

R·I·T

The University Magazine

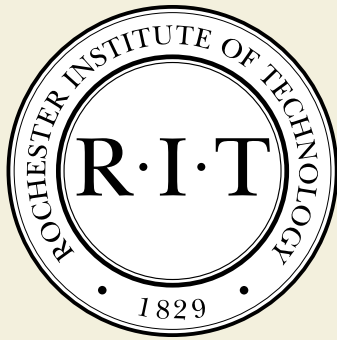
Spring 2017



Saying goodbye

- President leverages RIT's unique strengths and leaves solid legacy
- Introducing RIT's next president

Closing the gender gap
in computing



RIT: The University Magazine

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Vol. 19, No. 1, 120M-P1997-3/2017-LANE-JSA
Printer: The Lane Press; Burlington, Vermont
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Photo by Will Strawser '10/Myers Creative Imaging

RIT President Bill Destler retires in June.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Proud and thankful for time at RIT

As many of you know, I will step down as your president this summer after 10 years in this role.

Rebecca and I can only offer our heartfelt thanks for the support and encouragement that all of you have offered.

We are, of course, proud of what has been accomplished during this decade, but mostly we are proud of you—our students, faculty, staff and alumni. The efforts of all of you to improve the experience that RIT students receive during their tenure here simply amaze us. The work that so many of you have done to turn a half-baked idea like Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival into a veritable showcase of what this remarkable university is all about is something we will never forget. And the commitment of all of you to ensuring that RIT remains an inclusive and welcoming community for all makes us so proud to have our names associated with this wonderful place.

I have been particularly pleased that the search process for identifying RIT's next president has been guided by RIT's core shared values. Our love of geeks, artists

and humanists, and our belief in the possibilities that can grow out of a greater connection between them, is one such value. Our commitment to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community and our appreciation for the unique diversity they bring to our campus is another. Our efforts to build an elite university without becoming elitist and our associated commitment to maintaining access to RIT for those from economically and socially challenged backgrounds are particularly noteworthy. And finally, our commitment to provide a rigorous, intellectually challenging education for our students that will ensure them a promising future is as strong as ever.

And I couldn't be more enthusiastic about the selection of Dr. David C. Munson Jr. as RIT's 10th president. I hope that all of you will strongly support him in his efforts to keep RIT on its remarkably positive trajectory. Over the past few weeks I have had the chance to interact with Dr. Munson on several occasions, and I have been deeply impressed with the range of his experience in higher education and his vision for what RIT can become.

Dr. Munson will assume the duties of president in July of this year. Until that time I would ask that you continue to work with Rebecca and me to advance RIT's strategic plan and our ongoing fundraising efforts. The field of higher education is an increasingly competitive one, and institutions that stand still for a period will almost certainly lose ground to their peer institutions. We do not intend to "coast" through our final months, and we hope that you will continue to work with us to keep RIT moving forward.

One final word: My tenure at RIT has been truly a partnership with Rebecca. Her contributions to our sustainability efforts and her many connections with students across the university, and especially with students of color, have helped to put a human face on this place and to reassure all within our community that their voices can be heard. She has been active in the greater Rochester community and has played a major role in the Rochester City Scholars Program.

But more importantly, at least to me, she has been my partner, my friend, my love, my counselor and my strongest supporter. I don't know how to adequately say thanks to her, but I hope this feeble attempt will do until I find a way to say it better. Thanks, Becca.

And Go Tigers!

Bill Destler, President
www.rit.edu/president

R·I·T

Departments

- 2 On Campus
- 4 About Students
- 6 Research
- 18 Tiger Talk
- 32 Alumni Updates
- 38 Class Notes
- 40 Tiger Love

Features

8 Professional success

RIT is one of the leading universities in the nation in preparing students on the autism spectrum for the workforce.

14 Women in computing

A group was created in 2008 to help empower women in computing fields to succeed and thrive at RIT.

20 Saying goodbye

RIT President Bill Destler and Rebecca Johnson leverage RIT's strengths and leave a solid legacy.

28 Meet RIT's 10th president

David C. Munson Jr., former dean of the University of Michigan College of Engineering, begins on July 1.

31 A bright new day

NTID's Sunshine 2.0 is a reboot of the Sunshine Too program from the 1980s.

Cover

President Bill Destler will retire at the end of this academic year. Destler accomplished his vision of turning RIT into one of the most innovative universities in the world. (Photo by Will Strawser '10/Myers Creative Imaging)



Photo by Elizabeth Lamsak

NOTEBOOK

Anti-terrorism

It's Time: ExOut Extremism, a student project, has won another prestigious prize.

The online initiative, which started as a classroom assignment, has been awarded \$149,000 from the Department of Homeland Security to continue its campaign to counter violent extremism.

The award comes just months after winning the State Department's Peer to Peer (P2P) Challenging Extremism competition.

Online scores high

RIT has been recognized for having some of the best online programs in the nation. The 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Online Programs rankings had RIT ranked 33rd for "Best Online Graduate MBA programs," and 35th for "Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs."

New partnership

Tianjin University of Technology of China has entered into new partnership agreements to enroll students in one- and two-year programs at Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Tianjin University of Technology has been a partner of NTID.



RIT officially launches MAGIC Spell Studios

With a touch of virtual reality and a Hollywood-style movie trailer and poster, RIT in November launched the building that will house MAGIC Spell Studios.

The program will link RIT's internationally ranked academic programs with high-tech facilities needed to commercialize computer gaming, film and animation and digital media projects.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (D-NY) joined university officials—including RIT President Bill Destler—Danny Wegman from The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation, and representatives from Dell and Cisco Systems Inc. at the ceremony on campus.

"I do believe that this initiative will contribute to the continuing transformation of our regional economy thanks to a culture of innovation and technological expertise that has enabled this community to continually reinvent itself," Destler said.

The building and initiative are made possible through \$13.5 million in funding from New York state, \$12.4 million from Cisco Systems Inc., \$3 million from Dell and \$1.5 million from The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation.

"RIT continues to be a center of high-tech innovation for the Finger Lakes and all of New York," said Hochul. "MAGIC Spell Studios will be the launching

NTID educator Panara on postage stamp



Photo by Mark Benjamin

Educator and icon Robert Panara, the first deaf faculty member of RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, is being honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.

The 16th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series features Panara, an influential professor and pioneer in the field of deaf studies and one of the founders of the National Theatre of the Deaf. The formal date of issue will take place at a ceremony at 10 a.m.

April 11 in Panara Theatre on campus.

"I'm very proud to see my dad honored and deaf culture recognized in this way, and I want to thank the personnel at the U.S. Postal Service Stamp Development Office for all their work in the design process," said Panara's son, John, himself a faculty member at RIT/NTID.

The stamp features a photograph of Panara signing the word "respect" taken by RIT/NTID photographer Mark Benjamin and was designed by



Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

A crowd of more than 200 guests at the launch of MAGIC Spell Studios used provided virtual reality goggles to take a "tour" of the facility, slated to open in 2018.

pad for the next generation of digital gaming entrepreneurs, and it is another example of Gov. Cuomo's vision in which academia, business and government are partners in the rebirth of the Upstate economy."

MAGIC Spell Studios has been developing and publishing digital media, such as games, apps, films, art installations and interactives since 2013, creating a collaborative, university-wide endeavor that ties together entrepreneurship, academics, content creation, production and distribution.

The 43,000-square-foot building—which will be located adjacent to Frank E. Gannett Hall—is scheduled to open in fall 2018.

"MAGIC Spell Studios is about being fluid and truly multidisciplinary, and it is revolutionary," said Andrew Phelps, director.

"Through the use of academic programs as a springboard to launch into very different experiences, MAGIC Spell Studios helps students grow their ideas into products and companies and engages students and faculty across disciplines to build these things together from proof-of-concept to refined prototypes that demonstrate commercial viability, and uses the studio at MAGIC to ship them on major channels and storefronts."

Vienna McGrain '12

USPS art director Ethel Kessler.

During his teaching career, Panara inspired generations of students, and his powerful use of American Sign Language to convey Shakespeare and other works of literature made him much beloved and respected by students and colleagues alike.

Panara was born hearing in Bronx, N.Y. At age 10, he contracted spinal meningitis, which left him profoundly deaf. He attended mainstream public schools and often relied on classmates to take notes for him or mouth words so

he could lipread.

He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in New York City, learned sign language at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn., and then earned a bachelor's degree at Gallaudet College (now University) in 1940, where he wrote several papers that established him as a leader in the field of deaf education.

In 1965, he was invited by U.S. Secretary of Education John Gardner to serve on a national advisory board for the establishment of NTID. He began his career at

NTID in 1967 and became its first deaf professor. He also established the English department at NTID.

Panara died in July 2014 at the age of 94.

"Bob Panara's contributions to the field of deaf studies, theater and education are indeed worthy of celebrating," said Gerard Buckley '78 (social work), NTID president and RIT vice president and dean. "RIT/NTID and the entire deaf community are justifiably proud that Bob is being honored in such a meaningful way."

Susan Murad

NOTEBOOK

Best value

RIT ranks among the country's best values in private colleges, according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance's Top 300 College Values of 2017. Kiplinger's annual list ranks 300 private universities, liberal arts colleges and public colleges out of more than 1,200 schools. RIT ranked 85th out of 100 on the list of private universities, and 266th among all colleges.

Tops in design

RIT's School of Design in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences is ranked 10th among the 30 best design schools in the world in a new ranking conducted by a leading digital-media company.

Ranker, which crowdsources opinion-based rankings over the internet, highlights the best design programs in the world and some of the top schools to study design.

Graduation speaker

Austin McChord, founder and CEO of the technology company Datto Inc., will be the keynote speaker for RIT's 132nd commencement celebration.

McChord '09 (bioinformatics), who serves on the university's Board of Trustees, will speak at the Academic Convocation, set for noon May 19 in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

RIT President Bill Destler said the university is honored to have McChord addressing its graduates.

About Students



The newest sport sweeping the campus is competitive video gaming—more commonly known as e-sports. Franky Zheng, a first-year game design and development major from Uncasville, Conn., participates in the intramural sport.

Photos by Joseph Ressler

Video gaming new intramural sport

Like many amateur athletes, Peter Lam dreams of going pro.

“It takes dedication, practice and a lot of skill to earn that professional contract,” said Lam, a fourth-year management information systems major from San Jose, Calif. “Only the best of the top 1 percent of players are going to make it.”

Lam’s sport isn’t played on the court or in an ice rink, but rather on computers in the arena of competitive video games, such as *Dota 2* and *League of Legends*.

Lam is part of a group of students, faculty and staff working to make RIT one of the top schools for electronic sports—more commonly known as e-sports.

RIT became one of the first universities to offer e-sports as an intramural sport when it began its engagement last fall.

“We noticed that e-sports is something a big chunk of the campus is interested in,” said Brennan Coon, assistant director for intramurals. “It’s perfect for intramurals because the whole idea is to get people involved in

their favorite recreational activity, whether they used to be a varsity athlete or are just looking to try something new.”

Many universities are creating club teams, and at least seven colleges are offering scholarships for varsity athletes, while one has opened its own e-sports arena.

To get the first regular season off the ground at RIT, Coon worked along with students, RIT’s Center for Recreation and Intramurals and faculty and staff from the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences—spearheaded by that college’s School of Interactive Games and Media.

Nearly 50 students competed in weekly match-ups during the 10-week season, all in hopes of capturing a team photo with the championship trophy and the right to wear a coveted RIT Intramural Champions T-shirt. The spring league is happening now.

“Instead of just playing alone at home, we actually can meet up, talk and play in the same room, which is really fun,” said Rachael



The first intramural RIT e-sports league, formed last fall, drew about 50 participants who played the video game *Heroes of the Storm*.

Bosley, a fourth-year applied arts and sciences major from Earlysville, Va. “Our *Heroes of the Storm* team ranged from a very new player to a grandmaster—someone in the top 1 percent of players in the Americas—so we have been learning how to work with a bunch of different skill levels and play to everyone’s strengths.”

Scott Bureau '11, '16



Members of RIT's Theme Park Enthusiasts, who won design competitions in Orlando, are Chris Brucker, left, Mike Troise, Robert Cybulski, Caroline Kruse, Emily O'Connor and David Swerzenski.

Theme Park Enthusiasts sweep national awards

Rollercoaster lovers are probably used to ups and downs, but six members of RIT's Theme Park Enthusiasts made a clean sweep in Orlando, Fla., by winning every award in a national competition to design amusement park rides.

The Ryerson Invitational Thrill Design Competition, hosted by Universal Creative in November, invited teams from four colleges to create theme park rides or make modifications to existing rides.

"We've all been dreaming of jobs and internships in the field. I think we're all in shock of how well the trip went," said Robert Cybulski, the club's president and a fourth-year mechanical engineering major from Lancaster, Pa.

Other members of the team are: Chris Brucker, an architecture graduate student from Schenectady, N.Y.; Caroline Kruse, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major from Washington Crossing, Pa.; Emily O'Connor, a fourth-year applied statistics and economics major from Barre, Vt.; David Swerzenski, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major from Oak Ridge, N.J.; and Mike Troise, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major from White Plains, N.Y.

The teams had three challenges to finish. One task had them retrofitting a Ferris wheel to keep children in open gondolas, one had them design a rollercoaster that can't go faster than 40 mph, and one task had them redesign the Teacups ride to make it more appealing to teenagers.

RIT's Theme Park Enthusiasts club was founded three years ago and this was the first year they entered the competition.

Greg Livadas



Folded fashion

Heather Williams, a third-year medical illustration student, was one of about 300 College of Imaging Arts and Sciences Foundations students to participate in the Beaux Arts Ball last fall. For the first time in more than a decade, CIAS Foundations students were challenged by their professors to create—and to wear—a garment that was made primarily of paper materials. Each student's original design was to be inspired by, and evoke, the material culture of a specific artistic and historical style. Williams worked every day for a month folding paper and designing this 18th century French court gown.

Photo by Catherine Rafferty

NOTEBOOK

Plastic in Great Lakes

A new study by RIT that inventories and tracks high concentrations of plastic in the Great Lakes could help inform cleanup efforts and target pollution prevention.

Researchers found that nearly 10,000 metric tons—or 22 million pounds—of plastic debris enter the Great Lakes every year from the United States and Canada.

Matthew Hoffman, assistant professor in RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences, is the lead author.

"This study is the first picture of the true scale of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes," Hoffman said.

The eye has it

Research is underway at RIT that will give scientists a better understanding of the vitreous humor, or gel, that fills the eye and could lead to advances in the treatment of vision disorders, drug delivery and eye surgery.

Biophysicist Moumita Das is leading a National Science Foundation-funded study to explore properties critical to the function of the vitreous and the eye. Her team is investigating changes in the vitreous gel on structural and mechanical levels that result in vision impairment.



Photos by A. Sue Weisler



Left: Nabil Nasr, director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, will lead the REMADE institute. Right: Mark Johnson, director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office in the U.S. Department of Energy, announces the new initiative.

RIT named by U.S. Dept. of Energy to lead new Manufacturing USA institute

RIT is poised to continue its significant role in the manufacturing industry, both locally and nationally.

The university, which can trace its roots to providing professional development to the workforce at the region's major manufacturers, is leading efforts to revitalize and revamp manufacturing through a variety of national programs.

The latest effort is as leader of the federal initiative REMADE, part of Manufacturing USA, a network of regional institutes tasked with bridging the gap between basic research and product development in key technology areas regarded as critical to U.S. manufacturing.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced in January that it had chosen RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability to lead REMADE—which stands for Reducing Embodied-Energy and Decreasing Emissions—Institute. This national coalition of 26 universities, 44 companies, seven national labs, 26 industry trade associations and foundations and three states will work together to forge new clean energy initiatives.

REMADE, under the RIT-led Sustainable Manufacturing Innovation Alliance (SMIA), will leverage up to \$70 million in federal funding that will be matched by \$70 million in private cost-share commitments from industry and other consortium members.

Its focus is driving down the cost of technologies essential to reuse, recycle and remanufacture materials such as metals, fibers, polymers and electronic waste. The coalition aims to achieve a 25 percent reduction in embodied energy of targeted materials, measures that could save billions of dollars in energy costs and improve U.S. economic competitiveness through innovative new manufacturing techniques, small business opportunities and new training and jobs for American workers.

"Across the nation and around the world, cleaner production, clean tech and adoption of a circular economy are recognized as critical drivers to a prosperous future," said Nabil Nasr, associate provost and GIS director. He will serve as chief executive officer of the REMADE initiative.

"As resource scarcity intensifies, the thoughtful use of water, energy and raw materials is the only path forward," Nasr said. "This institute will leverage several strong building blocks already in place in New York state and create new opportunities for economic growth."

Rich Kiley

Other Manufacturing USA institutes

While REMADE is the first Manufacturing USA institute that RIT will lead, the university is engaged in seven of the 14 announced. RIT is a leader among universities in participation. The others are AIM Photonics, Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute, Advanced Robotics Manufacturing (ARM) Institute, Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Institute, Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute and the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

Undergraduate students learn by doing

Taylor Wolf was seeking a lab experience to complement her studies and wound up discovering her life's passion.

"Research is my thing," said Wolf, a fourth-year biochemistry major from Norwich, N.Y., who is working on a research project in infectious disease. "I like the problem-solving aspect. You're engaged, you're involved, and you learn things that you never set out to learn."

It's an experience RIT is encouraging more and more students to incorporate into their undergraduate years, an extension of the university's commitment that every student be engaged in some form of experiential learning, be it through a co-op assignment, senior labs, capstone or independent research project. Experiential learning has many benefits, from teaching students independent thinking in a collaborative environment, to nurturing mentorships that help develop careers.

"A cornerstone of our strategic plan is the concept of being a 'student-centered research uni-

versity," said Ryne Raffaele, RIT's vice president for research and associate provost.

RIT is growing as a research university, and undergraduate participation in that growth is part of the formula, fueled by increased funding from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes for Health, as well as increased proposals for future funding, that make more opportunities available, Raffaele said.

The emphasis on becoming a research university requires faculty to balance research pursuits with their teaching responsibilities, said Scott Williams, professor in the School of Chemistry and Materials Science. This means undergraduate researchers have more opportunities to become independent researchers themselves.

A small army of 17 students drives Williams' research areas. Wolf leads his drug quality assurance group, which is affiliated with the RIT-Rochester Regional Health Alliance.

Wolf has contributed research that can verify the components of the drug cocktail used in the treat-

ment of tuberculosis, the leading infectious disease worldwide.

The simple test Wolf developed identifies substandard and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, purporting to contain Streptomycin, a front-line antibiotic in the treatment of TB. Her research could lead to reduced TB-related deaths and multi-drug resistance in developing countries.

Williams is a mentor to many of his students and former students. Wolf credits him with helping her land opportunities that she otherwise wouldn't have had—such as presenting her work at regional chapter meetings of the American Chemical Society and at the National Undergraduate Research Symposium at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Tennessee, and co-writing a paper on her research findings.

"One of the most important experiences I've gotten from RIT has been the undergraduate research by far," Wolf said. "It's given me so many opportunities, to travel, to make friends and to practice my science."

Susan Gawlowicz '95

NOTEBOOK

Gaming grant

Owen Gottlieb, an expert in games and learning at RIT, is using a National Science Foundation grant that will enable the next generation of gaming scholars and researchers to make inroads in the field of game design and development.

Gottlieb, an assistant professor, has earned a \$99,800 National Science Foundation award to design a capacity-building program tailored to early-career scholars. The grant, co-authored by Crystle Martin from University of California at Irvine, will examine diversity within the field and provide mentorship and networking with senior scholars, opportunities for research proposal collaborations and advice for those entering the field.

Physics diversity

A professor won funding from the National Science Foundation to develop an inclusive approach to physics graduate education admission and retention of traditionally underrepresented U.S. citizens.

Casey Miller, director of RIT's materials science and engineering graduate program, is collaborating with the American Physical Society on a \$428,022 NSF Research Traineeship award to increase diversity and physics Ph.D. completion rates among women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Fourth-year biochemistry major Taylor Wolf is conducting research with Scott Williams, a professor in the School of Chemistry and Materials Science, to create a test that will identify substandard and counterfeit pharmaceuticals that could help reduce what has been a significant problem around the world.

A photograph of a male student and a female success coach sitting at a round wooden table in a modern, well-lit room with large windows. The student, on the left, is wearing glasses and a grey t-shirt, holding a red smartphone. The coach, on the right, is wearing an orange cardigan and a colorful headband, holding a white pen. They are both smiling and engaged in conversation. A small calendar or worksheet is on the table. The background shows a blurred view of a city through the windows.

Success Coach Atiya Smith, right, talks with Nathan Terrell about finals week during one of their weekly coaching sessions. Terrell is a first-year game design student from Centennial, Colo. Individualized coaching sessions make RIT's Spectrum Support Program unique.

RIT prepares students on autism spectrum for professional success

Kieran Barrett-Snyder has a passion for science and numbers. Nathan Terrell loves to ask questions and hold in-depth conversations. Jessica Wheeler sings and plays piano for a religious life group on campus.

All three are full-time undergraduate students at RIT, and all three are a part of the 3.5 million Americans who, according to Autism-Society.Org, live with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

RIT is one of the leading universities in the nation in preparing students on the autism spectrum for professional success. Its strength stems from a combination of the Spectrum Support Program, which helps students on the autism spectrum navigate college, and the cooperative education program, which requires a majority of students to gain work experience prior to graduation. No exceptions.

The Spectrum Support Program has grown exponentially since it started close to nine years ago. It provides students with an opportunity to enroll in a structured program with innovative support tailored specifically to the individual student through an individual coach. The program is one of about only 50 in the country.

"We don't specifically recruit students on the spectrum, but we do have a program that people know about and come to us for," said Laurie Ackles, program director. "What we really do is support RIT students who just happen to be on the autism spectrum. They're RIT students first, and we are just another resource and we understand and work to support their unique needs."

Jane Thierfeld Brown, an assistant clinical professor at Yale Child Study, Yale Medical School, said that RIT is a model program when it comes to preparing students on the spectrum for opportunity beyond college.

Brown works as a consultant to families and universities and was a consultant on the grant that was received by RIT from the National Science Foundation to start the program in 2008.

"The advantage for somebody on the



Spectrum Support Program Director Laurie Ackles, right, meets with Nahoma Presburg, one of the success coaches employed by the program to work with enrolled students.

spectrum to graduate with work experience is huge," said Brown. "Many times these students can succeed academically, but entering the work world can be a major barrier. RIT is unique because of the co-op model, and Laurie has been a really crucial player in getting universities around the nation to think more about preparing students for careers, not just academic success."

Recognizing a need

When Ackles was hired to direct the Spectrum Support Program in 2008, there were very few schools in the country that were offering autism-specific services.

Before then, RIT was providing accommodations to students through the Disability Services Office but found that spectrum students were seeking a different kind of support.

"It's highly individualized, resource intensive and time intensive work to support these students in the best way possible," Ackles said. "The need was greater than what Disability Services had resources for, and once this was identified, RIT took the

initiative and did more to support those on the spectrum by creating a program that could reinforce their needs."

The pilot program was comprised of 12 students, small compared to the nearly 70 that the program supports today.

Barrett-Snyder is one of the students enrolled in the program this academic year. The 19-year-old Long Island native transferred from New York University to RIT last fall to major in electrical engineering.

"I originally went to NYU because of how much closer it was to my home, but after realizing that there were limited accommodations for me to take advantage of, I knew that I had to leave," Barrett-Snyder said. "RIT was a school that I had been interested in from the beginning, but I made the decision to transfer because of the specialized support program offered for students on the spectrum. It's been really helpful for me ever since."

At NYU, he was living in a suite with three others and found himself feeling socially uncomfortable.

"If my roommates were out in the com-

Photos by A. Sue Weisler



Kieran Barrett-Snyder transferred from NYU to RIT to take advantage of the services that RIT offers to students on the autism spectrum.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

mon area, I felt trapped,” he said. “I didn’t feel like they understood me, so I ended up staying in my room a lot, which was very problematic for me. It was very difficult for me and causing a lot of stress.”

At RIT, Barrett-Snyder was placed in a single dorm room, but with the help of the Spectrum Support Program, he will be opting for a different housing option next year.

“I’m going to try living in a Global Village apartment with a few other people in the program,” he said. “We’ll see how that goes.”

Beyond housing accommodations, Barrett-Snyder said that the most helpful part of the program for him has been the individual coaching sessions.

“I meet with my coach twice a week. I know that a lot can change for me in a week, so to meet twice is very important,” said Barrett-Snyder. “I talk to her about how things have been and what’s been going on, and we make a plan of what I’m going to do with my time to help me be successful and stay on track until the next time that we meet.”

Barrett-Snyder said that the frequency of the meetings changes based on what works best for the individual student.

“It’s not only academic coaching,” Barrett-Snyder said. “We’ll talk about what I’m doing to meet people outside of classes, and making plans with friends.”

Importance of coaching

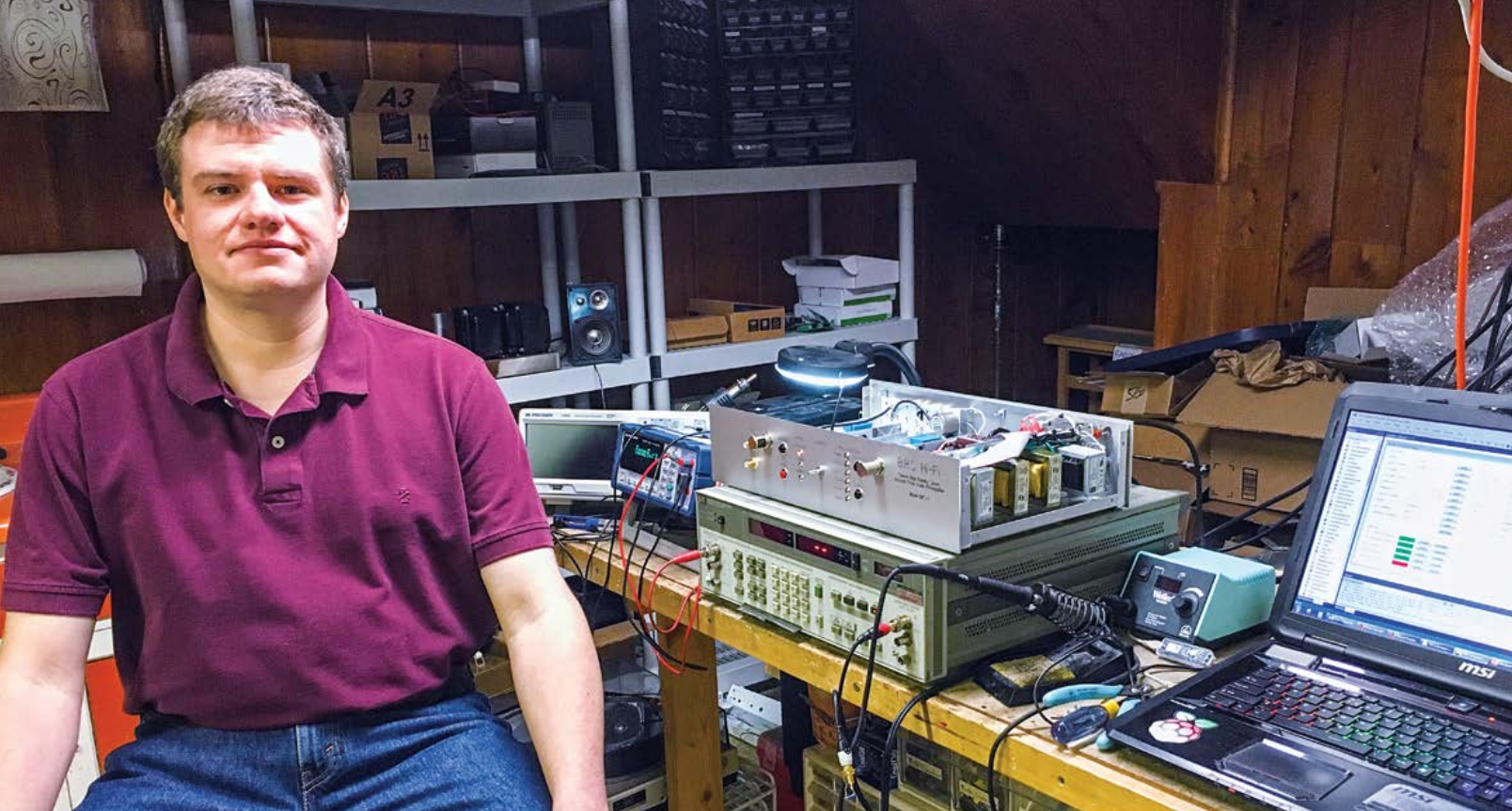
Atiya Smith is one of a handful of coaches employed by the Spectrum Support Program to act as a mentor to students. Smith, who is a licensed therapist and current Ph.D. student in counseling at the University of Rochester, is in her second year of working with the program.

“I became acquainted with the program when I was doing my internship at the Counseling Center two years ago,” Smith said. “I met Laurie through my work, and now I am a mentor to about nine students on the spectrum.”

Since its beginning, the Spectrum Support Program has employed several graduate student coaches from RIT’s school psychology program to act as coaches to its students. The program also hires local professionals and doctoral candidates, like Smith.

Terrell, who came from Centennial, Colo., to RIT for the combination of the Spectrum Support Program and the highly ranked game design program, is one of the students that Smith works with each week. Terrell said having Smith as a mentor has been an important part in helping his transition into his first year of college.

“My mom helped me a lot when it came to picking a college,” said the first-year student.



Ben Satkiewicz '14 (electrical engineering) works for Vapor Bus International in Chicago. He is seated here with sound equipment that he works with as a hobby. He says for a student on the spectrum to succeed, a certain amount of grit is needed.

“Having a support program wasn’t super important to me at the beginning, but since I’ve gotten here, I’ve realized how great it has been to have.”

Academically, Terrell hasn’t had any issues adjusting to college, but he said that socially, things have been up and down.

“My classes have been really easy so far, but I’ve had to work on building friendships,” said Terrell. “I didn’t really have any friends before I came here, and when you’re in a new place you’re not going to have any at first, regardless, so that’s been something that we’ve been working on.”

Like many of the students enrolled in the program, Terrell had previous experience with disability services offered through his high school, but he said that the differences between those and the coaching that he gets through the Spectrum Support Program have been drastic.

“Before I came to RIT, I would work with school counselors, but they were always pretty busy with other things. I get Atiya’s full, undivided attention, and she understands my point of view,” he said. “I have a lot of questions that I don’t know the answers to, and I’ve never really had anybody to ask them to. Now I do.”

Wheeler, another one of the students coached by Smith, was originally planning

to attend Monroe Community College but made a last-minute decision to attend RIT in the fall of 2015.

“I’m local to Rochester, so I was aware of the services offered by RIT, but I wasn’t sure that I could handle going to a bigger school,” said the second-year engineering exploration student from Pittsford, N.Y. “In the end, I made the decision to come here, and I’m glad that I did.”

During her first semester of college, Wheeler was not enrolled in the program and she said that she really struggled with the transition. Wheeler said that she relied on her mom for a lot of support in high school, something that she didn’t have during her first year at college.

“I didn’t realize how much she had been there for me until I had to do things on my own. She would make sure I got out of bed in the mornings, and help me to know what homework I had to do. It sounds simple, but it’s not when you’re on the spectrum. Attendance was a huge issue for me my first semester.”

Following her enrollment in the Spectrum Support Program, Wheeler said that things improved for her both socially and academically. She’s become involved with CRU, a religious life group on campus, and has made a lot of friends through that. The challenges

that she faces academically, though, are still very real.

“I’ve had to drop a few classes just because of the time that it takes me to do everything. And I mean everything,” said Wheeler.

“People think that you just need more time to work on tests, but I need extra time planning. I need extra time studying. I need extra time to get ready in the morning. There just aren’t enough hours in the day, but Atiya has really helped me to become more organized and make plans to help achieve my goals.”

Getting a job

Ben Satkiewicz '14 (electrical engineering) was one of the original 12 students who made up the pilot program when he was a freshman in 2008. Satkiewicz, from Evanston, Ill., was born in 1985 and said that he grew up in the '90s when not as much was known about the autism spectrum.

“My parents were very diligent about getting me the help that I needed,” said Satkiewicz, who graduated from high school in 2004 and took classes at local community colleges before attending RIT.

Satkiewicz said that in order for a student on the spectrum to succeed, a certain level of grit and personal motivation is required.

“While certain supports make things easier for students on the spectrum, who are



Photo by A. Sue Weister

Jessica Wheeler, a second-year engineering exploration major, said things improved for her both socially and academically after she enrolled in the Spectrum Support Program last spring.

About Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder is the name for a group of developmental disorders. ASD includes a wide range, “a spectrum,” of symptoms, skills and levels of ability. Characteristics include:

- Difficulty navigating social situations
- Repetitive behaviors and difficulty adapting to change
- Heightened sensitivity to various sensory information
- Having a lasting, intense interest in certain topics, such as numbers, details or facts

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 68 children has been identified to have some form of ASD.

at a disadvantage in many ways, it’s ultimately up to the individual to find it within themselves to succeed,” he said. “You have to have the willpower to push through certain forms of societal rejection. That’s what I did.”

Since 2008, much has been done to better understand and support those on the autism spectrum, both within universities and the workforce.

Janine Rowe, an assistant director for Disability Services at RIT’s Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, said that she is seeing more employers reaching out in an attempt to understand this population of potential employees.

“Right now there is a hunger among recruiters and managers to be made aware of how to best incorporate this population into the workforce,” Rowe said. “There is a shift in attitude when employers have a better idea of who they are working with and what they need to do to support an employee on the spectrum, but also what there is to be gained by doing so.”

Rowe said that helping employers understand how to work with an employee who requires more structure often leads to communication improvements and practices that benefit the company as a whole.

Beyond the individual coaching offered through the Spectrum Support Program, the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education provides students on the spectrum with the opportunity to participate in various seminars that place emphasis on how

to navigate the hiring process. The seminars cover topics varying from résumé building to behavioral preparation and employer meet-and-greets.

Students who have already held co-ops also are invited back to share their experiences.

“This is a student-led process with our support,” said Rowe. “These students are competing with their socially savvy peers for the same co-ops and that’s tough because they don’t interview the same way. We don’t go out and get them a job, but we provide them with the resources so that they are best equipped to do it themselves. Career skills are life skills, and this experience is critical.”

Satkiewicz is currently working in Chicago as an electrical engineer for Vapor Bus International, a leader in providing passenger door systems to the North American Transit Bus Industry.

“The interview process took me about six or seven months after I graduated,” Satkiewicz said. “I did interview for other jobs and got a few offers, but it was about finding a place that would work for me logistically.”

When embarking in the hiring process, students on the spectrum must make the decision about whether to disclose their disability to their potential employer. Some fear discrimination because of a negative stigma attached to Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Satkiewicz disclosed.

“For me, it was helpful to get it all out there on the table ahead of time, in order to

find a company that would best fit my needs,” he said. “The interview process goes both ways and it’s helpful to be straightforward so that you can weed out the employers who you wouldn’t want to be working for down the road. There are certain handicaps that I have, but I’m really successful in my work because I found a place that I fit.”

Barrett-Snyder is also planning to disclose. He is currently preparing to find an electrical engineering co-op for the summer. He said that he’s a bit nervous about the process, but that the services offered through RIT have helped him a lot.

“In my personal life, I normally don’t bring up that I have autism, and when people find out, they are typically surprised,” he said. “It’s a spectrum and I’m high-functioning, meaning that it only impacts certain aspects of my life, but sometimes it feels like there’s shame in admitting that you have it. There shouldn’t be. A lot of times when I get comfortable in a situation, I can be just like anybody else.”

Lauren Peace ’17

To learn more

The RIT Spectrum Support Program caters to all students with Autism Spectrum Disorders who are pursuing undergraduate degrees. For more information, go to rit.edu/ssp or contact Laurie Ackles at laaldc@rit.edu.



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From left, Courtney McGorrigill, a fifth-year software engineering major; Tia Bendlin, a second-year computer science major; and Sarah Fomchenko, a second-year computer science major, teach Girl Scouts how to solder circuit boards and LED lights together to build Flashing LED Sweetheart trinkets at a Women in Computing outreach event.

Women in Computing group helping to close gender gap

Growing up, Sarah Fomchenko had no clue what she wanted to do. She just knew that she liked playing with computers.

“My parents would joke that if I wasn’t on the computer all the time, I could be a straight A student,” said Fomchenko, a second-year computer science major from Franklin Lakes, N.J. “I love the feeling of being able to create something, without needing to be artistic.”

It wasn’t until high school that Fomchenko realized a career in computer science was a

possibility for her. After participating in a two-week learn-to-code program in Boston, she enrolled in her school’s first AP Computer Science course and eventually made her way to a program for women accepted into RIT’s B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. There, she got to meet other women who were interested in coding and see what RIT is all about.

“I would have never considered computer science as a major unless I had been a part of those special programs,” said Fomchenko.

“We need to create more opportunities for young women to learn about computing way before high school—it’s wasted potential if they have already committed to another major.”

For all the progress women have made in STEM careers, the gender gap in computing is only growing larger. Since 1990, the percentage of female computing professionals has dropped from 35 percent to about 24 percent today. If that trend continues, the share of women in the nation’s computing workforce will decline to 22 percent by 2025,



Photo by Brittany Newman

according to Girls Who Code, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the gender gap in technology.

Still, computing is a growing industry. Employer demand for graduates with computing skills far outnumbers the supply. Colleges are seeing this trend and their search for ways to attract more women to a career in computing is underway.

Increasing female enrollment has been a priority at RIT. As part of the university's strategic plan, RIT is striving to become the largest producer of female, underrepresented male and deaf or hard-of-hearing STEM graduates among all private colleges in the U.S. by 2025.

RIT's Women in Computing (WiC) group was created in 2008 to help empower women in computer fields to succeed and thrive at RIT and beyond. As a result of all of these efforts, the computing college has increased

its female enrollment from 12 percent in 2012 to 16 percent last fall. The national average hovers between 14 and 18 percent.

However, for the women involved it's more than just numbers. Anne Haake, dean of the computing college, has made diversifying the college an area of focus.

Women in Computing is trying to build up the next generation of female coders by changing the culture of computing, creating more advancement opportunities and reaching out to young women.

"It is so important that we collectively, as a community, support women in tech and organizations like WiC," said Aliza Carpio, technology evangelist at Intuit. "Although women in tech—whether at colleges or working in the industry—are still in the minority, we represent a vital component in building amazing solutions that enrich or enable all of our lives."



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Lana Verschage, director of RIT's Women in Computing group, is working to break down gender barriers in the computing field and promote an inclusive environment.



Kayla Davis, standing, a fourth-year software engineering student from Middlebury, Vt., takes part in a group project during her engineering secure software course with Assistant Professor Andy Meneely.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

WiC grows

In 1996, RIT became the first college in the U.S. to offer an undergraduate degree in software engineering. Of the 12 students in that first class, none were women.

As computers became a more integral part of daily life, the programming majors at RIT continued to grow in size, but not necessarily in diversity.

To combat this trend, Women in Computing was formed. The small group, led by Professor Sharon Mason, focused on supporting faculty and creating networking and outreach opportunities.

As a student, Michaela Butler '15 (information technology) remembers helping



Michaela Butler '15

to organize events with WiC, including creating techie tree ornaments out of old computer parts and hosting a Grace Hopper birthday party to celebrate the pioneering computer programmer.

"However, WiC had limited resources at the time and I didn't really see it grow or evolve," Butler said.

In 2014, Andrew Sears, dean of the Golisano College at the time, saw the need for a full-time person that could focus on diversity in the college and support students. Lana Verschage, a longtime academic adviser in the Department of Software Engineering, was just the person to take this on.

"Not every woman in the Golisano College is going to take advantage of WiC, and that's perfectly OK," said Verschage, director of WiC. "We are here to provide opportunities for growth, to support each other and to benefit from one another's varied experiences."

Today, the Women in Computing group consists of more than 50 active members from majors across the computing college. Students regularly meet in the two-room office to hold meetings for the six WiC committee groups, host networking opportunities with employers and workshops for learning something new, work on homework and oftentimes just to socialize and relax.

"Sometimes I stop by WiC for a meeting and it always amazes me how much bigger and better it seems to get every year," said Butler. "WiC gives a voice to women, provides support and a safe haven for those in programming fields at RIT and gives its members the opportunity to turn around and mentor

young women who want to follow in the path we've cut out at RIT and in the industry."

Changing the culture

Every year, members of WiC attend the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world's largest gathering of female technologists. Not only does the event open a dialogue about women in technology, it also serves as a recruiting tool for companies.

At the 2016 event, more than a dozen students went on 48 interviews, resulting in more than 15 job and co-op offers from companies including IBM, ESPN, Northrop Grumman, EA Games and Apple.

Laura Weintraub, a second-year computing security student from Syosset, N.Y., interviewed with and received co-op offers from Allstate and Bank of America at the conference.

"I was sitting among the smartest and most innovative women in the computing field, and it was awesome," she said. "I loved hearing about all of the exciting journeys these women went on to get to where they are, and what they project the future of computing to be like."

For Kayla Davis, a fourth-year software engineering student from Middlebury, Vt., being in a room full of women at the Grace

Hopper event was a bit of a shock. She's used to being a minority in the classroom.

"The good thing is, in most cases, people in the computing world are going to judge you based on your skill and if you work well in a team, not on your gender," said Davis, who already had a summer co-op lined up at Microsoft Health before the conference. "But in the future, I hope I'm not seen as a woman in computing—I want to be an engineer who just happens to be a woman."

Unique to RIT is a group of men in computing who are working to make that future a reality.

The WiC Allies Committee meets every week to discuss ways of socially changing the atmosphere of computing from within, by fostering a more inclusive culture.

"To promote diversity and inclusion of women in the field, we need people of all genders to collaborate and be a part of the solution," said Adam McCarthy, a fifth-year software engineering major from Ogdensburg, N.Y., and leader of the Allies Committee. "We give everybody an opportunity to help out and make a difference."

While the allies search for ways to combat microaggressions and unconscious bias in the computing world, WiC is also bringing in leaders from the industry who can share their tips and tricks for working in the field.

"This isn't about the divide between men and women, this is about how we can support each other, so that each of us finds a place in making this world better for each and every one of us," said Carpio, who has given several talks on her experiences at Intuit. "When we strive to create a community that supports

underrepresented groups like women in tech, we all win."

Butler is already noticing a difference. When she worked as an IT consultant with Ethany Corp. in Scottsville, N.Y., three of the eight programmers in her office were female.

"If everyone comes from the same experiences, the same mindset and the same culture, you only get the same stale ideas," Butler said. "That's why it's important for women to play a more equal role in the programming fields—we bring new thoughts, ideas and questions to the table that men may not have ever thought of."

Reaching out

The WiC Outreach Committee is constantly thinking of new ways to get girls interested in computing.

At a recent outreach planning meeting, Tia Bendlin, a second-year computer science major from Otisville, N.Y., wondered if soldering was the answer. "You get to melt metal!" she said.

Teaching young women how to solder their own smart bracelets with programmable LED displays is just one of the many activities the committee has put together. The group also hosts Girl Scouts workshops, a STEM Fair along with other diversity groups on campus and the After Hours program Fomchenko attended.

The annual After Hours program allows women accepted into the computing college to meet like-minded girls and experience life as an RIT student.

Through build-it challenges and scavenger hunts, the young women work in groups and

start to form a network of friends.

"The overnight program is what really sealed the deal for me," said Fomchenko, who helps to lead the Outreach Committee. "I'm still really good friends with the girls I met when I first attended—we have each other's back."

The Women in Computing group also works to spark an interest in computing at an even younger age, by working with middle school students at local libraries.

"Ultimately, it's a pipeline problem," said Verschage. "There needs to be more opportunities for girls to get exposure to computing."

One of WiC's largest outreach efforts has been the group's all-female WiCHacks event, hosted on campus every winter and now sponsored by 10 companies.

For the two-day hackathon, student teams work to create mobile apps, websites, games and other software that provide unique solutions to problems. In four years, the event, open to college and high school women of all skill levels, has grown from 65 participants to more than 300.

RIT's total female undergraduate enrollment is also growing because of recruitment and outreach efforts like this, said Daniel Shelley, associate vice president and director of undergraduate admissions.

"We've found that it's important to work along with our faculty, current students and special interest groups to make sure that prospective students see others like themselves in STEM fields," Shelley said.

Scott Bureau '11, '16



Adam McCarthy, a fifth-year software engineering major from Ogdensburg, N.Y., meets with the WiC Allies Committee weekly to discuss ways of fostering an inclusive culture.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

To learn more

For the first time, RIT will host the 2017 Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) New York Celebration of Women in Computing on April 21-22. The RIT Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education in conjunction with Intuit is sponsoring a keynote address by Reshma Saujani, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, to be held on the RIT campus.

She will discuss her work in closing the gender gap in technology and preparing young women for jobs in the future. The event is for girls and women of all ages. To register for the conference, go to <https://www.conftool.net/nycwic2017>.

Doreen Edwards

Education

Doreen Edwards holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Northwestern University.

Work experience

Prior to attending graduate school, Edwards worked as a research scientist at BIRL, a contract research lab at Northwestern University, and at the Gould Research Center in Chicago.

Awards

Edwards joined Alfred University in 1997 as an assistant professor of materials science and received numerous faculty awards there. She also received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, one of the State University of New York's highest honors. In 2001, she received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation.

Research

She has served as the principal investigator on fundamental and applied research projects, focusing on oxide materials for fuel cells, batteries, thermoelectric devices, environmental remediation and solar energy applications.

Doreen Edwards became dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering in July. She had been dean of the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University and acting vice president of Statutory Affairs for the university. She is the first female dean of RIT's engineering college, which is the only one in the United States that is named after a woman. Here she talks about her background and plans for the college.

I was in third grade and the teacher was teaching us about atoms and she pointed at the table and she said, 'You know, there are atoms in that table and they are moving all the time.' I looked at the solid table and this notion that it was constructed of something that was moving all the time just locked me in.

I got my undergraduate degree at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which is predominately an engineering school. My undergraduate degree was in chemistry.

I moved to Chicago and I worked for Gould Research Center in microelectronic processing for a couple of years. From there I moved to Northwestern University. At that point they had a contract research lab that was called BIRL, which stood for Basic Industry Research Lab, and their whole premise was that they would write proposals to companies to solve problems.

I worked there for six years and went back to grad school part time for a good many of those six and then at some point decided I was never going to get a Ph.D. part time, so I quit and went back to graduate school full time.

In order to advance in research, you needed to have a Ph.D. I can remember a few occasions of writing proposals and having my name scratched off and the Ph.D.'s name put in as the author because they knew they needed that to get it funded or to move forward.

I moved to Alfred, N.Y., and started as an assistant professor at Alfred University in 1997.

I got tenure and right after I got tenure

I became graduate program director, and that morphed into an associate dean position. In 2009, I applied for the dean's position and was dean until I started here.

I was familiar with RIT and had visited it periodically when I was at Alfred. When I interviewed here I was just absolutely blown away by the transformation.

I was impressed with RIT's strategic plan, particularly in the area of interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary studies, and that was one of the things that attracted me to RIT.

One of our plans for the college is that we want to grow research and we want to do so in a way that engages students at all levels—undergraduate, master's, Ph.D. That is one of the areas we are very interested in.


We have made tremendous strides in the percentage of female engineers and certainly we would like to continue to grow that trend toward the overall population. One area that we have a lot of work to do is increasing the percentage of AALANA students—African American, Latin American, Native American. We can leverage some of the programs that we used for women in engineering to under-represented minorities, so that is one of our major goals.

A personal goal is reconnecting with alumni. I want to hear about their experiences, what RIT did for them in a positive way and where there is room for improvement. How can RIT better serve future students?

I absolutely love it here. I'm really impressed with the dedication the faculty has to student development and student education.

I'm very impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement the students have with their studies.

I would like to be remembered as a dean who was instrumental in increasing research in the college in a way that preserved the student-centered values that we have.

A portrait of Doreen Edwards, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a bright red cardigan over a black top and a colorful beaded necklace with a large red pendant. Her hands are clasped in front of her, and she is wearing a matching beaded bracelet on her right wrist. The background is a blurred view of a modern building with large windows.

Doreen Edwards is the
new dean of the Kate
Gleason College of
Engineering.

RIT President Bill Destler
and Rebecca Johnson



Saying goodbye to RIT's No.1 and his No.1

Destler, Johnson leverage RIT's unique strengths and leave solid legacy



President Bill Destler, who wears jersey No. 1, was a regular at hockey games and other RIT athletic events.

Student Government President Andrea Shaver was returning to Rochester from an RIT function on the West Coast last summer when her flight out of Chicago was canceled because of weather.

Stuck in the airport at 1 a.m. with Shaver were RIT President Bill Destler; his spouse, Rebecca Johnson; and RIT Trustee Steve Schultz '89 (computer science).

"He goes to the Syracuse gate and the Buffalo gate and neither of those flights have seats," said Shaver about Destler. "So he's like, 'I guess we're driving.' I could have stayed in Chicago and got on an 8:30 a.m. flight. But I was like, this is a really good story, so I decided to go with them."

No one was surprised that Shaver '17 (graphic design) chose to spend nine hours driving across the Midwest in the middle of the night with the university president. In his decade at RIT, Destler has made it a priority to be approachable. He eats lunch regularly with students, attends club events, friends thousands of students on Facebook, delivers his annual commencement speech in American Sign Language, rarely misses a hockey game and has become almost infamous for posing for selfies.

"A lot of students at other schools don't know the president of their university because they are a lot more external facing," Shaver said. "But Dr. Destler has been an internal president. I think that's what RIT needed at the time 10 years ago when he started. I think he really grew the community, and students really love him."

Under Destler's leadership, RIT's enrollment has reached record levels, selectivity and diversity have improved concurrently, the value of research awards has skyrocketed and geographic

draw continues to widen across the United States and overseas.

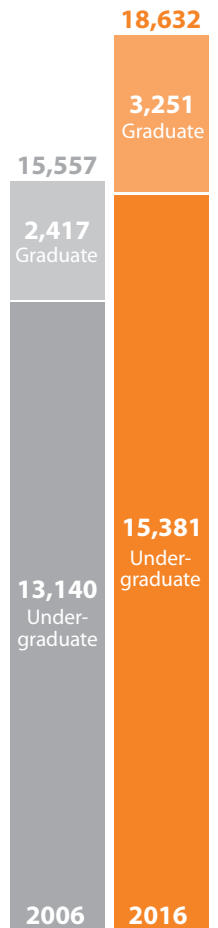
But as Destler prepares to retire June 30, his strong relationship with students is the key piece of his legacy. It's also the main component of the legacy of Johnson, who has been Destler's No. 1 supporter and has become a huge behind-the-scenes resource on campus.

Every RIT achievement in the past decade—from sustainability to innovation to increasing the number of Ph.D. programs—puts students first. Even Destler's catch-phrase of RIT having the greatest collection of geeks and artists honors students.

"All presidents have to decide how they are going to spend their time," Destler said. "I decided to spend more of my time than some presidents would have on campus with the students. I wanted to be known to the students. I wanted to support them, be seen as supportive of them."

"You wouldn't have had fun if you didn't do that," added Johnson.

"Yes," he said. "That's what I wanted to do."

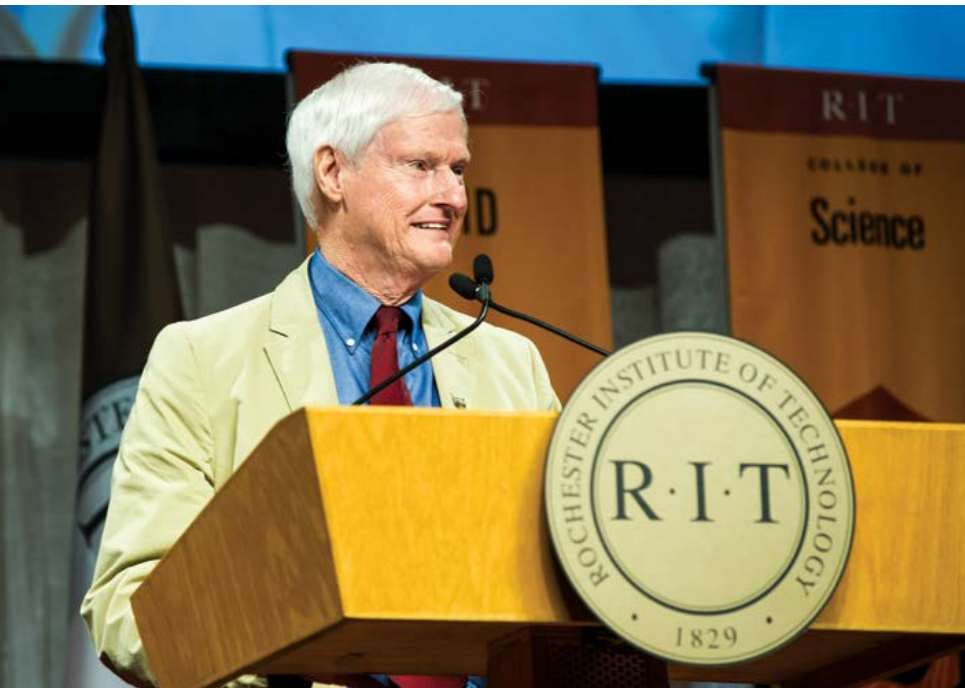


Total enrollment (all locations)

Selfies with Destler

RIT students love to take photos with Bill Destler and Rebecca Johnson. We asked students to send us their favorites.





Destler addressed the RIT community at the beginning of each school year, when he recognized accomplishments and outlined goals.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler



Destler regularly participated in the annual Mud Tug event organized by Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Coming to RIT

About a year before RIT began searching for its ninth president, Destler asked Johnson if she would like to spend a “romantic weekend” in Rochester.

Destler, an accomplished musician on the side who was then senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Maryland at College Park, actually wanted to visit a vintage banjo store where he had made a deal with the owner to trade some instruments, Johnson said laughing.

So when Destler got a call a year later from Chance Glenn, a professor in the College of Applied Science and Technology and a member of the RIT presidential search committee, the two were already familiar with Rochester.

Destler also knew Glenn, who had taken two courses from Destler in the late 1980s while getting

his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering at the University of Maryland. Glenn said the search committee was so impressed with Destler’s résumé that they asked him to visit Destler in person to sell RIT.

“I told him he was responsible for me being successful in my education. I wouldn’t have made it through without him,” said Glenn, now dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala.

“I told him I thought at RIT he could do more of that for many, many people.”

Leaving Maryland was not an easy decision. Destler had worked at the University of Maryland for 34 years, moving up the ranks. Johnson, a clinical psychologist who was homeschooling their two sons, was active in the community and had deep roots there.

But during the interviewing process, Destler said, he became interested in the right-brain, left-brain nature of RIT. RIT seemed like a place where he and Johnson could add value. It felt different from other presidencies they had flirted with.

“I began to think that having the fine arts programs, having the design programs and the technology, science, engineering and business programs was kind of an unfair advantage,” he said. “I got more and more interested in RIT and its possibilities. I think that is what finally convinced me to come.”

He was installed as RIT’s ninth president on Nov. 9, 2007. In his inaugural address, Destler encouraged the RIT community to take the university to the next level by capitalizing on its unusual strengths, including the “creative juices” of the student body.

“How do we encourage the development of their minds, their hearts and their souls in such a way that we ensure that the next

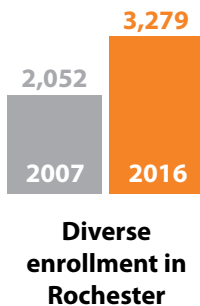




Photo by Michael Owens



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Destler had his hair dyed orange during the halftime of an RIT men's basketball game in 2008 to increase attendance and support of basketball. Johnson joined in the fun. They continued the tradition in future years.

generation of humans can grow and flourish on this planet?" Destler said during the 2007 event. "As we work to make RIT a real 'innovation university,' we will have to come up with good answers."

Lasting legacy

Destler got right to work on making RIT an innovation university by creating the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, which will celebrate its 10th year on May 6. The festival attracts more than 30,000 visitors to campus annually.

Greg Pollock '12 (professional and technical communication), who started studying at RIT the same year Destler became president, said that from the beginning, Destler looked at RIT as one big opportunity.

"It was a brilliant move in my opinion to take advantage of the left-brain, right-brain capabilities of the school and turn RIT into a hotbed of innovation," said Pollock, who was

Student Government president from 2010-12. "He was a change agent in every sense of the term."

Destler said when he proposed the festival, he did so thinking more about the public relations benefits in the community. He didn't know how meaningful it would become internally.

The Rochester City Scholars initiative, a scholarship program available to all Rochester School District students who are accepted to RIT and whose families make less than \$66,000 a year, also exceeded expectations.

In Maryland, Destler and Johnson had supported a similar program aimed at encouraging kids from urban high schools to enroll in college. Their goal at RIT was to get Rochester students—as early as middle school—to begin to see college as a possibility.

They announced the Rochester City Scholars program in 2009 and RIT admitted the first class a year later. Destler and Johnson provided the initial funding for the scholarships.

"We thought and hoped we were doing a good thing for the students and doing a good thing for the Rochester city school system," Johnson said. "Low and behold, we did an amazingly good thing for RIT because the Rochester City Scholars are extraordinary people. They are incredible assets to the university."

Angel Rivera '16 (mechanical engineering technology) is one of 39 City Scholars who have graduated. Another 76 students are currently enrolled.

Rivera, who was first in his immediate family to go to college, is now working on a master's degree in automotive engineering at Clemson University.

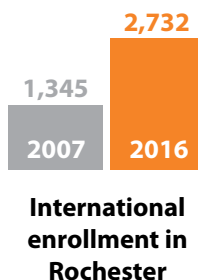




Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Destler greeted first-year students as they walked in the annual Tiger Walk parade. Destler wanted to be known to the students and to support them.



Johnson helped start the Gray Matter series on provocative topics. Here she talks at one after the November election.

The high school valedictorian said he wouldn't be where he is today without the City Scholars program. "It didn't just open a door, it opened a hallway for every single one of us," Rivera said.

Becoming a team

The Rochester City Scholars program turned into a happy milestone for Destler and Johnson as well. The two, who met at a Contra dance, were long-time marriage partners and co-parents, but had never worked together professionally until they arrived in Rochester.

When they got to RIT, Johnson had to carve out her role, which she said involved trial and error.

"I wanted to spend my time in ways that were meaningful and rewarding," she said. "And it also needed to be clear at all times that Bill was the president. It felt important to work behind the scenes. It was important for people to understand that I was not trying

to be a co-president. That's not where my interests or talents lie."

Johnson's support in the background made a difference in many areas across campus, particularly when it came to talking about difficult topics.

In 2009, Colette Shaw and others attended a discussion spurred by the visit of Amiri Baraka, a poet, playwright and leading figure in the Black Arts theatrical and literary movement of the 1960s. The discussion was an open invitation to talk about whether controversial speakers should be invited to an academic setting like RIT.

Shaw, who is currently assistant director of student conduct and conflict resolution, said several attendees, including Johnson, were so inspired by the dialogue that they thought it would be productive to have regular discussions on important but controversial topics.

"I was getting some feedback that there

were concerns that there was this group that was trying to stir up controversy or shock people for the sake of shocking them," Shaw said. "For me, this is more like a book club where you read about something controversial and then have intellectual discourse about it."

Without Johnson's support and ongoing active participation, she said, she isn't sure the Gray Matter series would have started six years ago. Now the monthly series on provocative topics such as the cost of tuition, sexuality, racism and drugs is expected and celebrated.

When there is discomfort on campus, students want to talk about it and explore their different opinions, Shaw said, noting that more than 100 people gathered three days after the presidential election to respectively share their feelings and listen to others.

Shaw worked at six different college campuses in Pennsylvania, Indiana, South





Photo by A. Sue Weisler



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Destler and Johnson started RIT's Rochester City Scholars initiative, a scholarship program for Rochester School District students. "We are very proud of it," Destler said.

Carolina and Ohio before coming to RIT. She said Destler is the president most open with such honest discussions on campus and attends the most controversial conversations.

Johnson co-facilitates several discussions each year and attends nearly all of them.

"We got that two-for-one special with them that no one would have ever known," Shaw said about Johnson. "She is the conscience and the soul of our administration."

Sustainability improvements

Johnson's behind-the-scenes role is also evident when it comes to sustainability, which has been a hallmark of Destler's tenure.

During her initial tours of RIT, Johnson became engrossed in conversations with people across campus about sustainability. She began gathering these people together to talk about the issue.

"I would say Rebecca drove a lot of our early efforts to focus on sustainability and

to realize we have the potential to become a natural leader in this area," Destler said.

The gatherings turned into a push to hire someone who could focus on the issue. Enid Cardinal arrived in 2011 from Illinois State University. Cardinal said she was and still is one of a handful of sustainability officers at universities who report directly to the president.

Not surprisingly, her charge included a focus on student engagement. One of her first assignments was to enact a policy restricting bottled water on campus. "That is one of the hardest initiatives to normally push forward on a college campus," Cardinal said. "I know of campuses that have been trying for five to 10 years to eliminate bottled water."

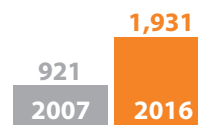
Cardinal worked with Student Affairs to hand out reusable water bottles. Hydration stations are being installed across campus, and bottled water is slowly being removed. "It is when you have that top-level support

you can move things a lot faster," she said.

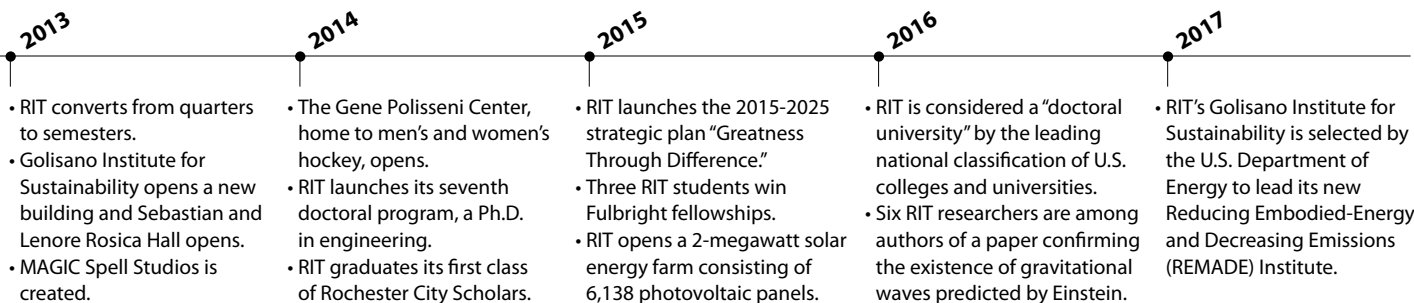
Two other big sustainability projects were also focused on students: Goodbye, Goodbuy! and RIT FoodShare, which both launched in 2014.

In Goodbye, Goodbuy!, RIT students can donate items they no longer want at the end of the spring semester that are then sold to returning students in the fall. The recycling program saved 70,000 pounds from landfills last year.

RIT's FoodShare Center helps combat food waste while helping members of the RIT community who may be struggling to pay for food. The program is two-pronged: A Facebook group where members receive notifications from other members who post



**Enrollment
at global
campuses**





Destler delivered his annual commencement speech in American Sign Language.

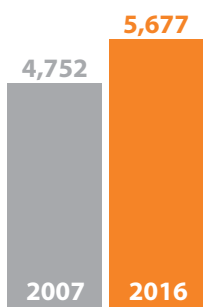


At the First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival in 2015, Destler played the banjo and was accompanied by Johnson.

Photos by A. Sue Weisler

about free food available on campus and a no-questions-asked food-sharing center created for any RIT community member.

Sharon Kompalla-Porter, associate director in the Center for Residence Life, said the notification system was started after Johnson and others began brainstorming ways to reduce food waste across campus. Key leaders on campus, including a Campaign Management and Planning class taught by Kelly Martin, pulled together to begin to address the problem.



Female enrollment in Rochester

Kompalla-Porter and others got involved and the notification campaign

morphed into a FoodShare Center as well, which opened in April 2015 in the Riverknoll apartment complex on campus.

Last semester, 428 people made more than 1,870 visits to the FoodShare Center. That's more than double the number of visits from the fall of 2015.

"She was able to take an issue that she saw and then tap some very passionate people at RIT and connect them to really see this idea through," Kompalla-Porter said of Johnson. "She was the glue."

Feeling like home

Johnson said she hopes to remain involved on campus after Destler's retirement. The two purchased a house and they plan to stay in Rochester.

Destler said he will be available to provide guidance to the next president but he will do so only when asked. He would like to spend

his retirement working on his music, continuing his membership on public and private boards of trustees and perhaps getting involved with anti-poverty initiatives in Rochester.

Christine Whitman, chairman of the RIT Board of Trustees, said Destler has positioned RIT well for the future and that growth will continue as the 2015-2025 strategic plan is deployed.

"Under Dr. Destler's leadership, every measurable indicator is up," Whitman said. "RIT is having high impact and is recognized both nationally and internationally."

Destler said he is most proud of the fact that RIT has not only grown in enrollment during his tenure, but has grown in the quality of students enrolled and in the diversity of students.

"That's considered a trifecta," he said. "It's very hard to do. And we did all three."



Say thank you

Submit your own photo or message thanking Bill Destler and Rebecca Johnson at rit.edu/president/farewell. Or make a gift in their honor in one of three areas: Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars Program, Dr. Rebecca Johnson Endowed Sustainability Champion Award or an area of importance to you. Go to rit.edu/giving/tributegift.

Join the celebration

"Imagine a Legacy," a tribute dinner honoring Bill Destler and Rebecca Johnson, will be held at 6 p.m. June 10 in the Gordon Field House. For more information, contact Deborah Stendardi at dmsgrl@rit.edu. Registration details will be available soon.

2008



Photo by Jen Moon

2010



Photo by Matt Wittmeyer

2013



Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

2016



Photo by Mike Bradley

Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival has evolved since the first one in 2008.

10 years of Imagine RIT

Students say the most important piece of Destler's legacy involves change in the RIT culture, which only happened because of his focus on students.

Pollock, who is now diversity inclusion lead for North America at the Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, Mich., said there was a time when more students would wear shirts with logos from other universities than RIT.

There wasn't a sense of school spirit like there is today.

"I think his legacy is making RIT a place people wanted to be," Pollock said. "Dr. Destler made RIT feel like home."

Shaver agreed.

"He really gave RIT its personality," she said. "He helped us find who we are. Now the next person has a really solid foundation to build off of to help continue RIT on a great trajectory."

Mindy Mozer

When Bill Destler became president of RIT in 2007, he stressed that his No.1 priority was transforming RIT into a national center for creativity and innovation.

One way he did this was through the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year.

Destler came up with the festival idea before he even started at RIT. He described a vision for it during an open forum when he was a candidate.

"The festival's mission goes beyond showcasing the thriving RIT campus. We see it as a call to national service," Destler said. "Innovation is one of our country's last competitive advantages."

Imagine RIT quickly became the university's signature event, a showcase that

displays the ingenuity of students, faculty and staff with about 400 exhibits per year.

Nearly 270,000 visitors have "explored the future" since May 3, 2008.

The festival has been a launch-pad for student-led ventures, entrepreneurship and careers.

"It is always great to have so many community members, especially children, teens, parents and RIT alumni, join us and see all of the innovative and creative

talents that have been on display over the years," said Imagine RIT Chairman Barry Culhane. "It's been an incredible 10 years. What will we think of next?"



If you go

The free festival is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 6, on the RIT campus.





Photo by A. Sue Weisler

David C. Munson Jr.

named RIT's 10th president



Photo by Elizabeth Lamark



Photo by A. Sue Weisler



Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

David C. Munson Jr., former dean of the University of Michigan College of Engineering, will become RIT's 10th president on July 1.

Munson was introduced to the RIT community on Jan. 25 by RIT Board Chair Christine Whitman at an event in the Gordon Field House. The announcement was watched via live-stream by about 2,000 people, including at RIT campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

"We believe we have identified the ideal leader to continue RIT's rise to prominence," Whitman said. "A leader who shares our commitment to outstanding career-focused education, research and innovation, love of both technology and the arts, and a desire to help students from widely diverse backgrounds succeed."

Munson thanked the RIT Board of Trustees for what he called "a thrill and privilege" to be named university president. And he congratulated retiring President Bill Destler, RIT students, faculty, staff and alumni "for the exemplary work you all have done in creating such a strong foundation for the future."

"When I stepped down from my dean position this past summer, RIT was already known to me because I had admired your progress over the years and your strength in the arts as well as technology," Munson said.

A 24-member search committee composed of students, faculty, staff, alumni, administration and trustees narrowed the pool of candidates before the final selection by the Board of Trustees.

Munson has 38 years of experience in higher education, which includes serving as the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering at Michigan from 2006 to 2016, where he served two five-year terms, the maximum allowed by U-M. Michigan Engineering is considered one of the top engineering schools in the world. Ten of its academic departments are ranked in the nation's top 10.

Munson credits his colleagues at U-M Engineering for the school's success. Here are highlights of his tenure:

- Led a college of 10,000 students, 600 faculty members and 600 staff members.
- Managed a \$550 million budget.
- Annual research expenditures increased from \$130 million to \$250 million.
- Grew faculty ranks by 30 percent with aggressive hiring and retention programs.
- Launched the Center for Entrepreneurship, which offers programs to 2,500 students annually.
- Worked with university leaders to develop the Joint Institute with Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China.
- Supported his staff to create the Michigan Engineering Zone in Detroit, where undergrads and alumni mentor 300 minority students on FIRST Robotics teams from 18 public high schools.

"In the coming years, I look forward to maintaining RIT's traditions and simultaneously building on the 2025 Strategic Plan, 'Greatness through Difference,'" Munson said. "To be sure, there is still much work to be done at RIT in program development, recruitment of top-notch faculty and students, planning of facilities and fundraising. But I believe that RIT is positioned to continue its upward trajectory, elevating its distinctive programs to best in class and generating new ideas and programs for the future, with the promise of making an ever-larger difference in the world."

RIT Student Government President Andrea Shaver, who was on the search committee, said that Munson is going to fit right in to the RIT community.

"He's a very genuine person who really understands RIT and our vision for the future," she said. "Especially for students, he has a true understanding of many different issues students face: The rise in the cost of higher education, mental health, sustainability initiatives, creativity and innovation."

Shaver said she can't wait to see how much RIT will grow in the next decade under Munson's leadership.

Bob Finnerty '07



Background

Munson grew up in Iowa, Ohio and Delaware where he sang with a folk group, played saxophone in the marching band, played basketball, earned the distinction of becoming an Eagle Scout and traveled on family camping trips to visit national parks in the United States and Canada. Some of his fondest childhood memories were reading *Popular Science* magazine, peering at the rings of Saturn, and building rockets made from cardboard tubes and balsa wood that were "launched so high you couldn't see them, so you'd track them with binoculars and you'd use your walkie-talkies and your recovery team would find the thing out in some farmland."

Education

He earned electrical engineering degrees from the University of Delaware (BS) and from Princeton University (MS, MA and Ph.D.).

Career

Munson's career path began at the University of Illinois where in 1979 he started as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. After 24 years, he left Illinois to become chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. In 2006, Munson was named the Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering at Michigan where he served two five-year terms, the maximum allowed. Michigan Engineering is one of the top engineering schools in the world.

Research

Munson is highly regarded in several areas of signal and image processing. He has spent much of his research career working on imaging systems, particularly synthetic aperture radar (SAR). He was the first to mathematically describe the tomographic imaging mechanism underlying spotlight-mode SAR, and the first to show why high-quality radar imagery can be produced from band-pass Fourier data. His tomographic formulation of SAR served as the basis for ground-based imaging of satellites and also underlies progress on space-based high-resolution SAR imaging of the Earth.

Personal

Munson, 64, is married to Nancy Munson, a former nurse, avid runner and volunteer. The couple has four sons and four grandchildren.

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To find out how beneficial your payments could be and to learn more about CGAs or other gifts that provide income you cannot outlive, please visit rit.edu/CGA.

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Photo by Mark Benjamin



Above: Sunshine 2.0 cast members Katie Mueller and Ronnie Bradley perform. Right: The 1983 cast of Sunshine Too, Peter Isquith, left, Susan Brule, Dennis Webster, Kathie Holzwarth, Willy Conley and Doug Berky, gather around a banner with the company name.

A bright new day for NTID's Sunshine 2.0



Fred Michael Beam

RIT/NTID alumnus Fred Michael Beam finds connections where others may not. As the coordinator of RIT/NTID's traveling performance troupe Sunshine 2.0, Beam connects performing arts and science, technology, engineer-

ing and math—or STEM—themes, for deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing children and adults around the country.

Sunshine 2.0 is a reboot of the Sunshine Too program that was created in 1980. During its 19-year history, Sunshine Too visited 48 states and numerous countries, providing more than 12,500 performances for more than 1.3 million people worldwide.

Beam brings a global perspective to Sunshine 2.0, having worked with a variety of dance companies, and has performed around the world.

For his outstanding work with the deaf community, Beam was chosen one of *Essence* magazine's Real Men of the Year, and has

been *DEAF LIFE* magazine's Deaf Person of the Month.

"The vision of Sunshine 2.0 is to reach out to people and show them their commonality," Beam said. "I'm interested in bridging the gap between communities and cultures."

"I was working in public schools in the Washington, D.C., area when I first saw Sunshine Too perform. I never thought that one day I would be re-establishing it."

Sunshine 2.0 is made up of experienced performers Ronnie Bradley, a deaf actor and dancer from Washington, D.C., and Katie Mueller, who is hearing from Rochester and has a BFA in performance from Emerson College in Boston.

The troupe incorporates sign language and speech to ensure that all audiences can access the performances.

Sunshine 2.0 began this fall. As coordinator, Beam develops their themes, scripts and travel schedules.

"We are focused on the theme of bullying," he said. "It's an important and relatable topic. There is acting and poetry, written by deaf poets, spoken and sign language, dance and movement. Our ultimate goal is to share Sunshine 2.0 with the world."

For Beam, coordinating a performing arts program that incorporates deafness and STEM themes is a perfect fit—he earned his degree at RIT/NTID in engineering technology in 1985 and was introduced to the performing arts.

"It feels like this job was made for me," he said.

Beam was first exposed to theater at NTID, having been asked to join the dance troupe in part because of his moves on the RIT basketball court.

"The dance teacher was watching a game and asked me to join his class. I then got involved in theater at NTID and graduated with a rich theater experience."

Beam's depth of experience as a performer, coordinator and member of the deaf community are assets as he looks to grow Sunshine 2.0.

"This program can reach so many students with its messages of hope and inclusion," said Gerry Buckley, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean. "We are fortunate to have Fred 'back home' at NTID leading the resurgence of Sunshine 2.0."

Susan Murad

Alumni Updates



Rosalie Rosini '66 collected and distributed more than 500 pairs of socks to the Lewis Street YMCA Child Care Center in Rochester.

Education fueled by hard work—and fruit cakes

Rosalie Rosini is proof that age is just a number and that life is what you make it to be.

The 70-year-old, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of her graduation from RIT last May, said that she's more active in her life now than she's ever been.

Rosini '66 (food administration) grew up in a three-generation Italian household in East Rochester, N.Y., a community that she remains a part of today. When it came time for her to apply to college in 1964, a counselor at her high school told her that her father didn't make enough money and that she wouldn't be able to go. But with the encouragement of her high school's cleaning lady, she found her way to RIT.

"My grandmother and grandfather didn't read or write, but education was very important to me," said Rosini. "I was working 40 hours a week. I would go to school, then I'd go to work, then I'd set my alarm for 2 a.m. to do my homework."

To help pay her way through school, Rosini said that she was always looking for side jobs from the university. One of those

jobs stands out today.

"I was hired to help bake the holiday fruitcake for Dr. Ellingson, who was the president of RIT at the time," Rosini said. "I was given his mother's secret recipe, and the key was that the fruit was soaked in a huge amount of brandy so we had to promise not to eat it. Of course, we ate it anyways."

Following her graduation from RIT, Rosini went on to a career with Monroe County Food Services that spanned more than 30 years. Following her retirement in 2001, she became a caregiver for her ailing mother who was suffering from dementia. After her mother died in 2008, things began to change.

Rosini signed up for Weight Watchers, joined the YMCA and took her very first trip to Disney World where, at 65, she said she rode all of the rides.

"Sometimes people retire and they don't know what to do, but I've had some of my very best times. I'm out more now than I ever was before," Rosini said.

Beyond participating in activities and events, varying from dressing as Mrs. Claus for holiday parties, to taking dance classes, to



Photos by A. Sue Weisler

Rosalie Rosini works the sock drive with from left, volunteer Jean Rossi; Megan DeFranco '87, director of development, YMCA of Greater Rochester; and Julie Allen, coordinator of annual giving, Eastside Family YMCA.

zip-lining on a local course, Rosini has taken on a big role as a volunteer in her community.

Rosini is also an active environmentalist. She has fought for 19 years to save water wells from pollution in the Southern Tier.

"I've known a lot of older people in my life who don't just sit in a chair and die," Rosini said. "Retirement really frees you up. So go to RIT, get a good education, save your money, and then retire. You'll have your whole life directly ahead of you."

Lauren Peace '17



Former basketball teammates Justin Hamilton '03, left, and Christopher Stern '03 started a successful construction company.

Kimberly Simpson/Rochester Business Journal

Graduates construct Rochester Top 100 company

First-year students Justin Hamilton and Christopher Stern were standing on the sidelines of the basketball court in 1998 when they started talking about majors.

"He said, 'What are you studying,'" remembers Hamilton, who was undeclared engineering at the time. "He said, 'I'm thinking about declaring civil engineering technology.' I was like, 'We have that here?'"

That conversation between teammates was the beginning of Hamilton Stern Construction, a company that was No. 1 on the Rochester Chamber Top 100 list of fastest growing private companies in 2016.

The 2003 graduates both selected RIT in part because of the opportunity to play basketball. Stern, who grew up in Orchard Park, N.Y., moved to Charleston, S.C., after graduating to work for the Department of Transportation. He had done some co-ops in that part of the country and liked the area.

But he didn't love his job, which was quality assurance, because it wasn't hands on. In 2004 he moved to the Albany region where Hamilton, a Schenectady, N.Y., native, was working. They didn't work together for long.

Hamilton, who had met his future wife at a friend's house in the Rochester area, moved back to town at the end of 2004 and got into the high-end custom residential business with his father-in-law. They moved to commercial buildings in 2007. He was on every job site and honed his construction skills.

By 2007, Stern also was back in Rochester after stops in North Carolina and Florida working as a project manager. He was drawn to town by his future wife, whom he met at Hamilton's wedding.

That's when the civil engineers talked more seriously about going into business together.

"Probably the best decision we ever made was not doing that then," said Hamilton. "We didn't have the contacts and the know-how to do what we are doing today. We would never be where we are today."

By 2010, though, they were ready to give self-employment a shot. Their first project was an \$8,100 bathroom renovation in May of that year.

"We showed up in a shirt and tie and sold the job," Stern said.

"The next day we showed up in a T-shirt

and jeans and tore the thing up."

That project led to others and their business quickly grew to 10 employees by the second year. Today, they have 30 employees and work out of 9,000-square-feet of space in Pittsford, N.Y.

From 2014 to 2015, the business grew by 160 percent in annual sales, landing it the No. 1 spot on the Top 100. The growth can be attributed to large projects, including the renovation of two historic buildings for the Urban League of Rochester.

They hope to continue to grow their company by doing good work and hiring talented people. They have no regrets.

"I'm working with my best friend," Hamilton said.

Added Stern: "We certainly have fun."

Mindy Mozer

To learn more

For details about the company, go to HamiltonStern.com.



Mike Jeffries '11 talked to students about how his fascination with robots helped build a career in aerospace technology systems.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Robot pastime helped alumnus build career

Mike Jeffries is proud when Bombshell is on the attack, knowing there's no "tapping out" or yielding in competitions. During this past season of ABC's *BattleBots* show, taped over the summer, Bombshell and Jeffries' Chaos Corps team battled to an impressive second place finish.

Jeffries '11 (mechanical engineering technology) spoke to several undergraduate classes this fall about the competition and how his fascination with creating robots helped build a career in advanced aerospace technology systems.

Most of the students were familiar with *BattleBots*—and not intimidated by the destruction.

Jeffries showed several competition video clips, and the classes watched as Bombshell confirmed how the 250-pound robot, with an impressive array of weaponry, earned its name.

But as Jeffries talked about the competition, equipment and strategy, his engineering expertise came through. When he is not building competitive robots, he is a research

technologist in the Aerospace, Transportation and Advanced Systems Laboratory at Georgia Tech Research Institute. He helps develop novel radar and antenna systems through the institute's Systems Development Division.

"I'm here to talk about what happens after graduation and how a hobby can count as relevant experience," he said to the class. "It can be a way for you to say to a prospective employer, 'I have these skills.' It shows interest in the field, and an interesting side of your personality."

Jeffries had always been interested in building robots. He was an undergraduate at RIT when he competed for the first time in a robotics competition, placing fourth overall with a 5-2 record. He also was awarded the Best Engineered Robot, a surprise at the time. "It had one working wheel going into his last match," he said laughing.

BattleBots robots are a combination heavy power tool and a Roomba on steroids, connected wirelessly to drivers who maneuver them to overpower other robots. A wide variety of weaponry is allowed in competitions. Bombshell sports an electric axe and

articulating horizontal blade, among other interchangeable parts. The robots come in multiple sizes, from heavy robots like Bombshell to smaller, but still powerful 5-pound mini bots.

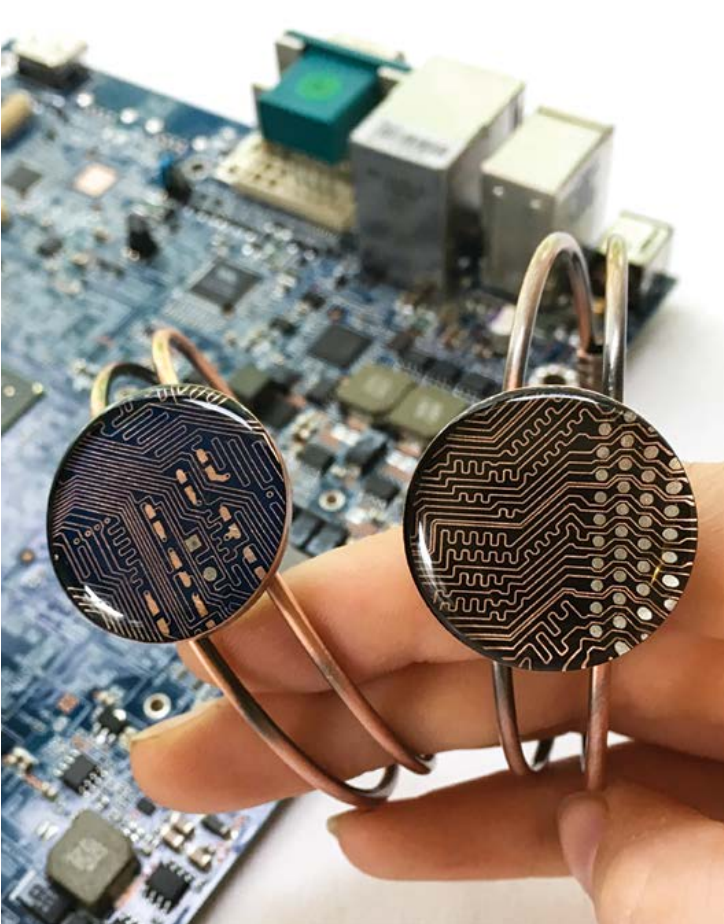
Jeffries and his wife, Julie, are a *BattleBots* couple. She is part of the nine-member Chaos Corps team. They have been married just over a year, recently bought a house and are setting up a home studio that combines her interest and background in metal art and his in robotics. "Our house is full of tools and has more maker space than living space," she said.

Both volunteer with the Atlanta Maker Faire and are a big part of that state's maker community intent on promoting science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

Jeffries' mechanical engineering technology background is about designing well-made products and equipment.

"People may not care about the difference between engineering and engineering technology," he said. "They do care that you know what you are doing."

Michelle Cometa '00



Amanda Preske '09 put her career as a chemist on hold to start her own jewelry business, Circuit Breaker Labs.

Photos by Amanda Preske (left and below) and A. Sue Weisler (right)

Chemist turns hobby into full-time business

Amanda Preske has three things that are almost as hard to come by individually as they are when put together: an expertise in chemistry, a knack for jewelry making, and a confidence and poise that have allowed her to excel in both.

Just over a decade ago, Preske '09 (chemistry) was in the midst of her college search process when she made the decision to attend RIT because of its abundant offerings in both science and art.

"I would take multiple art classes a semester, typically at night, in drawing, metalsmithing, collage, anything that was available," Preske said. "I ended up graduating with close to 80 extra credits."

Despite having earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Rochester in 2016, Preske has put her career as a researcher on hold to commit herself full time to her Rochester-based jewelry business, Circuit Breaker Labs, through which she crafts and sells pieces made from recycled circuit board and resin.



Preske, who began making jewelry at just 9 years old, said that she has always enjoyed working creatively with her hands. She started selling her work at craft shows at the age of 14, but it wasn't until later, when her brother was working on a broken computer, that she found her unique preference in materials.

"I was looking through a bookstore, and I came across a book about using resin," said Preske. "I was awestruck by the versatility of the material and what you could do with it. When I got my hands on the old circuit board from my brother's computer, I was infatuated with the intricate details and patterns that covered its surface. I thought that the combination would make for really interesting jewelry and ornaments."

Preske said that the feedback she got in response to the circuit board jewelry played a huge role in her decision to work further with the material, and she knew that she had found a niche platform on which to grow her business.

"If I hadn't received the positive response that I did, I probably wouldn't have realized its potential," she said.

Now, Preske works out of the upstairs of her apartment where she designs and constructs the pieces that she sells. What used to be a work space while pursuing her doctorate has been transformed into the "lab" that now sees some of her most creative designs. The pieces that she makes can be purchased online, at craft shows and at Shop One², which is located at RIT's Global Village.

"I never thought that I would end up doing this as a full-time job," said Preske. "I like that I'm my own boss. If I don't work, I don't progress, and I can't hold anybody accountable but myself. It's incredibly motivating, especially because I'm doing something that I love."

Lauren Peace '17

To learn more

To learn more about the business, go to www.circuitbreakerlabs.com.



Filip Keuppens '99 (hotel and resort management) is a vice president for The Pickle Juice Co.



Marketing job gets alumnus out of a pickle

Filip Keuppens '99 (hotel and resort management) took his hospitality degree, combined it with his love of sports and found the perfect job.

He is vice president of global sales and marketing for The Pickle Juice Co., which produces a sports drink that is designed to stop muscle cramps and replenish electrolytes.

"Being able to help introduce a product to athletes that really helps and makes a difference while at the same time is 100 percent natural and healthy—that's the most rewarding thing about this job," Keuppens said, adding that the company gets emails and calls several times a week from athletes who found that the drink improved their performance.

In the past two years, the Dallas-based company has partnered with the Tour de France and the AMGEN Tour

of California, started a division in Australia and secured distribution in Mexico.

Keuppens, who has been with the company since June 2015, is responsible for identifying expansion opportunities internationally and domestically.

Since graduating from RIT, he has spent his career in sales, first for H.J. Heinz Co., followed by Warner Home Video and 20th Century Fox, where he was selling DVDs to retail and was looking for a new opportunity.

"People say, 'why did you leave?' I say, 'when was the last time you bought a DVD,'" he said. He heard about The Pickle Juice marketing job opening through mutual acquaintances and was intrigued.

At RIT he was a rugby player and a captain of the team. After college, he continued to play, competing in the 2007 Touch Rugby World Cup competition for the United States. Last year, Keuppens took a job coaching rugby at the University of Dallas.

The Pickle Juice Co. job seemed like the perfect way to combine his interest in the food and beverage industry with his sports background, he said. He likes that he is with a company that is on the forefront of pioneering a new category in sports nutrition.

The product is manufactured specifically for alleviating muscle cramps and aiding hydration. The acetic acid in the vinegar engages the same neuroreceptors that cause muscle cramps, overwhelming the neurological system with information and preventing the cramp signals from getting through, Keuppens explained. The pickle flavor has to be there for the product to work.

"I joke with people we could call it Cramp Killer 9000 if we wanted and people would drink it and say, 'yup, that's pickle juice,'" he said.

Mindy Mozer



To learn more

Go to www.picklepower.com.



Radha Chhita will get her master's degree in May, becoming the eighth member of her family to attend RIT.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Eight degrees of success for South African family

RIT has become an educational legacy for eight members of the Chhita family from Johannesburg, South Africa.

Radha will graduate in May with a Master of Science degree in professional studies from the School of Individualized Study (SOIS)—like her sisters Asha '07, and Tulsi '16, before her. Another sibling, Kalpana, earned an MS in print media in 2004, and their father, Kishor, received an AAS degree in printing from RIT in 1974. Three cousins also attended RIT: Yogesh Chhita '06 (graphic media); Janak Chhita '05, '06 (graphic media, MBA); and Bhadresh Rama, who studied graphic communications from 1993-1994.

And all work for Golden Era Group, the Chhita-family-owned business and second largest independent printing and packaging company in South Africa.

"The business was started by my grandfather, Bhoola, in 1942, and we continue to carry on our grandfather's dream to build a better future for his family," said Radha. "We all have a deep family commitment and strong work ethic to become part of the company's executive team.

"My father, who is co-CEO with my sister Asha, believes everyone in the family should start working from the ground up. That's the family rule: Whatever is needed is the role in the company we fill."

Technology is the infrastructure of Golden Era's product line which includes folding cartons, self-adhesive and IML labels, shrink sleeves, boutique bags, thermoformed plastic containers, three-piece metal cans, and manufacturing and printing of corrugated boxes and papermaking.

"I chose RIT over other printing and packaging offerings in the world because of its world-class program," said Tulsi, who earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Accountancy and postgraduate Financial Management Honors in her homeland. "My father taught us all the equation in life: Opportunity + Instinct = Profit."

Similarly, Radha received an accounting sciences degree and a post graduate degree in accounting, and is finalizing her Chartered Accountancy while completing her SOIS print, packaging and business concentration at RIT. She says the sisters don't mind study-

ing or working hard—and all get along really well.

"My observation of both Tulsi and Radha, and this can apply to the whole family, is that they had a mission when they came to RIT," said Peter Boyd, SOIS lecturer and graduate program coordinator. "They showed up with a vision, were very clear about what they wanted to do, and able to articulate how a masters in professional studies would help them advance and impact their family business."

Radha left Rochester in December and is completing her capstone project from South Africa. "I'm the eighth in the family line coming to RIT," she said. "We always joke that there should be a Chhita building named after us on campus as there will be many generations to come."

Marcia Morphy

To learn more

For more information on the family company, go to www.golden-era.co.za.

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.

1956

Frank Vetare '56 (GAP) was one of 12 in the first graduating class of the Bachelor of Science degree in photographic science. He spent 22 years with Kodak in the graphic arts division. At the age of 83, he wrote *Kodak: You Should've Been There*, which is available through Amazon. Vetare and his wife, Joan, retired in Berlin, Md.

1967



David Jones '67 (SCB) is the CEO of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation located at Texas A&M University. The Bush Presidential Library is one of 13 in the nation operated by the National Archives.

1968

Bary Siegel '68 (GAP), '75 (CAST), '87 (CAST) was a member of the last graduating class from the downtown campus in 1968, and 2018 will be the 50th homecoming for his class. He is planning a special reunion for 2018. Information will be sent soon to all they can identify who might be interested.

1969

John Morrison '69 (SCB) retired Jan. 6, 2016, after a 30-year career in nursing management in both home health and long-term care nursing. He currently resides in the retirement community at United Methodist Homes/Wesley Village



RIT alumnus named Forbes '30 Under 30'

Sean Petterson '13 (industrial design) landed on the prestigious 2017 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list in manufacturing and industry.

Petterson is a founder of the industrial safety products company StrongArm Technologies Inc.

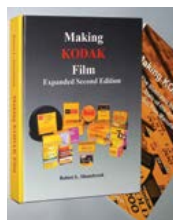
According to *Forbes*, StrongArm has raised \$4.5 million from investors, including 3M, which helps with distribution of exoskeletons designed to reduce arm fatigue, avoid muscle strains and prevent back injuries. Customers include Con Edison and military shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries.

"I'm honored to be included in such a prestigious class, particularly because all of these individuals and organizations are focused on creating real change in the manufacturing space," Petterson said.

Petterson started the company in 2010, which is now based in Brooklyn, N.Y., with Justin Hillery '13 (multidisciplinary studies) when they were students. Hillery is no longer with the company. He has moved on to pursue other interests.

Campus in Pittston, Pa., and serves on the board of directors at the Employment Opportunity and Training Center in Scranton, Pa., and the board of trustees at Keystone College in La Plume, Pa.

Ernest Shack '69 (GAP) reports that the Tau Epsilon Phi, Epsilon Nu chapter, reunion will be held Sept. 15-17, 2017, at RIT. Those brothers who have not received a save-the-date notification can contact Shack at eshack143@yahoo.com.



Robert Shanebrook '69 (GAP) has written a second edition of *Making KODAK Film*.

This is an expanded edition, containing 470 pages and more than 400 illustrations. The book provides history of film manufacturing technology and the film products used

for consumer and commercial photographic applications. For 20 years, Shanebrook was worldwide product manager for professional films, retiring in 2003. For details, go to makingKODAKfilm.com.

1973



Jonathan Atkin '73 (GAP), '78 (CIAS) was pleased to have two of his aerial photographs, commissioned by Moran Towing, featured as huge images at the Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding booth at the 2016 New Orleans Work Boat Show. While 99 percent of his commercial work is from manned helicopters, his fleet of six drones is growing. Atkin is studying for his FAA commercial drone license.

1974



Richard Hricko '74 (FAA) is a professor and head of the printmaking program at Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. He will be on

sabbatical during the spring 2017 semester in order to develop a new body of work for a solo exhibition and artist residency in New Zealand. During this time, he will also be displaying work in group shows nationally and internationally.

1975

Andrew Hirsch '75 (KGCoe) lives in Palm Springs, Calif., and is writing a book on Volkswagen's global emissions control fraud. He has spent many years as a senior environmental policy lobbyist leading many rule-making and permitting battles, including a 150-company coalition opposed to a 1,500-page regional cap and trade regulation.

1977



Kevin Hall '77 (FAA) met with Michael Beirut, who is a well-known graphic designer, design critic and educator, after Beirut's lecture at The Study at Yale in New Haven, Conn. Hall has his own award-winning graphic design firm, Kevin Hall Design, near New Haven, Conn.

Robert Kalita '77 (GAP) has retired after working at Kodak, Hemlock Semiconductor and Clariant Corp. He hopes to enjoy a lot of travel in the years to come.

Mark McPhillips '77 (CAST) has obtained his real estate license in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

1978



Deborah Marcuccilli '78 (KGCOE) and her daughter, **Alyxandra Vanderweel Sherwood '15 (CLA)**, completed the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6, 2016. This was Sherwood's first New York City marathon and Marcuccilli's second.

1979

Gregory Hafer '79 (GAP) is currently manager of technical development and support at Lehigh Valley Health Network—Schuylkill. He began this position upon the merger of Schuylkill Health System with the Lehigh Valley Health Network. He previously held the position of director of information technology at Schuylkill Health.



William Lee '79 (CCE) has his artwork hanging in the Utah Department of Arts and Museums Rio Gallery, for its annual showing of Utah artists.

1980



Kenneth Kuzia '80 (CCE) retired after 35 years at RG&E, customer service, information technology and human resources. He is enjoying his retirement with the grandkids, the Victor Art Group, his photography and art. He lives in Victor, N.Y., with his wife, Sharon, who recently graduated with a teaching degree.

1981



Peter Walczak '81 (GAP) has been awarded his sixth patent in the field of printing press design and waste reduction. The patent provides a unique method which reduces substrate waste

while adjusting the printing press parameters to obtain a satisfactory image.

Marc Roer '81 (NTID) has established a fund to provide a series of workshops that focus on students' soft skills and practical use of today's technology for career success. Through the \$10,000 commitment, the Roer Family Workshop Series "Genius Labs" will provide programming developed in partnership with RIT/NTID's Student Life Team and Center on Employment. Roer is a senior mechanical research technician at John Crane Inc. in Morton Grove, Ill.



Hospitality alumna appears on cooking show

Melanie Brown-Lane '12 (hospitality and service management) brought her RIT education and her healthy cooking talents to national TV, while making more people aware of the need for medically tailored meals for those with serious illnesses.

Brown-Lane appeared on Food Network's popular cooking competition show, *Chopped*, in the Jan. 3 episode called "Clean Eatin'." This special themed episode focused on healthy dishes suitable for someone who's watching their weight and concerned about nutrition.

Brown-Lane is executive chef for Moveable Feast, a community-based food provider in eastern Maryland. Moveable Feast serves 14 of the 24 counties in Maryland. The organization is the only provider of medically tailored meals—free of charge—for people with serious illnesses including breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, and a variety of life-threatening medical conditions.

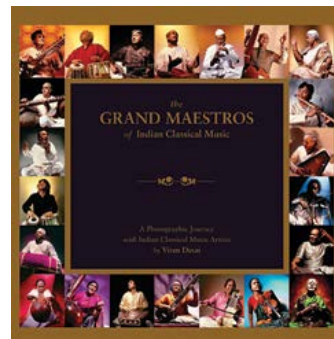
1983

Allen Noguee '83 (CAST) has founded the company Laser Markets Research, which will provide market research and forecasts on the worldwide laser market.



Quentin Schwinn '83 (GAP) is using a laser scanner to create 3D imagery for aircraft icing research at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. A photo showing both old and new research methods was created for social media, and Schwinn was shown using the laser scanner in the Icing Research Wind Tunnel to represent the new methods of research used today. He has worked at Glenn Research Center since 1984, first as a color photographic printer, then photographer and currently as a scientific imaging specialist.

1985



Viren Desai '85 (GAP) has recently self-published a coffee table book, *The Grand Maestros of Indian Classical Music*. The book is an exploration of the creative and soulful lives of some of the greatest contemporary Indian classical musicians. Desai has experienced the honor of meeting and spending time with some of India's most legendary classical artists over 25 years.



Troy Lamontagne '85 (KGCOE) has joined Cantor Colburn LLP in Hartford, Conn., as a member of a team of intellectual property attorneys. He concentrates his practice on domestic and international intellectual property procurement, prosecution, transactions and licensing. He has more than 16 years of diverse firm and in-house counsel experience as well as 15 years of professional engineering experience.

Tiger Love



Guerin Gagliastri '14, left, and Stephen Jones '13 met as Resident Advisors. They were married in September. A chalkboard at the wedding encouraged guests to share their love. (Photo by Chelsea Bos.)

Ice-breaker was really love at first sight

During the ice-breaking exercise that was part of Resident Advisor training in August 2011, students were put into pairs and asked to provide two interesting facts about themselves. Then they would change partners.

Near the end of the activity, Guerin Gagliastri '14 (physician assistant) found himself talking with Stephen Jones '13 (film and animation).

"Stephen told me he was in Switzerland for a year and that he spoke fluent French," said Gagliastri, who shared that he was one of six kids and moved 20 times growing up. "I just found him so interesting."

The two instantly became friends. They hung out after staff meetings and did their homework together. They shared with each other their goals in life. They talked about their families.

Three months later, they came out together and started to date. Last September, they got married.

"I like to think when we first met it was love at first sight," Jones said. "We just didn't realize it yet. We didn't know what it was."

Thinking back on their relationship, they

feel fortunate that their paths even crossed in the first place.

Jones, a Utica, N.Y., native, applied to RIT's film and animation program as a senior in high school with dreams of becoming the next Steven Spielberg. But he decided to defer his admission for one year and spend a gap year in Switzerland. When he met Gagliastri, Jones was in his second year as a Resident Advisor.

Gagliastri, meanwhile, had participated in a health care shadowing program when he was in high school in Albany, N.Y., thinking he wanted to be a doctor. Although he had been accepted into five-year medical track programs at Duke University and Syracuse University, he came to RIT to become a physician assistant, the job he enjoyed the most during the high school program.

Jones graduated first and became a production assistant for the *Katie Couric* show in New York City. When the show got canceled, he began working on the *Meredith Vieira* show in Rockefeller Center and then in the video department at a public relations agency.

A year later, Gagliastri joined Jones in New York City. He worked at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

On Dec. 27, 2014, after a Christmas party with both of their families, Gagliastri proposed to Jones.

They were married Sept. 17, 2016, on a farm in Ballston Spa, N.Y., with two dozen alumni in attendance.

The do-it-yourselfers and their artistic families made all of the decorations, including the chandelier. Jones' parents grew the flowers in their backyard.

Their mothers each made their boutineers using material from their own wedding dresses. Jones' sister officiated the wedding. Gagliastri's grandmother was the flower girl.

Today, the couple lives in Philadelphia with their Russian Siberian cat named Frex. Gagliastri works in the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He learned at his first job that he wanted to specialize in neonatology. Jones works for Apple as a technical specialist.

They are thankful they both ended up at RIT.

"RIT is our home, it's where we met, where we fell in love," Gagliastri said. "It's a very special place to us."

Mindy Mozer



Surprise RIT encounter at NFL game

Fourth-year microelectronic engineering student **Mark Davis**, left, went to Arizona in September for the New England Patriots-Arizona Cardinals football game.

He happened to have seats next to two other MicroE alumni, **Stuart Sieg '08**, middle, and **Brian Lindenau '08**, right.

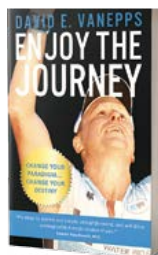
"We struck up a friendly conversation in a lull of the game, and slowly the progression of the conversation revealed we were all RIT students and former students," Davis said.

Sieg and Lindenau have been friends since their sophomore year in college. Lindenau lives in Phoenix and works at Intel and Sieg lives in Albany, N.Y., and works at IBM.

"The MicroE program stands out among RIT alumni in terms of lasting connections," Lindenau said. "I continue to keep in touch with many folks from the program, including professors."

Kirk Striebach '85 (SCB), '89 (CLA) recently retired after 21 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent. Following his retirement from public service, he joined Carnegie Mellon University as deputy technical director of monitoring and response at the Software Engineering Institute.

1990



David VanEpps '90, '98 (CAST) recently wrote a book called *Enjoy the Journey*. After RIT, VanEpps built on his RIT ambulance experience by working as a fire-fighter and

paramedic. He earned his MS degree from RIT and has since worked in many leadership and executive IT positions. He has served as a missionary and has become a two-time Ironman. VanEpps lives in Detroit with his family.

1993



Joseph Brennan '93 (FAA) wants to share one of his latest works of art and to invite everyone to visit Brennan Designs—a multi-faceted design studio.

K (Sid) Siddiky '92, '93 (COS) has been with Canada Post Corp. since January 2006. He currently holds the position of senior manager, Parcel Pricing Strategy, in Ottawa. He married Saadia in December 1996 and they have two boys, Diaan (2005) and Riaan (2006).

1994



Charles Sadler '94 (CIAS) married Katherine M. Howell in a civil ceremony on Sept. 16, 2016, at the New York City Marriage Bureau. They live in Hastings-on-Hudson in Westchester County, N.Y. Sadler is an ISA Certified Arborist of King Garden Designs Inc.

Christy Wasserman '94 (CIAS) is now a senior systems analyst at General Motors in its Arizona Innovation Center.

1995

Matthew Daniels '95, '99 (KGCOE) was hired as a senior mechanical engineer with Intuitive Surgical Inc. in its newly established office in Raleigh, N.C. Intuitive Surgical, based in Sunnyvale, Calif., is the global technology leader in minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery.



Frederick Whittemore '95 (CLA) graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., on Sept. 16, 2016. Whittemore is a lieutenant with the Wellesley, Mass., Police Department.

1996

Chris Jackson '96 (CIAS) was promoted to associate dean of graduate studies and research for the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences at RIT. He is a full professor and the former graduate director of the visual communication design MFA program. With more than 17 years of academic experience and 20 years of professional work in graphic and multimedia design and motion graphics, Jackson brings diverse expertise to his work in applied computer graphics and design.



Sandra Dolitz-Vasquez '96 (CLA) has accepted a position at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., where she is the instructional designer for the Yale University Department of Environmental Health and Safety. She is also attempting to develop and launch a global network of university environmental health and safety training professionals for the purpose of content comparison and information sharing between schools. She and her husband, William, and now 13-year-old son, Benjamin, live in Norwalk, Conn.

1989



Rocco Creazzo '89 (CAST) recently accepted a position as director of talent development with Fluor Corp., one of the

world's largest publicly owned engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance services companies.



Pietro "Pete" Giovenco '89 (CAST), '12 (SCB) was named president of Bergmann Associates DPC, a full service architectural and engineering firm with

more than 400 employees located in 10 offices throughout the United States.

Tiger Cubs



1 Sandor Ferenczy '02 (CIAS) and Sara Duling are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Sandor Henry Ferenczy, in June 2016.

2 Eric Barner '03 (SCB) and Stacy Barner welcomed Ian Michael Barner into the world on Sept 20, 2016.

3 Lisa Kachigian '03 (CIAS) and Josh Doolin '11 (KGCOE) welcomed Cora Kelly Doolin, their second daughter, to the family.

4 Krista (Rivet) Prall '03 (KGCOE) and John Prall '03 (KGCOE) welcomed Ryder Jack, born on Oct. 24, 2016. Big brother Bryce is excited about the new addition to the family.

5 Anna Mizelle '08 (SCB) and Rob Mizelle '09 (CAST) welcomed a son, Jackson Robert Mizelle, on Oct. 14, 2016.

Jvalant Sampat '04 (GCCIS) and his wife, Phoram Sampat, welcomed their daughter, Navya, on July 16, 2016, in Bombay, India. Her name means "praiseworthy" in Sanskrit.

6 Joshua Simoneau '05 (CAST) and Helen Li '05 (SCB) welcomed Leon, their second Tiger Cub, on Nov. 27, 2016.

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

8 Hayley (Fisch) Donoghue '05 (CIAS) and Sean Donoghue are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Teagan Alexandra. She was born on Aug. 15, 2016.

9 Katherine (Robert) Thompson '07, '09 (CLA) and Mark Thompson '08 (CAST) welcomed their first child, William Michael, on July 10, 2016.

10 Paul Meyer '08 (GCCIS) and his wife, Kathy, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Theodore Lyle Meyer.

Allison La Carte '09 (CAST) welcomed a baby girl in May 2016.

11 Lauren (Bond) Iuranich '12 (CAST) and her husband, John, welcomed their first child, Lily Ailsa, on Aug. 23, 2016.

2000

Kimberlee DePuy '00 (CIAS) accepted a new position as regional manager at Offit Kurman in Tysons Corner, Va.

2001

Jonah Goodman '01 (CIAS) was elected as an ANC Commissioner in Washington, D.C., for the 2017-18 term.

Thomas Richardson '01 (SCB) founded T Shaped Consulting LLC, a health care market research consultancy specializing in serving the research needs of medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, health care insurers and health care delivery systems.

2003



Kelly (Schottler) Petersen '03 (CIAS) married Brent Petersen on July 30, 2016, at Stout's Island Lodge in Birchwood, Wis. The couple celebrated their wedding weekend surrounded by close family and friends, including a few other CIAS graduates. They live in St. Joseph, Mo.

2004

Justin Bienio '04 (SCB) left his position as an operations manager to work on various international volunteering projects. He will focus on causes working with wildlife and wilderness conservation, child welfare and small business development. He will be documenting his volunteer experiences in the blog BeerAndaBackpack.com to help encourage others to volunteer abroad and promote positive global engagement.

2005

Marc-Antony Arena '05 (SCB) has released the public beta for his latest company, Streamplcity.com. Streamplcity is an Android-based cable box that allows people to view select TV stations from around the world on their living room televisions.

Keith Bangs '05 (CAST) was promoted to engineering supervisor at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn.

Michael Moore '05 (SCB) is celebrating his third year at NetBrain. Moore is happy to be back in the Northeast for the last few years, after living in Austin, Texas, previously for four years.

2006

Thomas Castle '06 (CAST) is a proud member of an RIT legacy family. Both of his parents and two siblings attended RIT. Castle started his career in packaging and has worked for Pfizer, Kellogg and several other international companies with great success.

2007



Kenneth De Haan '07 (NTID), '09 (SCB), '11 (SOIS) recently purchased his first home in Pittsburgh.

Bryan Ijeoma '07 (GCCIS) has been awarded a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts in architecture/environmental structures/design. The program is highly competitive and this year's recipients and finalists were selected by discipline-specific peer panels from an applicant pool of 2,669.

2008

Annalisa De Marta '08 (SCB) is co-owner and COO of LONECONE.com, which *Inc.* magazine ranked No. 235 on its 35th annual Inc. 5000, an exclusive ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies. LONECONE.com was founded in Rochester in 2009 as an online-only retailer of all things outdoors. The business moved to Boise, Idaho, in 2014 and opened a storefront in downtown Boise to give local outdoor enthusiasts first-hand access to top outdoor brands.

2009



Susan Cook '09 (CIAS) is the community relations specialist at Girl Scouts of Western New York in Rochester. Supporting girls to create future female leaders of courage, confidence and character is important to her career path and she witnesses local girls' lives being changed for the better by the organization every day.

Jenna DiVincenzo '09 (CAST) received the "Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year" award from the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in May 2016. She is a clinical dietitian at Jewish Senior Life in Rochester.



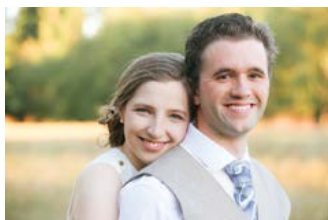
SOFA graduate part of Oscar-winning team

A graduate of RIT's School of Film and Animation was recognized for scientific and technical achievement at the Academy Awards. Brian Cantwell '99 (film and animation) is a member of the team at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) that was recognized for its design and development of ILM's facial performance-capture solving system.

The system enables high-fidelity facial performance transfer from actors to digital characters in large-scale productions—while retaining full artistic control. It also integrates stable rig-based solving and the resolution of secondary detail in a controllable pipeline. Cantwell worked on the system with ILM team members Kiran Bhat, Michael Koperwas and Paige Warner.

Cantwell said his credits that are directly related to the development of the facial performance capture system include his visual effects work on *Warcraft* (2016), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* (2016), and *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016), among other films. On *Rogue One*, he was credited as digital artist lead. His filmography includes 25 credits.

"It's an incredible honor to be acknowledged and to be in such great company," Cantwell said. "I owe so much to so many co-honorees, so many great people at ILM, across the industry, and, of course RIT, where it all began for me."



Ian Frank '09 (KGCOE) married Christine Braun on Sept. 17, 2016. The wedding party included **Courtney Walsh '08 (KGCOE)** and **Joseph Frank '68 (KGCOE)**. **Matt Greco '09 (KGCOE)**, **Eva Ames '09 (KGCOE)**, and **Alex Koroleski '09 (GCCIS)** also attended.



Brady Marrinan '09 (CIAS), a U.S. Navy submarine veteran, and his wife, Jessica, opened PGHC Graphics in

Bowie, Md. PGHC Graphics offers a full line of promotional screen print services focused on supporting bands, local small businesses and veterans.

Rebecca Strauss '09 (CIAS) accepted the position of fine art studio technician at Brandeis University in Waltham, Ma.

2010



Nicholas Cheong '10 (CLA) hosted a networking event for a dozen RIT alumni in Denver on Oct. 27 over food and ping pong at Ace Denver.



Thomas Provo '10 (CAST) married Kristin Bruce on Oct. 1, 2016, at the New York Wine & Culinary Center in Canandaigua, N.Y. RIT alumni friends in attendance included **Michael Ryzner '12 (CAST)** and **Kristina (Quartieri) Perry '10 (CAST)**.

Katherine Varandas '10 (COS) graduated with her Ph.D. in cell biology from University of California San Francisco in October. Varandas is now a post-doctoral scholar at The Rockefeller University in New York City.

2011

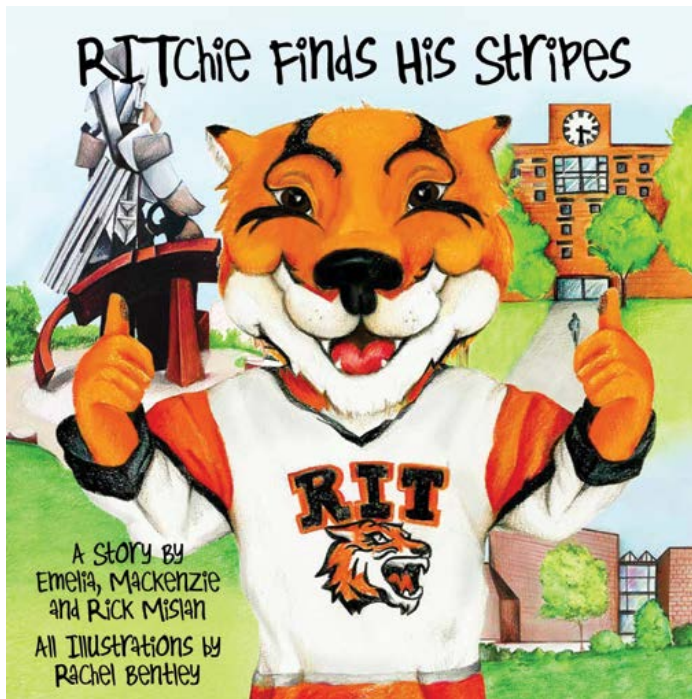


Nicholas Dalton '11 (KGCOE) was hired as a mechanical engineer for the building performance group of Erdman Anthony in Rochester. Dalton has several years

of experience as a mechanical and application engineer and project manager.



Joseph Fernandez '11 (CAST) married Emily (Pethic) Fernandez of Rochester on Sept. 9, 2016. They now live in Portland, Ore., and are expecting their first child.



How RIT's mascot found its stripes

Rick Mislan '91 (CLA) entered a contest when he was a student to name RIT's new mascot and his entry, RITchie, was selected.

Now 25 years later, Mislan has written *RITchie Finds His Stripes* with the help of his two daughters. The book, available through pre-order at ritchiefindshisstripes.com, will be sold at Barnes and Noble @ RIT and the Gene Polisseni Center after the first 100 copies are purchased. Those copies will be numbered and signed.

Mislan is now a lecturer in the management information systems program in Saunders College of Business. The book was illustrated by **Rachel Bentley '09 (illustration)**.

"As a kid, I loved being at RIT. It was my first real opportunity to develop my life skills in preparation for my own unique, professional path," Mislan said. "You could say it was a sort of finding my own stripes. In the book, RITchie resonates as that eager young tiger cub searching for his stripes."



Kelly (Eagen) Holland '11 (CLA) and **Adam Holland '10 (CAST)** were married on Sept. 12, 2015, on Seneca Lake. They live in Ledyard, Conn.



Jenny Keller '11 (SCB) and **Mark Yesilevskiy '11 (SCB)** celebrated their wedding in Rochester on Oct. 1, 2016. The couple met during their senior year at RIT. They currently live in Buffalo, N.Y., where they both work at a digital marketing agency.



Brendan Larrabee '11 (KGCOE) recently celebrated his marriage to Meaghan (Bircher) Larrabee in Lake Placid, N.Y., on Sept. 24, 2016.



Suzan Pero '11 (COS) is living in Chicago and working for one of the biggest telecommunications brokerages in the country as a cable support manager.

2012

Phillip Amsler '12 (KGCOE) tied the knot with Karen Wheatall of Butler, Pa., on Nov. 12, 2016, in Pittsburgh.



Meghan Castagno '12 (CLA) and **Joseph Pesce '12 (GCCIS)** wish to announce their engagement this past August at Lake George, N.Y. They will be married in October 2017 in Rochester.



Samantha De Sando '12 (COS) and **Christian Lopez '13 (KGCOE)** are engaged to be married in 2017.



Johanna Lang-Bentley '12 (KGCOE) got married on Oct. 7, 2016, in Skaneateles, N.Y.



Megan Mure '12 (SOIS) and **Eric Scalzo '14 (CAST)** were married on July 9, 2016, at a winery in Lockport, N.Y. The wedding party included **Christopher Torbitt '14 (KGCOE)**, **Antonio Callisto '13 (SCB)**, **Allan Runions '14 (CAST)**, **James Wasniewski '14 (CAST)**, **Rebecca Suskin '13 (NTID)**, **Brittany Ambeau '13 (COS)**, **Nicole (Scalzo) Hoover '08 (COS)** and **Stephen Hoover '07 (CLA)**. Scalzo is working as a manufacturing engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft. They live in Naugatuck, Conn.



Jason Scott '12 (CAST) got engaged to longtime girlfriend Brianna Worthington on March 31, 2016. With their journey starting as high school sweethearts, they look forward to beginning the next great chapter of their lives.

Karamjit Singh '12 (SCB) joined Smart Wires Inc. as vice president of testing. Smart Wires is a grid solutions company based in the San Francisco Bay Area that works with utilities to design and develop a dynamic grid that is clean, reliable, affordable and safe.



Robert Watson '12 (GCCIS) and **Tymothy Lipari '13 (GCCIS)** celebrated their marriage on Oct. 22, 2016, at the Vogt Mansion in Rochester. In attendance were many RIT alumni and staff: **Natalie Boice-Pardee; Heath Boice-Pardee '11 (CAST); Kathleen Hall; Greg Pollock '12 (CLA); Teraisa Mullaney '11, '13 (GCCIS); David Mullaney '12 (GCCIS); Joshua Kramer '14 (KGCOE); Kristen Kramer '12 (SCB); Brendan Wolfert '12 (SCB); Phillip Amsler '12 (KGCOE); Zack Sigmund '14 (KGCOE); Adam Cornwell '09 (COS); Sean Lillis '13 (KGCOE); Brendan Foley '06 (GCCIS); Samantha Kenyon '15 (KGCOE); and Knycos Ferguson.**

2013



his audience picks up this skill, which will improve deaf access in the world. His username is meowchickenfish.



Chad Krohn '13 (CAST) is using the phone application Snapchat to teach his audience American Sign Language at no cost. He hopes in Rochester and moved to the Sunshine State in 2014. She has experience with financial reporting and corporate accounting and is now having fun learning about foreign exchange and hedges.



Sheetal Mohan '03 (SCB), '13 (CHST) is now a treasury manager at Harris Corp. Mohan began her career in Rochester and moved to the Sunshine State in 2014. She has experience with financial reporting and corporate accounting and is now having fun learning about foreign exchange and hedges.

will be spending one year at McMurdo Station Antarctica supporting local infrastructure and operational activities. Additionally, he will support field exploration and scientific research activities.

2014



Kelsey (Williford) Gosselin '14 (COS) and **Taylor Gosselin '14 (COS)** celebrated their wedding in Sturbridge, Ma., on Nov. 12, 2016. The ceremony was attended by family, friends and numerous RIT alumni. The couple met during freshman orientation at RIT.

Kei Ito '14 (CIAS) has earned his MFA in photography from Maryland Institute College of Art. He is actively working on his artistic series called Sungazing. This project is linked to his family history, especially his grandfather who was in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb exploded in 1945. The Sungazing series has been shown in many galleries and museums.

Chen Li '14 (CIAS) is featured on page 77 of the November/December 2016 Tools and Shops issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. He is bringing back the art of furniture making to China.



Hilary Young '14 (CHST) and **Garth Sinclair '15 (KGCOE)** are elated to announce their engagement. A September 2017 wedding is planned in Rochester.

2015

Colin F. Shepherd '15 (NTID) won the 2016 ASC Haskell Wexler Student Documentary Award from the American Society of Cinematographers. He attended the awards ceremony in Hollywood in October. The name of his documentary is *Into the Microscope*, a film that features reversed combinations of cinematic shots as a scientist looks into a microscope.

2016

Geoffrey Berl '16 (GCCIS) got a new job at PTC Thingworx as a software engineer in the sustaining and reliability department.

Huang Chen '16 (GCCIS) has been working at Liberty Mutual since graduation.



Laura De Martino '16 (CLA) is working for BlackBox Biometrics as the marketing communications specialist.

Katelyn Gunderson '16 (KGCOE) began studies toward an MS in aerospace engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology last August. She will be researching composite materials and structural health monitoring methods.



Alok Mehta '16 (CAST) works as a VPI packaging engineer with Cummins Emissions Solutions to develop out-bound supply chain solutions for major OEMs in North America.



Emily Moore '16 (CIAS) began her dual-degree master's in international affairs, natural resources and sustainable development at American University

in August. She will be spending 2017 studying at the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Paige Peckham '16 (CIAS) accepted a position as an interior designer/relocation manager at Vargas Associates in Rochester.

Kristyn Wasikowski '16 (SCB) is now an IT analyst in the technical development program at Liberty Mutual.

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.

Make a gift to make a home



Imagine your **Tiger Pride** swelling as you walk through the front door of your home on RIT's campus—the RIT Alumni House. With work on the house underway, your home at RIT is almost ready for you, as well as the endless amounts of activities, events, and memories you'll share with fellow Tigers.

Interested in making the Alumni House your home and leaving your mark in support of all RIT alumni? Give today: rit.edu/alumnihouse.



In Memoriam

Alumni

1938

Lena W. Collins (Weber)
'38 (SCB), Sept. 10, 2016

1939

Marlene (Kron) Duerr '39
(FAA), Dec. 2, 2016

1940

Wallace J. Wagner '40
(SCB), Dec. 3, 2016

1941

Glenn R. House '41
(KGCOE), Oct. 14, 2016
Raymond Hobson '41
(KGCOE), Dec. 1, 2016
Vera (Jenison) Eddy '41
(SCB), Dec. 8, 2016
Elizabeth (Pedley)
Chandler '41 (SCB), Oct.
20, 2016
Frederick B. Talbot '41
(KGCOE), Nov. 29, 2016

1943

Barbara (Maulbetsch)
Archer '43 (SCB),
Oct. 8, 2016

1946

Marion (Simonsen)
Dykstra '46 (SCB),
Oct. 11, 2016

1948

Mamie M. Simonson '48
(GAP), Oct. 5, 2016
Rosemary (Sprague)
Mattern '48 (COS), Sept.
25, 2016
W.G. Holderness '48
(FAA), Oct. 3, 2016
Hyman I. Goldman '48
(GAP), Oct. 15, 2016
Joseph V. Ambruso Sr. '48
(GAP), Nov. 18, 2016

1949

Sally (Naramore) Williams
'49 (FAA), Nov. 12, 2016
Donald K. Atkins '49
(GAP), Nov. 11, 2016

1950

Joseph J. Calabucci '50
(GAP), Dec. 5, 2016
Josephine (Parlato)
Harland '50 (SCB), Dec.
6, 2016
Harry E. Harps '50 (GAP),
Sept. 17, 2016

Leland M. Ressler '50
(GAP), Oct. 3, 2016
Walter J. Bruchhauser '50
(CCE), Sept. 16, 2016

1951

Cora (Carmine) Fontana
'51 (SCB), Sept. 18, 2016
Donald Jewell '51 (FAA),
Dec. 2, 2016
Thomas N. Stofer Jr. '51
(GAP), Sept. 2, 2016

1952

Gaylord F. Volzer '52
(CCE), Sept. 9, 2016
Donald F. Knop '52
(KGCOE), Nov. 1, 2016
Calvin W. Shaw '52 (GAP),
Dec. 6, 2016

1954

Jack L. Oblein '54 (CCE),
Nov. 1, 2016
Louis T. Piazza '54 (CCE),
Oct. 30, 2016

1956

William J. Hendrick '56
(CCE), Nov. 29, 2016
Richard A. Mort '56
(GAP), Oct. 22, 2016
Ronald O. Wellman '56
(FAA), Nov. 29, 2016

1957

Sam C. Magnera '57
(CCE), Nov. 5, 2016

1958

Joseph Porcelli '58 (CCE),
Sept. 15, 2016
Anthony F. Lipani '58
(COS), Oct. 27, 2016
Richard M. Gates '58
(FAA), Nov. 29, 2016

1959

John C. Mayer '59
(KGCOE), Oct. 1, 2016

1960

Richard J. Brice '60 (CCE),
Sept. 12, 2016
Darrel T. Lubey '60
(KGCOE), Nov. 13, 2016
Daryl R. Corteville '60
(CCE), Dec. 8, 2016
Ralph Agresta '60
(KGCOE), '72 (SCB), April
13, 2016

1961

John M. Sturge '61 (GAP),
Oct. 27, 2016

Harley L. Burgess '61
(CCE), Aug. 27, 2016
John H. Porter Jr. '61
(GAP), Oct. 17, 2016

1962

Daniel E. Hedberg '62
(KGCOE), '65 (KGCOE),
'71 (COS), Dec. 1, 2016
Donald S. Babbitt '62
(GAP), Sept. 2, 2016

1963

Merilyn K. Doody '63
(COS), Sept. 29, 2016
Kener E. Bond Jr. '63
(FAA), Nov. 6, 2016
Robert J. Werth '63 (CCE),
Nov. 13, 2016

1964

Leonard A. Nowin '64
(CCE), Nov. 26, 2016
Gerald L. Resch '64 (CCE),
Oct. 2, 2016
Roy J. Same '64 (CCE),
Nov. 25, 2016
Everett K. Henry '64
(CCE), Sept. 19, 2016
Richard J. Casanzio '64
(KGCOE), Nov. 10, 2016
Guenther O. Loepertz '64
(CCE), Oct. 31, 2016

1965

Gordon C. Niedermeier '65
(CCE), Sept. 2, 2016

1966

Harold G. King '66 (CCE),
Sept. 11, 2016
Richard J. Vollmer '66
(CCE), Dec. 11, 2016
Lawrence A. Parkins '66
(CCE), Aug. 29, 2016
Sydney M. Blyth '66 (CCE),
Dec. 4, 2016
Kenneth Winebrenner '66
(FAA), Oct. 23, 2016

1967

Mark A. Baker '67
(KGCOE), Dec. 1, 2016
James M. Buhay '67
(KGCOE), Dec. 5, 2016
Richard L. Harter '67
(CCE), Sept. 6, 2016

1968

Jay A. Levy '68 (SCB), Nov.
5, 2016
Harry F. Michaels '68
(CCE), Sept. 26, 2016
Ernest L. Turner '68 (CCE),
Aug. 25, 2016

William John Foos '68
(CCE), Dec. 12, 2016
John F. Hoose '68
(KGCOE), Sept. 25, 2016

1969

Richard L. Narburgh '69
(COS), Sept. 7, 2016
John J. Roberts Jr. '69
(CCE), Nov. 30, 2016

1970

Thomas J. Repp '70
(KGCOE), Sept. 7, 2016
Paul W. Griffith '70 (CCE),
Nov. 22, 2016
Daniel L. Fagan '70 (SCB),
Sept. 2, 2016
Lynn W. Arnold '70
(KGCOE), Sept. 3, 2016
Richard C. Dengal '70
(SCB), Oct. 6, 2016

1971

Theodore E. Walker '71
(KGCOE), Nov. 7, 2016
Gary H. Dodd '71 (CCE),
Oct. 23, 2016
Steven G. Tichenor '71
(SCB), Oct. 6, 2016
Thomas M. Denero '71
(CCE), Sept. 10, 2016

1972

Robert T. Norton '72
(SCB), Nov. 7, 2016
Alvin L. Schubert '72
(SCB), Sept. 7, 2016

1973

Timothy L. Shay '73 (SCB),
Sept. 26, 2016
J. Fred Boyle '73 (CCE),
Oct. 9, 2016
Robert J. Quigley '73
(SCB), Nov. 18, 2016
Robert P. Jacoby '73
(KGCOE), '74 (KGCOE),
Sept. 29, 2016

1974

William R. Laitenberger
'74 (CCE), Oct. 18, 2016
Joseph G. Cyr Jr. '74
(KGCOE), Oct. 27, 2016
Casey R. Ruliffson '74
(GAP), Oct. 19, 2016
Walter D. Goettman '74
(GAP), Oct. 10, 2016

1975

Dennis Depalma '75 (SCB),
Nov. 4, 2016

1976

Kenneth Gary Stawasz '76
(GAP), '77 (GAP), Nov.
3, 2016
Glenn D. Bailey '76
(KGCOE), Nov. 3, 2016

1977

Dieter H. Fritzsche '77
(SCB), Oct. 18, 2016
Anita Q. Maruggi '77
(CLA), Oct. 8, 2016
James M. Kubarek '77
(CCE), Sept. 16, 2016
Daniel J. Leopold '77
(COS), Dec. 10, 2016
Dudley Leonard Reimer
'77 (CCE), '78 (CCE), Sept.
16, 2016
Steven Douglas Barley '77
(CCE), Sept. 20, 2016
Raymond E. Hawkes '77
(CCE), Nov. 3, 2016

1978

Gary Charles Servis '78
(CCE), Sept. 12, 2016
Edward Wallace Galloway
'78 (SCB), Aug. 27, 2016
John Basil Tierney '78
(CCE), Oct. 17, 2016
James Francis Maher '78
(CCE), Dec. 12, 2016

1979

Richard Charles Burke '79
(CCE), '80 (CCE), Nov.
30, 2016

1980

James John Frawley '80
(CAST), Nov. 14, 2016
Walter Stroh '80 (CAST),
Sept. 7, 2016
Robert S. Kerr '80 (FAA),
Oct. 7, 2016

1981

Priscilla Mae Zonneville '81
(CCE), Sept. 6, 2016
Stephen F. Ricco '81 (SCB),
Nov. 10, 2016

1982

Jon Warren Zimmer Jr.
'82 (GAP), '84 (GAP), Oct.
6, 2016

1983

Frank Allan Meagher '83
(CCE), '84 (CCE), Nov.
26, 2016
Camden R. McAtee III '83
(GAP), Sept. 22, 2016

1988

Charles R. DeJohn '88
(KGCOE), Sept. 12, 2016

1989

Rena S. Glickstein Moyers
'89 (SCB), Sept. 11, 2016

1990

Hans J. Roeszies '90 (CCE),
Nov. 22, 2016

1992

Joanne F. Nothnagle '92
(CCE), '97 (SCB), Aug.
27, 2016
David G. Waite '92
(CAST), Oct. 8, 2016

1997

Joy P. Duskin '97 (CIAS),
Nov. 28, 2016

1998

John E. Bernacki '98
(SCB), Dec. 12, 2016

1999

Darren C. Rose '99
(CAST), Sept. 22, 2016

2000

Jeffrey S. Smith '00
(CAST), Sept. 4, 2016

2001

George R. Vorhauer '01
(CAST), Sept. 22, 2016

2009

Jaime LaMontanaro Aros
'09 (NTID), Sept. 30, 2016

Faculty and Staff

Kener Bond Jr., jewelry
and goldsmithing profes-
sor and assistant dean,
Nov. 6, 2016

Joy Paula Duskin, former
member of the Depart-
ment of Access Services,
Nov. 28, 2016

Robert Easton, retired
professor emeritus from
the College of Applied
Science and Technology,
November 2016

Wiley McKinzie, retired
dean of CAST and vice
dean of GCCIS, Jan. 18,
2017

from the Archives



Students prepare to drive to Henrietta after the Trustees announced in 1961 that the campus was moving.

Photo by Bill Barley '64

The beginning of the Henrietta campus

Why did RIT move to Henrietta? RIT was located in downtown Rochester prior to the move to Henrietta in 1968. The downtown campus had served the school since 1885, and buildings were built as needed.

Enrollment grew steadily until the 1950s, when the school experienced an explosion of students after World War II. The number of students doubled between 1950 and 1960, and projections indicated more of the same in the foreseeable future. Existing facilities were strained, and in some cases, inadequate.

However, the board and RIT President Mark Ellingson agreed that growth was positive and integral to the institution's mission to serve the community.

The discussion centered on how and where to grow. The institute had been acquiring land in the area surrounding the campus downtown but expansion in the area was very expensive.

Other exploration centered on searching for a site outside the city that would provide the required room for growth far into the future. The current site in Henrietta was a top choice.

Into this state of affairs came an

announcement by the New York State Department of Public Works that a plan to improve traffic for the Inner Loop would entail knocking down the Eastman Building, the main administrative and classroom building.

Anxious to keep RIT downtown, the City Planning Commission made an impressive pitch, presenting a plan to eliminate deteriorated property in the Third Ward, and several hundred acres to take care of immediate space needs, ample housing for faculty, staff and students, and other amenities.

Then the state announced a new plan that would allow the Eastman Building to stay, but the Inner Loop would now divide the campus, appropriating 11 RIT buildings and isolating the Ritter-Clark gymnasium and ice arena. The city administration attempted to push the route further south and preserve the campus, but the state refused, citing engineering issues and expense.

In early 1961 RIT received an unexpected surprise—a gift of \$ 3.27 million from Grace Watson, who had attended classes, but was unknown to the administration.

The Trustees decided to use the donation, the largest in RIT's history, toward the purchase of land in Henrietta.

On Nov. 22, 1961, the Trustees announced that RIT was going to move from the current downtown location to a new site in Henrietta. President Ellingson called the move “the most significant single act in the 132-year history of the Institute.”

The news electrified the students.

An editorial in the *Reporter* noted: “The action that the board has so courageously taken is unparalleled in its significance to RIT and the community it serves, and will be applauded by untold generations of students.”

The morning after the announcement, the Student Association presented a check for \$10,000 to President Ellingson to start a building fund. Morning classes were canceled and students drove in a motorcade to the new campus site in Henrietta.

Becky Simmons, RIT Archivist

50-year celebration

RIT is gearing up to celebrate 50 years on the Henrietta campus in 2018. Contact us to share your memories of the early years or the move at umag@rit.edu.

LET OUT YOUR ROAR! SAVE THE DATES.

OCTOBER 13–15, 2017



-  Book Hotels Now!
-  Schedule available in June
-  Registration opens in July
-  RIT Brick City Homecoming
-  @RIT_BrickCity
-  rit.edu/brickcity

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the

FUTURE

SATURDAY, MAY 6



10
YEARS

IMAGINE RIT

INNOVATION + CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

A Free Festival For Everyone

What: Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is the university's signature event, a showcase that displays the ingenuity of students, faculty and staff.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 6.

Admission: Free and open to the public, rain or shine. Parking available on RIT's campus and at Monroe Community College with a free shuttle service to RIT.

What you'll see: Nearly 400 interactive presentations, exhibits, research projects, hands-on demonstrations, and live performances.

Plan your day: Build an itinerary of your favorite exhibits and live performances. Check out the entire festival program at www.rit.edu/imagine.