to have its own space for the first time since becoming a student club in 2014. Until now, the rocketry team has used the previous makerspaces on campus and stored its rockets in a hallway in the engineering building. Even without a designated place to work, Launch Initiative took first place in July at the Space Dynamics Laboratory Payload Challenge, part of the Intercollegiate Rocket and Engineering Competition.

"Coming off this big win—and now having a space we can call home—is going to be a big morale booster for the team," said Wynter Petersen, club president and a fourth-year physics major from Los Gatos, Calif.

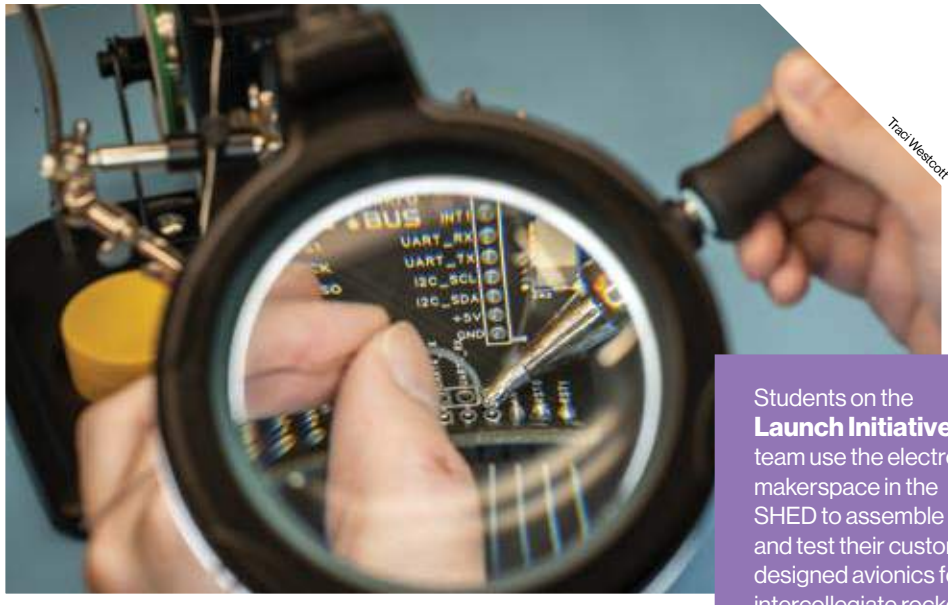
The location will help the team gain visibility and grow.

"The amazing thing about the SHED is that it's right at the center of campus," Petersen said. "And it's going to be a big meeting spot for a lot of different people."

About SHED makerspaces

- 7 makerspaces on 3 floors
- Premier makerspace with woodworking, metal shop, 3D printers, laser cutters
- General makerspace with 3D printers and laser cutters, attached classroom, and materials resource center
- Printing room
- Electronics and textiles
- 7 competitive student performance teams live in the SHED: 2 e-vehicle teams; 2 robotics teams; 2 rocket teams; 1 steel bridge team

Traci Westcott



Traci Westcott

Students on the **Launch Initiative** team use the electronics makerspace in the SHED to assemble and test their custom-designed avionics for intercollegiate rocketry competitions.

Nika Goubatova designs costumes in her free time in the SHED's textiles and electronics makerspace. The third-year industrial design major from New York City is active with RIT's Cosplay Troupe.

Performers welcome

Along with makers, performing artists have a large presence in the SHED through music, dance, theater classes, and clubs.

While RIT does not offer degree programs in the performing arts, more than 1,800 students participate every year through performing arts classes and clubs, including the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and RIT Performing Arts theatrical season.

Munson made performing arts a priority when he established the Performing Arts Scholarship in 2019 to attract multidimensional students to RIT. The SHED supports Munson's mission by creating new resources for music, dance, and theatrical productions that broaden the university's identity.

The SHED includes a jewel box for performing artists. The Skarlsky Glass Box Theater, named for Frank Sklarsky '78 and his wife, Ruth, will seat up to 185 people for theatrical and musical performances. The flexible space includes multi-level viewpoints, retractable floor-level seating, and louvers within the glass walls to provide daylight and blackout modes.

The theater, ensemble rooms, and dance studio give faculty teaching in the School of Performing Arts room to expand course offerings, such as adding introductory vocal and music classes for students who want to get involved.

Proximity to the makerspace adds a new take on existing classes, such as the History and Technology of Musical Instruments. This year, students in this class will deconstruct a donated harpsichord in disrepair and build new instruments with the parts, said Erica Haskell, director of the School of Performing Arts.

The SHED creates a venue for new possibilities for students, such as spontaneous performances in the atrium.

"We are on the cusp of something really impactful," Haskell said. "RIT is creating a complex performing arts ecosystem on campus inside and outside the SHED."

Carly Wicka, a fourth-year biomedical sciences student from Buffalo, N.Y., is taking advantage of that ecosystem.

A dancer since age 3, Wicka is a leader in performing arts on campus. She joined the student dance company, Vis Viva, in her first year, and now she is one of the head choreographers for the club and its competitive performance group.

Wicka minors in dance and is enrolled this semester in a hip-hop class that meets twice a week in the SHED.

Instructor Julia Nguyen, who discovered dance while she was in college, introduced hip-hop dance to RIT's Wellness Education in spring 2019. Now, she teaches five sections for Wellness Education and for NTID's Department of Performing Arts.

Wicka's dance club is excited to have the new studio in the SHED, she said. "We're all in majors not related to dance, but we still get to come together and do something we love."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

About SHED performing arts

- 1 performing arts ensemble studio
- 1 music instructional studio
- 5 individual practice rooms
- 185 seats in glass box theater
- 1 dance studio
- 1 dance lounge
- 1 recording studio
- 1 green room
- 2 dressing rooms

Traci Westcott

Jesse Winter

Who named the SHED?

Jonathan Dharmadi '22 (new media design) will forever hold a unique place in RIT history as the student who named the Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED).

His winning entry in the 2021 student contest to name the new makerspace and learning center has strengthened his personal connection with RIT.

"I love keeping up with all things RIT, lacrosse and hockey, and all the interesting new developments," said Dharmadi, who lives in Queens.

Dharmadi works as a product designer at Spotify in New York City, where he creates digital ads for the music platform service. He said the project-based curriculum of RIT's new media design program prepared him for an internship at Spotify that turned into a career. Every day he uses the design process he learned at RIT to create digital products that are both functional and visually appealing.

"As a product designer, I am doing a lot of problem solving to improve user experience and to make the content look nice," he said.

A creative simplicity also led to Dharmadi's prize-winning name for the new multi-use complex. For light-hearted irony, he likened the "magnificent building" to a modest shed, the kind often found in backyards, where people tinker and create.

Dharmadi, who worked as a Brick City ambassador and campus tour guide, also wanted the name to flow when spoken aloud and to underscore the spirit of the building inspired by the annual Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation festival.

"I first came to RIT for Imagine RIT in 2018 because I wanted to check out what it was all about, and that's when I realized I need to go here," he said.

When RIT's financial aid office helped make that possible for Dharmadi, he was determined to give back to the community as a campus tour guide for admissions and through volunteer work.

"Naming the SHED will always be part of me for sure," Dharmadi said. "It's an honor to directly contribute to the campus like that."

Transformative Campaign propels university to new heights

By Rich Kiley and Vienna McGrain '12 MS

RIT student TasJohn Terry is designing and building a robotic arm that blends his interest and expertise in 3D printing. When he graduates, he wants to either attend graduate school or work for an automotive production company like Honda or Magna.

Meanwhile, his twin sister, TiasJah, is designing and personalizing her own packaging that will be manufactured into a physical package. She is on her way to landing her dream career as a packaging designer for Mattel in California.

Thanks, in part, to opportunities funded by the $1 billion Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness, the students are engaged in active learning that propels their academic experience and fuels their passions, allowing for a comprehensive, robust RIT experience.

TiasJah Terry, left, and her twin, TasJohn, are Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars, a program that provides full-tuition scholarships.

Carlos Ortiz

More than $200 million has been given to Transforming RIT to support scholarships and the student experience to ensure the best and brightest minds can attend RIT regardless of their financial circumstances. The campaign, launched publicly in 2018, is bringing RIT's strategic plan to life by investing in student success, creating world-class facilities, advancing research and discovery, and innovating careers of the future.

From scholarships to professorships, programs to facilities, and research to mind-blowing innovation, the blended campaign received support from a wide variety of investors—alumni, parents, friends, government and corporate partners, research foundations, and agencies. The campaign surpassed the $1 billion goal—the largest fundraising effort in the university's history—in March.

"We are grateful to each and every donor for propelling us forward," said Phillip D. Castleberry, vice president for University Advancement. "Our ongoing success requires a community of supporters that helps us pursue our vision and deliver on our mission. Because of your generosity, we have successfully completed a truly transformative campaign that will have untold impact on our students and the campus."

Both TasJohn and TiasJah are Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars, a program created by former RIT President Bill Destler and his spouse, Rebecca Johnson, that offers full-tuition scholarships for entering full-time, first-year students from public and charter schools within the Rochester City School District, as well those students participating in the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program.

The program has provided more than 300 high school graduates with the opportunity to attend RIT tuition-free—one clear example of how RIT is fulfilling its strategic plan of building partnerships within the local community.

"If I hadn't received this scholarship, I would most likely have gone to a community college or trade school," said TasJohn, a third-year electrical engineering technology major. "My high school counselor at Rochester Prep mentioned the scholarship to me. I'm extremely grateful. Without this, I can say that I wouldn't have had the chance to attend a great institution like RIT. I can see myself and my future."

A Chance to make a difference

That's exactly why Chance Wright '18 (advertising photography), '19 (MBA) made gifts totaling $5.3 million toward significant renovations and expansions to RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS) in the College of Art and Design (CAD) and Saunders College of Business.

"I received a first-rate education here at RIT, and it's important to me to do all I can to make the university even more appealing to current and future students," Wright said. "These gifts will enable the facilities inside SPAS and Saunders College to match the outstanding faculty and innovative students who will go on to change the world."

A $3.5 million gift from Wright and his mother, Pamela Mars Wright—the largest single gift ever made to CAD—fueled the renovation and reconfiguration of the third floor of Gannett Hall, part of a multiyear master plan to renovate, rejuvenate, and transform spaces to meet the growing demand for a college that serves as RIT's creative hub at the intersection of technology, the arts, and design.

His $1.8 million gift to Saunders College is helping fund renovations to existing facilities and a massive expansion, which will nearly double the building's current footprint. Inspired by the latest technology and building features found in industry, Saunders College—with its additional 36,000 square feet—will better incorporate essential elements of applied learning and collaboration.

With two RIT degrees, Wright understands the student experience and wants to build upon what made RIT transformative for him, so that the university's undergraduate and graduate students continue to receive the ever-evolving experience that he did.

"I want the facilities to do the same thing for students today that they did for me when I visited campus years ago," Wright recalled.

"I received a first-rate education here at RIT, and it's important to me to do all I can to make the university even more appealing to current and future students."

Chance Wright '18 (advertising photography), '19 (MBA)

Endowed professorships forge pathways

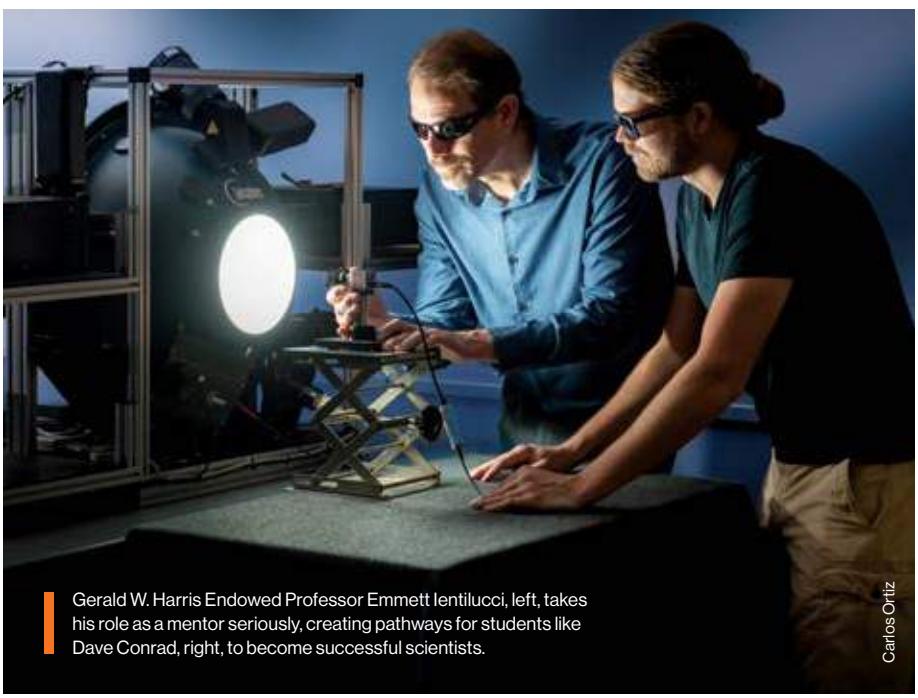
In addition to direct scholarships to students and funding for new facilities, campaign funds created endowed professorships, providing the fuel for faculty to support student research and develop cutting-edge curricula.

In 2022, two new endowed professorships in the College of Science were established thanks to a $2 million gift from RIT Board of Trustees Chairperson Jeffrey Harris '75 (photographic science and instrumentation) and his partner, Joyce Pratt.

Associate Professor Emmett Ientilucci, who now holds the Gerald W. Harris Endowed Professorship, believes that his role as a teacher and mentor is to forge pathways for his students to become successful scientists, advancing the body of knowledge and becoming strong contributors to the scientific landscape. Essentially, campaign dollars seed-fund their careers.

"I integrate students into everything I do in my classroom and research labs. Creating ways to encourage students to continue their research through offering essential stipends and funding experiential travel to national and global conferences, where they interact with the best scientists in the world, is essential to my mission," said Ientilucci, graduate admissions chair for the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science and recipient of the 2020-2021 Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching at RIT. "My goal is to give students a sound education. Entering the real world is part one. Part two is making sure they're ready for their next phases of life, beginning their careers, following their passions."

To the average person, teaching the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in the field of chemistry is a stretch. But according to Christopher Collison, professor in the School of Chemistry and Materials Science and the newly appointed Jane King Harris Endowed Professor, AI has "flipped the world on its head" and is accelerating finding solutions to problems, whether that's research in diseases, solar cells, or sustainability.



Gerald W. Harris Endowed Professor Emmett Ientilucci, left, takes his role as a mentor seriously, creating pathways for students like Dave Conrad, right, to become successful scientists.

Carlos Ortiz

Collison is using his professorship to purchase hardware, software, and computational tools to adapt chemistry programs to integrate AI. He believes that students who understand chemistry and materials science, and can incorporate the foundations of AI, will be ready to make major research contributions, going forward.

"This type of course doesn't currently exist at the moment in chemistry," said Collison, who hopes this will also lead to more external funding for the program. "But, we're RIT. We can see ahead and build this for graduate chemistry students. The goal here is to train our students to always be ready for what's next."

Research growth helps fuel campaign

Last year, increases in collaborative projects and inter-organizational engagements combined for a record $92 million in research funding for RIT, as the university exceeded $90 million for the first time ever.

RIT consistently grew its research footprint while maintaining a vibrant undergraduate experience. The university is now listed as a "high research activity institution" or "R2" under the updated Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning—the second-highest classification and puts RIT among the top 6 percent of colleges and universities in the nation.

These increased awards in areas such as advancing biomedical technology and economic development initiatives lifted the university to the record year and played a significant role in helping RIT surpass the campaign goal.

RIT's niche areas include nanotechnology, optics and imaging science, cybersecurity, and AI. In recent years since the campaign's launch, many of the university's awards were funded by national agencies like the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and both NASA and the Department of Energy.

Jane King Harris Endowed Professor Christopher Collison is adapting RIT's master's in chemistry program to incorporate artificial intelligence.

"I'm pleased that our growing success played a key role during the campaign and is yet another sign of our maturity as a research university," said Ryne Raffaelle, RIT vice president for Research and associate provost.

Government support also contributed significantly to the blended campaign, said Vanessa J. Herman, vice president for Government and Community Relations.

One example is MAGIC Spell Studios, which was funded, in part, by $12 million from New York state. With specialty spaces including a state-of-the-art sound stage and production facilities that rival those found in New York City or Los Angeles, MAGIC Spell Studios ties together entrepreneurship, academics, content creation, production, and distribution. Initiatives like these not only transform the RIT student experience, but also are a strategic investment in strengthening Western New York.

"Working together with our federal and state public officials was critical to the success of the campaign," Herman said. "It's a great example of public-private partnerships working toward a common goal to support our students and provide critical dollars to improve RIT's infrastructure and add some amazing state-of-the-art labs and classroom space."

The Terry twins would agree that the campaign has resulted in a better experience for all students.

"I think it's important to thank our donors for investing in local students," said TiasJah, a third-year packaging science major. "They could have looked anywhere for the most promising engineering students, the most promising science students, the most promising art students. But they chose to invest in students from Rochester and give me and my brother the opportunity to be part of RIT."

Carlos Ortiz

Highlights of Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness

The $1 billion campaign focused on investing in student success, creating world-class facilities, advancing research and discovery, and innovating careers of the future.

1

2

3

2013

Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness quiet phase begins. The goal of the blended campaign is to raise $1 billion.

RIT receives $1.25 million from New York state to establish the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship in downtown Rochester.[2]

RIT receives $1.5 million from Juniper Networks for a new web application security framework, secured for use by the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

RIT launches the Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking with a $1 million gift from an anonymous alumni donor.

2014

Hockey's new home, the Gene Polisseni Center, opens thanks in part to a $4.5 million partnership between the Polisseni Foundation and RIT Trustee Emeritus B. Thomas Golisano. Steve Schultz '89 and Vicki Schultz '92, '94, '99 kicked off the fundraising with a $1 million gift.[1]

RIT announces plans for the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition, part of RIT's College of Health Sciences and Technology, with a $6 million gift from The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation.[3]

RIT President Bill Destler and his spouse, Rebecca Johnson, give a $1 million endowment gift to the Rochester City Scholars program.

4

5

2015

RIT announces the Bruce B. Bates Women's Hockey Coach, the university's first endowed coaching position, supported with a gift of $1.15 million by Trustee Emeritus Bates.[4]

RIT receives a 10-year designation to establish the AMPrint Center, a Center for Advanced Technology supported with over $920,000 in annual funding pledged by the state.[5]

The August Family Atrium in the Clinical Health Sciences Center in the College of Health Sciences and Technology is made possible by a donation from the Charles J. and Burton S. August Family Foundation.

6

7

2016

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education changes RIT from Masters-Comprehensive to Doctoral University.

The Ann Mowris Mulligan Distinguished Professorship in the School for American Crafts is enhanced with a $1 million estate gift.[7]

With a philanthropic gift, RIT establishes the Harvey Palmer Professorship to honor the retiring dean for his stewardship of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

8

2017

David C. Munson Jr. starts as RIT's 10th president succeeding Bill Destler, who retired after 10 years.[6]

Austin McChord '09 gives $50 million to RIT, the largest single donation ever made to the university. The gift goes toward building the Student Hall for Exploration and Development (SHED), creating the Gap Year Entrepreneurial Fellowship and the Student Accelerator Startup Endowed Fund, and establishing four endowments for professorships named after his former grade school teachers.[8]

Joseph M. Lobozzo II ends the Saunders College of Business Challenge with a $3 million gift. Lobozzo also gives $1.5 million to create the Joseph M. Lobozzo II Endowed Professorship.

E. Philip Saunders provides the lead gift to establish the Daniel D. Tessoni Endowed Chair in Accounting and, with a $2 million gift, establishes the E. Philip Saunders Endowed Professorship in Saunders College of Business.

9


10

2018

RIT publicly launches its $1 billion blended campaign during an evening of entertainment.[9]

RIT receives $1.5 million from Empire State Development to purchase machinery and equipment to support the Genomics Research Lab Cluster.

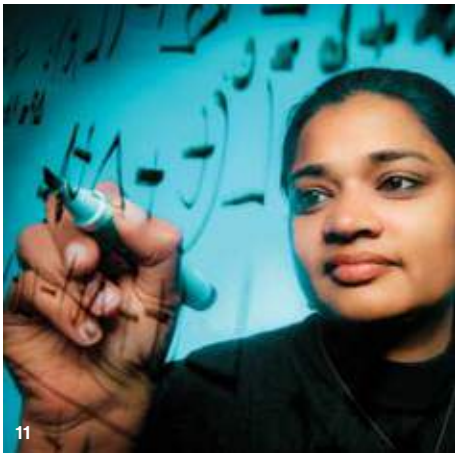
Sudhakar “Bal” G. Dixit ’74 and Anita Dixit establish the Bal Dixit Laboratory for Advanced Materials and Fire Protection with a gift of $2 million.

RIT opens MAGIC Spell Studios, made possible through state, corporate, and private funding, including $1.5 million from The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation.

RIT sets a record of $78 million in research funding for the fiscal year.

RIT receives a $1.3 million gift from Philip Wehrheim ’66 and his wife, Anne, to endow a partnership with Genesee Country Village & Museum.

RIT receives $5 million for a global institute focused on cybersecurity from a grant through the New York State Higher Education Capital Matching Grant Program.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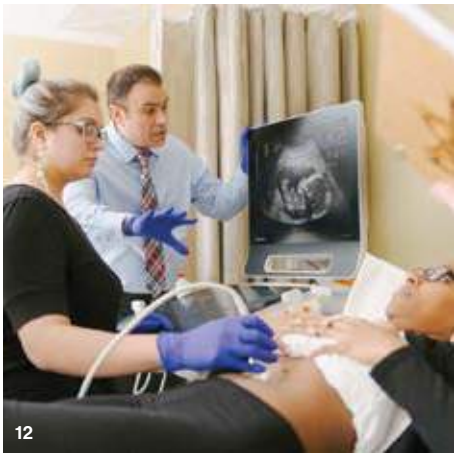
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2019

Chance Wright ’18,’19 makes a $3.5 million gift to the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, the largest single gift ever made to the College of Art and Design.

RIT is gifted a 177-acre estate by Amy Leenhouts Tait and Robert C. Tait. Tait Preserve will expand research and educational offerings.[10]

RIT moves up a Carnegie Classification among research universities to high research activity, or R2.[11]

2020

Carestream Health donates $1.2 million in ultrasound equipment to RIT.[12]

The Gleason Family Foundation surpasses $5 million of philanthropic support to promote experiential learning and hands-on education as well as faculty funding in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

RIT’s new leadership annual giving program, Sentinel Society, launches. The program recognizes donors who give $1,000 or more annually over five years.

13

14

2021

E. Philip Saunders; Chance Wright ’18, ’19; Susan Riedman Holliday ’85; the late Klaus Gueldenpfennig ’74, ’77; Brigitte Gueldenpfennig ’81; and Dinah Gueldenpfennig Weisberg ’97, ’03 collectively commit nearly $12 million toward an expansion of Saunders College of Business. Additional funds were awarded by New York State’s Higher Education Capital Matching Grant Program.[13]

Nippon Foundation awards NTID a $500,000 grant to support the education and employment of people who are deaf and hard of hearing in the Philippines and Vietnam.

RIT is awarded a nearly $2 million grant by the National Science Foundation for AWARE-AI, which will create a research traineeship program to increase diversity in graduate students studying computing, engineering, psychology, imaging science, and mathematics.[14]

15

2022

Research funding surpasses $92 million in a fiscal year for the first time.

ESL Federal Credit Union gifts $3 million to name the ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute.[15]

Trustee Frank Sklarsky ’78 and his wife, Ruth, give $2.5 million to establish the Sklarsky Glass Box Theater in the SHED.

RIT receives $2 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce to update and expand its Semiconductor Fabrication Lab.

James Hammer donates $1 million to establish the Hammer Family Packaging and Graphic Media Center.

Jeffrey Harris ’75 and Joyce Pratt give $2 million to establish two new endowed professorships in the College of Science.

RIT is awarded $2 million from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s Carbon Neutral Community Economic Development Program to develop a net-zero energy/carbon roadmap in partnership with Rochester Regional Health.

Doug May Field is dedicated, honoring the late men’s soccer coach. Family, alumni, and friends raised $1 million to name the field in memory of May.[16]

16

17

2023

RIT surpasses $1 billion goal with a gift from John Traver ’10 for an endowed professorship in the College of Art and Design.[17]

Onsemi donates $500,000 to further semiconductor educational initiatives and support projects and educational programming aimed at increasing the pipeline of engineers in the computer chip field.

A $500,000 gift from Steve Wear ’91 will support the renamed Steven M. Wear Unmanned Aircraft Systems Laboratory and the Willem “Bill” Brouwer Endowed Fellowship.

The Sentinel Society surpasses 500 founding members.

Like many students, fourth-year cybersecurity major **Tyler Spaulding** is embracing generative AI. He uses the technology to unravel coding mysteries and to enhance his understanding of programming.

About the art
All of the imagery in this story was made by combining portrait photography by Photo Editor **Scott Hamilton '89** with AI-generated elements by **Stan Kaady '88**. See more of Kaady's work on page 34.

AI AT RIT

LIKE IT OR NOT, GENERATIVE AI IS CHANGING EDUCATION

Copy. Paste. Fourth-year cybersecurity student Tyler Spaulding puts his computer code into ChatGPT and asks, "Why am I getting an error?" Within seconds, the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot generates an answer.

However, this RIT student isn't using AI as a shortcut. As he studies the structure and syntax of his code, he jumps down a rabbit hole of problem solving—asking himself "why does this work and *how*?"

"At the end of the day, I see AI as an efficient tool for people who want to learn," said Spaulding, who is from Liverpool, N.Y. "Yes, you could use AI to spit out a quick answer, but I use it to further my understanding of things."

ChatGPT is just one of many generative AI tools that has taken the world by storm in the last year. The technology identifies patterns from existing data and quickly produces unique content that mimics human creativity. In addition to writing computer code, people can use AI to alter an image, compose a new song, and write a paper.

Like many fields, the world of academia is wrestling with the challenges and opportunities presented by generative AI tools. While a few K-12 school districts, international universities, and businesses have attempted to ban the use of AI tools, RIT is acknowledging that it's here to stay and can be used as a force for good.

Today, hundreds of RIT researchers are developing a range of applications using AI, varying from medical monitoring devices to deepfake detection tools. RIT also started a master's degree program in artificial intelligence this fall that aims to prepare well-rounded AI professionals from diverse educational backgrounds. Throughout the university, generative AI is redefining the boundaries of creation.

For one class assignment, **Lucy Zhang**, a third-year computer science major, was asked to analyze how ChatGPT translates Chinese song lyrics.

The AI-generated elements contain visual approximations of music and characters.

"Generative AI is already extensively used across our society—it has moved out of research labs and into our home and work environments," said Cecilia Alm, professor in the Department of Psychology, School of Information affiliate faculty, and joint program director of the master's in AI. "It's changing how we work and live, just like other technology has done in the past."

In the classroom, AI is forcing faculty members to change the way they teach. How can faculty embrace a new technology that graduates will likely use in their careers, while making sure students still learn the fundamentals of their discipline? It also raises issues with academic integrity and AI ethics.

Finding the right balance is key to preparing students like Spaulding, who need to understand how to effectively use AI in their future jobs.

"Faculty are preparing professionals who will use and develop this technology," said Alm. "AI will continue to change and the approach to AI should be nuanced."

Generative AI has become a powerful teaching tool for **Liz Lawley**, professor of interactive games and media. She uses the technology to foster critical thinking and ethical consideration among her students.

'Moral responsibility'

For 25 years, the final assignment in Neil Hair's digital marketing class was a 20-page report. This year, the associate professor killed the term paper.

"Instead, I'm having students research and give a presentation that focuses in on all the nuts and bolts of the learning objectives in my course," said Hair, recognizing that a student could use generative AI to write the paper for them in seconds. "AI tools are changing the game, and we as faculty need to evolve how we teach."

Hair serves as executive director of RIT's Center for Teaching and Learning and is helping lead the campus discussion about pedagogy and AI. When generative AI tools first hit the mainstream last fall, he remembers the uproar of concern from educators. However, at RIT, that panic quickly subsided and turned into a cycle of trepidation and excitement.

"RIT faculty are really creative and known for active learning in technology," said Hair. "We have a moral responsibility to teach our community about AI, and I think RIT is in a good place to address these questions and embrace it."

This fall, faculty members vary in how they're using AI in the classroom. Some have instructed students to restrict AI use in certain cases, while others encourage students to articulate when and how they are using it. Faculty members have set up teaching circles to discuss AI in their disciplines, and several instructors are even using AI to refresh and refine their own lesson plans.

Liz Lawley, professor of interactive games and media, calls generative AI the most influential technology she has ever seen as a teacher—even more significant than the internet, due to the pace of change.

She has equipped the syllabi for her Introduction to Interactive Media and

Introduction to Web Development courses with a statement about AI use, noting that although AI tools can be helpful, they can pose risks of inaccurate information and make it easy to avoid learning core concepts.

"Students are obviously going to use these tools, but how do we make sure they use them in a way that doesn't prevent them from learning the building blocks we know they're going to need moving forward?" said Lawley. "I want them to realize that you can't do the really complex, sophisticated, and creative work if you don't know how to do the basics."

According to Lawley, if teachers tried to ban generative AI, it would be a losing arms race. She explained that while there are tools that claim to detect text generated by AI, they do a relatively poor job and have a problematic false positive rate when it comes to students for whom English is not their first language.

"Even if you could catch it, you can't prove it," said Lawley. "I want students to acknowledge when they use AI and tell me how they made it better, because that's actually the skill I want students to learn—critical thinking."

In Introduction to Interactive Media, Lawley's students are using multiple generative AI tools for tasks ranging from drafting an outline for a persuasive argument essay to creating simple graphics for a website prototype. Each time, Lawley asks students to critically assess the materials created and consider the ethical issues related to these tools.

Lucy Zhang, a third-year computer science major, had a similar assignment in the spring 2023 semester. In a Chinese language course, her professor asked students to translate the lyrics of Chinese songs using ChatGPT—mistakes and all. Students then translated the songs back to Chinese themselves.

Juan Noguera, assistant professor of design, encourages his industrial design students to explore how generative AI can be used to transform the creative process.

"The assignment actually showed the limitations of ChatGPT," said Zhang, who is from Rochester, Mass.

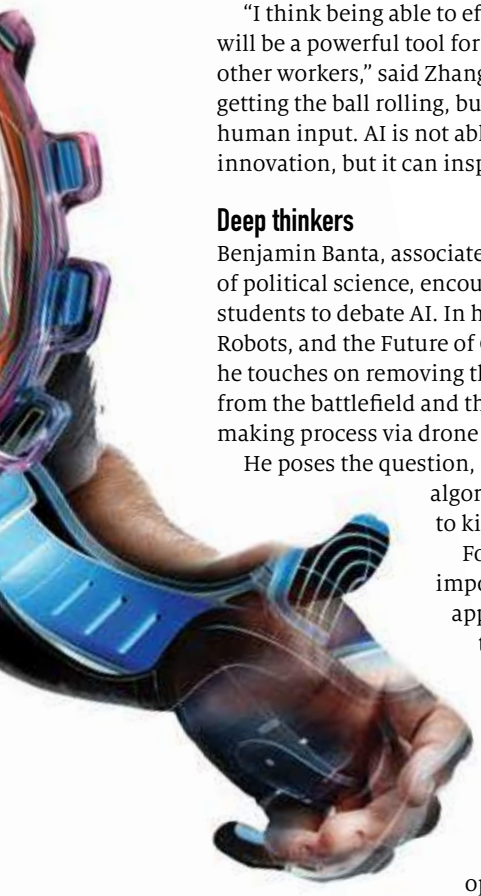
Zhang said that she views AI as another tool, akin to Google. She has used AI to create websites in Python and to come up with funny team names for class projects. AI also came in handy when reviewing topics for finals.

For last spring's Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival, Zhang worked with Engineering House to create an AI mascot called Gearbo that could answer any question about the RIT special interest house.

"I think being able to efficiently use AI will be a powerful tool for engineers and other workers," said Zhang. "AI is good at getting the ball rolling, but you still need human input. AI is not able to create innovation, but it can inspire it."

Deep thinkers

Benjamin Banta, associate professor of political science, encourages his students to debate AI. In his Cyberwar, Robots, and the Future of Conflict course, he touches on removing the soldier from the battlefield and the decision-making process via drone warfare.



He poses the question, "What if an algorithm decides to kill someone?"

For Banta, it's important that RIT approaches generative AI technology holistically, rather than from a position of assumed technological progress and optimism.

"I prompt students to ask whether we need it, why it's being developed and promoted in certain areas, and how it ultimately should be utilized if we want to promote a thriving democratic society," said Banta. In the classroom, Banta understands that some students will use generative AI as part of their research process. He encourages students to then go to the original sources and not to copy text from AI verbatim.

"RIT is on the forefront of technology, and it's important that our students are deep thinkers," said Banta. "When our graduates go out, invent the next big thing, and make a billion dollars, I also want them to be thinking about these issues. It's important to be users of the technology—not used by the technology."

Juan Noguera, assistant professor of design, has also thought about AI from the start. Last fall, he challenged his industrial design master's students to see how they could use AI as part of their design process.

Noguera himself has used AI image generators to augment his ideation process. With a simple text prompt in DALL-E 2, users can get a flood of unique images. He likens it to getting inspiration from reading a book or a trip to the museum.

"With my students, this project sparked amazing conversations about authorship, ethics, and the evolution of our design discipline, with students seeing parallels with the introduction of computer-aided design and the internet," said Noguera.

For the project, industrial design master's student Jayden Zhou sought to design a musical instrument. At first, he prompted the AI image generator Midjourney to create "futuristic sci-fi stringed instruments."

In the end, he developed an electric violin with a fingerboard that illuminates as the instrument is played. Zhou wrote that he could see AI changing the process of creation, but not the essence of creation.

Other students in the class created assistive technologies, a chair inspired by fruit, and shoes made out of fungus. They all used AI in different ways, but noted how it led them down an unexpected path. Noguera was impressed.

"AI technology is not going away anytime soon," said Noguera. "As educators and forever learners, I believe we have a responsibility to explore it."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Jayden Zhou, an industrial design master's student, got inspiration from Midjourney while designing an electric violin for a class project.

AI and alumni

AI will likely play a role in every major industry down the road. Here's how

Prompting new images

Stan Kaady '88 (photographic illustration) is pointing his lens in a new direction. In addition to photography, he's now creating art using generative AI.

Midjourney is one of many AI programs that allows users to generate images from natural language descriptions, called prompts. Kaady's journey into generative AI began with a free trial, which he eagerly explored and exhausted in just half an hour.

"It's like learning image making all over again," said Kaady, an advertising and editorial photographer based out of Atlanta.

Kaady is now filling his Instagram with AI creations. He'll often develop a set of images to showcase the iteration process. One series depicts a fashion shoot of Barbie dresses that pay homage to Robert Oppenheimer, reflecting themes of atomic particles and nuclear reactions.

Sometimes he'll experiment with prompts based on song titles, a book passage, or import a movie still or artwork that he finds interesting. Kaady recalls that he was trained to previsualize and post visualize images—a technique championed by Ansel Adams and other photographers. However, he finds there is no post visualization with the generative AI process.

"The parameters and features for Midjourney and other AI programs change quickly," said Kaady. "With AI you are learning to harness the prompt objectives. I'll try different color suggestions, lighting language, move the words around, put emphasis on words, and process the image even more in Photoshop."

A Warrior helmet
Kaady used Midjourney to create a series of hyper-realistic ornate and ceremonial helmets.

B Barbenheimer
A generative AI fashion shoot of Barbie dresses that pay homage to Robert Oppenheimer.

C Man in hard hat
This person is not real.

D Abandoned luncheonette
A prompt inspired by a Hall and Oates song.

E Camera/waffle iron
National Camera Day and National Waffle Iron Day fall on the same day. Kaady was curious about what a camera-shaped waffle iron would look like.

five alumni are already using generative AI in their careers.

AI for drug design

Generative AI and reinforcement learning is steering the design of life-saving drugs.

David Longo '10 (computational mathematics) is CEO of Ordaōs, a machine-driven drug design company that creates biological molecules smaller than monoclonal antibodies, called mini-proteins.

"Five years ago, AI was a dirty word in the pharma industry, but now it's shifted to this concept of intelligence in the process," said Longo. "AI actually allows us to get far more hands-on and deterministic about our designs."

Longo co-founded Ordaōs in 2019 with **Steve Haber '09 (information technology)**, the chief solutions architect. When starting the company, the team sought to rethink how AI could be used in every step of the design process—from sequencing problems to cell signaling.

Ordaōs is reinventing medical research by creating and evaluating billions of proteins via computer simulation, and then continuing to test and tweak those novel mini-proteins with generative AI. Ordaōs then rigorously synthesizes and tests the top-ranking sequences in vitro.

Mini-proteins designed by Ordaōs provide the power and performance of antibodies but are more configurable, stable, and easier to manufacture. While the mini-proteins are disease agnostic, a lot of the company's work is currently in oncology, leading to cancer drugs.

The company is now part of the AWS Generative AI Accelerator.

Give AI the repetitive tasks

Sometimes AI seems to read minds. That's how **Edmond Behaeghel '22 (computing and information technologies)** feels when he's using GitHub Copilot, an AI pair programmer.

Copilot acts as an advanced autocomplete for coding. The generative AI works with a programmer's integrated development environment—such as Visual Studio—to suggest code. Whether Behaeghel is using the AI for a personal project or to develop IT solutions as a controls engineer at Barry-Wehmiller Design Group, he finds it helpful.

"It's really good at handling repetitive and boring tasks," said Behaeghel, who works from Geneseo, N.Y. "If you are creating a calendar and you have to type the same thing 12 different times, it can do that for you. But you still have to understand how the code works to develop software."

Behaeghel has also used the tool to create outlines, set up databases, work on conditional statements, or send dynamic data to other users.

He said that he's careful to only use it for hypotheticals in a sanitary environment, before adapting the software for real use.

"It's a helpful tool, but it's not a night-and-day transformation in being more efficient," Behaeghel said. "It just sets me up real quick, so I can spend more time working with the data."

Creative responsibility

Kelly Hurlburt '17 (new media design) is a lead designer of Firefly, Adobe's new generative AI tool for its Creative Cloud software. She's also making sure it's deployed responsibly.

With Firefly, people can use simple text prompts in more than 100 languages to make images. Users can easily generate images, remove objects or paint in new ones, apply styles or textures, generate color variations, and extend images.

As a senior staff experience designer at Adobe, Hurlburt is extensively involved with the overall strategy and design of the tool. She said Firefly invites more people into a creative space that is inaccessible to many.

In developing Firefly, the design team considered concerns from the creative community. The team trained the software to only use Adobe Stock and public domain images out of copyright. She also cited a committed focus to integrating AI into the existing workflows to expand, not replace, the role of creatives and applying measures to increase transparency and reduce bias of the AI model.

"I care deeply about art and my fellow creatives, so I feel grateful to be in a position where I can tangibly influence the technology in a positive direction," Hurlburt said.

Smarter communications

Stacy Lake '05 (marketing), '07 (MBA) is leaning into generative AI to streamline the language process.

As corporate communications manager for Salas O'Brien, an engineering and technology services firm with offices across North America, Lake is finding ways that AI can help her clients and her team.

Her communications team is leveraging the AI writing tools ChatGPT and Jasper to create and refine content.

"For example, we develop a lot of case studies and we sift through countless input to create them," said Lake, who works from Sarasota, Fla. "Now, we can jumpstart that process by dropping the input into a writing tool with pre-built parameters and templates that match our specific tone and language requirements."

The team also used AI tools to trim down long requisitions into short, 150-word versions and to create LinkedIn post ideas for their engineers during the latest brand rollout.

Lake said the company has a policy regarding the smart use of these AI tools. The technology cannot be used where there is any possible liability or confidential information.

"I don't see AI replacing communications jobs, but I do want future communications graduates to have the skills to leverage and use these tools," said Lake. "AI is only as good as the prompt you put into it."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Annabelle Kresge is one of the youngsters using The Overcomer, an assistive device designed by RIT students.

Overcoming obstacles

Students' game-changing product breaks barriers

Annabelle Kresge took a swing of the bat and knocked the baseball into play. As the 12-year-old rounded the bases, the crowd cheered.

Annabelle gets to score runs because of students in RIT's Multidisciplinary Senior Design (MSD) program. Their work resulted in The Overcomer, a patented device being used by children and adults with mobility challenges to play sports at the Special Olympics and in schools, nursing care facilities, sports leagues, and homes around the world.

"Our students aren't just developing widgets anymore. They are solving real-world problems, and this project, like many of them, is making a difference for a community that is sometimes overlooked," said Beth DeBartolo, MSD director and associate professor of mechanical engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. "The companies and people they are working with have access to the breadth of RIT resources for entrepreneurs."

The Overcomer was the dream of Joe Kabes, a physical education teacher in the Rochester suburb of Webster, N.Y. He first approached RIT in 2016 about building adaptive equipment.

In the MSD program, engineering

Rochester Challenger Miracle Field in Webster, N.Y., hosts children of all ages for sports.

Photos by Travis LaCoss

The Overcomer is an interchangeable assistive device that can be used for baseball, lacrosse, and tennis.

Sketchbook provided by Emma Sarles

The current design of The Overcomer is similar to its original drawings done by the first senior design team in 2016.

students take an idea, assess customer requirements, and then plan and design a product, which includes building a prototype. Students from art, business, and computing can collaborate with engineering students in the year-long course—modeling project teams found in companies.

"I had reached my capacity for adapting equipment and needed the help of engineers to take my equipment and designs to the next level," Kabes said. "RIT has so much to offer, and I learned a lot through the process."

As an undergraduate, Emma Sarles '17 (industrial design), '19 MS (professional studies), '22 MS (industrial and systems engineering), '23 Ph.D. (biomedical and chemical engineering) was part of the first design team in 2016 that worked with Kabes.

"He gave us very specific design goals

and wanted us to take his idea to the next level," she said. "He wanted the device to have capabilities for throwing, catching, and shooting for those with cerebral palsy or spinal cord injuries."

Students devised a sturdy device consisting of an upright metal pole on a base with flexible arms that is able to couple with attachments—a lightweight bat, modified lacrosse stick, or tennis racket. The device needed to be lightweight, adjustable, and easy to attach to a wheelchair or walker.

Since 2016, a dozen MSD teams worked on system and design improvements to The Overcomer and related devices, which included testing it in the Rochester community. In 2019, The Overcomer was granted a patent.

Fifteen students from the early project teams are included in the patent document. In 2022, FlagHouse, a national company that produces learning and assistive products for educational institutions, started producing it. Nearly 400 have been sold in just over a year on the market.

"He did what he set out to do," said Nicole Bureau '18, '18 ME (mechanical engineering), who was project engineering lead in 2017 and is listed on the patent. "He ultimately wanted to get a product to schools and families, and he did that. This was the biggest project I had worked on up to that point, and in job interviews I frequently referenced it to demonstrate my engineering skills."

Currently, Bureau is a mechanical design engineer at L3Harris, an international communications company, working on one of the company's space and airborne systems projects.

For Sarles, it solidified her career path.

"It was foundational and my first exposure to engineering skills. It's huge to have a patent on your résumé fresh out of school," said Sarles, who now works as a bioengineer for the government. "The team was excited about the project and the impact it might have on kids. But we had no idea back then the success it would be."

Annabelle's parents, Mandy and Brian, are seeing that success firsthand. They learned about The Overcomer through a demonstration and then donated the device to the Rochester Challenger Miracle Field, where Annabelle plays baseball.

"It means the world for us to be able to watch her and not have someone hold the bat for her," said Mandy Kresge. "She likes to do everything herself, so this gave her that opportunity."

Michelle Cometa '00

Joe Kabes, center, worked with several Multidisciplinary Senior Design program teams to develop The Overcomer. **Nicole Bureau '18, '18 ME**, left, and **Emma Sarles '17, '19 MS, '22 MS, '23 Ph.D.,** right, were part of the first team and are named on the patent.

Photos by Travis LaCoss

The Overcomer makes it possible for all children to enjoy the thrill of baseball and other sports.

Tech engineer **Don Charlton '99** (graphic design) says RIT gave him the courage to tackle any digital problem through research and design.

Facing fear of failure leads to success for graphic design alumnus

Don Charlton '99 (graphic design) came to RIT with just two suitcases, and one of them broke before he even got to campus. Still, he was excited to leave his small town outside of Pittsburgh and dive into the world of design. At the time, he likely didn't anticipate his degree would lead him to the tech industry.

In 2009, Charlton founded JazzHR, the first widely adopted start-up recruiting solution in Silicon Valley. JazzHR served many big-brand companies at the early launch stage, including Instagram, Dropbox, Uber, Barack Obama for America, and others.

"For my first company, I was interested in finding a problem that wasn't yet being solved, and that's how I found the recruiting industry," said Charlton. "My company pioneered a lot of the software that companies like Zip Recruiter use today."

He sold JazzHR in 2021 for $180 million. Now, he works as a tech entrepreneur and investor in Atlanta and is building a new company called Quicki, an async video networking platform.

Charlton says the most valuable lesson he learned at RIT was to embrace the possibility of failure. However, he didn't learn this in the classroom, but on the basketball court. Charlton planned to try out for the RIT basketball team but withdrew halfway through because he didn't want to risk being cut.

"Four months after that, I was playing basketball with the guys on the team and I was actually better than a lot of them. If I had stuck it out and worked past that fear, I probably would have found success. It's a lesson I carried with me into entrepreneurialism," said Charlton.

Remaining strong in the face of failure was key to the success of JazzHR. During a critical point in the company's growth, when he had almost 200 employees and limited cash available to keep things running, he was faced with a difficult decision.

"I had talked to 30 investors and they all said no. I wanted to quit and give everyone three months of severance because I didn't want to risk the embarrassment of having to tell everyone that they're suddenly out of a job," said Charlton. "But I remembered that lesson and told myself that I have to be willing to risk the worst possible scenario, because success is often found in the space between when you want to quit and the moment you actually fail. Thankfully, we ended up raising $15 million and the rest is history for the business."

Charlton believes most entrepreneurs have an innate outlook on the world that pushes them to dive head-first into the unknown and a dedication to see their ideas through despite any obstacles. His advice for budding entrepreneurs is to focus on the future and to not let anyone, even yourself, hold you back.

"The greatest and biggest companies of the world aren't building something that makes obvious sense today; they're building something that's going to make obvious sense tomorrow," said Charlton.

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Photo: Scott Hamilton

Campus competition kickstarts grad's acting career

Stephanie Nogueras '11 (applied liberal arts) credits her lucky break to an RIT fashion competition that launched an unlikely acting career.

As a student at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Nogueras focused on academics, working steadily toward completing her degree and finding a job. In search of a much-needed break from her studies, she signed up to participate in the university's Tiger's Next Top Model competition, based on the popular show *America's Next Top Model*. Nogueras won the competition.

Photos from the event, along with others taken of her as a model for student photography projects, were uploaded to Facebook where they were seen by a talent manager in Los Angeles. The rest is history.

"She asked me if I ever considered acting or modeling after graduation, which I hadn't," said Nogueras, a shy child who grew up deaf in a hearing Puerto Rican family in New Jersey. "I had always enjoyed dancing but never thought about being in front of the camera."

After graduation, Nogueras moved to LA and, soon after, landed her first major role as Natalie Pierce on ABC Family's *Switched at Birth*, before an appearance on the TV show *Grimm*. In 2018, she starred in the horror film *Unfriended: Dark Web*, followed by roles on *Criminal Minds*, *American Diablo*, and *The Good Fight* and leads in *Killing It* and the Fox crime anthology *Accused*.

"I love acting. It's thrilling—and challenging—to be someone else, to play different characters," she said. "I never thought I would have this kind of life at all."

In addition to her on-screen career, Nogueras is a motivational speaker and the founder of Pepita Productions, which provides support for actors identifying as Latinx/a/o. As a result of her own experiences, she hopes to create safe spaces for actors to share feelings, express thoughts on the industry, and seek mentorship.

"When I started, I didn't have any mentors who were like me, and that was really frustrating. I want to create opportunities for them to be a part of something like this. My goal is to break down barriers and stereotypes."

She also hopes her exposure will lead to increased conversations within families.

"My own Puerto Rican family never thought that their deaf child would grow up to have these amazing experiences. It's important to me that these children have healthy relationships within their own families and see that anything is possible for them."

As for her time at RIT, she credits her experiences interacting with other deaf and hearing students in and out of the classroom with boosting her independence, confidence, and self-worth, and helping her hone in on her identity.

Vienna McGrain '12 MS

Stephanie Nogueras '11 (applied liberal arts) has developed a successful acting career since graduation.

Elaine Torres

Nogueras appeared in an episode of the Fox drama ***Accused,*** directed by Marlee Matlin, right.

Fox

She plays Camille in the Peacock series ***Killing It***, which premiered in March 2022.

NBC

Phil Nguyen '15 (computer science) is the technical mastermind behind Rochester's first conveyor belt sushi restaurant, Umai Revolving Sushi.

Alumnus rolls out tech for revolving sushi restaurant

Travis LaCoss

Phil Nguyen '15 (computer science) is accustomed to rolling out the latest software updates. Now, he's rolling out delicious food as co-owner of Umai Revolving Sushi.

Umai—which means "delicious" in Japanese—is the first conveyor belt sushi restaurant in the Rochester area. When customers come in, they don't have to wait for a server to order—they can conveniently grab plates of sushi and other Asian specialties as they pass by on a rotating track that circulates through the restaurant.

Nguyen opened the 60-seat establishment with his longtime friend and serial restaurant entrepreneur Sean Zeng in December 2022.

After his friend pitched several business ideas, Nguyen found that this was one he could contribute to and make more efficient.

"I'm not the food expert in this business—I'm the tech person," said Nguyen. "But, while the automation may be an initial draw for customers, I think that the personal touch is what will keep people coming back."

Most of the restaurant's hardware and software were developed by Nguyen, including a custom automatic plate counting system.

At other rotation sushi restaurants, the food is typically placed on different sized or colored dishes, each representing a certain price point or category of sushi. At the end of the meal, servers must manually tally up the bill based on the plates.

"We thought that was inefficient and boring work to do, so I wanted to make it automatic," said Nguyen. "The efficiency of this restaurant actually allows our staff to spend more time interacting with customers and making sure they enjoy the meal."

His system uses QR codes and scanners that are linked with each table to automatically detect when and where a plate is picked up by a customer. Nguyen said that he designed multiple iterations of the original QR scanning concept to get it right.

"We would make some changes and test it overnight," said Nguyen. "Then we'd continue to make more changes and test until we were happy with its reliability."

At each table, customers can use a tablet to select made-to-order items. Nguyen developed the user interface for those tablets and integration for the restaurant's point-of-sale system.

Nguyen still has a day job in tech. He works as a lead software engineer at Rochester Software Associates, creating software solutions for the digital production print market. He said that both jobs give him an opportunity to solve new problems.

At Umai, Nguyen is already experimenting with adding computer vision as a way to improve his custom plate counting system.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Brianna Alverson '16 (international and global studies and political science) brings a humanities background to Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.

Ed Whitman, Johns Hopkins APL

Liberal Arts alumna tackles national security challenges

The employee roster of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) is, as expected, full of scientists, engineers, and cybersecurity experts. But there is one RIT College of Liberal Arts alumna among the ranks of experts at the lab working to solve some of the nation's most complex national security challenges.

Brianna Alverson '16 (international and global studies and political science) has worked as an analyst at APL since 2020, helping to tackle a variety of national challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency preparedness and response, supply chain protection, and adversarial cyber threats.

"I contribute to a wide variety of work at APL, so my roles and responsibilities are always changing. In general, I apply my skill sets as an intelligence analyst to various technical problems," Alverson said. "That could mean designing analytic frameworks for structuring how we think about problems, helping to guide how to best communicate information, or supporting decision makers by helping them make sense of unstructured qualitative data."

After earning her degree at RIT, Alverson went on to pursue a degree in applied intelligence at Mercyhurst University. She was accepted as an intern at APL in 2019 and was offered a full-time position after she graduated.

Alverson shared that effective communication of findings and ideas is vital for APL's work. She helps teams prioritize accessible and efficient communication and helps to provide a holistic approach to projects by bringing rich qualitative context to the quantitative findings of APL's data scientists and other technical experts.

"It doesn't really matter what we know about something if we can't communicate it to the people who need to know that information," said Alverson. "Having a humanities background and being able to contribute a humanities perspective to technical problems is really valuable for our teams."

Her role at APL has allowed her to pursue her career aspirations of working in government and national security, while also allowing her to apply her skills in novel and interesting ways.

"I think it's OK to be afraid of things that we encounter in our career or academic progression, but we can't let it hold us back from pursuing our goals or trying new things," said Alverson. "It was really intimidating deciding to join APL and be a person with a liberal arts background at a STEM-focused institution, but I'm glad that I didn't let my fear hold me back because I've really seen the value of my background in this space."

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

Jerry Alonzo '90 MFA has been building things since childhood. As an adult, he blended his love of woodworking with his career in law.

Alonzo channels legal career into woodworking creations

Photos by Travis LaCoss

Jerry Alonzo '90 MFA (woodworking and furniture design) has always been a builder.

"I've never been without tools. That's just who I am," said Alonzo. "When I went to college, I brought tools. When I went to law school, I brought my tools. Building was part of my identity."

Alonzo, from Geneseo, N.Y., worked as a lawyer and judge for over 40 years, but his love for woodworking never strayed. Now, he channels experiences from his career into his art to create thought-provoking pieces that prompt viewers to think critically about the legal system and, ultimately, the true meaning of justice.

His journey from a hobbyist's passion to a formal education in woodworking and furniture design started with the Rochester Woodworkers Society.

"They would bring in national speakers for the group to learn from. I remember two of them I attended, one was a talk by furniture maker Sam Maloof and the other was by William Keyser, a furniture maker, artist, and professor at RIT," said Alonzo. "After listening to their stories, I knew that I wanted to be like them."

With a blessing from his wife, Alonzo put in his first application to RIT. However, he was denied because he didn't have any studio credit hours, a requirement that would traditionally be fulfilled through an undergraduate art degree. Thankfully, the administration liked his portfolio and invited him to apply again with one condition—he had to complete 75 studio hours, all while working his full-time job as a lawyer.

"I went to SUNY Geneseo and I took every studio class I could," said Alonzo. "Everything was pretty close by, so I'd go to close a real estate deal at the courthouse and then I'd run over, take my dress clothes off, and put on a shop apron to throw some pots."

After three years, Alonzo reapplied to RIT and was accepted to the furniture design master's program. To balance his work and studies, he closed his law practice and worked part-time as a local court justice. After graduating, he split his weeks between practicing law and furniture making.

While some may assume his career in law would be separate from his work as an artist, Alonzo found that woodworking helped him process some of his own thoughts and questions about justice and the legal system.

The justice system inspires his artwork.

"I would take what I would learn and observe in court and use that, respectfully, in my artwork," said Alonzo. "I'd encounter a story or moment that resonated with me, and that would become my next morning's work."

Felícia Swartzenberg '19

SUPPORT, ENGAGE, CONNECT.

Your RIT graduation isn't the final chapter—there are lots of ways to invest your time and talents to power up your RIT spirit. Attend alumni events, mentor students, or give your professional goals a boost. Your engagement sustains your RIT connection and leaves a lasting mark. Here are some ways to get involved.

Tigers Connect

Tigers Connect facilitates meaningful connections and career-focused networking opportunities for personal and professional growth. Link with fellow Tigers who are industry experts and prospective employers. Share expertise and guidance with current students and provide mentorship. Join Tigers Connect and unleash your potential.

Sentinel Society

Sentinel Society is a distinguished group of RIT supporters who understand the impact of their support on current students and the university. Sentinel members play a pivotal role providing funding for student scholarships and RIT's most pressing needs. Become a member and give where it matters most to RIT students.

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

Stay engaged and allow your **RIT legacy** to shine on.

RIT

Class Notes

Abbreviations

CAST
College of Applied Science and Technology (now CET)

CAD
College of Art and Design

CCE
College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)

CET
College of Engineering Technology

CHST
College of Health Sciences and Technology

CIAS
College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (now CAD)

CLA
College of Liberal Arts

COS
College of Science

FAA
Fine and Applied Arts (now CAD)

GAP
Graphic Arts and Photography (now CAD)

GCCIS
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

KGCOE
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

NTID
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

SOIS
School of Individualized Study

SCB
Saunders College of Business

SVP
NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

About Class Notes

Class Notes are edited for space, clarity, and style. Share information by going to rit.edu/alumni/class-notes.

1974

Jim Englert '74 (CCE), founder of High Falls Advisors, was named a 2023 Financial Leaders honoree in the lifetime achievement category by *Rochester Business Journal* and the Rochester Chapter of Financial Executives International.

1977

Michael Pollock '77 (GAP) received the 2023 EMS Advocate of the Year award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, as well as the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition.

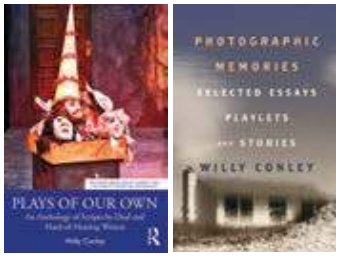
Andrew Welsh '77 (COS) accepted a new job as a senior data scientist at Dell Technologies.

1978

Joseph Stevens '78 (GAP) and his wife, Janie, retired and visited the Holy Land. The couple is pictured on Mount Carmel.

Richard V. Tantalo '78 (CLA) was appointed to serve as the director of public safety for the County of Monroe in 2020.

1981



Willy Conley Jr. '81 (GAP) released the book, *Plays of Our Own: An Anthology of Scripts by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Writers*—a part of the Routledge Series in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Theatre and Performance. Conley also published *Photographic Memories*, an anthology of essays, playlets, and short fiction grounded in Deaf experiences.

Michael Dailey '81 (CAST) has retired after a 42-year career in software engineering.

Robert Schott '81 (FAA) is celebrating the launch of his toy invention called SprawlyWalls—the dollhouse you build yourself.

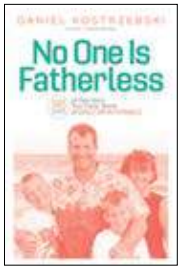
1983

Robert A. Ripps '83 (GAP) was named one of the top 200 digital artists worldwide, as ranked by Lürzer's Archive. The selected image is from Ripps' Negativityness series.

1987

Jane Dalton '87 MFA (FAA) was promoted to full professor of art education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

1990

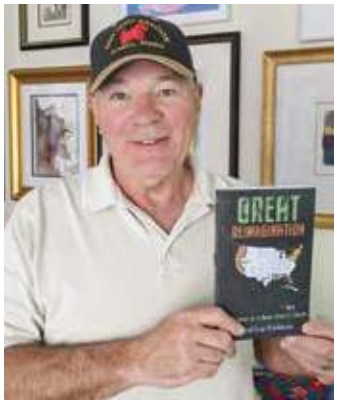


Pete Beckary '90 (SCB) partnered with retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant/ Special Ops Green Beret Dan Kostrzebski in publishing the daily devotional titled *No One Is Fatherless*.

1994

Philip Potts '94 MS (CIAS) graduated with a Ph.D. in aeronautical science from Capitol Technology University.

1995



David Frishkorn '95 MBA (SCB) published his second book, *The Great Reimagination: In Search of a More Perfect Union*.

Alumnus named future microelectronics leader

Robert Pearson

Matt Hartensveld '18, '18 MS, '21 Ph.D. was named a 20 Under 30 Awardee by SEMICON West in the microelectronics industry.

From building a cleanroom in his family home while he was in high school to becoming an entrepreneur and earning a Ph.D., it is no wonder that Matt Hartensveld is viewed as a future leader in the microelectronics industry. He was recently named a SEMICON West 20 Under 30 awardee, given by the organization to recognize the microelectronic industry's brightest young leaders.

Hartensveld '18 (microelectronic engineering), '18 MS (materials science and engineering), '21 Ph.D. (microsystems engineering) is an example of the talent in the microelectronic pipeline and someone who is inspiring its growth, said Robert Pearson, professor of electrical and microelectronic engineering in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

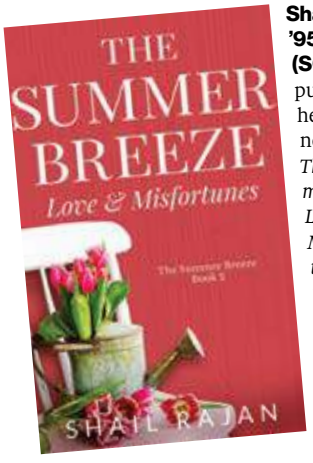
"Matt embodies the curiosity and engineering mindset across multiple fields of study that we try to develop in our microelectronic engineering students," said Pearson.

While Hartensveld worked on his Ph.D. in microsystems engineering, he also began his own business, Innovation Semiconductor, to research and develop LED display technologies. Using new materials, integrating nanowires into semiconductor structures, Hartensveld is producing technology that will enhance device capabilities from smart watches to using augmented/virtual reality.

Much of this innovative work began as an undergraduate, exploring entrepreneurial opportunities offered through the Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and at Venture Creations. Throughout graduate studies, he acquired several patents for his work integrating LEDs and nanowire technologies.

"Being named a SEMICON West 20 Under 30 awardee now is both humbling and inspiring," said Hartensveld, who is from Wyckoff, N.J. "It underscores the importance of pursuing one's passion and striving for innovation."

Michelle Cometa '00



Shail Rajan '95 MBA (SCB) has published her third novel, *The Summer Breeze Love & Misfortunes*, the second book in The Summer Breeze series.

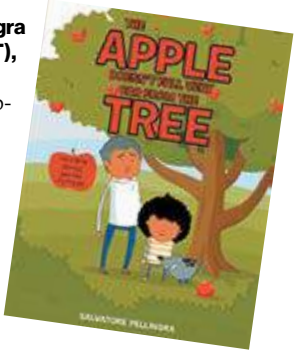
Jeremy Sniatecki '95 (CIAS) was chosen as the designer/illustrator for the 125th annual Rochester Lilac Festival 2023 poster. Sniatecki was also chosen to design and illustrate retro metal lunchbox collectibles, with the most recent releases based on *Dune* (1984) and *An American Werewolf in London* (1981). See more about them at factoryent.com.

1996

Paul Armani '96 (COS) married high school sweetheart Nicole Hebert on June 10, 2023.

1998

Sal Pellingra '98 (CAST), '01 MBA (SCB) published the children's book, *The Apple Doesn't Fall Very Far From the Tree.*



Tiger Love

Marcela Gallo '14 and **Raviteja Rudra '14 MS** first met on the Quarter Mile as students in 2013. They became friends, then a couple, and were married in 2020.

Cultural differences add spice to couple's life

Raviteja Rudra is a vegetarian from India. Marcela Gallo, a Peruvian-American, finds great delight in ceviche.

Their paths crossed 10 years ago while attending RIT, and their lives changed forever.

"I never imagined that I would marry someone from a different continent, culture, and religion," Gallo said. "The differences we have add a spice to our life."

Rudra '14 MS (electrical engineering) recalls first meeting his future wife. It was in 2013, when he was walking along the Quarter Mile on campus.

"There was a mutual friend talking to Marcela and he introduced me to her," he said. "And we became friends for more than a year."

Gallo '14 (fine art photography) remembers that encounter as well.

"I was like, 'This guy looks like a friendly, energetic character,' and he even said his name was Batman because he had a Batman decal on his laptop. The second time I saw him was in the library, and I said, 'Oh yeah, you're Batman.'"

It wasn't love at first sight for either of them. "My mind was preoccupied with schoolwork and other things, so we clicked as friends at first," Gallo said. "He was very spontaneous. He'd say, 'Let's go here' and I was up for it. Being a photography major, it was always good to explore off campus. We really liked each other's company."

Some of those trips were with RIT's Outing Club that Rudra belonged to. Others were ideas of his own.

One winter evening, he asked Gallo to go for a ride. He didn't say where they were going, but she hopped in his car. Two hours later, she was stargazing in Cherry Springs State Park, northwest of Williamsport, Pa.

"He said it was one of the darkest places in the United States so the stars would be the brightest," she said.

When Rudra needed a roommate and Gallo needed another place to stay, they became roommates, and their relationship grew stronger.

"We got closer, watched a lot of TV shows in the night, and eventually we fell in love," Rudra said.

After graduation, Rudra moved to Cleveland for a job, and Gallo moved to Austin, Texas, where her family lived.

Eventually, both found jobs in Austin—he's a systems architect contractor for the U.S. Department of Labor, and she's a photography retouching specialist for a furniture design company. They bought a house in 2019 and live with their cockatiel, Azucena, that Gallo adopted five years ago.

As the couple continued their trips together, those trips grew more adventurous.

On a trip following a tram ride up a Swiss mountain, Rudra got on his knee and proposed with a picturesque panorama of the Alps before them.

The couple married in a small, civil ceremony in 2020 due to COVID travel restrictions and had a more formal wedding with 70 friends and family members in Dallas in April 2023.

"I always reminisce about the moments I've had at RIT," Rudra said. "I had so many friends from RIT who came to our wedding. It was nice to see them again."

Greg Livadas

Travis LaCoss

1999

Nicolás Rubio '99, '01 MBA (SCB) received a Ph.D. in political science, with public policy as an area of specialization, from Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela. Rubio is pictured with his wife, Angela Incerti, at commencement.

Jim Smith '99 (KGCOE) was promoted to principal of BCE Engineers.

2000

Ben Hunt '00 (CAST) was awarded the 2022 Gerald J. Carroll Exemplary Coaching Award by USA Lacrosse. Hunt is pictured with wife **Jenni Hunt '00 (CIAS)** and children Noah, Hannah, and Marley.

2003

Roxanne Hoover '03 (CIAS) is the proud recipient of the Red Hat 2023 General H. Hugh Shelton Chairman's Award.

Amber (Szymanski) Powell '03 (SCB) has accepted a position teaching AP Statistics and Computer Sciences classes at her alma mater, Fredonia High School.

2005

Timothy Wicks '05 (GCCIS) is founder of managed IT and consulting firm Hyopsys, which was awarded The Philadelphia100 and recognized as one of the 100 Fastest Growing Companies in Philadelphia.

2007

Tim Capria '07 (COS) was named to the Financial Services and Capital Markets industry group at Husch Blackwell.

Allison Clark '07 (CIAS) was promoted to senior marketing manager for Data Center World at Informa.

Rebecca Olson '07 (CLA), '09 MS (CAST) was appointed as CEO of Oman American Business Council.

2009

Jordanne Ringwald '09 (CAST) celebrated her second anniversary as founder of Risus Talent Partners.

Dan Ringwald '09, '10 MBA (SCB) and his wife, **Jordanne Ringwald '09 (CAST)**, recently celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary.

Alumna opens second pediatric urgent care location

Carlos Ortiz

Chrysa Charno '03, '09 MBA has opened a second pediatric urgent care location in the Rochester area.

What began as an idea for an alumna eight years ago has turned into an important option—two options now, actually—for families in need of healthcare in Western New York.

AcuteKids Pediatric Urgent Care, the brainchild of Chrysa Charno '03 (physician assistant), '09 (MBA)—opened a second location—this site in Gates, N.Y.—after its original location opened in Webster, N.Y., in 2019.

Charno grew up in the Syracuse, N.Y., area surrounded by health and wellness. "My mother is a physical therapist, and my father was a physical education teacher and collegiate football coach," she said.

She had been working in general urgent care before identifying what she saw as a need for more specialized urgent care for children and adolescents.

"I have always loved kids, both as a mom and as a clinician, so this was a natural decision—work with the patients you love, doing the work you love," she said.

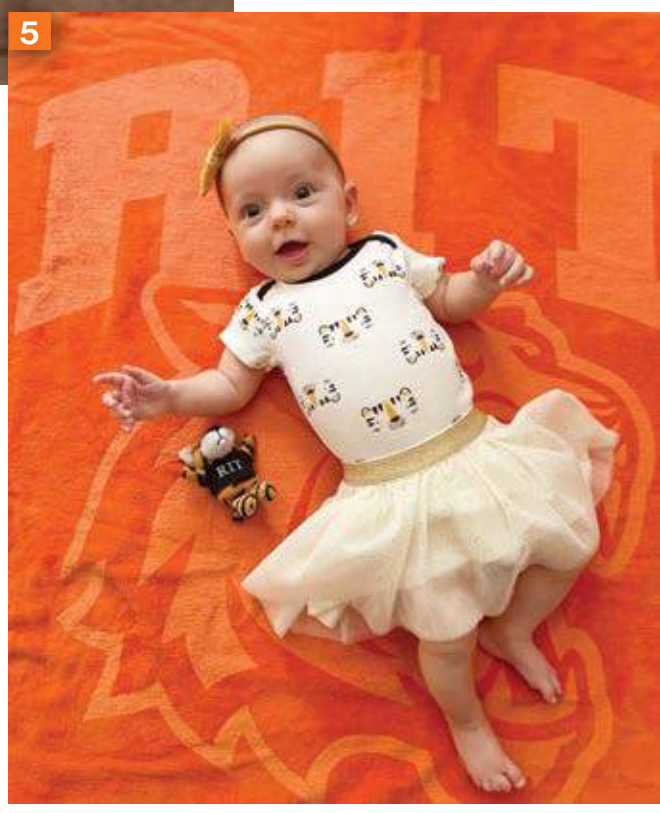
According to Charno, AcuteKids is "very unique" in that the centers offer services only to children from birth to 21 years of age. "Our team also has a passion for kids! Pediatric patients are not just little adults, they require special attention and a different approach to care than adult patients."

After opening the pediatric urgent care center's original site in Webster, Charno discovered there was a need for a center on Rochester's west side.

"We witnessed families driving over an hour to come see us from the Southern Tier and beyond," she said. "There was clearly a void that we needed to fill."

Rich Kiley

Tiger Cubs



1 **Anthony Macri '08 (KGCOE)** and his wife, Alisha, celebrated the birth of their third child, Nicolas Simon, in July 2022.

2 **Christianna Varrenti '11 (CIAS)** and Paolo Varrenti celebrated the birth of their first child and future RIT Tiger, Sebastian Cosmo Varrenti, in April 2023.

3 **Phil Frandina '11 (SCB)** and **Jessica Frandina '11 (COS)** celebrated the birth of their third child, Luke Alan, in September 2022.

4 **Samantha (Vent) Schreiber '15 (SCB), '20 MS (CLA)** and **Andrew Schreiber '16 (KGCOE)** welcomed Thomas Michael Schreiber to their family in March 2023.

5 **Amanda (Gratton) Trudo '16 (KGCOE)** and **Stephen Trudo '16 (KGCOE)** welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Rosalie Maye Trudo, in March 2023.

Amanda Weissman '09 (KGCOE), '09 MS (COS) and **Adam Weissman '09, '10 MS (KGCOE)** were both recognized with Lockheed Martin Rotary Missions and Systems' highest award, Evening of Excellence.

2010

Kelly Burns '10 MBA (SCB) has been named director of tourism in Livingston County, N.Y.

Nicholas Cheong '10 MS (CLA) joined Wells Fargo Corporate and Investment Banking on their relationship management team in 2021. Cheong is pictured with Singapore Consul General William Chik and Michael B. Hancock, former mayor of Denver.

2011

Fredrick Redd '11 MBA (SCB) was recognized as a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Trailblazer during Black History Month.

2013

Trevor Crandell '13, '19 MS (KGCOE) and **Kailee Polimeni '16, '18 ME (KGCOE)** got married in August 2022.

Andrew Scott '13 (CLA) was featured in *585 Magazine* for his work as a local concept artist in Rochester.

2014

Sam Remp '14 (KGCOE) has built a successful career in communications technology that propelled him into a leadership role at L3Harris Technologies.

2016

Alexandra LaLonde '16 (KGCOE) and **Nathan Corr '16 (KGCOE)** got married in August 2022, surrounded by lots of friends, family, and RIT Tigers.

Alumnus honored for work with AAPI community in Florida

Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai '89, left, was honored as a leader.

The motto for Kamalakar "Kam" Shenai '89 MBA (marketing)—"Do common things uncommonly well"—is a testament to his commitment to excellence and his desire to make a difference in the lives of those around him.


Congressional Record

House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives honored the Saunders College of Business alumnus as a distinguished leader in Central Florida during Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in May.

Shenai emigrated to the United States from India in 1976 "with $208 in my pocket, an engineering degree, a determination to work hard, and a heart full of ambition," he recalled. Prior to earning his degree from Saunders, he obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering from University of California, Berkeley, in 1977.

He began his successful business career in Buffalo, N.Y., as a salesman for Xerox Corp. in what would become a 35-year corporate journey. He was the head of marketing operations for Xerox North America before being named chief client officer at Sutherland Global Services in Rochester.

Since his retirement, Shenai has served on several boards, is on the Kidney Advocacy Committee for the National Kidney Foundation, and he is the co-founder of Asian Pacific Islanders Coming Together (ACT)—a grassroots, non-partisan organization whose mission is to amplify AAPI voices through voter-participation efforts.

"One needs to have a solid educational foundation to build a successful career, and the MBA in marketing from Saunders College—which came in the middle of my career—solidified my trajectory," Shenai said.

Shenai lives in Lake Nona, Fla., with his wife of 50 years, and has two children—a daughter and a son. He is a proud grandfather of four grandchildren.

Rich Kiley

Alumna named president-elect of the Society of Women Engineers

Karen Roth '06 says the Society of Women Engineers has helped her grow in her career, and she is looking forward to giving back.

Karen Roth '06 (software engineering) recently became president-elect of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), one of the largest advocacy, educational, and professional groups for women in engineering.

The international organization has been integral to her career development, and Roth is looking forward to giving back as other women and girls manage their own career paths.

"We simply don't talk enough about women's contributions in history, and it's led to unscientific societal perceptions on how women can contribute," said Roth, who is chief engineer at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate located in Rome, N.Y. "I was born in an era where I had the ability to pursue engineering as a career and contribute. But there's still many women who aren't allowed to or don't believe they can."

Roth has contributed to many Air Force technology projects to advance research in the areas of control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems, as well as cyber technologies. Her role involves exploration, prototype development, testing, and demonstration of high impact technologies toward the protection and defense of the nation. Last summer, she transitioned to a new position as deputy director of AFWERX, a key technology directorate, and is overseeing the Air Force's rapid innovation arm.

In addition to the Air Force, Roth served at Booz Allen Hamilton as lead technologist, and at Sikorsky Aircraft as project technical lead for system security for combat rescue helicopters. She has been with the AFRL since 2006, progressing through varied roles. It was a similar movement with SWE, where she has been a member since 2002 and held leadership roles such as regional and national senator, director of professional excellence and, most recently, society treasurer.

Michelle Cometa '00

Netanya Lerner '16 (CIAS) and **Leo Kheyn-Kheyfets '18 (KGCOE)** got married on Dec. 4, 2022, surrounded by their RIT friends.

Alex Lobl '16 MS (GCCIS) and Mai Kamada were married in November 2022 and joined together on April 18, 2023, with a traditional Japanese ceremony in Kakunodate, Japan.

Bob Osborn '16, '17 ME (KGCOE) and Jenni Martin got married in June 2022 on the beautiful beaches of the North Carolina Outer Banks.

2018

Miguel Flores '18 ME (KGCOE) had a research paper admitted and published by *Scientific Reports*, a Q1 journal.

Grace Koester '18 (CLA), '20 MBA (SCB) and **Michael Schroeder '20 (KGCOE)** got married on July 14, 2023, at the Wintergarden in Rochester.

2019

Maddie Mitchell '19 (CAD) and **Mike Cardone '19 (COS)** were married on Sept. 10, 2022, in Omaha, Neb.

Michael Troise '19 (KGCOE), '19 ME (KGCOE) recently began working as a staff engineer for McLaren Engineering Group in its Entertainment Division.

2020

Tim Beal '20 (KGCOE) married Nichelle Kelly on June 9, 2023, in Vernon, N.Y.

Nicole Cuello Wajdowicz '20 (CET) and **William Dzialak '20 (KGCOE)** got married in March 2023 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

2021

Grace Anne '21 (NTID) recently completed her first term with AmeriCorps through Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa. Anne is pictured working the veterans information booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

◀ Linda Siple
▼ Alice Beardsley

▲ Scan to learn more about Linda and her connection to RIT.

An Easy Decision

Linda Siple's bequest will support the scholarship that honors NTID's first interpreter.

Joining NTID in 1979, Linda Siple was a difference maker who had a significant impact on students. In 2023 and now retired, her impact continues in a different way.

"The sign language interpreting program here is really unique. Nowhere else in the country can a student study interpreting while surrounded by over 1,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students, over 100 professional interpreters, and over 100 faculty and staff dedicated to Deaf culture. I had the good fortune to work for many years with Alice Beardsley, NTID's first interpreter—a truly remarkable woman," says Linda. "When my husband and I decided to write our will, I wanted to recognize and honor the legacy we helped create at our respective jobs. It was an easy decision for me to support the Alice Beardsley Memorial Endowed Scholarship at NTID, which has been providing financial support to interpreting students since 1997."

RIT | Ellingson Society

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Visit **legacyrit.org** and request our free guide.
585-475-3106 | plannedgiving@rit.edu

In Memoriam

Alumni

1935
Grace (Simpson) Ellison '35 (SCB) March 22, 2023

1945
Nancy Kingman '45 (SCB) June 7, 2023

1947
Alice (Lucieer) Morgan '47 (SCB) April 7, 2023

1949
Dugald Brooks '49 (COS) May 2, 2023
William Cranston '49 (GAP) Feb. 27, 2023
Rita (Klee) Staglin '49 (FAA) Feb. 12, 2023

1950
Charles Cruickshank '50 (GAP) Jan. 20, 2023
Donald Gold '50 (CCE) Jan. 6, 2023
Carl Greenman '50 (KGCOE) Feb. 15, 2023
Frederic Rapell '50 (GAP) Feb. 14, 2023
Edward Stewart '50 (KGCOE) April 19, 2023

1951
Charles Dibaudo '51 (CCE) March 17, 2023
Norma Hagen '51 (SCB) Feb. 3, 2023

1952
Don Green '52 (KGCOE) Feb. 11, 2023
William Johnson '52 (GAP) April 11, 2023
Roy Rohlin '52 (KGCOE) Feb. 11, 2023

1953
Edward Kelly '53 (SCB) July 12, 2023
Beverly Kelly '53 (SCB) Feb. 5, 2023
Robert Silco '53 (KGCOE) April 23, 2023

1954
Beatrice (Rolley) Buck '54 (SCB) March 7, 2023
Daniel Fiorito '54 (GAP) May 15, 2023
Robert Tyrrell '54 (SCB) Jan. 13, 2023

1956
Robert Laughlin '56 (GAP) Jan. 11, 2023
E. Donald Lounsberry '56 (KGCOE) Jan. 24, 2023
David Schaeffer '56 (CCE) April 29, 2023
Edward Stephany '56 (KGCOE) Feb. 12, 2023

1957
Ernest Anderson '57 (COS) March 28, 2023
James Barclay '57 (KGCOE) Feb. 3, 2023
Henry Ferrarone '57 (SCB), '82 MS (CAST) May 4, 2023
Richard Geraci '57 (GAP) June 9, 2023
Robert Green '57 (KGCOE) Feb. 10, 2023
Betty (Pratt) Saunders '57 (SCB) March 22, 2023

1958
Ronald Hutchings '58 (COS) April 13, 2023
Mary (Dywan) Jones '58 (SCB) July 19, 2023
George Nan '58 (GAP) March 1, 2023
Grace (Wager) Saatman '58 (CCE) Feb. 23, 2023
Burr Sebring '58 (FAA) June 1, 2023

1959
Richard Borghi '59 (GAP) May 29, 2023
Jack Coleman '59 (CCE) June 11, 2023
Richard Galloway '59 (SCB) May 24, 2023
John Grosshans '59 (CCE) March 17, 2023
Edward Martin '59 (KGCOE) Jan. 11, 2023
Donald Novak '59 (GAP) Jan. 31, 2023
David Rowinski '59 (GAP) Feb. 5, 2023
Paul Swanton '59 (COS) April 1, 2023

1960
Frank Blaakman '60 (KGCOE) May 18, 2023
Robert Domalski '60 (KGCOE) Feb. 5, 2023
Richard Kay '60 (KGCOE) June 28, 2023
Robert Lohr '60 (KGCOE) Jan. 20, 2023
John McMahon '60 (KGCOE) Jan. 12, 2023
Ronald McNeish '60 (FAA) March 27, 2023
Stephen Royka '60 (KGCOE) April 24, 2023
Donald Smith '60 (CCE) June 26, 2023
Charles Styles '60 (GAP) March 13, 2023

1961
Edwin Bachmann '61 (GAP) April 24, 2023
William Colestro '61 (FAA) Feb. 12, 2023
David Dill '61 (GAP) Jan. 23, 2023
Michael Texera '61 (GAP) Feb. 26, 2023

1962
Edward Keller '62 (SCB) April 1, 2023
Anthony Petrolle '62 (KGCOE) April 17, 2023
Raymond Wegner '62 (CCE) April 23, 2023

1963
Bonita (Thiel) Cutler '63 (SCB) Feb. 2, 2023
Frank Hughes '63 (GAP) March 22, 2023
Leonard LaCara '63 (CCE) Jan. 19, 2023
Sharon (Brown) Muoio '63 (COS) Jan. 11, 2023
Kathryn (Christ) Regelsberger '63 (SCB) April 12, 2023
Gustave Sciarabba '63 (CCE) May 9, 2023
Ira Stein '63 (GAP) July 30, 2023

1964
Gerard Burkhardt '64 (KGCOE) March 22, 2023
Michael Crowl '64 (KGCOE) July 15, 2023
Ronald Earle '64 (CCE), '91 MBA (SCB) April 26, 2023
Robert French '64 (CCE) April 7, 2023
Joseph Mandina '64 (CCE) April 1, 2023

1965
Joseph Ferriter '65 (KGCOE) May 28, 2023
Jerry Freundlich '65 (GAP) Aug. 9, 2023
Leo Neumann '65 (GAP) May 30, 2023
Lewis Stryker '65 (CCE) Feb. 17, 2023
Jesse Zeck '65 (KGCOE) March 26, 2023

1966
Carlton Allen '66 (COS) April 17, 2023
Robert MacAulay '66 (KGCOE) Aug. 5, 2023
Frank Mirabella '66 (COS) May 4, 2023
John Moncrief '66 (GAP) July 6, 2023
James Owen '66 (SCB) Jan. 19, 2023

1967
Bruce Crawford '67 (GAP) July 7, 2023
Robert Hayes '67 (GAP) June 5, 2023
Frank Mango '67 MFA (FAA) Jan. 5, 2023
Ronald Weigel '67 (CCE) June 4, 2023
Robert Young '67 (SCB) Jan. 24, 2023

1968
John Abate '68 (GAP) May 5, 2023
Lawrence Fontana '68 (SCB) Jan. 10, 2023
John Guiliano '68 (SCB) Feb. 6, 2023
Robert Meyer '68 (SCB) July 19, 2023
William Sweeney '68 (SCB) April 1, 2023

1969
Edward Behrens '69 (CCE) July 24, 2023
Herbert Conklin '69 (CCE) April 23, 2023
Gerard Herbst '69 (SCB) July 2, 2023
Kenneth Preston '69 (CCE) June 7, 2023
John Rawleigh '69 (FAA) Feb. 27, 2023
Marvin Shacket '69 (CCE) March 29, 2023

1970
Ralph Arnold '70 (GAP) April 3, 2023
Ralph Ditucci '70 (CCE) March 24, 2023
Charles Knowland '70 (CCE) June 6, 2023
Stephen Mangione '70 (GAP) July 31, 2023
John Retallack '70 (GAP) March 7, 2023
Jon Rothenmeyer '70 (SCB) Aug. 8, 2023

1971
Joseph Dilallo '71 (CCE) Jan. 28, 2023
Alec Hazlett '71 MFA (FAA) March 3, 2023
Stephen Jachym '71 (SCB) Jan. 31, 2023
Thomas Jasnicki '71 (SCB) July 19, 2023
Robert Laclaire '71 (CCE) June 22, 2023
Gary Lockamyeir '71 (SCB) Aug. 5, 2023
George McGee '71 MBA (SCB) April 7, 2023
Ralph Peek '71 (SCB) March 5, 2023
Guy Prevost '71 (CCE) Feb. 17, 2023
Eugene Sommers '71 MBA (SCB) Jan. 9, 2023
Maria Wilson '71 MST (FAA) June 20, 2023
Bruce Zimmerman '71 MBA (SCB) June 27, 2023

1972
Herbert Ackroyd '72 (SCB) Feb. 21, 2023
Russell Ater '72 (CCE) March 29, 2023
Charles Ayers '72 (CCE) June 25, 2023
Bruce Fagan '72 MBA (SCB) June 9, 2023
Frank Kofkee '72 (CCE) May 15, 2023
John Laluk '72 (CCE) March 27, 2023
William Pierce '72 (SCB) Jan. 29, 2023
Susan (Livingston) Pritchard '72 (SCB) June 16, 2023
Bernard Soricone '72 (CCE) March 15, 2023

1973
David Almeter '73 (KGCOE) March 27, 2023
Kirk Belmont '73 MBA (SCB) Feb. 27, 2023
Robert Daly '73 (CCE) Feb. 1, 2023
Kevin Donohue '73 (CCE) May 19, 2023
David Leach '73 (KGCOE) March 10, 2023
Frank Magliocco '73 (KGCOE) Jan. 25, 2023
Thomas Monk '73 (SCB) Feb. 3, 2023
Albert Olm '73 (SCB) Jan. 20, 2023
Raymond Shorts '73 (CCE) May 17, 2023
Anthony Siracusa '73 (KGCOE) May 15, 2023

1974
Douglas Arnold '74 (CCE) June 25, 2023
Ann (Towne) Burghardt '74 (COS) May 19, 2023
Paul Garvey '74 (FAA) Feb. 19, 2023
Calvin Harris '74 (KGCOE) Feb. 27, 2023
Louis Malucci '74 MBA (SCB) March 29, 2023
Wayne Randall '74 (CCE) Jan. 15, 2023
John Swan '74 (CAST) July 28, 2023
Salvatore Troiano '74 (CCE) March 23, 2023
Robert Turcotte '74 (CCE) April 4, 2023

1975
James Linhoff '75 (GAP) Feb. 11, 2023
Edward Mauro '75 ME (KGCOE) April 18, 2023

Dennis Moran '75 (GAP) Feb. 15, 2023
John Pogoda '75 (CCE) March 17, 2023
Donald Shurgot '75 (CCE) March 10, 2023

1976

Karl Bungerz '76 (FAA) March 4, 2023
Gary Butler '76 (SCB) April 6, 2023
Alvaro Cadena '76 ME (KGCOE) March 10, 2023
Anthony Carnevale '76 (SCB) Jan. 18, 2023
William Howell '76 (GAP) May 1, 2023
Michael Lowe '76 (NTID) April 30, 2023
Kim Nielsen '76 (GAP) April 30, 2023
John Rogers '76 (KGCOE) June 17, 2023
Robert Rowe '76 (CCE) June 23, 2023
Dennis Segur '76 (CAST) May 7, 2023
Stuart Stern '76 MBA (SCB) March 19, 2023
Peter Sullivan '76 (CCE) April 4, 2023

1977

Robert Hamm '77 (CCE) (KGCOE) April 4, 2023
Gregory Pawlikowski '77 (NTID) April 3, 2023
Robert Rossi '77 MS (KGCOE) May 26, 2023
Teresa Stransky '77 (NTID) May 3, 2023
Ronald Tanck '77 (KGCOE) July 31, 2023
Jeffrey Welch '77 (CAST) Jan. 16, 2023

1978

Joseph Alaniz '78 (GAP) Jan. 18, 2023
Derek Depietro '78 (CLA) Jan. 25, 2023
Robert Eisenberg '78 (CCE) Feb. 13, 2023
Helen (Edwards) Forst '78 (NTID) May 1, 2023
Diana (Johnson) Juneau '78 (NTID) June 4, 2023
Kurt Krokenberger '78 (CCE) June 22, 2023
Deborah Wilcox '78 (SCB) June 7, 2023
John Zack '78 MS (CCE) June 1, 2023

1979

John Bianchi '79 (SCB) June 23, 2023
Kevin Day '79, '89 MS (CAST) Jan. 25, 2023
Ronald Hathaway '79 MS (CCE) March 4, 2023
Ronald Rosenberg '79 (CAST) Jan. 11, 2023
Brian Yoder '79 (KGCOE) May 5, 2023

1980

Eric Beach '80 (CAST) June 1, 2023
Ronald Edsall '80 (CCE) March 10, 2023
Charles Hasenauer '80 (KGCOE) June 25, 2023
Carol Kassel '80 (CCE) May 31, 2023
Albert Paglialunga '80 (GAP) June 4, 2023
Edward Penrose '80 (CCE) June 27, 2023
Ruth Unzicker '80 MBA (SCB) Feb. 20, 2023

1981

Eileen Beikirch '81 (CCE) March 12, 2023
Lisa Brown '81 (SCB) June 26, 2023
Peter Heady '81 (GAP) March 4, 2023
Michael Henry '81 MBA (SCB) Jan. 10, 2023
Sidney Parris '81 (KGCOE) Jan. 13, 2023
Gerald Wilson '81 MS (CAST) July 3, 2023
William Woods '81 (CCE) June 25, 2023
Cynthia Zamites '81 (CCE) June 17, 2023
Alan Zogg '81 (CAST) July 23, 2023

1982

Joan Asmuth '82 (CCE) March 4, 2023
Ezio Bonanni '82 (CCE) July 15, 2023
Paul Brown '82 MBA (SCB) Jan. 6, 2023
Victoria (Fitch) Darcy '82 (CLA) Aug. 8, 2023
Barry Kocher '82 (GAP) May 27, 2023
Melinda (Byrne) Maggio '82 (SCB) May 18, 2023
Marco S. Prozzo '82 (GAP) Sept. 11, 2021
Christian Sahut '82 (CAST) Aug. 2, 2023
Bruce Spector '82 MS (CAST) May 2, 2023
Robert Tyler '82 (CCE) June 12, 2023

1983

Trevor Bryan '83 (CCE) Jan. 5, 2023
Patricia (Wabnitz) Buchholz '83 (SCB) June 10, 2023
Karen Cito '83 (FAA) April 7, 2023
Raymond Contrino '83 (CCE) June 28, 2023
Frank Doft '83 (COS) May 19, 2023
James Douglas '83 (CCE) June 17, 2023
Richard Johnston '83 (CAST) April 24, 2023
J. Scott Miller '83 (CCE) Feb. 19, 2023

1984

Raymond Ciccariello '84 (CCE) April 20, 2023
John Davis '84 (CAST) March 30, 2023
Michael Donatucci '84 MBA (SCB) April 1, 2023
Paul Griswold '84 (NTID) Jan. 26, 2023
Carole Higbie '84 (SCB) May 22, 2023
Kevin Sypher '84 (CAST) July 3, 2023
Donna Wioskowski '84 (CCE) July 24, 2023

1985

Kurt Engel '85 MBA (SCB) Jan. 17, 2023
Marjorie Gascon '85 (SCB) April 24, 2023
Marcia Gay '85 (CAST) May 1, 2023
Paul Geise '85 (CAST) Feb. 1, 2023
Paul Knauf '85 (SCB) April 29, 2023
William Noonan '85, '95 MS (CAST) May 11, 2023

1986

Gregory Drake '86 (KGCOE) June 30, 2023
Rebecca Hill '86 MS (CAST) March 7, 2023
Christopher Kolenda '86 (CAST) May 24, 2023
Paul Moore '86 (CIAS) April 25, 2023
Barry Peck '86 (SCB) June 7, 2023
Rick Plourde '86 (CAST) May 15, 2023

1987

Robert Kline '87 (KGCOE) Jan. 6, 2023
Colleen McGuinness-Clarke '87 (FAA), '95 MS (CAST) Feb. 25, 2023
George McGuire '87 (CCE) Feb. 14, 2023
Linda Reid '87 (SCB) May 19, 2023
Marc Tarplee '87 MS (KGCOE) May 15, 2023

1988

Mark Greenberg '88 (CAST) Jan. 13, 2023
Ruth (Graham) Jackson '88 (NTID) April 4, 2023

1989

Mark Dipalma '89 (SCB) Jan. 15, 2023
Janet Maier '89, '95 MBA (SCB) May 18, 2023
Michael Plouffe '89 (CAST) May 27, 2023
Akram Soujah '89 (CAST) Jan. 30, 2023

1991

John Brustrom '91 (CAST) April 10, 2023
Nancy Jones '91 (CCE) June 6, 2023

1992

Gary Melnick '92 (CAST) Feb. 3, 2023

1993

Adam Hoffman '93 (GAP) June 9, 2023
Mary Saxe '93 (SCB) Feb. 15, 2023

1994

Robert Brown '94 (NTID) July 22, 2023
Julie Chirdon '94 (CCE) Feb. 8, 2023
Susan Lamb '94 (CCE) May 20, 2023
Mathew Nazareth '94 MS (KGCOE) July 16, 2023

1995

Daniel Englert '95 (CAST) Jan. 7, 2023
Joseph M. Lobozzo II '95 MBA (SCB) March 12, 2023
Dominick Mancini '95 MBA (SCB) Feb. 8, 2023

1996

Roger Culbertson '96 (CCE) July 15, 2023

1997

James Eby '97 (KGCOE), '12 MS (SOIS) June 17, 2023
Kathi Horch '97 (CAST) Jan. 23, 2023

1998

Kimberly Daniels '98 (CIAS) Jan. 27, 2023

1999

Danica Eskind '99 MFA (CIAS) March 10, 2023
Lori Moreth '99 (NTID) March 14, 2023

2002

Ralph Coogan '02 (CAST) March 17, 2023

2004

Mark Knapp '04 (CAST) June 1, 2023

2005

Ruth Downey '05 (CAST) Jan. 12, 2023
Kristin Jablonski '05 MS (COS) June 6, 2023

2006

Andrew Lamb '06 (GCCIS) May 26, 2023

2008

Dennis Young '08 MS (CAST) Jan. 20, 2023

2009

William Nichols '09 (CAST) Feb. 1, 2023

2012

Craig Kearney '12 (NTID) Feb. 16, 2023

2013

Amanda Dailey '13 (CIAS) Feb. 1, 2023
Bernard Holmes '13 (SOIS) March 4, 2023

2015

Harrison Co '15 (CIAS) April 17, 2023
Benjamin Heller '15 (CLA) July 14, 2023

2017

Maria De Filippo '17 MS (SCB) March 15, 2023

2020

Benjamin Hunt '20 (GCCIS) Feb. 18, 2023

Faculty and Staff

Yusuf Bilgic, lecturer in the School of Information, Aug. 25, 2023

Bill Carey, former director of Athletics and men's basketball coach, Aug. 31, 2023

Joseph M. Lobozzo II, Trustee Emeritus, May 12, 2023

Timothy Losey, retired FMS Building Services employee, July 4, 2023

John Retallack, retired instructional faculty in CIAS, March 7, 2023

Ulrike Stroszeck, principal lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, July 6, 2023

John "Dutch" Summers, Trustee Emeritus, April 7, 2023

RIT's zine collection

Elizabeth Call, university archivist

The origins of zines lie deep within the history of underground publishing.

Like punk music, which also emerged in the 1970s, zines are a direct response to the dominant culture and reflect the ethos of resistance. By the 1990s, zines became a central tool for distributing manifestos and galvanizing people around the sexism in punk music.

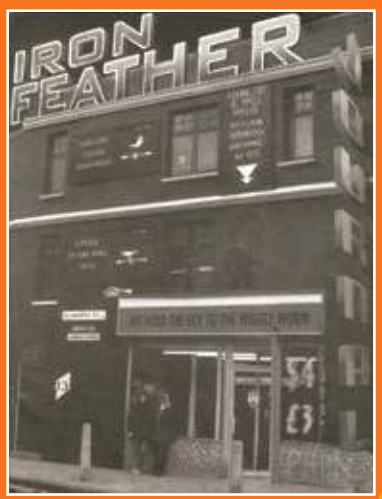
Today, subcultures and artists use zines to move their work offline and to keep communities connected through a do-it-yourself culture. Zine fests, collections, and libraries have developed in communities and institutions to celebrate, preserve, and create access to this important alternative form of communication.

The RIT zine collection, actively curated by RIT Archives, both supports teaching and reflects student learning and is made up of zines from the 1980s to present day. While some zines in the collection were purchased from local and international makers, the bulk were made by RIT students for classes in a diverse array of subjects, including studio art, political science, photography, ecology, and communications.

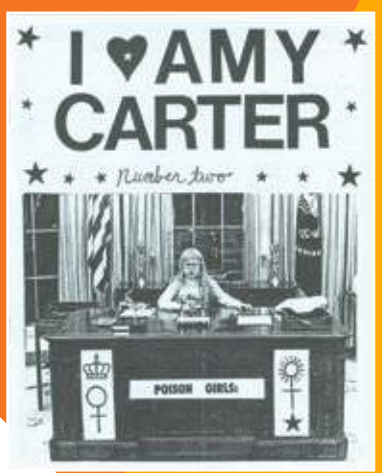
Learn more about the RIT Archives' zine collection, arrange a visit, or contribute to the collection by emailing ritarchive@rit.edu.

Read about zines being made by today's students on pages 6-11.

Critical Mass 1945-1995: Fifty Years of Nuclear Arms was created by Garret Izumi in 1995 and published by Critical Mass Publisher: Shortwave Productions.



This was part of the first printed issue of *Iron Feather Journal*, which covers the underground scene. It was released in 1993 as a full-size printed magazine.



I (heart) Amy Carter was made and published by Tammy Rae from 1992 to 1995. This one from 1993 is No. 2 of the series.

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Brick City

2023 • Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend

A. Evie Linantud B. Jay Schading C. Myers Creative Imaging D. Carlos Ortiz E. Myers Creative Imaging F. Traci Westcott G. Myers Creative Imaging

A The men's hockey team shut out the University of Notre Dame 3-0 in front of a sellout crowd of 10,566 at Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester.

B From left to right, students Jenny Zheng, computer science; Olivia Milton, computer science; Joseph George, computer engineering; and Shimanto Bhowmik, computer science, participate in a tower building challenge.

C Software engineering student Heather Moses, left, attends Alumni Oktoberfest with her parents, Craig and Caroline.

D Visitors enjoyed a concert by RIT's Philharmonic Orchestra, one of many weekend performances.

E YouTube star and author Hank Green spoke before a sellout crowd about his career, life, and the value of college and science.

F The women's hockey team swept Union College in a two-game series during the weekend at the Gene Polisseni Center.

G Members of the Class of 1973 gathered to share memories at the Golden Circle Luncheon, which honors graduates celebrating 50 years or more as RIT alumni.

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Periodicals
www.rit.edu

Creativity

/ˌkrēāˈtivədē/

noun
Rejecting the status quo in favor of developing something slightly unusual, wildly innovative, or theoretically impossible.

origin
RIT

Come visit RIT and experience the creativity for yourself.