

R·I·T

The University Magazine

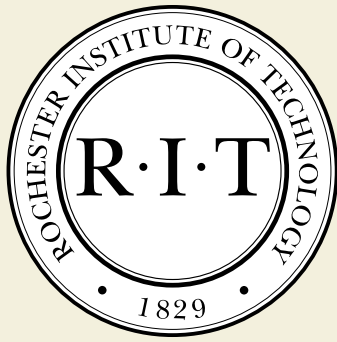
Fall 2017

Introducing President Munson

His successful past hints at RIT's future



Record number of alumni heading to medical school • First in their families to graduate



RIT: The University Magazine

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Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

RIT President David Munson began in July.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Honored to be RIT president

Students thrive in a culture of intellectual curiosity, especially when it is possible to turn that curiosity into action. So when my wife, Nancy, and I attended our first Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival in May, it left an inspiring impression as we begin our first year at RIT.

We observed a sea of students with a strong sense of passion and purpose. RIT students are creators and they know how to put their creativity to use. They replicated amusement park rides. They demonstrated the art and science of movie making. They simulated NASA rockets and engineered hybrid formula race cars. And they solved problems in the health care arena with the potential to improve lives.

As we observed at Imagine RIT, creating something fundamentally new ignites all sorts of possibilities for learning. Creativity and innovation (putting creativity to use) can occur in every field and corner of our campus. Whether it be writing a poem or short story, choreographing a dance, composing a piece of music, advancing a new scientific hypothesis, developing a new

government policy, designing a new piece of technology, initiating a social movement or launching a start-up company, every student can be involved in creating things that never before existed, and then putting the result into play, in an effort to improve the world.

One can never underestimate the power of students and their ideas, supported by outstanding faculty and staff. By working together, we can turn big dreams into reality. That's why I am excited and honored to become this great university's 10th president. What a thrill and privilege this is for me and for Nancy. We are energized by the cutting-edge nature of RIT, including its talented and ambitious students, faculty, staff and alumni.

RIT has been rapidly ascending for many years, under the leadership of President Bill Destler and his predecessors, and is now one of the top few universities in the nation working at the intersection of technology, the arts and design. We can continue to use these strengths—the core of the university—to help build important and unique programs in all disciplines, including business, the health sciences and the liberal arts. We can lead the nation, if not the world, in taking this approach. One of my aims is to work with the entire RIT community and our many partners to realize our fullest potential in this regard.

As we do that work, we will be placing increased emphasis on research and discovery, scholarly work and artistic expression, which is the academic side of creativity and innovation. As we become more research oriented, our students will be at the forefront. I wish for RIT to be the most student-centered research university in the nation as we train the future leaders of society. Along with preparation for a career, our students will be positioned to lead lives of great consequence and purpose, including outside their profession.

In the coming years, our job will be to strive for preeminence. This will be a lot of work, but I promise that we will have fun along the way. As I get started, I have plenty to learn my “freshman year” as your president. To accelerate this learning, I look forward to meeting members of the RIT family on and off campus this semester. I invite you to join me between Oct. 13th and 15th for Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend where we can share ideas about RIT's bright future.

Your newest Tiger,

David C. Munson Jr.
President

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David Munson was dean of the University of Michigan College of Engineering before accepting the position as RIT's 10th president. In Michigan, he transformed the college, which has 10,000 students. Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

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Thank you for Tiger Love story

I am an alumna, social work 1989. Although this program no longer exists, I feel that the education I received at RIT was truly the very best. The social work faculty and program were a very positive experience for me, even though I did not live on the RIT campus when I was a student.

The most recent spring 2017 *University Magazine* found its way to my mailbox, and I am writing to share with you my delight, appreciation and high regard over the article on page 40, "Ice-breaker was really love at first sight." At a time when I see an increase in outspoken disapproval about same-sex

marriages, I was completely blown away! I have several friends who are in same-sex relationships and I have worked with youth over the past 20 years who feel shame, disapproval and hostility daily about who they are. One of the ways in which I have tried to support them is through acknowledgement of their relationships and the importance of the significant others and spouses in their lives.

Thank you again for very openly showing this validation. RIT, you rock!
Sara Eck '89 (social work)
School social worker, Rochester City School District



In 1968, RIT moved from downtown Rochester to its new campus in Henrietta. The campus, under construction here, was dedicated during homecoming weekend.

Member of first junior class on Henrietta campus

I started at RIT in 1966 at the downtown campus. I loved the experience of going to college in a downtown environment. I made many new friends and had a wonderful time.

I was in the first class on the new campus in Henrietta as a junior. They were still building and adding things as we went to class. I had the opportunity to work at the new student

union in the bowling alley and billiard room. I'll never forget my experiences at both the downtown campus and Henrietta campus.
Steve Livingston '70 (graphic arts and photography)

Memories of downtown campus

I came to RIT in 1955 as a freshman in the photo science department from my home in College Park, Md. Arriving at the Spring Street dorm, I found many willing hands to help me cart my belongings to a fourth-floor room. I remember that the iron stair posts were embossed with the letters “MA,” which I learned stood for the original name of the university: Mechanics Athenaeum.

The dorm rooms were spacious and as I recall housed either two or three students with a large “trunk room” in the back of the room. We photo students immediately saw the possibilities of the trunk room as a darkroom, and many were so converted which allowed us to complete some of our photo assignments on weekends. I had a tall, redheaded roommate from Worcester, Mass., named Carl Grusell, a printing student. Carl taught me how to ice skate so I could use the splendid RIT ice rink.

Use of any hot plate or cooking device was strictly prohibited in this old building, and it seemed to us that the electrical consumption was monitored for each room because if you plugged in anything hotter than an iron, an upperclassman hall monitor soon knocked on your door to threaten your eviction. However, many imaginative

students would upend a clothes iron between two books and boil water for soup or coffee on a Griffin beaker “borrowed” from chemistry class.

After receiving my Associate of Applied Science degree in photographic science in 1957, I ran out of funds and decided to return to my home in College Park, Md., to try to make up my junior year at the University of Maryland. It was a little hard to find courses in a major university which could be transferred back to RIT for this purpose. I eventually took a full-time job and went to night school at American University in Washington, D.C., to complete the credits to return to RIT.

I returned to RIT in 1960 with credits for my junior year and graduated with my BS degree in photo science in June of 1961. In subsequent years, I worked as a senior photographic engineer at GAF (Anso) Corp. in Binghamton and also for Memorex in Santa Clara, Calif. I have been retired since 1997.

I have never been able to visit “Brick City,” but I do try to follow the developments in your excellent magazine. I know that neither I nor anyone I knew in 1960 could possibly have imagined the complexity and quality of today’s RIT.

David C. Luehrman ’61 (graphic arts and photography)

Happy to move to Henrietta

I was a member of the last freshman class to start on the old campus—in September 1967.

I enjoyed your article in the Spring 2017 issue of *The University Magazine* explaining RIT’s rationale to move to Henrietta. However, one obvious reason was omitted—student safety. Three years before I came to RIT, the 1964 riots went right down Plymouth Avenue alongside the freshman men’s dorm, Nathaniel Rochester Hall. As a part of freshman orientation, we were given a lecture on what had occurred and exactly what the campus security procedures would be in the event of another riot. (Yes, this was a concern.) The lecture ended with the warning that, without a student ID, we would not be admitted to the dorm under any circumstances. In addition, students were advised to travel in groups after dark. And as I recall, during the 1967–1968 school year there were three knifings on campus resulting in minor injuries. I was very happy to move

to Henrietta the following year.

One somewhat humorous memory of the overcrowding on the old campus was the serious shortage of parking spaces. Freshmen were not allowed to have cars (with good reason) and the RIT parking permits were affectionately known to commuters and upperclassmen as “hunting licenses.” As you said, the move to Henrietta was the most significant single act in RIT’s history, and I am proud to say that my grandson is a freshman there now.

Jim Booth ’71 (business administration)

Contact us

Write us with your memories as RIT prepares to celebrate 50 years on the Henrietta campus in 2018. Or send your thoughts on other topics covered in the magazine to umag@rit.edu. We edit for space, clarity and style.



Alvis Uptis ’68 (photo science) sent these photos, from top, of Nathaniel Rochester Hall, Eastman building and George H. Clark building on the downtown campus. He wanted to document college life for his parents. The sunrise photo, above, was shot after an all-nighter studying for an exam. Uptis lives in Hawaii and continues to work as a photographer.

On Campus

NOTEBOOK

BS in exercise science

RIT is offering a BS degree in exercise science, with its first freshman class beginning this fall.

The four-year program is the first new degree offered through the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition in RIT's College of Health Sciences and Technology. Exercise science applies health, fitness, physiology, biomechanics and psychology toward enhancing athletic performance and preventing or managing chronic illness, such as cardiac disease, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and other health problems.

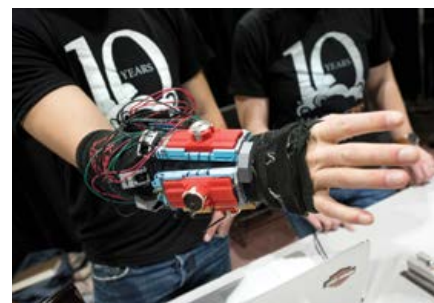
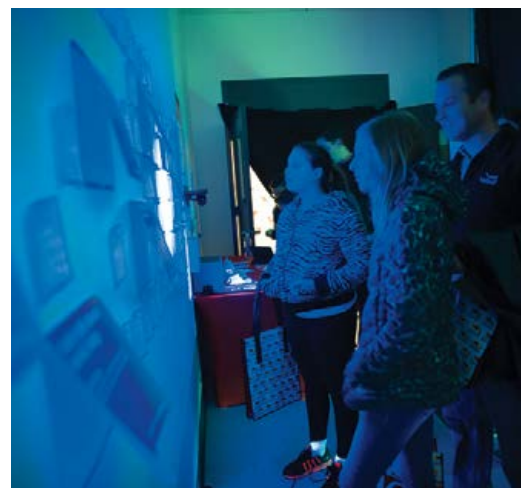
Best employer

RIT has been recognized by *Forbes* on its 2017 list of "America's Best Midsize Employers." RIT earned 36th place overall on the list of 301 companies and is the sixth-highest ranked university of the 33 universities listed.

Forbes and Statista, a research firm based in Hamburg, Germany, worked together to compile the list, which focused on companies with 1,000 to 5,000 employees.

About 30,000 American workers were surveyed by Statista about their opinions of their employers.

RIT employs approximately 3,900 faculty and staff.



Photos by A. Sue Weisler and Kate Melton

The 10th Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival was a big success. Parking lots and exhibits were crowded as tens of thousands came to experience nearly 400 exhibits in science, technology, engineering, fine arts and mathematics. Next year's festival will be on April 28, 2018. Watch for details at rit.edu/imagine.

Electronic bells resume chiming on campus

The sound of the RIT carillon bells are again being heard throughout campus after nearly three years.

In the fall of 2014, the old carillon bell system played for its final time. The system, which was over a decade old and had a life expectancy of approximately that, broke. It wasn't until the fall of the following year that students began asking for the chiming of the bells to resume.

In late 2015, Student Government began drafting a PawPrints petition to Student Affairs, addressing the absence of the bells and asking that the system be replaced. Then-Student Government President Andrea Shaver said that the movement gained momentum in 2016.

"We presented the petition to the RIT Board of Trustees last fall, and we expressed how important

the bells were to the RIT community," Shaver said. "We were then able to secure a donor. The new bell system was successfully installed in early March."

The carillon system at RIT, unlike traditional systems, is entirely electronic. The new system, which took about six hours to install, connects to speakers around campus and can be programmed to play a variety of songs. There are no physical bells.

The bell system chimes on every hour and tolls the number of the hour, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

"The bells really help to raise the spirits of many members of the community," Shaver said.

The installation of the new system was made possible through the generosity of the Schmitt Foundation, which has been a valued partner of RIT for more

than three decades. The Interfaith Center was initially made possible through the generosity of Kilian and Caroline Schmitt, two Rochester business owners who have since passed away.

Jim Ryan, a representative of the Schmitt Foundation, said that when RIT reached out about necessary renovations to the Interfaith Center, the board was ready to listen.

"Knowing how important the interfaith chapel was to Kilian made our investment decision that much easier to authorize," Ryan said. "We worked extensively with Jeff Hering (director of the Center for Religious Life) and others to define the renovation specifications so as to favorably impact students of all denominations. We really wanted our investment to have a universal appeal."

Lauren Peace '17

RIT named among 'Colleges That Create Futures'

RIT is featured in the 2017 edition of The Princeton Review's *Colleges That Create Futures: 50 Schools That Launch Careers by Going Beyond the Classroom*.

Out of nearly 1,000 colleges that The Princeton Review considered for this book, the 50 schools that made the cut comprise only about 2 percent of the nation's approximately 3,000 four-year colleges. The Princeton Review said it chose the 50 schools based on data from its surveys of administrators and students between 2015 and 2017.

Specifically, The Princeton Review editors weighed information about the colleges' career center services; internship, externship, cooperative learning and collaborative research opportunities; and student engagement in community service and study abroad programs.

"RIT and the other colleges showcased in this book offer superb academics," said the book's author, Robert Franek, editor-in-chief at

The Princeton Review. "But what makes them stand out are the programs and services they offer outside the classroom which offer their students real-world experience, collaborative opportunities with faculty and networking opportunities with alumni, allowing them to graduate with outstanding job opportunities or acceptance to post-graduate studies at first-rate institutions."

"RIT's reputation among employers has bloomed over the past few decades, especially in Silicon Valley," RIT alumnus Tad Hunt '97 said in the book. "RIT graduates are known as something of a 'secret weapon.' I've been in Silicon Valley since 2000, and the reputation of RIT has grown immensely. When I first moved here, hardly (anybody) had heard of RIT. Now there is a huge number of alumni here working at all sizes of tech companies, and the RIT name is synonymous with folks that just 'Get Stuff Done.'"

In the book, RIT is cited for:

- Excellence in its cooperative education program;
- Special interest housing;
- The Construct, a makerspace that provides materials and machinery in a workshop setting that students can use at no cost;
- Simone Center for Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship;
- MAGIC Spell Studios, a multidisciplinary launchpad for digital products, including games, apps, animation, film and interactive art installations;
- Leadership Institute and Community Service Center; and
- RIT Alumni Network.

"RIT sits atop a vast professional network of friends, alumni and corporate partners, together providing students with career development support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples," editors wrote.

Ellen Rosen

NOTEBOOK

Lyrics changed

RIT made a small change to the lyrics of its alma mater to make a big statement about gender inclusion.

Nearly 25 years after the song's lyrics were written, they were changed to be more inclusive of the transgender, agender, genderqueer and non-binary members of the RIT community.

The lyrics in the second verse of the alma mater have been changed from "We are the men, the women of the future here at RIT" to "We are the ones, the people of the future here at RIT." The song is traditionally sung at RIT's most important events such as commencement and convocation. The lyrics change was approved in January.

New degree program

National Technical Institute for the Deaf has been granted approval by the New York State Education Department to establish a new degree program in 3D graphics technology. Beginning this fall, RIT/NTID will become the first college to offer this kind of associate degree program to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The program introduces concepts related to three-dimensional graphics and teaches students the creative and technical skills required to produce 3D graphics and prints, environmental renderings and 3D models used in multimedia and animation.



Photo by Kaitlyn Dolan

The No. 2 RIT men's lacrosse team placed second in the nation after falling 15-7 to No. 1 Salisbury University in the 2017 NCAA Division III Championship in May. RIT advanced to the championship for the second time in program history. From Liberty League championships to NCAA berths, RIT's 675 student-athletes had plenty to celebrate last academic year. For details, go to <http://bit.ly/RITathletics>.

About Students



All-female race team takes first place

The all-female RIT Hot Wheelz Formula SAE Electric vehicle team took home first place in the electric-only category at the 2017 SAE Formula Hybrid competition May 5 in New Hampshire Motor Speedway, along with other trophies and recognition.

The team also received the IEEE Excellence in Electric Vehicle Engineering trophy, a top award given in recognition of a team's overall engineering process—from its design and build procedure to assessment of team performance, dynamics, attention to detail and the team's ability to establish or continue a legacy.

Ford Motor Co. also recognized the Hot Wheelz team for its outstanding teamwork, spirit and success at the competition with an autographed bumper from NASCAR driver Greg Biffle.

"It was so exciting to be recognized in the middle of the competition by Ford," said

Missy Miller, 2016-17 team project manager and a fifth-year industrial and systems engineering student from Belvidere, N.J. "They don't provide formal awards at the competition, so for them to approach us halfway through the competition with their version of an award was so rewarding for the girls."

Hot Wheelz, only in its second year participating in Formula Hybrid competitions, took top placements in the design, autocross, acceleration and endurance categories and won first place in the project management presentation.

"This year we wanted to make sure that we were a strong competitor in all of the events on the track," said Kathleen Lamkin-Kennard, faculty adviser to the team and associate professor of mechanical engineering. "The team was really well prepared and they were able to make it through all of their inspections early, which gave them a significant advantage, particularly for the endurance



Photo by Marty Schooping

RIT Hot Wheelz Formula SAE Electric vehicle team placed first in the electric-only category at the 2017 SAE Formula Hybrid competition.

run—one of the most challenging events for an all-electric vehicle."

Last year, Hot Wheelz competed for the first time at Formula Hybrid, hosted by Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth. They placed third overall.

Michelle Cometa '00



Students celebrated RIT President Bill Destler and his spouse, Rebecca Johnson, with a Tiger Walk in April. Destler retired at the end of June. To read more about RIT's 10th president, David Munson, turn to pages 20-25.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Nap map helps students find restful spots

Students can now find the best spots on campus to catch a few Z's between classes with help from "Naps," a website that shows and rates places to get some shuteye.

"We took a survey, asking students to rate locations based on comfort, loudness, accessibility and foot traffic," said Rachel Tassoni, head of Student Government's Facilities, Parking and Transportation Committee.

She said the origin of the project began a couple of years ago after a petition was received by Student Government to find places where students could take naps between classes. Some stu-

dents had complained they were awakened by people who thought they shouldn't be sleeping. Five places were deemed "official" nap sites, designated by hanging posters which offer suggestions, such as limiting naps to no more than 30 minutes and using belongings

such as book bags as a pillow to prevent theft.

Anyone can view the website at naps.rit.edu, but only those with RIT identification can submit a suggestion.

Greg Livadas

Kyle Suero, a computer security student from Los Angeles, often catches a quick nap between classes in a designated nap area on campus.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler



NOTEBOOK

Research fellowships

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program has rewarded the exceptional efforts of two RIT students.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship will provide three-year, \$34,000 annual stipends to Larwan Berke and Brendan John, graduate students in RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

Berke, a doctoral computing and information sciences student from Fremont, Calif., won support for his project, "Displaying Confidence from Imperfect Automatic Speech Recognition for Captioning." John, a graduate student from Salamanca, N.Y., won support for his project, "Visual Attention in Virtual Collaborative Environments."

History lesson

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced a \$91,000 grant to RIT to help students focus on the historical, economic and cultural meanings of community in and beyond Rochester.

RIT is among the first schools to receive an award under the new Humanities Connections grant program.



An artist's rendition of the Landsat 8 satellite.

Photo courtesy of NASA

Researchers win USGS grant to improve NASA's Landsat 8 data

RIT researchers have won funding from the U.S. Geological Survey to ensure accurate temperature data from NASA's Landsat 8 satellite. Climate researchers depend on public data from the Earth-sensing satellite to measure surface changes over time.

The agency awarded Aaron Gerace '10 (imaging science) and Matthew Montanaro '05, '09 (physics, imaging science), senior scientists in RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, a five-year, \$500,000 grant to continue monitoring improvements they made to Landsat 8's Thermal Infrared Sensor, or TIRS.

The researchers developed a software correction to compensate for faulty optics discovered in the instrument following the Landsat 8 launch in 2013. Corrected image data collected from the Thermal Infrared Sensor shows accuracies similar to previous Landsat instruments, said Gerace and Montanaro.

Their software solution fixed a problem in which unwanted light entered the instrument and resulted in inaccurate temperature measurements of the Earth's surface. Prior to the correction,

errors in the image data were as high as 10 degrees Celsius in areas with extreme surface temperatures like Antarctic or desert regions. Mid-range surface temperatures typical of the United States were less affected by wide margins of error, the researchers said.

The U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., began using the software correction in its operational processing of Landsat 8 data in early 2017. The corrected image data is part of the public domain.

"Support from USGS means we'll be able to monitor the Thermal Infrared Sensor and its enhanced capabilities now that the stray-light algorithm has been implemented," Gerace said.

Gerace and Montanaro published their findings, "Derivation and validation of

the stray light correction algorithm for the thermal infrared sensor onboard Landsat 8," in the March 15 issue of *Remote Sensing of Environment*.

NASA's Landsat program of Earth-orbiting satellites has monitored global changes to the landscape since 1972.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

Aaron Gerace '10 (imaging science), left, and Matt Montanaro '05, '09 (physics, imaging science) are exploring new techniques to improve Landsat 8's thermal instruments.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Robots one piece of in-house system

Automation, which includes the use of robots and other high-tech means, has had a significant impact on the nation's manufacturing industry. With its ability to improve quality and speed and decrease costs industrywide, automation is the present and future of manufacturing.

And while it has displaced working class production jobs, automation has simultaneously created a shortage of qualified manufacturing engineers. This shortage is creating a ripe opportunity for students enrolled in RIT's mechanical and manufacturing engineering technology programs.

Two yellow, heavy-duty industrial robots, donated to RIT by General Motors in 2015, loom large in one of several manufacturing labs filled with a variety of robotic equipment. The two Fanuc R-2000iA/210F robots are among a collection of manufacturing assembly and production systems that are used to instruct students on an assortment of manufacturing and automation processes.

With the addition of the GM robots, the university has a complete, in-house manufacturing production and assembly system.

"There's nobody in the world that has the robotics system, the surface-mount assembly system, the metrology lab system, and the CNC manufacturing system that our department does," said Robert D. Garrick, professor and acting chair of the manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology department.

The value of this comprehensive, hands-on system is twofold. First, it is preparing students to embark on in-demand careers as manufacturing engineers, process engineers or quality engineers in an industry that is rapidly changing.

Second, the all-encompassing system is providing research opportunities, including those that explore intelligent systems, which extract data from manufactur-



SunWoo Ji '17 works with a robot donated to RIT by General Motors. He accepted a full-time position at Schneider Packaging Equipment as a controls engineer.

ing robots that is used to inform productivity, quality improvements and more.

"Students see the production process of designing a product, making it, producing it, controlling it and then measuring it," said Garrick. "Students get a feeling for how complex manufacturing is, rather than talking in the abstract."

Because the department specializes in advanced manufacturing, automation and robotics, and electronics assembly and packaging, research into these areas is expanding.

According to S. Manian Ramkumar, interim dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology, research focuses on the industrial

implementation of robots and controls, and the research associated with electronics and photonics manufacturing and packaging.

The college is also wading into Industry 4.0, the current trend of extracting data from robots and other manufacturing technologies.

How companies handle this data and how they utilize it to quickly take action with these advanced systems is what will improve manufacturing processes, said Ramkumar.

"The future is going to become the implementation of robotics to make life easier. And to improve productivity and to provide quality and timeliness."

Laura Cummings '09

NOTEBOOK

Filter of future

A new class of carbon nanotubes could be the next-generation clean-up crew for toxic sludge and contaminated water, say researchers at RIT.

Enhanced single-walled carbon nanotubes offer a more effective and sustainable approach to water treatment and remediation than the standard industry materials—silicon gels and activated carbon—according to a paper published in the March issue of *Environmental Science Water: Research and Technology*.

RIT researchers John-David Rocha and Reginald Rogers, authors of the study, demonstrate the potential of this emerging technology to clean polluted water.

Medical protection

Mehran Mozaffari Kermani received a grant to design security measures for computing systems that will protect wearable and implanted medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, from cyberattacks. It is work that could improve both patient safety and data integrity of deeply embedded systems.

Mozaffari Kermani, an assistant professor of electrical engineering, received \$343,406 in funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology—Measurement Science & Engineering Research Grant Program.



More than 5,000 first-generation students have enrolled in RIT undergraduate programs over the past 10 years.

A family first: Graduating from college



Bernadette Lynch

Thousands of RIT students took the stage in the Gordon Field House in May to receive recognition as their status shifted from college student to college graduate.

For Leah Bockhahn, Muhammad Ibraheem and Shantel Forrest, crossing that stage had an even deeper meaning. They became the first in their families to graduate from college.

Over the past 10 years, more than 5,000 first-generation students have enrolled in RIT undergraduate programs. Many have found support in on-campus programs designed to extend opportunity and encourage the pursuit of higher education.

The I'm First program, founded in 2015, provides an alternative resource for first-generation students on campus, with a core

of one-on-one mentoring.

"We provide support on anything ranging from academics, to career guidance, to financial assistance, to advice on navigating social situations," said Director Bernadette Lynch.

The program also has worked to tap into the many faculty and staff members on campus who were once first-generation students themselves.

A monthly series called "First Talks" invites faculty and staff members who were also first-generation college students to give an hour-long lecture on a topic of their choice and how it relates to their success.

"It's a great opportunity for students to hear from people who were once in a similar position to the one that they are in right now," said Lynch, adding that they are looking to increase alumni involvement by encouraging graduates of the program to come back and share their experiences with current students.

Another resource is the Destler-Johnson Rochester City Scholars Program, founded by RIT President Bill Destler and his spouse,

Rebecca Johnson, in 2010.

According to the Rochester City School District, financial challenges prevent more than three-quarters of its students from attending college. The scholarship program covers full tuition at RIT for graduates of the Rochester City School District who meet eligibility requirements.

David Benitez, assistant director for Rochester City Scholars, said that the program has allowed more than 120 students from the district to attend RIT on full scholarships.

"Rochester City Scholars provides students with the opportunity to attend a great institution even if they don't necessarily have the cultural capital within their family to allow them to easily pursue higher education," said Benitez. "The program serves the ultimate goal of the university, to diversify the student population as well as the levels of socioeconomic status. It makes education accessible to everyone."

Stories by Lauren Peace '17

Last summer, first-generation graduate Leah Bockhahn spent a month working in Ecuador where she developed her senior capstone project. Bockhahn credits this experience for shaping her desire to continue working abroad this fall.

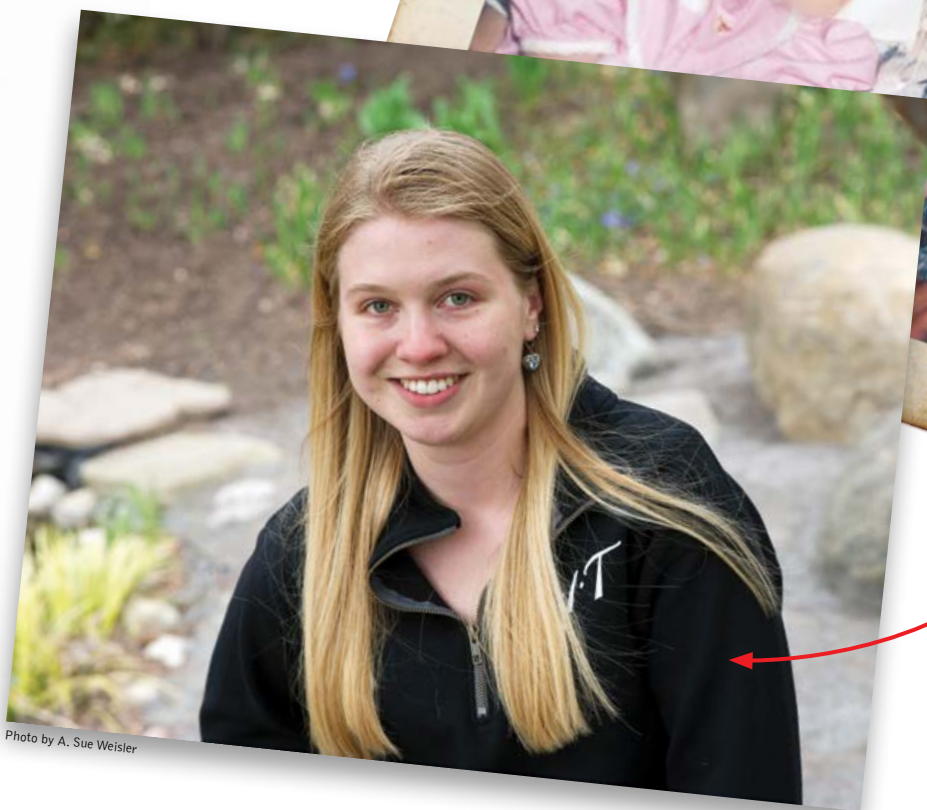


Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Leah Bockhahn

An environmental sustainability, health and safety major from East Concord, N.Y., Leah Bockhahn grew up on an organic dairy farm just south of Buffalo with her parents and two siblings.

She is one of 147 students last school year who was active in the I'm First program at RIT.

"My parents always encouraged me to pursue higher education," Bockhahn said. "My dad told my siblings and me that farming is too difficult of a lifestyle. He told me to make something more of myself."

Deciding to attend RIT wasn't easy for Bockhahn, who turned down a full ride to another university to pursue the greater

opportunities that she said RIT offered.

"I felt really strongly that the academic experience that I could have at RIT would allow me to pay off the debt down the line and that it would be worth it in the long run. It definitely has been," Bockhahn said.

Bockhahn enrolled as a mechanical engineering student, but after spending the majority of her time in the classroom rather than in the shop, she said that she knew that she needed to make a change.

"I grew up doing very hands-on work like milking cows, building fences and repairing machinery, so when I realized that my major wasn't giving me the physical experience that I wanted to have, I started looking for one that would," Bockhahn said.

She found what she was looking for in environmental sustainability, health and safety, a major that she said allows her to work in the field.

Bockhahn has held four co-op positions working in jobs ranging from grounds keeping to construction inspection. She now hopes to take a full-time position in Poland working on a site doing technical documentation and construction supervision.

"I credit a lot of my success and involvement to the I'm First program and the way that they encouraged me to branch out and try new things," said Bockhahn. "They've been a really integral part of my success here. They helped me find my way."



When Muhammad Ibraheem was in the fourth grade, his parents moved their family from Queens, N.Y., to Long Island in an effort to provide their children with better access to education. Ibraheem graduated from RIT this May with honors.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Muhammad Ibraheem

When Muhammad Ibraheem's parents immigrated to the United States from Pakistan, they did so in hopes that their children would have a better future. More than two decades later, that vision has become a reality.

Ibraheem, an electrical engineering major from Long Island, N.Y., became the first from his family to graduate college.

"My dad is a taxi driver in New York City, and my mom is a parking lot attendant," said Ibraheem. "My parents have been embedding the importance of higher education in my sisters and me since elementary school. They've always told us that they have tough

jobs, and pushed us to do better."

Ibraheem graduated in May as an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, one of the top academic recognitions that RIT undergraduate students can receive.

Recipients must have completed 83-128 credit hours of work and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.85 or higher.

Ibraheem credits much of his success to his parents, as well as the programs that have supported him. He said that without programs like I'm First, navigating things such as financial aid would have been extremely difficult.

"A problem that most first-generation students have is that they have very little

way of knowing what they are getting into because nobody in their family did it before them," he said. "Programs like I'm First are very helpful for that reason."

Beyond financial aid, Ibraheem said that the I'm First staff provided him with an alternate perspective when making college-centered decisions.

"Sometimes they can see things that you might be missing," Ibraheem said. "They check up on you and are there to offer advice."

Following graduation, Ibraheem started a full-time job as a transmission planning engineer with Public Service Enterprise Group Long Island, the company he worked for as an RIT co-op student.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Shantel Forrest said that she is proud to have taken her education to the next level. While her father has his associate degree, she was the first in her family to receive a bachelor's degree. She now has her sights set on graduate school.



Shantel Forrest

Shantel Forrest came to RIT through the Destler-Johnson Rochester City Scholars Program. A Rochester native majoring in marketing, Forrest said she comes from a very close-knit family. She grew up in a home with two cousins, three aunts and uncles, a grandmother, brother, sister and her parents. She was the first in her family to graduate college with a four-year degree.

"My parents have always pushed me to strive to achieve more than they did," said Forrest. "It's a message that their parents iterated to them, and that they have reiterated to me."

Forrest said that RIT came on to her radar

when a high school counselor told her about the Rochester City Scholars program and suggested that she apply.

"Suddenly higher education became an option for me," said Forrest. "If it wasn't for RIT and the RCS program, I honestly don't know how I would have gotten the opportunity to go to a good university. My family didn't have funds for my schooling, but RCS made higher education possible."

When Forrest first got to RIT, she said that she felt pressure to succeed.

"All that my parents had done for me finally amounted to this huge opportunity, and I knew that I had to make the most of it," Forrest said. "The Multicultural Center for

Academic Success houses the RCS program, and they provided great mentorship along the way."

Forrest said that as a student she worked for the program that helped her find her place at school. "I want to give back to underclassmen. I want them to have access to the same opportunities and resources that I was fortunate to have," Forrest said.

Forrest said she plans to apply to graduate programs to pursue an MBA.

"I'm really happy that I have achieved what I have, but I'm not going to stop here," said Forrest. "This is a new experience for my family and me, so I want to take in everything that I can."

Dr. Ryan Buckley '13 (biomedical sciences, international studies) is part of the first wave of alumni from the College of Health Sciences and Technology to become a physician. Here he is pictured at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, where he trained while in medical school.



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RIT

PRE-MED PROGRAMS PLACE STUDENTS ON PATH TO BECOME PHYSICIANS

Dr. Ryan Buckley found his passion for emergency medicine while working with RIT Ambulance. He got hooked on the patients' stories and the science and became a certified emergency medical technician. Buckley took on leadership roles and realized that medicine was more than a hobby.

Initially he came to RIT to major in international studies in the College of Liberal Arts. But toward the end of his sophomore year, he enrolled in the biomedical sciences program in the College of Health Sciences and Technology to prepare for medical school.

Now, Buckley '13 (biomedical sciences, international studies) is in his first year of the Yale Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He started the four-year program this fall after graduating in May from the University of Minnesota with his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees.

Buckley is in the first wave of alumni from RIT's College of Health Sciences and Technology to become physicians.



Douglas Merrill

This fall, a record 40 to 45 seniors from across RIT's nine colleges will apply to medical and other health professional programs, with the majority from biomedical sciences, said Douglas Merrill, professor of biomedical sciences.

The number of medical school applicants is up from an average of 10 to 12 students in the early 2000s. Interest in pre-med increased when RIT solidified its health brand in 2008 with the RIT & Rochester Regional Health Alliance and with the opening of the College of Health Sciences and Technology in 2011.

Dr. Daniel Ornt, vice president and dean of the Institute/College of Health Sciences and Technology, expects the number of



Dr. Daniel Ornt

pre-med applicants to continue to rise.

Ornt joined RIT in late 2011 with 30 years in academic medicine at University of Rochester Medical Center and at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. He knows the pressure students are under and why they need to be prepared.

"Having experience as a faculty member in leading medical schools, I understand the importance of having applicants with good grades and research experience," Ornt said. "The competition is stiff. We're talking 53,029 applicants for medical school and roughly 21,025 openings. We have to make sure our students have outstanding records and breadth of experience in order to be competitive."

Pre-med advisory program

Students from different majors across campus wind up at the door of the Pre-Medical and Health Professions Advisory Program seeking direction.

The non-degree granting advisory program, currently housed in the College of Health Sciences and Technology, guides students through the complicated application process for medical school, nursing school, physician assistant and other graduate

programs in the human medical sciences.

"It is not uncommon for students who want to become medical doctors to ask how they can major in pre-med at RIT," said Merrill, who is also the director of the Pre-medical and Health Professions Advisory Program. "There is no such thing as a pre-med major. Although the biomedical sciences program comes the closest, I try to make it clear to these students that medical schools accept applications from any student who is enrolled in, or has completed, any accredited undergraduate program as long as they have the specific science prerequisites required of all applicants."

Merrill and his team work in partnership with nearly 200 students and their academic advisers to ensure the applicants satisfy their degree requirements and prerequisites for their graduate or professional programs.

Merrill built a seven-member committee, new last year, to provide students one-on-one assistance while preparing their application. Students often begin in their freshman year to build a package of health-related experiences and academic accomplishments to draw upon.

Pre-med advisers guide their students through this lengthy and detailed process, critique their personal statements and groom them for admissions interviews.

Merrill has watched the demand for pre-medical advising grow from the four students he helped apply to medical school in 1985. When he became head of biology in the College of Science in 1998, he passed the advisory role to Kay Turner and then to Kristen Waterstram-Rich. Coming full circle in 2016, Merrill resumed directorship of the advising program and realized it had grown too big for one person to handle.



William Marmor '17 (biomedical sciences) worked with Douglas Merrill, who is director of the Pre-Medical and Health Professions Advisory Program, to put together a competitive application for medical school. Marmor was accepted at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

"In the early years, the pre-med advising was me with part-time staff support," Merrill said. "When I took over again after an almost 20-year gap, I realized I couldn't afford to let anyone fall through the cracks because I had too many students I was working with, so I created this committee."

William Marmor '17 (biomedical sciences) worked directly with Merrill during the year before the advisory team expanded. Their hard work to produce a competitive application paid off, and Marmor was accepted at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

"Dr. Merrill pushed me to work really hard

to do well on my MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), to keep my grade point average up and to continue to be involved in meaningful service work," he said.

Marmor served for two years as president of the Health Sciences and Technology Student Association and was a member of the Pre-Health Student Association. He also volunteered as a chapter leader for Global Brigades, a humanitarian organization not affiliated with RIT.

He organized two service trips to Honduras to help treat community members at medical clinics and to prevent illness through

the construction of bathrooms, concrete floors and eco-stoves.

Marmor was inspired as a teen by a before-and-after surgery video of a girl born with a cleft lip.

The transformation struck him, and Marmor chose RIT as a stepping stone to medical school.

"The courses I took affirmed that I want to be a doctor," Marmor said. "I loved taking anatomy and physiology. Classes like medical pathophysiology, endocrinology, psychology—everything was interesting and made me excited about the medical field." *Continues page 19*



Tara Snyder '17 (biomedical sciences), left, conducted research on sickle cell disease and malaria with Bolaji Thomas, associate professor of biomedical sciences. Thomas has established an independent immunology research program focused on the training of undergraduate students.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Biomedical sciences lays foundation for all medical careers

Tara Snyder '17 (biomedical sciences) planned to go to medical school until her sophomore year at RIT.

She had started volunteering on the pediatric floors at the Golisano Children's Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and realized that she would rather pursue medical research and then go to nursing school and specialize in pediatrics.

"I saw more patient interaction from the nurses than the doctors—and I've been there at all times of the day—and I think it's more of what I wanted, to have the patient interactions and the science behind it," Snyder said.

Now she hopes to enter a post-baccalaureate research program at University of Pennsylvania as a precursor to nursing school next fall.

Biomedical sciences is the biggest program in the College of Health Sciences and Technology with approximately 260 enrolled students, and that number is expected to grow, said Douglas Merrill, professor of biomedical sciences.

"The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics predicts that health care will continue to be a driver of the U.S. economy well into the

future," he said.

The program is designed to give students a pathway for pursuing clinical doctoral degrees in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and physical therapy, as well as graduate degrees in nursing, physician assistant, occupational therapy and medical research.

The biomedical sciences curriculum covers the prerequisite biology, chemistry, organic chemistry and physics courses students need for their next step. Advanced undergraduate classes in immunology, endocrinology and human gross anatomy, where students learn on a cadaver, create a rigorous foundation for all health careers.

Merrill and Richard Doolittle, currently the vice dean of the College of Health Sciences and Technology, were instrumental in developing and launching the program in 2006 in the College of Science, before the College of Health Sciences and Technology was created.

Merrill recruited Robert Osgood, associate professor and the current director of the biomedical sciences program, nearly a decade ago. Since then, Osgood has established a busy lab on campus and conducts research

at Rochester General Hospital through the RIT & Rochester Regional Health Alliance.

His focus on research represents the next phase of the program—educating biomedical research scientists who go on for their Ph.D. degrees.

Snyder conducted research on sickle cell disease and malaria with Bolaji Thomas, associate professor of biomedical sciences. She presented a poster on her research last April at the Experimental Biology Conference in Chicago.

Since 2008, Thomas has established an independent immunology research program, primarily focused on the training and mentoring of undergraduate researchers like Snyder.

Many of his former students are currently enrolled in graduate programs.

"I bring data from my lab into class to show students that what we're teaching them is not just theory but has practical application, and they respond very seriously," Thomas said. "And so they can appreciate the application in clinical medicine, immunology and in health care."

Susan Gawlowicz '95



Kristen Swerzenski '17 (biology) completed an internship at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in North Carolina. She plans to apply to veterinary school.



Liliya Beckett '11 (photography, communications) returned to RIT in 2015 specifically for pre-vet preparation. She will begin at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Pre-vet program targets small, dedicated group

RIT students interested in veterinary school face a rigorous application process akin to the requirements of medical school. These students rely upon the Pre-Veterinary Advisory Program to help them pursue graduate education in animal medicine.

The pre-vet program is housed in the College of Science and is open to students from any major. Program director Larry Buckley works mostly with students majoring in biology, which offers a curriculum that fulfills veterinary school requirements. The pre-vet group at RIT typically fluctuates between 10 to 15 students, and each year one to three seniors apply to veterinary school.

For the past 15 years, Buckley, associate professor and head of RIT's Thomas H.

Gosnell School of Life Sciences, has seen his students go to veterinary programs at Cornell University, Michigan State, Tufts University, University of Pennsylvania, Ohio University, Ohio State, North Carolina, Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Florida and the University of Guelph in Canada.

There are 30 vet schools in the United States that offer four-year doctoral programs in veterinary medicine and accept between 100 to 120 incoming students every year.

"It's an urban myth that it's harder to get into vet school than med school," Buckley said. "That has never been true and it will never be true because there are 10 to 20 times more students who want to be medical doctors than veterinarians."

That is not to say it's easy to get into

veterinary school. Pre-vet students face similar hurdles as their pre-med counterparts.

Buckley coaches his students to focus on three main components of their application: maintaining a high grade point average, preparing for the GRE exam, and accruing at least 1,000 hours of animal care under the supervision of a veterinarian. That number equates to about three summers worth of experience, Buckley said. The pre-vet program can help students find internships around the country or locally at the Seneca Park Zoo and Rochester Animal Services.

"I tell students if they want to know whether or not they are going to be happy being a veterinarian, they need to go to work there for about six months and they will find out real quick," he said. "They are assisting veterinar-

ians there in a very integral fashion.”

The Pre-Vet Club also helps students learn more about their chosen profession.

Kristen Swerzenski '17 (biology) is the former vice president of the club. Being active with the group confirmed her decision to pursue her interest in marine veterinarian care. Swerzenski completed an internship at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in North Carolina. She is currently taking the year off to strengthen her vet school application with additional animal care experience.

Former Pre-Vet Club President Liliya Beckett '11 (photography, communications) returned to RIT in 2015 specifically for the pre-vet preparation under Buckley's guidance.

“My first experience at RIT was so amazing that there was no way I'd rather go anywhere else than back to RIT,” Beckett said.

She used her connections as an internal medicine animal care assistant at Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services to add value to the vet club. Beckett arranged for students to tour the specialty hospital and invited veterinarian Dr. Kim Dodge to conduct a suture lab at RIT.

“We practiced on bananas and pork hocks,” Swerzenski said.

Research Beckett conducted with Buckley on canine spleen cancer has inspired her to pursue a D.V.M. and a Ph.D.

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine accepted Beckett for this fall semester, and she was awarded a 10-week funded summer research fellowship with her graduate school mentor.

“Veterinary school is very visceral,” Buckley said. “I tell students veterinarians put their hands where most people with good sense know not to.”

The personal essay is a critical part of the application. Veterinary schools want to know that students have thought deeply not just about working with animals but also the interactions with the clients, Buckley said.

Veterinarians are confronted with a myriad of issues, he added, such as when people walk in without money and want their dog back after surgery or never return for them.

Beckett's experience working in animal emergency medicine has introduced her to the emotional side of animal care.

“I saw a lot of trauma, a lot of euthanasia,” Beckett said. “Every day I left exhausted and tired to the bone, but I'd wake up the next morning ready to go back.”

Susan Gawlowicz '95

Opportunities

Like Marmor, Victoria MacPherson '14 (biomedical sciences) is a former president of the Health Sciences and Technology Student Association and member of the Pre-Health Student Association. She is in her second year at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and expects to graduate in 2020.

MacPherson is the second deaf student to attend the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was preceded by RIT/NTID alumnus Dr. Benjamin Lessig '92 (chemistry), who earned his D.O. degree in 1996.

MacPherson chose osteopathic medicine after looking deeper into the D.O. philosophy.

“I strongly believe in treating the person as a whole and that lifestyle factors can dramatically affect a person's health,” she said.

MacPherson looks forward to building a strong deaf-patient base and to breaking down barriers to health education.

“The health literacy among deaf people is extremely low on average,” she said.

“Having someone that a deaf person can communicate with in their own languages will help them understand their health needs better.”

Similar to Buckley, MacPherson's volunteer experience with an emergency medical service drove her to enter medicine.

Coming to RIT gave her the education and guidance to pick the best classes to take, extracurricular activities to pursue, and how to find the right study abroad and research experiences.

“I was presented with so many opportunities at RIT that really helped prepare me for medical school and the real world,” MacPherson said. “Not to mention, the access services for deaf students at RIT is one of the best in the country.”

Buckley, who graduated the year before MacPherson, said his success reflects the guidance and mentorship he received from RIT faculty and pre-med adviser Waterstram-Rich.

Buckley's volunteer service as deputy chief and chief of the RIT Ambulance for three years gave him leadership experience and lifelong friends.

“In my graduating year, three of us from the RIT Ambulance entered medical school, and since then there's been several former members accepted to both medical school and physician assistant school,” Buckley said. “It served as an excellent opportunity to learn patient evaluation

and treatment skills and provided networking opportunities within the medical field.”

Buckley paired his medical degree with a Master of Public Health to treat



Photo by Mark Benjamin

Victoria MacPherson '14 (biomedical sciences) is in her second year at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

individual patients and population groups. His long-term career goal is to focus on the needs of Native American and rural communities.

“I want to foster relationships between rural hospitals and academic centers to increase patient access to health care and increase medical student/resident exposure to rural medicine during their education.”

Susan Gawlowicz '95

RIT Ambulance reunion

Interested in being a part of the 50th reunion for RIT Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services during the fall of 2018? Complete a survey at alumni.rit.edu/EMS50.

RIT's 10th president, David Munson, led a college of 10,000 students as dean of the University of Michigan College of Engineering. Here he speaks at the 2015 Michigan College of Engineering spring commencement.

Photo by Joseph Xu





Photo by Joseph Xu

Munson said he wants RIT to produce graduates who lead lives of consequence and purpose. He began as president on July 1.

New president's successful past hints at RIT's future

In the 1990s as a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois, David C. Munson Jr. had an unconventional idea: He wanted to create a university of engineering and the arts.

"There were some liberal arts schools in New England going out of business at the time, and I thought, 'Man, if I could just talk a philanthropist into supporting such a venture, I could have the time of my life,'" Munson said.

The problem was that Munson didn't encounter such an individual. But RIT's 10th president didn't give up on an approach to education that transforms students into well-rounded citizens prepared to change the world.

Years later as dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan, Munson envisioned graduating citizen engineers through a comprehensive program that encouraged entrepreneurship, hands-on multidisciplinary design projects, opportunities for international education and increased experiences in the arts.

When he completed the maximum-allowed two terms as dean in 2016, this vision had been realized in a deeper way than anyone thought was possible, said James Hol-

loway, who was an associate dean for undergraduate education for the College of Engineering under Munson.

"There were shifts in the culture," Holloway said. "He was able to achieve this because he has a good understanding of how to be a leader. He knows how to empower people, how to inspire people, to influence other people to act and to act himself when it was appropriate."

Now as the new president of RIT, Munson will build on his vision of producing graduates who lead lives of consequence and purpose. In the process, he hopes to give RIT a crisper story to tell about what it is, how it is different from other schools and how the university is the best at blending technology with the arts and design.

"RIT is big enough to have a huge impact and small enough that it may be possible to

get a lot of folks on the same page to really dream even further about how to strengthen some of our programs, and at some point,

be recognized as the pre-eminent university working in that intersection," said Munson, who started as president on July 1. "I see at RIT even more opportunity to do the kind of thing I enjoy doing."

Changing a culture

Munson had only been at the University of Michigan for a few years as chair of the electrical engineering and computer science department when the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering position became open.

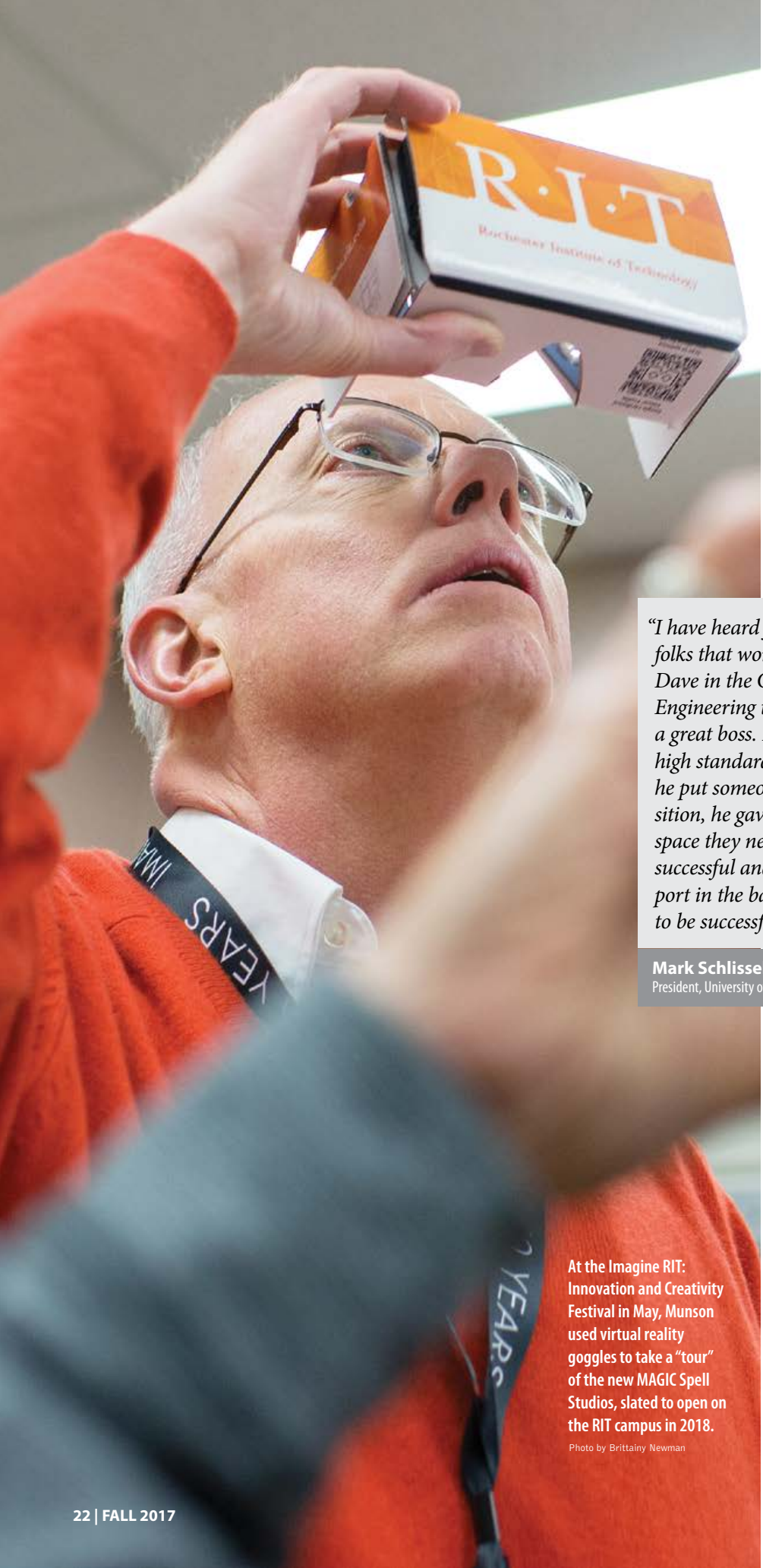
Before he interviewed for the job, Munson thought about what the college needed the most to improve. He recognized that engineering

students would benefit from a broader awareness and skill set to be competitive in the changing global economy and proposed ideas

"I don't think I have ever had a group conversation that Dave has been part of where there hasn't been a point where he has said, 'So tell me again how this is going to benefit the students? Are we really focusing enough on the students here?' It is not an anecdote with Dave. It's a way of looking at the world."

Deb Mexicotte

Associate director, ArtsEngine /
Alliance for Arts in Research Universities



on how to create this new kind of engineer. The ideas came from his own background. As an undergraduate in electrical engineering at the University of Delaware, Munson spent a third of his senior year working on a design project with his best friend. The experience was powerful, and Munson concluded that through that activity he had learned almost as much as he had in all of his courses combined. Increasing the number of hands-on multidisciplinary design activities became one of his initiatives.

As a junior faculty member at the University of Illinois, Munson had the opportunity to travel to international technical conferences all over the world. He always took extra time to learn about the culture and visit historical sites and museums.

“Every trip was just fabulous,” he said. “It really enlarges your view of the world, and I really thought our students should be having those kinds of experiences as part of their education.”

That’s why expanding international opportunities became an objective.

Finally, Munson was a co-founder of InstaRecon Inc., a startup company to commercialize fast algorithms for image formation in computer tomography.

He thought if he and faculty colleagues could create companies without a business degree, many engineering students could launch their own companies as well, so he made entrepreneurship one of his goals.

After Munson started as dean in 2006, he set up task forces in each of these areas, found talented people to serve on them and set them loose.

For multidisciplinary design, they created a co-curricular minor that was not part of any one department. The minor, which was made available to students outside of engineering as well, requires an intensive hands-on, multi-term design project.

In addition, Munson greatly expanded the number of multidisciplinary design projects students in engineering as well as those in other colleges could work on together.

“What happened with that is over time, through the work of Dave and others, that became more and more part of the culture,” said Holloway, now vice provost for Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs at Michigan. “Various departments started to bring in those ideas, creating opportunities for hands-on experiences. They started to bring them into the

“I have heard from the folks that worked for Dave in the College of Engineering that he was a great boss. He had high standards but once he put someone in a position, he gave them the space they needed to be successful and the support in the background to be successful.”

Mark Schlissel
President, University of Michigan

At the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival in May, Munson used virtual reality goggles to take a “tour” of the new MAGIC Spell Studios, slated to open on the RIT campus in 2018.

Photo by Brittainy Newman

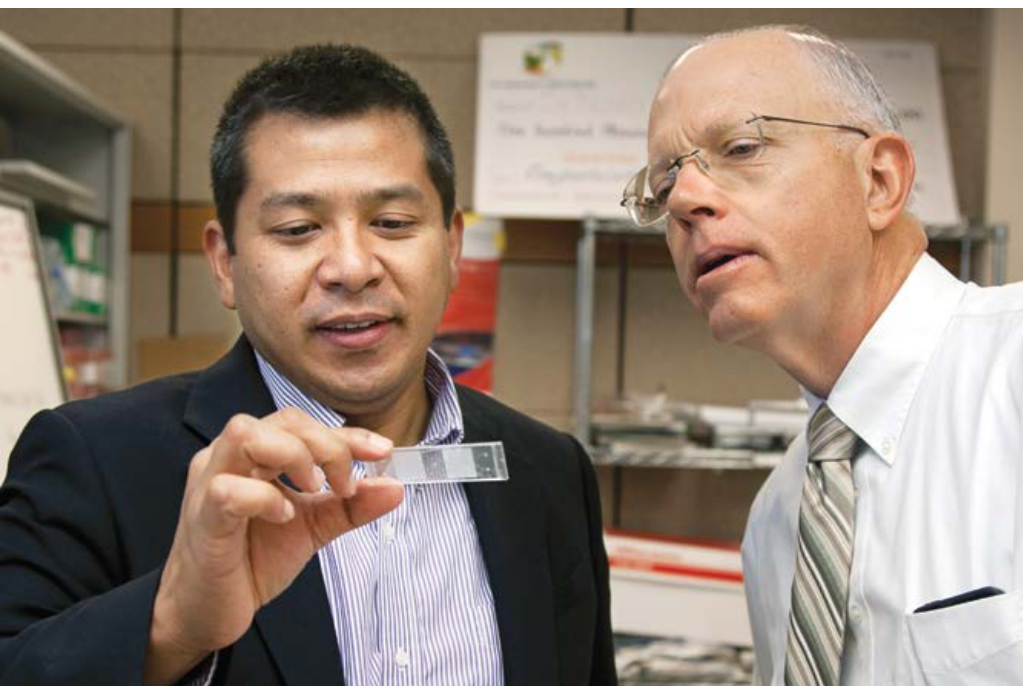


Photo by Joseph Xu

Michigan Engineering alumnus Kalyan Handique explains his latest venture to Munson at his startup, DeNovo Sciences. Handique and his team are developing the JETTA100, a microfluidic device (pictured) that captures circulating cancer cells. As dean, Munson regularly met with alumni.

regular curriculum, so they became part of the fabric.”

The same thing happened with entrepreneurship.

Aileen Huang-Saad, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, entrepreneurship and engineering education, was part of the team of faculty, staff and students who created the Center for Entrepreneurship in the College of Engineering at Michigan in 2007.

Huang-Saad said after the center opened, they realized that students outside of engineering also wanted the opportunity to gain entrepreneurial skills. Before they knew it, half of the 2,500 students who used the center each year were from other schools and colleges across the university.

“(Munson) was perfectly fine with that,” she said. “He was committed to providing the best possible experience for the students and strongly supported interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Students across the Ann Arbor campus began sharing their entrepreneurial ideas

and participating in activities inside and outside of the classroom, which fostered a more innovative campus, Huang-Saad said. That transformed the overall culture.

“I have to tell you when he was done being dean of engineering, a whole bunch of us sat around and said, ‘Now who is going to get him as president.’ It was pretty obvious to most of us that this guy should be a university president. You guys are darn lucky.”

James Holloway

Vice provost for Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan

Holloway said with all of the initiatives, Munson encouraged a big tent approach—broad programs that would benefit many students.

“At a university, that is what is key—it is not just about creating a program or two and putting it on a web page,” Holloway said. “It’s really about using those ideas to change the culture of the place and get everyone to start to engage in those activities. Pretty soon, 10 years later, it seems as if it has always been this way.”

International programs

Munson’s push for international programs succeeded because he was receptive to out-of-the-box concepts, Holloway said.

“We could go to Dave with crazy ideas like we are going to encourage students to go abroad and treat it all as transfer credits so we won’t collect tuition,” Holloway said.

Meet Nancy Munson

The wife of RIT’s 10th president is passionate about helping others.

Nancy Munson began volunteering when she was a teenager and worked as a candy striper at a local hospital in Bryn Mawr, Pa. She received a BS/RN from the University of Delaware.

Then as a young mother in Illinois, she would visit a local nursing home with her 5-month-old son to spend time with the residents.

As her family grew, Munson became more creative about her volunteer activities. She used her nursing skills in a local hospital while auxiliary volunteers watched her four sons: David, Ryan, Mark and Jamie. In addition, she gave back to the auxiliary, serving as its fundraising chair and president.

In Michigan, she began working with a homeless shelter in its service center and clinic. Before leaving Michigan, she was working at a clinic for the underinsured and uninsured.

“Volunteering has always been important to me,” she said.

Munson even ties her hobbies to helping others. The avid runner is participating in the Chicago Marathon in October on a team that is raising



Photo by Mike Bradley

Nancy Munson

money for the Chad Tough Foundation. The foundation funds research and awareness for pediatric brain tumors.

That’s why Munson will definitely be giving back to the Rochester community. She said she hopes to volunteer in the health care field, working with families. She also is looking forward to spending time with RIT students.

“I am very much a people person,” she said. “I enjoy people and I enjoy working with people.”

Mindy Mozer



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Munson dropped by the spring career fair, where 230 companies were recruiting, during a visit to RIT.



Munson visited the Theme Park Enthusiasts at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. Michigan colleagues say they appreciated Munson's fun manner during his 10 years as dean.

"He would ask, 'Will we get more students to go? All right, let's do it.'"

Over time, more students got involved and excited about international opportunities. They enrolled in a new international minor for engineers and participated in non-credit activities abroad.

They began to communicate that excitement to their departments, and faculty began to see the benefits. By the end of Munson's deanship, the number of engineering students traveling abroad more than doubled to almost 30 percent of the graduating class, and Michigan Engineering had one of the top international engineering programs in the country.

Carrie Tamarelli, a 2013 University of Michigan graduate in materials science and engineering, experienced that firsthand. As an undergraduate, she was part of a student organization called M-HEAL that did global health engineering work. In 2010, the group was planning its first independent trip abroad to Nicaragua, but members needed financial help to make it work.

She and others in the group made an appointment with Munson, who always made

himself available to students. He encouraged them to think about their goals and to return to him with more specifics about the project. They did and were rewarded with support.

The trip, where the students spent two weeks traveling to remote rural villages, changed the trajectory of Tamarelli's college experience. M-HEAL became the single largest thing she dedicated her time to as an undergraduate. It also got her thinking about how engineering affects actual clinical work.

She is now in medical school at the University of Michigan.

"That trip was a big deal," she said. "It was the first time I had traveled without my family. It was a big learning experience."

"He was always happy to meet with the students, not just to meet with them but to learn about them as individuals and what they were doing in school and outside of school. I know the staff really cared for him a lot and appreciated his openness and fun manner. They felt comfortable around him."

Martha Sweigert

Assistant director for Academic Affairs at U-M and former executive assistant to Munson

ArtsEngine

The College of Engineering at the University of Michigan is located on the North Campus with the School of

Music, Theatre & Dance, the Stamps School of Art & Design and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

When Munson became dean, he began working closely with the arts deans, who

had started an organization called Arts on Earth, which was designed to create interdisciplinary connections.

Christopher Kendall, former dean of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, said they thought of Munson as an honorary arts dean because of his personal appreciation of the arts. Munson is from a musical family and is a singer with experience in musical theater.

Munson said he welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with his colleagues.

The organization, which changed its name to ArtsEngine, developed joint coursework, workshops and conferences for faculty and students. ArtsEngine also created a living-learning community called Living Arts for students who wanted to explore innovation and creativity across multiple areas.

"Often the arts, or any discipline, is ghettoized in its own community and culture," said Laurie Baefsky, executive director of ArtsEngine. "What was so unique was really looking at arts, design and engineering comprehensively within a cross-cutting holistic education, while retaining rigor with each of these units."

ArtsEngine was going so well that in 2011 they invited 150 thought leaders across higher education to a symposium on the integration of arts in higher education, Baefsky said. The symposium resulted in an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to research the role of arts in higher education.

And that grant initiative helped launch



Photo by A. Sue Weisler



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Munson met the campus community during a series of forums on Feb. 28 and March 2. Here he talks with Student Government leaders.

The presidential search committee and Board of Trustees noted that Munson's experience at Michigan makes him the right leader at the right time for RIT.

a national organization in 2012 called the Alliance for Arts in Research Universities, a2ru, which currently has 39 members. RIT has recently joined.

The organization works to change the dialogue nationally around the importance of the arts in conjunction with other disciplines, said Deb Mexicotte, associate director of a2ru/ArtsEngine.

Kendall said ArtsEngine would not have taken the form that it did without Munson and his understanding of the value of the arts.

"Dave also brought another quality to the whole activity," Kendall said. "Dave has this wonderful sense of fun. The character of our activities was so informed by his sense of fun."

Future of RIT

Slowly and quietly during Munson's tenure as dean, Michigan Engineering grew. Annual research expenditures increased from \$130 million to \$250 million. The faculty population grew by 30 percent with aggressive hiring and retention programs. Enrollment reached 10,000 students.

Khalil Najafi, chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Michigan, said the growth had a huge impact. New programs, campuswide partnerships and faculty members rejuvenated the college and improved the overall education.

"Students today graduate with a much broader perspective," Najafi said. "They have been through a broader set of experiences

and as a result they are a lot better prepared when they go to the real world."

Munson's experience at Michigan, noted the 24-member RIT presidential search committee and the Board of Trustees, make Munson the right leader at the right time for RIT.

Munson said his goal is not to turn RIT into the University of Michigan.

Inauguration

David Munson will be installed as RIT's 10th president at an inauguration ceremony in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center on Sept. 28. The keynote speaker will be Dartmouth College President Philip Hanlon. For details, go to rit.edu/president.

Although it is too early to announce specific goals, Munson said, he wants the RIT community to think broadly. "I don't believe our purpose ought to be just to train someone to have a career. I believe we need to be more explicitly thinking about the bigger world and the bigger picture and having a positive impact in the world."

He wants to build RIT's research and graduate programs, a directive put in place by the RIT Board of Trustees. Research, he said, includes scholarship and artistic expression.

"The bottom line is we need, to the extent possible, for every faculty member to be

doing great work that is recognized outside the university. That helps a lot in building the profile of the university and attracting the best students and creating an environment to conduct the best work."

In terms of new initiatives, his thinking doesn't start with what RIT needs; it starts with what programs would attract a prospective student to RIT.

And Munson said he wants to focus even more on the intersection of arts and technology. "I can think of countless ways in which the liberal arts are and can be connected to that central focus," he said. "Same thing in business and the health sciences. I think other parts of the university can leverage the focus on arts and technology to do something unique in their own domains."

In the short term, though, he looks forward to getting to know RIT students, faculty and staff and the Rochester community.

"It's an absolute dream come true in terms of what already exists at RIT and what I think we can do in the future," Munson said. "I can hardly wait to get started."

Mindy Mozer

Tiger Tour and Twitter

Notable RIT alumni will be hosting David Munson at events around the country. Details at rit.edu/tigertour. Follow @RITpresident on Twitter.



Mechanical Engineering Professor Alan Nye, left, celebrates with Lynn Bishop '93 (mechanical engineering) after unveiling the original car from the 1991-92 season. The car was driven by Bishop, project manager of the first team, at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Celebrating 25 years of Formula Racing

When Lynn Bishop and William Robinson proposed building RIT's first Formula racecar in 1992, they had practical goals—design a sleek, uncomplicated car that could compete against the top collegiate race teams in the country.

RIT Formula Racing would exceed expectations and be in the top 10 in each of its first five seasons—a feat only a handful of established teams would match.

The team this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary of racing and providing hundreds of students over those years with automotive

engineering skills, championship seasons, a pathway to careers and alumni network connections as intricate as a racecar engine.

Building a car and reputation

Bishop '93 (mechanical engineering), vice president of engineering services at Pratt & Miller Engineering and Fabrication, grew up around racing, watching his father race at Watkins Glen, N.Y. During his first year at RIT, Bishop joined the RIT Baja off-road race team, and by 1991, started persuading friends like Robinson '94 (mechanical engineering)

to start a new team and build a racecar that would resemble professional Indy and Grand Prix vehicles.

There was a core group of 10-15 students on that first team, and they did not want to just compete, they wanted to make an impact.

"Our No. 1 consideration was simplicity and focusing on the basics, not going out there with a super new, untested innovation," said Bishop.

Keeping to the fundamentals, making the car lightweight with a low center of gravity, focusing on the overall car—not just the engine—proved to be a winning combination.



Lynn Bishop drives the first Formula car, F1, at the team's first major competition in 1993. The car was refurbished this year by Salvatore Fava '16 (mechanical engineering) to celebrate 25 years of Formula Racing.

RIT held its own against teams from the University of Michigan, Texas A&M and Cornell in its first competition at Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills, Mich.

"After two years of planning, designing, building and testing, it was exciting to finally be in the paddock," said Kristian Houghton '95 (mechanical engineering). He'd drive in the acceleration event, help the team place 8th overall and be named Rookie Team of the Year.

"It was incredibly exciting to see us compete so well, and so strongly. It far exceeded our expectations. We won a couple of design awards, so it was very satisfying to see the team do so well and be up there with the top schools," Bishop added.

Bishop and his teammates would also be recruited by the many companies that come to Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) events seeking talented engineers on college design teams. He started working at Ford Motor Co. in its Advanced Vehicle Technology Division after graduation.

In 1998, he'd start his own firm, Aletheon Technologies, with Doug Louth, a Formula SAE alumnus who competed on the University of Michigan team.

Four years later, their highly successful automotive engineering consulting firm would merge with Pratt & Miller, and he'd serve as race engineer on the Corvette America LeMans Series team and chief engineer of the Cadillac and Grand American Road Racing programs, all winning major championships.

"I remember when I graduated, it was a pretty emotional time to leave the team. I told the guys that my dream would be to figure out how we could all work together in the future. It was an amazing group of people that had a common focus—competing, engineering excellence. That is what Doug and I wanted to create in our consulting company.

It was kind of a Formula SAE graduate program," Bishop said, laughing.

The dream came true as members of that first team, Andrew Attardo '96 (industrial and production design) and Joe Kiefer '94, '95 (mechanical engineering), joined Aletheon. When it merged with Pratt & Miller in 2002, they were re-united with Houghton. Later Ken Flory '97 (mechanical engineering) and Chuck Houghton '00 (mechanical engineering) would join the team. (Chuck and Kristian are not related.)

Over the next years, other Formula members would come to the company as co-ops. Others, like Ryan Baldi '09 (mechanical engineering) and Aleksey Kovtun '12 (mechanical engineering), would be hired as design and simulation engineers and work on Indy and Corvette Racing championship teams.

Kristian Houghton said that the relationships he developed at RIT had a huge influence on his life. Bishop has been his boss for eight years at Pratt & Miller and he met his wife of 18 years, Deana (Mallo) Houghton '96 (mechanical engineering technology), in the machine shop at RIT.

"Working with the incredible team at RIT set a benchmark for me for hard work, dedication and excellence for my entire career," said Houghton, now director of engineering services, leading teams in the company's defense, automotive, robotics and product innovation markets. "Not only do you learn the details of designing a complex system, you learn how to overcome organizational, schedule and funding challenges."

Staying power on the track

Since designing its first racecar in 1992, RIT Racing has been competing in national SAE design challenge events.

When SAE began international

competitions in 1998, RIT was one of the first U.S. teams to compete, entering contests in Germany, Austria, Australia and England, winning events in the latter two countries. By 2010, it was ranked fourth among 450 international teams in a new world ranking system.

It wasn't until 2009 that it would take the elusive top award overall at a competition in the U.S., and even its closest competitors were proud of the win after five straight years of second-place overall finishes.

"The event was very close until the very end," said Alan Nye, professor of mechanical engineering in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, shortly after the team won. "It was reasonably possible that we would come in second again."

Nye has been the team's academic adviser since it began, and he has been recognized as one of the best seven times by SAE. He also received its Excellence in Engineering Education Award in 2004.

RIT remains one of the few teams that build custom systems such as the drivetrain, brakes and electronics rather than purchase off-the-shelf equipment. In looking at the different racecars over time, the team incorporated aerodynamic designs, new technologies and used high-tech systems to simulate car performance that benefitted them in competitions and later in the workplace.

This year, the team fielded two cars in competition for the first time, one an electric vehicle. Both cars were unveiled at the 2017 Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival and raced in competitions during the summer.

A third car unveiled at Imagine was F1, the first racecar built in 1992 and refurbished over the past year by RIT Formula alumnus and team leader Salvatore Fava '16 (mechanical engineering). Bishop once again drove the car, but this time it was in front of current and past team members at the festival.

Formula alumni over 25 years retained the work ethic established by Bishop and his teammates.

"I don't think the competition at that time saw us as a serious threat. They knew we'd be competitive, but we were a new formula team," he said, recalling the success at that first event. "And the teams were like wow—who is this?"

Teams rarely ask that anymore.

Michelle Cometa '00

Tell us your story

Did you participate in RIT Formula Racing? Contact us at umag@rit.edu to share your memories.

The RIT Alumni Association will bestow university-wide awards at the Presidents' Alumni Ball, Oct. 13, during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend. For more information, go to rit.edu/PresidentsAlumniBall.

Bower named Outstanding Alumnus of 2017



Brooks Bower '74

Brooks Bower '74 (printing) attributes much of his success to RIT.

The chairman and CEO of Papercone Corp. said that the education he received at RIT helped him learn how to be a hands-on manager. Living nearly 3,000

miles away from his home in San Francisco taught him responsibility and how to live and interact with people.

"I feel strongly that it is because of my experience at RIT that Papercone has

grown into the company it is today," Bower said. "RIT is so instrumental in my career and my success."

Bower will be honored for his ongoing support of the university with the Outstanding Alumnus of 2017 award at the Presidents' Alumni Ball on Oct. 13 during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend. The award is the highest honor RIT can bestow upon an alumnus.

Bower said he makes it a priority to give back to his alma mater because of everything RIT has done for him. The RIT Trustee helped the Big Shot team secure Churchill Downs in 2015 and has continually supported the Cary Graphic Arts Collection, including the purchase of the historic KelmScott/Goudy Hand Press in 2013. Bower collects antique

printing presses. "I love printing and the historical aspect of printing," he said.

He also was a member of the presidential search committee for RIT's 10th president, Dave Munson.

Bower joined Papercone, which was started by his father in 1964, two years after he graduated. The company began making paper collars that went over soft drink bottles and then evolved into a specialty envelope business. Bower said the business, based in Louisville, Ky., is continuing to change with the times, now moving into lightweight packaging.

"I rely so much on the basic education I received at RIT," he said. "It was an incredible education."

Mindy Mozer

Saunders honored for impact on student success



Phil Saunders

Contributions to RIT from E. Philip Saunders are well known. The serial entrepreneur and philanthropist has a business college in his name—where he notably established two annual four-year academic scholarships for a high

school student in Livingston County, N.Y., who wants to major in business and "pursue an education they can only dream about."

Saunders has been named the recipient of RIT's 2017 Volunteer of the Year in recognition for his outstanding leadership skills and impact on student success.

He will be awarded the tribute at the Presidents' Alumni Ball during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend on Oct. 13.

"My relationship to this university goes way back, when I first owned TravelCenters of America and I had RIT students working for me at night and on weekends," said Saunders. "I was impressed with their knowledge, skills and work ethic—and continue to believe that RIT continues to attract only the best and the brightest."

Saunders has remained actively engaged in Saunders College of Business and is an advocate for increasing its worldwide recognition. He believes integrating business education with RIT's internationally recognized technical and creative programs has been immeasurably successful.

A lifelong resident of Livingston County

in New York, Saunders is known for transforming the truck stop industry, the genesis to diversified interests in energy, auto and truck rental, recreation and tourism, packaged foods, property management, banking and business ventures.

He is an RIT trustee emeritus and was awarded the university's prestigious Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award in 2005 and the Nathaniel Rochester Society award in 2011.

The community-minded patron is also the sponsor of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Saunders Scholars Competition, held at RIT the past two years.

"I am very pleased to accept this award," said Saunders. "Philanthropy is part of a social investment and one of my passions is to see young people succeed."

Marcia Morphy



RIT Global Day of Service

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Bring Tiger pride and power to your community's needs! Team up with your fellow alumni on our annual day of service to help a non-profit in your area. A few hours of your time can have a big impact.

REGISTER NOW at rit.edu/alumni/GDS to volunteer at one of these locations.

Albany, NY	Ronald McDonald House	Long Island City, NY	Hunters Point Park
Aldie, VA	Friends of Homeless Animals	Los Angeles, CA	Ronald McDonald House
Atlanta, GA	Edgewood Community Learning Garden	Los Angeles, CA	World Harvest Food Bank
Austin, TX	Ronald McDonald House	Miami, FL	Ronald McDonald House
Baltimore, MD	Moveable Feast	Mumbai, India	Volunteer Site TBD
Boston, MA	The Greater Boston Food Bank	Nashville, TN	Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee
Boulder, CO	Boulder County Parks	New Delhi, India	Volunteer Site TBD
Buffalo, NY	Habitat for Humanity	New Haven, CT	Ronald McDonald House
Buffalo, NY	Ronald McDonald House	New York, NY	Ronald McDonald House
Cambridge, MA	Fresh Pond Reservation	New York, NY	The Bowery Mission
Canandaigua, NY	Sonnenberg Gardens	Philadelphia, PA	Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Charlotte, NC	Second Harvest	Pittsburgh, PA	Global Links
Chicago, IL	The Olive Branch Mission	Raleigh, NC	Food Bank of Raleigh
Cincinnati, OH	Freestore Foodbank	Rochester, NY	Eastman Museum
Cincinnati, OH	Ronald McDonald House	Rochester, NY	Ronald McDonald House Sale
Cleveland, OH	Ronald McDonald House	San Antonio, TX	San Antonio Food Bank
Colorado Springs, CO	Ronald McDonald House	San Diego, CA	Ronald McDonald House
Dallas, TX	Kiest Park Conservation Area	San Francisco, CA	Food Bank
Denver, CO	Food Bank of the Rockies	Seattle, WA	ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
Dubrovnik, Croatia	Volunteer Site TBD	Syracuse, NY	Ronald McDonald House
Durham, NC	Food Bank of Durham	Tampa, FL	Ronald McDonald House
Fort Lauderdale, FL	Ronald McDonald House	Washington, D.C.	Capitol Area Food Bank
Fort Worth, TX	Community Food Bank	Washington, D.C.	DC Central Kitchen

More locations available online!

#RITGDS
rit.edu/alumni/GDS



RIT Global Day of Service
24 Hours + 1,000s of Tigers = A Better World

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
RIT

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI BY THE NUMB3RS

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented annually by each of RIT's nine colleges and the School of Individualized Study to an alumnus/a who has performed at the highest levels of his or her chosen profession or who has contributed significantly to the advancement and leadership of noteworthy civic, philanthropic or service organizations. It is the highest award an RIT college can bestow upon its alumni.



Michael Ciminelli '78, College of Liberal Arts, oversees 725 officers as chief of police of the Rochester Police Department. Named chief in 2014, Ciminelli started his career with the department in 1977. Throughout his 35-year career in law enforcement, he has served as chief

725

of the Elmira Police Department, assistant district attorney for Monroe County and deputy chief counsel within the Drug Enforcement Administration.

After purchasing the Gooding Co. in 1990, **Gerald Hace '74**, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, has grown the more-than-140-year-old printing company in Lockport, N.Y., to three times

140

its size. As its president, Hace ensures all Gooding employees—including production workers, receptionists, truck drivers, sales people and others—participate in forming the company's business plan.



Since founding the McCue Memorial Foundation in 1998, **Gerald McCue '80**, Saunders College of Business, has awarded 14 college scholarships and supported various youth organizations. A senior vice president for Merrill Lynch, McCue named the foundation after his grandfather's monument business, McCue Memorial. Philanthropy is a priority for McCue.

\$300,000,000

As founding president and CEO of NexPress Solutions, a joint venture between Eastman Kodak Co. and Heidelberg Druckmaschinen, **Venkat "Puru" Purushotham '81, '82**, College of Science, developed the digital color printing systems business from the ground up and grew its revenue from zero to more than \$300 million within six years. He then led the effort to integrate NexPress business back into Kodak in 2006, leading the commercial business unit to revenues exceeding \$2.5 billion.



75

Through their long careers with RIT and NTID, **Barbara Ray '74, '84** and **Samuel '77 Holcomb**, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, have been strong advocates for the college. They have a combined 75 years of service to the college as instructors. Upon their retirement, they became active in efforts to preserve NTID's historical materials.



Engineered by **Thomas Trytek '91**, College of Applied Science and Technology, the beacon and spire at the top of One World Trade Center is 408 feet tall, bringing the building to a symbolic height of 1,776 feet. Trytek is also the engineer-of-record for other high-profile projects including large-scale changes and improvement for the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami, Fla., JAZZ at Lincoln Center in New York and Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wis.



24 **Ralph Derrickson '78, '81**, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, is the president and CEO of Carena Inc., which enables 24-hour access to health care via virtual clinics. After his experience as a parent of two daughters born prematurely, Derrickson was determined to apply his background in technology and start-up innovation to improve patient and provider experiences.



31,500 Each year, more than 31,500 children are cared for in licensed child care programs with assistance of Child Care Council Inc., of which **Barbara-Ann Mattle '76, '80**, School of Individualized Study, is CEO. Under Mattle's leadership, the Child Care Council has expanded from two employees to a multimillion dollar organization with 56 employees covering three counties in western New York.



PRETIUM PACKAGING

As president and CEO of Pretium Packaging, **Paul Kayser '93**, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, oversees a leading plastic container and closure manufacturer that offers more than 600 different types of plastic bottles for industries varying from food to personal care to agriculture and requires technical expertise and proprietary tooling to manufacture. The company has 16 production plants across North America where these bottles are made.



330 A renowned professor and expert on nutritional sciences, **Penny Kris-Etherton '71**, College of Health Sciences and Technology, has written more than 330 scientific papers, 30 book chapters and co-authored four books. Currently a distinguished professor of nutrition at Penn State, Kris-Etherton also serves on a number of influential committees and boards including the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition and the Nutritional Committee for the American Heart Association.

Alumni Updates



Alexandra Dunek '14 (professional and technical communication) inspires others through bodybuilding.

Photo by Ryan Scott

Graduate finds strength through bodybuilding

Alexandra Dunek '14 (professional and technical communication) has been through a lot mentally, emotionally and physically.

Now, the 27-year-old deaf bodybuilder and fitness writer from Mount Laurel, N.J., is sharing her story of struggle and triumph to help inspire others who may be going through trying times of their own.

Through her Instagram account (@TipsFromAFitChick), as well as other media outlets, she is using her voice and her story to advocate for the deaf community and to encourage anybody facing challenges in their own lives to persevere.

Stronger, a short documentary released in December 2016, is one of many recent media projects to chronicle Dunek's journey overcoming cancer, depression and an eating disorder, as well as her rise in competitive bodybuilding. The film, directed by Eliu Cornielle, with the help of director of photography Drew Saracco, is available on Vimeo.

Dunek was born in 1989 with germ cell sarcoma, a rare cancer that is most common in multiple births.

"My mother had trouble getting pregnant and miscarried before I was born, so she took fertility drugs and ended up with triplets," said Dunek. "She was supposed to have quadruplets, but the fourth baby didn't develop properly and instead became a tumor attached to me."

By the age of 2, Dunek had undergone six rounds of intensive chemotherapy and won her battle with cancer. As a result of the chemo, however, she lost most of her hearing and suffered damage to her vision.

Attending RIT wasn't always a part of Dunek's plan.

"My mom was in a really bad car accident my senior year of high school, and I picked up some bad habits while trying to cope with her recovery," Dunek said. "I was depressed and I started drinking and smoking regularly, and my eating habits were really unhealthy."

Dunek was attending a local community college at the time but dropped out during her first year. Once her mother made a full recovery, she encouraged Dunek to continue her education, this time at RIT.

"I made a deal with her and agreed to visit

one college of her choice," said Dunek. "We visited RIT in spring of 2010 and I immediately fell in love with the way the school took the deaf and hearing worlds and combined them into one."

It was during her time at RIT that Dunek became focused on her fitness and began bodybuilding. "I needed something to help me get out of my depression, and I chose the gym," Dunek said.

Athleticism runs in Dunek's family. Her father, Ken Dunek, was a Philadelphia Eagle during the 1981 Super Bowl.

Following graduation, Dunek began prepping for a competition of her own. She competed in her first bodybuilding national qualifier in June 2015 and placed second.

"It is important for me to tell my story," said Dunek. "Now I have the opportunity to come forward and share my journey. I just became a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer so that I can open my own gym and inspire others to develop healthy lifestyles of their own, no matter their circumstance."

Lauren Peace '17



Darshan Hiranandani '02, '03 built 23 Marina, one of the world's tallest residential buildings, far left, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Alumnus works to bring meaningful change to people's lives in India and Dubai

Darshan Hiranandani was on the way to Egypt from India to vacation with his family when they stopped in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Hiranandani '02, '03 (management information systems, MBA) had earlier returned to Mumbai after graduation to work at Hiranandani Group, his family's real estate business and India's largest residential developer.

In Dubai, they had dinner with friends, who encouraged the family to think about doing real estate there.

"My father said, 'No, no, no. I'm very happy in Mumbai,'" Hiranandani said. "When we got back to Mumbai, my father was like, 'You know, Dubai is sounding great. Why don't you go?' I said, 'Yup. Sounds great. I'm off.'"

And that's how Hiranandani began building the world's tallest residential building. The 90-story tower, which is more than four football fields tall, is called 23 Marina and is located at the entrance of Dubai Marina. The building, which includes 62 elevators and 52 swimming pools, was certified as the tallest

residential building in 2012 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

"It's not like I set out to say we are going to build the world's tallest residential building. It just turned out that that is what eventually happened," Hiranandani said from his office inside 23 Marina. "But we got beat nine months later only about 500 meters (one-third of a mile) from my site. And they got beat a year and half later. That's the story of Dubai."

The story of Hiranandani, managing director of the Hiranandani Group as well as an RIT Trustee and RIT Dubai founding board member, is much richer than a towering building. His passion, he said, is energy. Through its subsidiary, H-Energy, the company is focused on distributing clean, affordable and safe natural gas. This includes creating infrastructure for gas distribution to replace kerosene.

"It has always been about identifying what it is that brings end value and really changes people's lives in a meaningful way," he said. "I think that it is extremely important that there

is something at the end that you are delivering that is human in some way or another."

Hiranandani cites the company's work creating residential townships in India as an example. In the early 1990s, Hiranandani's father transformed barren land into neighborhoods with roads, schools, hospitals, homes, businesses and the infrastructure and greenery to support it all.

Now Hiranandani has led an effort to take the concept one step further by becoming the utility provider for these townships. The company provides the power, water, internet, phone and cable in one utility bill.

"It is very simple but very hard to do in the background," he said. "It is these sorts of enhancements that are truly innovative."

That innovative spirit is a hallmark of the company and of Hiranandani, who credits RIT for helping him learn how to go deep when problem solving and wide when analyzing the goal of a project.

"RIT had the courses to offer both."

Mindy Mozer



Siddhartha Bhattacharya '02 (MBA) is vice president of global marketing for the information management division of Kodak Alaris.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Saunders graduate heads global marketing team

Just less than two decades ago, Siddhartha Bhattacharya '02 (MBA) was sitting with his dad in his home in Calcutta, India, researching U.S. graduate programs and deciding about where he might like to apply.

"At that time in India, the internet wasn't very popular, so I had mailed 80 or 90 handwritten letters to schools abroad to request program brochures," said Bhattacharya. "There was a huge sense of pride every time a nice, shiny brochure would arrive from America."

Among the many to show up on Bhattacharya's doorstep was one from RIT, and he made the decision to apply to the MBA program in 1999. With bags packed full of clothes and Indian spices, Bhattacharya got on a plane that took him across an ocean to a place he had never been.

"I remember very clearly the last moment in the airport with my family before I boarded the plane. My dad, who was a man of few words, hugged me and left me with one piece of advice. He said, 'become something,' and

I carry the impact of those words with me to this day," Bhattacharya said.

Bhattacharya has certainly become something. As vice president of global marketing for the information management division of Kodak Alaris, a company that has grossed more than \$1 billion in revenue, Bhattacharya oversees a global team of 45 people, as well as teams in regions including the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Prior to his job at Kodak Alaris, Bhattacharya worked for Xerox Corp., where he spent over a decade serving in various positions. He became a global head of marketing for the office printing business in 2013.

By the end of 2015, he had decided that he was ready for a change. "I have no regrets from my 14 years spent with Xerox, but my time had come, and I was looking for my next challenge," Bhattacharya said.

He found that challenge in Kodak Alaris, an independent, global technology startup founded in 2013.

Kodak Alaris information management works with organizations from small offices to global enterprises, bringing together science, technology and partnerships so its clients can stay ahead of the curve. The firm currently has a presence in 27 markets around the world. Bhattacharya's office is based in Rochester.

"My contributions are really centered around managing people and our marketing team," he said. "At the end of the day, it's all about building a spirit of collaboration, removing complexity from our daily work and instilling a very high level of pride and passion when it comes to serving our customers."

Bhattacharya said that the opportunity to be a part of a leadership team that is working to bring about cultural change in a new company is exciting. "It's OK to take risks; it's not OK to do nothing. The worst thing that you can do is to sit and wait for things to happen for you," he said. "My personality is one that thrives on challenging the status quo."

Lauren Peace '17



Jeff Smith '93 (industrial design) is education program manager for Autodesk, an international software company based in San Rafael, Calif.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Alumnus bestrides the worlds of art and industry

Jeff Smith '93 (industrial design) has made a successful career straddling the realms of art and industry, which makes perfect sense upon learning he spent his formative years in Buffalo, N.Y., and Paris—followed by two Rust Belt cities in Ohio.

Growing up in Buffalo until age 10, his father received a transfer to France's capital city for what was supposed to be one year but turned out to be two.

"Living in Paris taught me a lot and it changed my life," Smith recalled. "My parents signed me up for art classes at The Louvre—a weekly exploration and drawing session in the museum. Learning about art and then sketching it resounds with me to this day."

Upon moving back to the United States, Smith and his family lived in Dayton and Sandusky, Ohio, before it was time for him to look at colleges. "After my parents took me around to several art schools, I visited the RIT campus once and said, 'This is where I want to go.'"

Originally enrolled as a graphic design

major in the School of Design at the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, Smith was introduced to the industrial design program through a friend. "Toby Thompson was the department chair at the time and he gave a 20-minute presentation on industrial design," said Smith, referring to the late founding chair of the program. "He had such passion for what he did and that rang so true to me."

That passion and zeal for how art and design impact the business and manufacturing worlds has stayed with Smith to this very day. After more than two decades with a Taiwanese product design firm, Smith now serves as education program manager for Autodesk, the California-based software giant behind many of today's most ubiquitous design platforms.

As Autodesk's primary liaison with higher-education institutions across the United States, Smith has traveled to scores of college campuses, including RIT's several times every semester. He does so in support of design and engineering education—that fine line he

continues to bestride.

"People don't automatically think that a program in the design school ties into manufacturing or business, but when you combine industrial design and engineering—and do it right—that's the sweet spot," said Smith, who works out of his Boca Raton, Fla., home.

RIT students have provided valuable feedback on the company's software tools, and the university and Autodesk have signed a memorandum of understanding agreement to collaborate even further.

Smith said RIT's "real world, pragmatist" approach to art and engineering has inspired him while carving out a design career for nearly 25 years.

"It's awesome to be creative, but some schools tend to be too 'blue sky,'" Smith said. "You have to blend innovation with reality. RIT does a really good job of preparing students—like it did me. Your designs have to be real, and ultimately that last step is the hardest part."

Rich Kiley

A photograph of two young women in the foreground, cheering enthusiastically with their mouths wide open. They have black face paint on their cheeks and noses, designed to look like tiger whiskers and stripes. The woman on the left is wearing an orange shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a dark grey Champion sweatshirt with a large red 'T' on the front. In the background, a large crowd of people, many wearing orange, are visible, suggesting a sports event or rally. The text 'TIGERS GET READY TO ROAR! REGISTER NOW!!' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a bold, sans-serif font. The words 'TIGERS', 'GET', 'READY', 'REGISTER', and 'NOW!!' are in white, while 'TO ROAR!' is in yellow. The text is set against a dark orange background that tapers off to the right.

**TIGERS
GET
READY
TO
ROAR!
REGISTER
NOW!!**



BRICK CITY

.....

HOMECOMING

& FAMILY WEEKEND

OCTOBER 13–15, 2017

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Class Notes

Key to abbreviations

CAST	College of Applied Science and Technology
CCE	College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)
CHST	College of Health Sciences and Technology
CIAS	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
CLA	College of Liberal Arts
COS	College of Science
FAA	Fine and Applied Arts (now CIAS)
GAP	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CIAS)
GCCIS	B. Thomas 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 details and photos of special occasions and professional achievements in your life by going to www.rit.edu/alumni/news.

1962



Gene DePrez '61 (FAA), '62 (FAA), '68 (FAA), board chair and president of the Lake Mohawk Preservation Foundation, recently presided over the foundation's annual recognition celebration, presenting its lifetime achievement award for sustainable environment improvement to a past president of this historical 8,000-person lake community. DePrez also organized and moderated a panel of 12 fellow global business location strategy and site selection experts at the October annual conference of the Washington, D.C.-based International Economic Development Council, where he serves as visiting senior fellow.

1964



Bill Barley '64 (GAP) has become a giclée printer, doing fine art reproduction for regional artists in the Southeast. This is after a career including photo-journalism, advertising and corporate photography. He still instructs aviation students, mentors younger photographers and actively shoots new material for himself and clients.

1966

Harry W. Drake '66 (GAP) has taken on the role of local coordinator for SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) in St. Johns County, Fla. In this new role, he will be assisting in the training of newly certified Medicare volunteer counselors for St. Johns County.

1971



Deborah (Segall) Laitenberger '71 (SCB) and William Laitenberger '74 (CCE) were married Aug. 5, 2016, in Rochester after more than 25 years together. Unfortunately, and unexpectedly, William passed away on Oct. 18, 2016. Deborah has remained in Arizona where the couple lived since 2005.

John Viehe '71 (GAP) was awarded a certificate in documentary arts from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, based upon a video documentary featuring activities of Campbell University Divinity students in Israel and Palestine.



Alumna named to 'Forbes' list of top women wealth advisors

Merrill Lynch financial advisor **Fern (Grossman) Schwartz '77 (business administration)** has been named to the *Forbes* list of "America's Top Women Wealth Advisors" for 2017.

The list compiled by the business magazine features the leading 200 female financial advisors from around the country based on their success in working with clients to achieve their financial goals. Schwartz, of Pittsburgh, has been working at Merrill Lynch for 34 years.

She is honored to receive the *Forbes* designation, she said, in part because researchers took into account the process she uses to get to know her clients and their financial goals. She is mentoring others at Merrill Lynch on how to connect with clients.

"I love working with my clients and their families," Schwartz said. "That's my fuel, helping them achieve their dreams and goals, as well as sometimes helping them through difficult issues."

To see the list, go to <http://bit.ly/ForbesRIT>.



Thomas Klinkowstein '71 (GAP) exhibited his design fiction installation about the ideations of a fictional persona in 2055. *The Universe Emerges From Information: 10-43 Seconds in the State of Awareness of an Exo-Designer*, 2055 was shown at Studio-X (Columbia University in Istanbul) and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

1972

Thomas Winter '72 (GAP) and his wife, Irene Winter, have been married 43 years. They are now retired and living in New York and wintering in Fort Myers, Fla.

1977

John Brandte '77 (SCB) received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Hampshire School of Law in May 2014. He is now an associate at The Stein Law Firm in Concord, N.H.

D. Samuel Loquasto '77 (KGCoe) retired after 39 years in the electric generation workplace. "It is time for this engineer to hang up his work tools and start chasing dreams and grandkids."

1979

Wayne Shipman '79 (GAP) is a first-year student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia working on a Master of Divinity degree. This follows a varied career in the graphic arts and technical photography fields and a 30-year career at Eastman Kodak Co. and its subsidiaries.

1980

Tim Kilby '80 (GAP) is enjoying his third year of retirement with family and friends and remembering all his MFA photography classmates.

Kenneth Kuzia '78 (CCE), '80 (CCE) has been chosen to illustrate a new book by former Rochester resident Rand Gee. The book is a series of short stories about a fictitious summer resort town of Opine, Wis. He designed the cover art and other illustrations in the book.

1982

Owen Kassimir '81 (GAP), '82 (GAP) started coaching the men's and women's tennis teams at the New York Institute of Technology last spring. This is in addition to owning and operating Owen Photography in Woodbury, N.Y. He is also involved in the Professional Photographers Society of New York State, the Professional Photographers of Greater New York and he is the current president of the Huntington Bicycle Club.

David Clarke '82 (CAST) celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary with his wife, Kathy, on Aug. 21, 2016. They have two grandchildren: Carter Shaughnessy, 2; and Cooper Shaughnessy, 5 months.

Jeanette (Romeo) Tydings '82 (CLA) retired from RIT on June 30, 2017, after 38 ½ years of service. She held various positions across the RIT community and ends her career at NTID, where it all began. She looks forward to traveling with her husband, **Leo Tydings '83 (CLA)**, and enjoying more time with her children, **Melissa '10 (CAST)** and Chris, and granddaughter, Madison.

1983

Gerald Hoffman '81 (GAP), '83 (GAP) is the principal photographer for the documentary film *Yemanjá Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*. Narrated by

Alice Walker, the film and the companion photo exhibit, "Goddesses of Nature," were on display as part of the 15th Oakland International Film Festival at Holy Names University, Oakland, Calif. on April 5 and then within the Holy Names University Kennedy Arts Center during the month of April.



Richard Schneider '83 (GAP) has an exhibit called "Hidden Treasure: Panoramas of the Alaskan Frontier" on display at the National Archives at College Park, Md. The exhibit captures the beauty of Alaska, as captured on film by U.S. Geological Survey topographers from 1910-1932.

1984

Stephen Delucia '84 (COS/KGCOE) retired from Xerox Corp. in November 2016 where he was involved in nickel electroforming of fuel directors and stencils, production engineer in Teflon Coatings and then the last eight years analyzing toners.

1985

Tobi Sznajderman '85 (FAA) is the custom jewelry designer for the Don Muller Gallery in Northampton, Mass., and continues to produce her own work as a studio goldsmith.

1986

Ronald Klimley '86 (SCB) accepted a new role as the senior manager of organizational design and training with the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority in Tampa, Fla.

1988

Cavit Habib '88 (KGCOE) is the CEO and shareholder of ISS Facilities Services in Turkey. He employs 30,000 people and

runs four companies providing cleaning, maintenance, security, catering, landscaping and pest control services around the country.

Mary Hilburger Ryan '88 (COS) is now a senior regulatory medical writing scientist at Janssen Research and Development.



Saunders College graduates strike a deal on 'Shark Tank'

It was a wild mission to save elephants that helped two RIT Saunders College of Business alumni strike a deal on ABC's *Shark Tank* earlier this year.

Nathan Coleman '09 (marketing) from Ossining, N.Y., and **James Brooks '09 (international business)** from Schenectady, N.Y., gave up 17.5 percent of The Elephant Pants to fashion mogul shark Daymond John for \$500,000.

The e-commerce retail company, which was

launched in 2014, donates 10 percent of net profits to the International Elephant Foundation. The product line targets ages 18-34 and includes harem pants, yoga pants, loungers, kimonos and jewelry.

The Elephant Pants helped push the venture capitalist show past \$100 million in total deals in its time on air. Familiar to RIT entrepreneurship is "Shark" John, who was the keynote speaker at Saunders College Gasser Lecture Series in 2013.

Tiger Love

Yin-yang partners in love and business

A full-page photograph of Michael Murphy and Sau Cheng on their wedding day. Michael is on the left, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a purple and white striped tie. He is holding a glass of champagne. Sau is on the right, wearing a white wedding dress with a lace train and a white veil. She is holding a bouquet of orange and yellow roses. They are both smiling and looking at the camera. In the background, there is a doorway decorated with a floral arrangement of red and orange flowers and greenery.

Michael Murphy and Sau Cheng exchanged wedding vows in the Cayman Islands on Dec. 8, 2011.

Michael Murphy had to propose twice before Sau Cheng said yes.

The first time was in 2007, when he got down on one knee in Rochester's Highland Park. Cheng took one look at the box in his hand and said, "You got me a promise ring, how nice." She finally agreed three years later when he proposed during Christmas time in Washington, D.C. "I did it early in the morning, before she could think about it and change her mind," said Murphy with a laugh.

"You could call our relationship tumultuous; Sau is my cougar, one year older and always one step ahead of me," said Murphy, who hails from Marcellus, N.Y. He spent three years studying international business from 2004-2007.

Cheng, a native of Hong Kong whose family owns several restaurants in Syracuse, N.Y., was the first member of her family to go to college and graduated with a marketing degree in 2007.

Perhaps it was serendipity that Murphy often ordered take-out food from Cheng Tu Restaurant before ever meeting his future wife on the RIT campus, but a shared destiny was not evident at their first encounter.

"I was coming to interview for the Saunders College Future Business Leaders club—and was an hour late due to a snowstorm," said Murphy. "Sau was obviously irritated by the delay, gave me the cold shoulder and there was an instant clash of personalities."

As Cheng remembers: "He was just this annoying up-and-coming freshman who was overconfident enough to think

he could become the future president of the leadership club. Everyone liked him and I ended up becoming the Olivia Pope from *Scandal* who later ran his campaign."

Murphy obviously was elected to the post—and the twosome soon became inseparable. The couple exchanged wedding vows in front of "close RIT friends" and family in the Cayman Islands on Dec. 8, 2011.

After RIT, they worked in industry positions (human resources, research and marketing) before becoming globe trotters, business partners and co-founders of Wonka Lab, which they refer to as "adventure networking."

Based in Irving, Calif., the company works with startups, corporate investors and opportunity seekers from around the globe to explore the latest opportunities in technology and business.

"Last March, Wonka Lab hosted an inaugural Totem Summit conference in Whistler, British Columbia, and it was a sell-out," said Cheng. "We encourage people to have fun while developing meaningful connections to improve their lives and their businesses. Our goal is to make the world a better place."

Murphy said working and living together 24/7 has made their marriage union grow stronger. "We are yin and yang, polar opposites, but we make it work. We laugh a lot; we also share a passion and belief that great success, adventure and lifestyle go hand-in-hand."

Marcia Morphy



Daniel Williams '88 (SCB) has been promoted to chief financial officer at E.W. Howell Construction Group, a New York-based general construction and construction management firm with offices in Manhattan and Long Island.

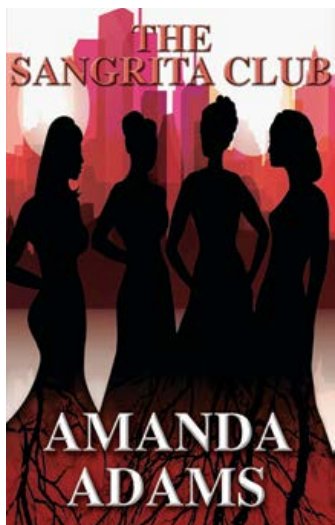
1992

Jake Hendrix '92 (CIAS) recently released the movie 4. For more, go to www.jixavision.com.

1993

Gerald Hurley '93 (KGCOE) is now a technical program manager—manufacturing engineering at RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability.

1994



Phyllis Adams '94 (SCB) is excited to announce the release of her new novel, *The Sangrita Club*, using her pen name, Amanda Adams. She set out to write a nonfiction work about diversity but ended up writing a novel about diverse women in corporate America who look beyond their differences, celebrate their similarities and develop a sisterhood.

1995



Melodie Kolmetz '95 (COS) has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the RIT physician assistant program. She comes to RIT from clinical PA practice, most recently in gastroenterology.



Daisei Konno '95 (CIAS), '99 (COS) writes that the RIT Kendo Club hosted the fourth annual alumni day seminar on Feb. 18, 2017, at RIT. The seminar was given by Shuji Matsushita, Kyoshi 7-Dan. Attendees included many alumni.

1997

Charles Wilson '97 (CIAS) was hired in January to teach a J-Term class at Huntington University about the history of women animators.

1998



Rukiya (Floyd) Isoke '95 (CCE), '98 (CAST), '01 (NTID) completed her Ph.D. on March 10, 2017, from Capella University's College of Education, specializing in instructional design for online learning.

1999

Verna Hazen '99 (SCB) retired in September 2016 after 25 years as director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at RIT and "many more" as a financial aid professional.

2000

Erin Thaete '00 (SCB) is now business director at Beach Medical Services in Geneva and Plattsburgh, N.Y.



Nicholas Spittal '00 (COS), '01 (SCB) has joined INC Research as vice president, clinical development. In this role, he guides clients on clinical development strategies and leads global teams with delivery tactics to bring new therapies to market for eye diseases.

2002



Richard Parrinello '02 (CIAS), a current and native Rochesterian, became the first Machida Karate certified affiliate instructor in the northeastern United States.

2004



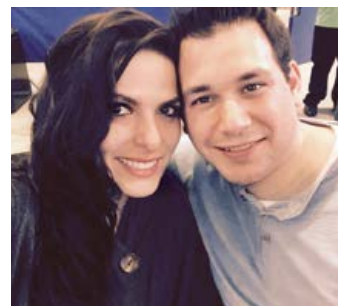
Mark Welser '04 (CAST) opened an ice cream parlor and eatery at T.I. Park on Wellesley Island, N.Y., for the 2017 summer season. The business is at the rebuilt Guzzle that tragically burned down a few years ago.

2005

Christine Marino '05 (CIAS) has accepted a position with the city of Niagara Falls Community Development Department as the program coordinator for the Zombie Housing Project. She will work to provide assistance to owners of properties in danger of falling into foreclosure and assist in resolving issues related to vacant and already foreclosed properties.



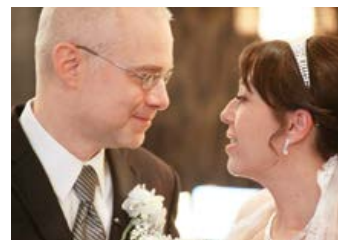
Daniel Beca '05 (GCCIS), '17 (SCB) works as the director of marketing technology for local marketing firm Catalyst (www.catalystinc.com) and was married in 2014 to his wife, Erin.



Bethany Kaplan '03 (CIAS), '05 (SCB) and Eric Demanche announced their engagement this past September. A July wedding was planned in New Hampshire.

Kara (Doughman) Austin '05 (CIAS) has accepted the position of design manager in the public relations and communications office of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

2006



John Gifford '06 (KGCOE) and Amy Countryman celebrated their wedding with a ceremony and reception at Club 86 in Geneva, N.Y., on Nov. 26, 2016. The couple lives in the Bristol hills with four of their children.

Tiger Cubs



1 Jennifer Hafner '94 (CIAS) welcomed a daughter, Addison Mackenzie, in February 2017.

2 Karen (Donnelly) Schroeder '98 (CAST) and Scott Schroeder welcomed their first child, Easton Scott, on Dec. 23, 2016. Karen is an estimator on the Retail Marketing Team for Flower City Printers in Rochester.

3 Erik Dolatowski '02 (KGCOE) and Toccarr Murphy '04 (CIAS) welcomed Xander Ben Dolatowski on July 11, 2016.

4 Jeremy Sebest '99 (NTID), '97 (NTID), '02 (CIAS) and Caya (Consunji) Sebest '02 (GCCIS) welcomed Gianna Maria Consunji Sebest on March 18, 2017.

5 Valerie (Ryan) Ward '04 (CIAS) and Christopher Ward '04, '05 (GCCIS) welcomed a daughter, Cora, on Jan. 26, 2017.

Tiffany Karlik '05 (KGCOE) welcomed a baby girl, Emily Grace, in December 2016.

6 Binh Do '05 (KGCOE) is pleased to announce the birth of his daughter, Cora, born in July 2016.

7 Alex Voznesenskiy '05 (CIAS) and his wife, Charlotte Mouquin, welcomed Zara Anastacia Voznesenskaya on June 8, 2016. Voznesenskiy was recently promoted to prepress manager at Time Inc. Books, the book publishing division of Time Inc.

8 Ashlee McLoughlin '07 (CIAS) and Doug McLoughlin '07 (CAST) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Anthony Frederick, on Nov. 20, 2016, in Rochester.

9 Hemant Puri '07 (SCB) and Sheetal Puri welcomed their second child, Daksh Puri, on Aug. 20, 2016, in Mumbai. Mithran Puri, who was born in June 2007, is proud to have Daksh as a little brother.

10 Sean O'Connor '07 (CAST) and his wife, Meghan, welcomed the birth of their first daughter, Shannon Carter O'Connor, on Feb. 8, 2017.

11 Kimberly (Rosenthal) Oliver '07 (CIAS) and Craig P. Oliver '06 (CAST) are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Theodore Augustus. He was born on Dec. 25, 2016, in Rochester.

12 Nathan Polselli '11 (CLA), '11 (GCCIS) welcomes Dmitri Nathan Polselli, who was born on Feb. 22, 2016. He enjoys climbing stairs, pulling the tail of the family cat and digging in the dirt.



Joseph Lowry '06 (KGCOE) was presented with the 2017 Young Engineer of the Year award by the Erie/Niagara Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers.

2007



Renee Klenert '07 (CIAS) and **Stephen Klenert** celebrated their wedding in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on Oct. 8, 2016, at Skidmore College's Wilson Chapel. Close friends and family, including bridesmaid **Jillian Seaton '08 (CIAS)**, sisters of RIT's Alpha Xi Delta and fellow RIT alumni, were in attendance. The couple lives in Weehawken, N.J.



Fred (Ben) Woelk '07 (CAST) has been named an Associate Fellow by the Society for Technical Communication. Woelk is the information security program manager at RIT.

Jorge Gonzales '07 (SCB) went back to his home country, Peru, and worked several years for the Canadian mining company Barrick Gold after graduating. In 2016, he was promoted to financial controls manager for the North American region and is now living in Las Vegas since July 2016.

2008



odontal surgery and began practicing this summer in Rochester.

Filip David Ambrosio '08 (COS) graduated in May from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. Ambrosio completed his postdoctoral residency in the field of periodontal surgery and began practicing this summer in Rochester.



Debra Ruzinsky '08 (CIAS) has been appointed director of the Appalachian Center for Craft in Smithville, Tenn. The craft center is a campus of Tennessee Tech University and supports BFA students in the School of Art, Craft and Design.



Margot Sandy '08 (CAST), '12 (KGCOE) writes that after more than eight years working as a product development engineer for Fisher-Price and Brookstone developing all types of consumer products, she has started her own business called In The Now.



Alison VonDollen '08 (CIAS) and **Joseph Nachef** were married on Aug. 27, 2016. They celebrated with friends and family, including alumni and current co-worker **Brittany Peters '07 (CIAS)**.



Alumnus wins award for undergraduate physics research

A graduate of the College of Science was recognized in July by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the Advanced Laboratory Physics Association for his contributions as an undergraduate student researcher to RIT's School of Physics and Astronomy.

Ryan Scott '16 (physics) has won the AAPT-ALPhA Award for developing a new experiment for the upper-level undergraduate physics lab at RIT. The award also recognizes Scott's faculty advisers Edwin Hach III, assistant professor of physics, and Stefan Preble, associate professor of microsystems engineering and electrical and microelectronic engineering. Hach and Preble are both members of the university's Future Photon Initiative, an RIT signature research area.

Scott's experiment can be used as an undergraduate teaching tool to explain concepts that form the basis of quantum computing research. It demonstrates fundamental quantum mechanics by replicating the Hong-Ou Mandel effect to study the behavior of photons, or particles of light. The experiment illustrates superposition and entanglement, fundamental quantum mechanical effects that capture two photons, as a wave and a particle, with one influencing the other at a distance.

Scott develops and implements software at Epic Systems Corp. in Madison, Wis.



Simon Pontin '08 (SCB) started Finger Lakes Vintage & Sports Car LLC. The new company specializes in restoration of vintage autos. Learn more at www.FLKVSC.com.



Jamie Oakes '09 (CIAS), a distiller at Tamworth Distilling and Mercantile, writes that the business was featured in several articles, including a *New York Times* piece on gins that conjure spring delights.



Aimee (Curre) Doud '09 (CIAS) is currently working as a corporate trainer for American Savings Bank in Honolulu. She was the branch manager for American Savings Bank's Waikiki location.



Rebecca Lane Oesterle '09 (CAST) achieved lifetime CPP (certified packaging professional) from the Institute of Packaging Professionals. In addition, she now has an expanded role as manager of Packaging & Graphic Development for Just Born Quality Confections Inc.



David Moufarrege '09 (SCB) accepted a position as vice president, technology, with Imprimis Pharmaceuticals Inc. in San Diego. He was formerly the chief information officer of St. Ann's Community in Rochester. He relocated with his wife, **Rita '82 (FAA)**, and their daughter, Carrie, to San Diego.

2011



Scott Bureau '11 (CLA) '16 (SCB) and **Lindsay Power '10 (KGCOE)** celebrated their wedding at Westminster Chapel in Mendon, N.Y., on Feb. 25, 2017. In attendance were dozens of family, friends and RIT alumni from across the country. The wedding party included **Donald Leclerc '12 (KGCOE)**, **Tracey (O'Dowd) Leclerc '12 (CAST)**, **Jeremy Frey '10 (CAST)**, **Stephany Wedgwood '14 (COS)**, **Craig Sweet '12 (CAST)**, **John Kreuder '11 (KGCOE)**, **Ashley (DeVerno) Kreuder '11 (KGCOE)**, **Leonardo Gala Jr. '11 (KGCOE)** and **Nicole Bureau '18 (KGCOE)**. They currently live in Rochester, where Scott works with RIT University News Services and Lindsay is an engineer II with Harris Corp.

Kristin Cavallaro '11 (SCB) was promoted to management analyst for Monroe County's Office of Management and Budget in March 2017.



Matthew Benedict '08 (KGCOE) and **Roberta DiLeo '08 (COS) '09 (COS) '12 (KGCOE)** met in Baker Hall in 2003, remained close friends for six years, dated for another seven, and then tied the knot March 4, 2017, under the stars in the Strasenburgh Planetarium at Rochester Museum & Science Center.

2009



Aaron Cook '09 (CAST) was promoted to associate at Erdman Anthony. He is a member of the facilities engineering and design services core business in the Rochester office.



James Breunig '09 (KGCOE) started the engineering company XCEED Engineering and Consulting PC in 2014 after working for Ginna Nuclear Plant for five years. His company, www.xceed-eng.com, does mechanical and civil engineering projects in all fields, including nuclear power.



Alumni company makes Brazil's Top 100 startups list

UNA Smart, touted as an innovative way to brew coffee and tea anywhere and created by five RIT alumni, was recently named to Brazil's Top 100 startups list by 100 Open Startups and Wenovate-Open Innovation Center.

UNA Smart cracked the

top 100 among the 2,800 startups considered and ranked fourth in its category, reportedly making it one of the best companies to invest in this year.

Mauricio Reck '16 (manufacturing and mechanical systems integration),

Guilherme Andrade '15 (mechanical engineering), **Lara Goulart '16 (industrial design)**, **Bruno Scarpin '16 (manufacturing and mechanical systems integration)** and **Thiago Lima '16 (electrical engineering)**, all of Brazil, created the UNA Smart device in 2015. Marcelo Sala has since joined the team.

UNA Smart users fill the device with water, insert a biodegradable coffee pod and click a button either on the coffee maker or on the mobile app to begin brewing. The mobile app also allows users to set timers for their coffee brewing, track daily consumption and caffeine intake, and reorder UNA coffee pods automatically.

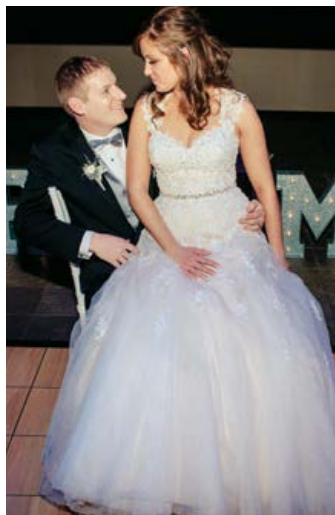
2012

Jessica Rought '12 (SCB), '13 (SCB), of Nashua, N.H., was promoted to senior in the audit practice at Baker Newman Noyes, one of the nation's top 100 accounting and consulting firms. She joined the firm in July 2015, having previously been with Shatswell, MacLeod & Co.

Kate Komorowski '12 (CAST) has been promoted to engineer III within the Wastewater Department of Barton & Loguidice, an engineering, planning, environmental and landscape architecture firm.

2013

Lauren Dearman '13 (NTID) married **Matthew Pillsbury '12 (CIAS)** on Oct. 15, 2016, in Cortland, N.Y. About two dozen alumni were in attendance, including half of the bridesmaids and groomsmen.



Lindsay Burke '13 (CAST) and **Brian Koscielniak '09 (CAST)** were married on Dec. 9, 2016, in Skaneateles, N.Y. They met at their shared worksite on Dec. 6, 2010.



Janna Luksha '10 (NTID), '13 (SOIS), a NASM certified personal trainer who is deaf, started the ASL Bootcamp at the Eastside YMCA of Greater Rochester in Penfield, N.Y., where she is employed. The ASL Bootcamp is an eight-week program that is open to any fitness level for enthusiasts who are deaf or are interested in learning ASL while becoming fit.

2014



Ryan Peterson '14 (CHST) and **Sarah Rose Sampson '14 (CHST)** got engaged on June 16, 2016, at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. They planned to tie the knot on June 9, 2017, in Rochester.



Dustin Kochensparger '14 (GCCIS) was promoted to the role of line producer at Bungie, the creator of the hit video game *Destiny*. He is part of the Live team and has been the lead producer on the last three major game updates.

2015



Dina Johnson '15 (CHST) has accepted a position at the University of Rochester School of Nursing and Psychiatry department as a human subject clinical research coordinator.

Mariah Texidor '15 (CIAS) obtained full-time employment with 70 South Gallery in Morristown, N.J., as a lab printer.

Ryan Meadows '15 (CIAS) finally popped the question to his college love **Andreas Roalsvig '15 (CIAS)**. He said "yes."

Ethan Whritenor '15 (KGCOE) has been working at Rochester Gas & Electric as an associate engineer for just over a year.

Emily Cali '15 (CIAS) attended the General Assembly Web Development Immersive program and hopes that the skills she learned from the intensive boot camp will help her be more marketable within her company, Booz Allen Hamilton.



Erin (Woods) Patel '15 (CAST) and **Pritesh Patel** celebrated their wedding with two ceremonies in Chicago on July 9, 2016. Wedding attendees included **Indira Dalel-Rodriguez '09 (SCB), '12 (SOIS)**; **Maritza Garcia '14 (CIAS)**; **Monica Martinez '10 (SCB)**; **Melissa Richter '14 (SCB)**; **Travis Williams '15 (CAST)**; **Marian Van Vlack '15 (CAST)**; and **Purav Arya '08 (CAST)**.

Justyn Carll '15 (KGCOE) recently started Premium Nootropics LLC with twin brother **Colby Carll '15 (CAST)**.

Linda Chamot '15 (SOIS) was selected as a 2016-17 RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar.

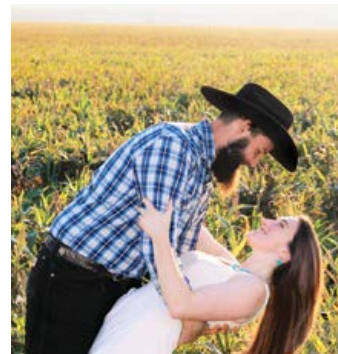
2016

Nicholas Giordano '16 (SCB) started a job at Esri in Redlands, Calif., as a GIS consultant and project manager for state and local governments.

Huang Chen '16 (GCCIS) was promoted in less than nine months at Liberty Mutual as an IT analyst. He is also pursuing YouTube filming and cinematography.



Keleigh (Bicknell) Alsheimer '16 (KGCOE) and **Zachary Alsheimer '15 (KGCOE)** were married at the Bristol Harbor Resort in Canandaigua, N.Y., on Sept. 23, 2016. The wedding party included **Paulina Kleinberger '16 (KGCOE)**, **Quincey Stuck '16 (KGCOE)**, **Joshua Eddy '15 (GCCIS)**, **Michael Fleszar '15 (KGCOE)**, and **Sean Langan '16 (KGCOE)**. The wedding coupled as a reunion for more than 30 RIT alumni. Zach and Keleigh currently live in Northern Kentucky and work for Toyota and GE Aviation, respectively.



Shannon Ryan '16 (SCB) was promoted to full-time employee status three months after starting with Chatsworth Products as a marketing intern. She now manages digital promotions and website updates. Ryan is also now engaged to her fiancé, Schuyler, and they are getting married in April 2018.

Are you moving?

If your address changes, you can make sure you continue to receive *The University Magazine* by reporting your new address to the Office of Alumni Relations. Send an email to ritalum@rit.edu or call the office toll free at 866-748-2586.

Alumni can also keep in touch through the Online Community. Go to www.rit.edu/alumni.

ROAR Day

Tuesday, October 3, 2017



**Did you know . . . that Tigers can
ROAR over 3,200 times in one day?
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ROAR Day is RIT's annual day of giving and is an opportunity for Tigers everywhere to give back to the university. When you ROAR, it echoes throughout campus for the whole year. **Make a gift and make some noise for RIT!**

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rit.edu/ROARDay



ROAR/DAY
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RIT

In Memoriam

Alumni

1929

Thelma (Starr) Hettrick '29 (SCB), Dec. 25, 2016

1939

Anthony F. Smyrski '39 (KGCOE), Jan. 6, 2017

1941

Frances (Wolf) Lederman '41 (FAA), Feb. 26, 2017
Lena M. Slusser '41 (SCB), March 22, 2017

1943

Robert J. Kindt '43 (KGCOE), Feb. 9, 2017

1944

Tracy Baxter '44 (KGCOE), April 14, 2017

1947

M. Evelyn (Rose) Adams '47 (FAA), March 25, 2017

1945

Arthur A. Nowak '45 (CCE), '53 (CCE), Feb. 24, 2017

1948

Mary (Ernenwein) Burns '48 (SCB), Jan. 21, 2017

1949

Donald E. Preston '49 (GAP), March 11, 2017
Robert R. Radmore '49 (KGCOE), Feb. 26, 2017

1950

Alexander Kilinski '50 (KGCOE), Dec. 27, 2016
Bernard E. Lapa '50 (CCE), Feb. 14, 2017
Jack D. Michie '50 (CCE), Jan. 30, 2017
Dolores (Santy) Miller '50 (SCB), Jan. 1, 2017
Alexander M. Sikora '50 (KGCOE), March 27, 2017

1951

Roberta C. Beyea '51 (SCB), March 11, 2017
William E. Carnahan '51 (GAP), Jan. 15, 2017
Daniel D. O'Connell '51 (GAP), Jan. 13, 2017
George F. Wu '51 (GAP), April 6, 2017

1952

Louis R. Baglio '52 (SCB), Jan. 15, 2017
Roger C. Harnaart '52 (KGCOE), March 25, 2017
Bradley C. Smith '52 (KGCOE), Jan. 27, 2017

1953

John A. Ratcliffe '53 (GAP), Feb. 23, 2017

1954

Nan (Hart) Droz '54 (SCB), March 21, 2017

1955

Alex J. Cichelli '55 (CCE), April 10, 2017
Werner Marx '55 (GAP), April 10, 2017
Gerald E. Mattys '55 (CCE), March 6, 2017

1956

Charles J. Crane '56 (CCE), March 31, 2017
Armin E. Wimmer '56 (GAP), April 13, 2017

1957

Janet (Hosley) Aron '57 (SCB), Feb. 5, 2017
James W. Bender '57 (KGCOE), Dec. 31, 2016
Alan H. Davidson '57 (SCB), Feb. 9, 2017
Robert E. Hooker '57 (SCB), Jan. 31, 2017
Walter T. Piehler '57 (CCE), January 2017
William L. Tomkiewicz '57 (CCE), April 9, 2017
Clark A. Tooty '57 (GAP), Jan. 14, 2017

1958

Harry E. Barnes '58 (SCB), March 10, 2017
James G. Laragy '58 (GAP), Jan. 13, 2017
Robert A. Meibaum '58 (GAP), Jan. 31, 2017
Josephine A. (Siandack) Miller '58 (SCB), April 2, 2017
Richard E. Richenberg '58 (KGCOE), Feb. 20, 2017
Roger K. Smith '58 (KGCOE), Feb. 11, 2017
John D. Ventura '58 (KGCOE), April 12, 2017
John R. Boyd '58 (FAA), April 28, 2017

1959

Donald F. Riecks '59 (GAP), Jan. 25, 2017
W. William Schumacher '59 (SCB), Dec. 27, 2016

1960

Richard W. Cleveland '60 (GAP), Feb. 24, 2017
John P. Dinino '60 (CCE), Jan. 13, 2017
Robert W. Kirchhoff '60 (CCE), Feb. 26, 2017

1961

Thomas R. O'Grady '61 (CCE), Jan. 26, 2017
John Carver Rice '61 (KGCOE), Jan. 16, 2017
Donald E. Spindler '61 (CCE), April 1, 2017

1962

Raymond C. Kesel Jr. '62 (CCE), Jan. 31, 2017
Robert L. Reid '62 (KGCOE), April 12, 2017
Alan R. Webster '62 (SCB), Feb. 6, 2017

1963

Elmer J. Cooman '63 (CCE), Feb. 9, 2017
Albert W. Falkenstein '63 (CCE), Feb. 28, 2017
Judith (Pearce) Kuhman '63 (CCE), April 7, 2017
Robert R. Rivers '63 (CCE), Feb. 17, 2017

1964

Arthur D. Berndt '64 (CCE), Jan. 19, 2017
Richard O. Casper '64 (CCE), April 12, 2017
Ronald F. Dichario '64 (CCE), Feb. 12, 2017
Gary H. Foster '64 (KGCOE), Dec. 29, 2016
Kathy (Lauer) Gerbic '64 (FAA), May 13, 2017

1965

Bruce T. Glenwright '65 (CCE), Feb. 6, 2017
G. Wayne Sovocool '65 (COS), March 20, 2017

1966

Guy W. Avery '66 (CCE), March 2, 2017
Charles G. Braun '66 (CCE), March 26, 2017

1967

Vincent Campbell Jr. '67 (SCB), Feb. 1, 2017
Barbara L. Stein '67 (COS), March 25, 2017

1968

Merritt W. Ackles '68 (CCE), Jan. 15, 2017
Paul J. Dentinger '68 (COS), Feb. 13, 2017
R. Craig George '68 (COS), Feb. 9, 2017
Gordon J. Holbig '68 (CCE), Feb. 24, 2017
David F. Wicks '68 (CCE), Feb. 17, 2017

1969

Peter Solecky '69 (KGCOE), February 2017

1970

Ronald R. Mayer '70 (KGCOE), Jan. 22, 2017

1971

John Robert Gunther Jr. '71 (GAP), March 21, 2017
Arthur J. Riley '71 (CCE), April 17, 2017

1972

James G. Anderson '72 (SCB), April 17, 2017
David F. Murphy '72 (SCB), Jan. 25, 2017
Lloyd Schaber '72 (CCE), Feb. 21, 2017
Wayne A. Sheeler '72 (FAA), Jan. 14, 2017
James F. Zimmer '72 (CCE), '93 (CCE), Jan. 26, 2017

1973

Duane F. Koss '73 (CCE), April 2017

1974

Thomas F. Blazynski '74 (CCE), April 3, 2017
David K. Goodnight '74 (KGCOE), Jan. 25, 2017
James A. Stalnaker '74 (CCE), Jan. 13, 2017
Richard B. Sykes '74 (SCB), March 29, 2017

1975

Robert M. Brady '75 (NTID), March 9, 2017
Harry J. Gersey '75 (SCB), Feb. 17, 2017
Dewey E. Horning '75 (CCE), '85 (CAST), Feb. 15, 2017
Lowell E. McCaw '75 (CAST), March 29, 2017
Willard C. Milliman '75 (CCE), March 14, 2017

1976

Steven C. Stricker '76 (CCE), Feb. 8, 2017
Raymond S. Vosefski '76 (CCE), '77 (CCE), January 2017

1977

Michael W. Gust '77 (KGCOE), '80 (KGCOE), March 23, 2017
Frank A. Johnston '77 (CAST), Feb. 22, 2017
Bohdan Laluk '77 (CCE), Feb. 21, 2017
Francis Mastrodonato '77 (CCE), Dec. 24, 2016
Carmen J. Rossi '77 (CCE), March 28, 2017

Charles R. Schuchart '77 (CCE), March 17, 2017
Kenneth H. Vanduzer '77 (CCE), March 28, 2017

1978

David L. Desch '78 (CCE), March 27, 2017
William J. Higgins '78 (SCB), Jan. 14, 2017
Ronald Alan Ploesch '78 (NTID), Jan. 3, 2017
Michael D. Salamone '78 (CCE), March 14, 2017
Robert F. Weise '78 (CAST), Feb. 11, 2017

1979

H. Paul Menkis '79 (CAST), March 23, 2017
Ray Williams '79 (KGCOE), Dec. 29, 2016

1980

John Michael Brightman '80 (CAST), Jan. 6, 2017
Elizabeth Dillon '80 (FAA), '82 (FAA), March 2017
Beverly Mary James '80 (CCE), '84 (CCE), April 2017

1981

John C. Bahret '81 (CLA), March 16, 2017
Brian Donald Bock '81 (CAST), Jan. 28, 2017
Christopher John Wall '81 (SCB), April 1, 2017
Norman Richard Youngjohn '81 (CCE), March 4, 2017

1982

Harry Lorren Miller '82 (SCB), Jan. 27, 2017
Neil Alan Spink '82 (CCE), March 31, 2017

1983

Mary Margaret Leach '83 (SCB), Jan. 23, 2017
Frank Anthony Marticelli '83 (CAST), March 2, 2017
Michael Senko '83 (CCE), '88 (SCB), Dec. 23, 2016
Paul Damon Schmidt '83 (NTID), Nov. 5, 2016

1984

David A. Bringley '84 (CAST), Feb. 25, 2017
John Dana Carp '84 (SCB), Jan. 2, 2017
Allan W. Davis '84 (SCB), Feb. 17, 2017
John Duszynski '84 (CAST), Feb. 20, 2017
Jack Edmund Gerke '84 (CCE), March 19, 2017

1985

Debra Fredricka Desimony '85 (CAST), Jan. 15, 2017
Joan A. Smith '85 (CCE), '85 (CCE), Jan. 27, 2017

1987

Cynthia (Siebach) Lindeman '87 (CAST), '96 (CAST), March 18, 2017
Aaron M. J. Menchel '87 (COS), Nov. 25, 2016

1988

Ralph G. Bushey '88 (CCE), March 8, 2017

1989

Richard Gerard Radlinsky '89 (CAST), Dec. 27, 2016

1992

Patrick Gerard Jenkins '92 (CAST), Jan. 21, 2017

1993

Francine Annette (Olivadoti) Cronin '93 (CCE), April 11, 2017
Karen L. Walker '93 (KGCOE), Jan. 1, 2017

1996

Deborah Lynn Bennett '96 (CLA), April 6, 2017
Steven James Harris '96 (CAST), '96 (CAST), Jan. 28, 2017

1998

David C. McCracken '98 (CAST), '02 (CAST), '02 (CAST), Jan. 6, 2017

1999

Christopher W. Graser '99 (COS), March 30, 2017

2000

Richard D. Humphreys '00 (CIAS), Dec. 24, 2016

2003

Latika K. Jones '03 (NTID), March 12, 2017
Barney F. Slayton '03 (CAST), Jan. 24, 2017

2006

Toni M. Vitale '06 (COS), Feb. 10, 2017

Faculty and Staff

Egon Stark, professor emeritus, Department of Biology, College of Science, April 12, 2017



No. 14, August 2017

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from the Archives



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT first opened its doors in 1987. It was originally called The Athenaeum.

Photo provided by RIT Archive Collections

Osher at RIT celebrates 30-year milestone

The brain never retires.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT (Osher at RIT) now boasts 700 active members—many of whom will celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary this October. The milestone has not gone unnoticed, simply because the active and stimulating environment for 50-plus learners has become a go-to place in the Greater Rochester community where people can continue to teach, learn and remain active in their retirement and semi-retirement years.

Osher at RIT offers 50-plus courses during fall, winter and spring and shorter summer classes with seminar lectures, where members share their life experiences and interests across a wide spectrum. There are no grades, no homework, no pressure—just plenty of feel-good camaraderie among thinkers who wish to share the sheer joy of learning.

Marie Levin, who lives in Fairport, N.Y., retired 14 years ago and a new world of lifelong learning opened when she joined Osher at RIT. She started taking classes on a wide range of subjects—science, history, art, literature and government. Eventually her interest in history grew and she soon began leading classes in ancient history.

"This was a new experience after spending 35 years in the clinical laboratory business," said Levin. "As a member-led organization, I became a member of the Osher Council and held various leadership positions. Osher membership provided me with new opportunities and challenges, every day, all year long."

According to Mary Bistrovich, Osher at RIT program administrator, the members are the heart and soul of the organization. "They have fascinating and diverse backgrounds, interests and careers which contribute to the incredible knowledge base that exists at Osher. Their passion for teaching and learning inspires me every day."

The idea for the organization started in 1986 when Mark Blazey, then RIT dean of training and professional development, visited the University of Delaware and was so impressed with its model of Individual Learning in Retirement (ILR) that he returned home and presented a plan to RIT's Board of Trustees. A year later, "The Athenaeum" was born from RIT's original name in 1829.

Fast forward to 2006, The Athenaeum was awarded a \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation and became Os-

her Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT—joining a network that operates on the campuses of 120 institutions of higher education from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska.

"Our current facility, Rivers Run, has 6,500 square feet of space and five classrooms," said Bistrovich. "We named the building The Athenaeum in honor of our roots and late last year received a \$25,000 capacity-building grant from the Osher Foundation to help increase membership and continue to provide members with exceptional programs they have come to love."

According to Levin, there are so many misconceptions about aging. "This is the opposite. These people are very, very energetic and active. To all members, a job well done. Happy 30th anniversary Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT."

Marcia Morphy

To learn more

The 30th anniversary celebration of Osher at RIT will be Oct. 20 at Locust Hill Country Club. For more information, contact osher.info@rit.edu.



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- ▼ By investing shares in a donor advised fund and creating future flexibility for yourself.

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So don’t let capital gains taxes get you down. Put your appreciated securities to work for you and for the organization you love.

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