

# R·I·T

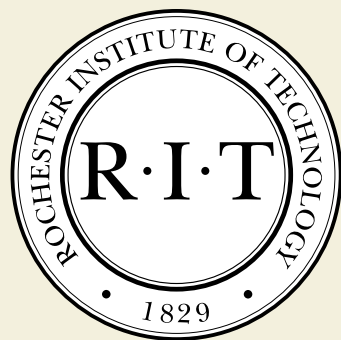
The University Magazine

Spring 2018

## PROMISE DELIVERED

Largest gift in RIT history to expand  
entrepreneurship and cybersecurity

NTID celebrates 50 years • Study-abroad program adapts to better serve students



## RIT: The University Magazine

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Learning from Millennials— creative careers with noble purpose



As a baby boomer on a quest to continually learn and find ways to make a difference, I am putting my faith in the future generation of leaders.

I am riveted by the Millennial generation—born between 1980 and 2000—who are not only doing well in their careers, but who are also doing good deeds outside the workplace. They will tell you that creativity and innovation are best used for noble purposes. They will tell you that goodness is essential to improve the world.

This is punctuated by three young RIT alumni I recently met:

- **Katie Linendoll '05** (information technology): Katie is an Emmy-award winning television personality known for her first-look technology stories and gadget roundups. She also devotes her personal time supporting children with cancer as a “big sister” at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She helped start Batcole Foundation, where they are using virtual reality as a distraction for pediatric cancer patients. While children are going through hours of chemotherapy and radiation, they are relaxed and comforted with VR, where they can go underwater diving with whales or play at an amusement park.
- **Austin McChord '09** (bioinformatics): Austin's gift of \$50 million to RIT in December is the largest donation ever made to the university and one of the largest ever in the Rochester region. McChord is founder and CEO of Datto, a data protection company with engineering and support offices in downtown Rochester. The firm has created 1,400 jobs with nine global offices, including more than 200 employees in Rochester. His gift to RIT will be designated to two major areas: \$30 million to foster creativity and entrepreneurship; \$20 million to advance RIT's capabilities in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. (Read more on pages 14-18.) At the age

of 32, Austin is among the nation's top 50 philanthropists for 2017.

- **Anna Sweet '04** (computer science): Anna is a tech entrepreneur and executive with Caffeine, a new live streaming platform for the gaming industry. She also founded Octave Nine, a tech consulting firm focused on augmented reality, virtual reality and mixed reality. In addition to her career in the gaming industry in the San Francisco Bay area, Anna is co-founder of Sweet Farm Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the humane treatment of animals in the food system.

Katie, Austin and Anna are Millennials with “change the world” mindsets. Millennials have often been mischaracterized as entitled, over-protected and free-spirited to a fault. But research has discovered Millennials are incredibly generous with their time, talent and treasure. They have a strong sense of community, both local and global, as they blend their personal and professional lives, according to the Case Foundation's Millennial Impact Report.

For example, 52 percent gave to a charity in 2016 and more than 70 percent volunteer, figures that rival older generations and surpass them in various metrics, according to the report. Millennials are idealistic, turning it into action and are on their way to becoming the “next great generation,” according to the Case Foundation.

Thank you, Katie, Austin, Anna and the leaders of a new generation for showing us that life is bigger than a successful career. Our future is amazingly bright.

Yours in Tiger pride,

David C. Munson Jr.  
President  
[munson@rit.edu](mailto:munson@rit.edu)

## To learn more

To listen to podcasts featuring alumnae Katie Linendoll and Anna Sweet, go to [rit.edu/alumni/YearInTheLife](http://rit.edu/alumni/YearInTheLife).



# R·I·T

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## Cover

RIT announced in December that alumnus Austin McChord is donating \$50 million to the university. It is the largest gift in RIT history. (Photo by Elizabeth Lamark)

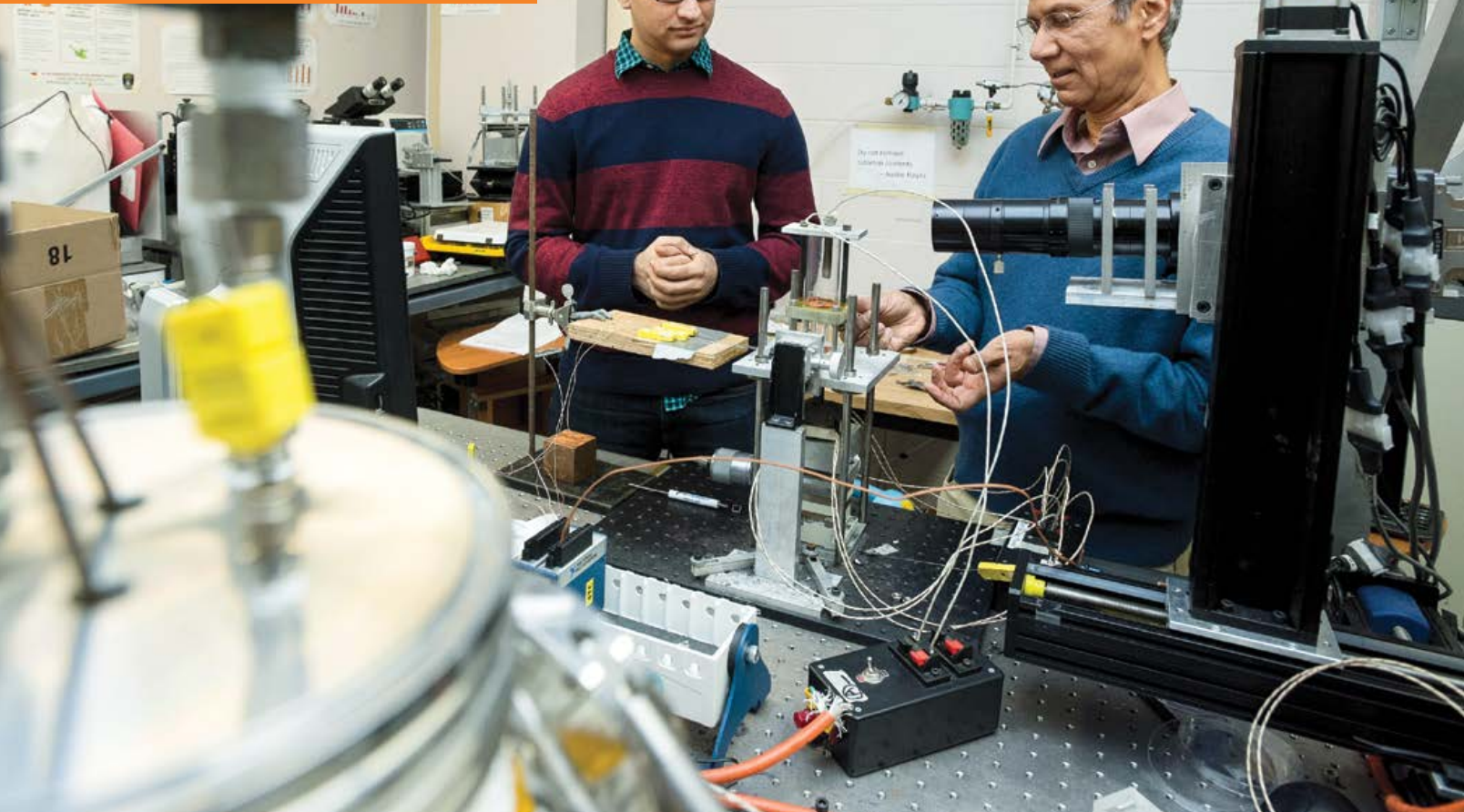


Student Lauren Hoffman spent last summer studying psychology in Croatia.



On June 8, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 89-36, establishing NTID.





Pruthvik Raghupathi, left, will graduate in May with his Ph.D. in engineering. He will be the first person to graduate from the doctoral program. Professor Satish Kandlikar, right, has been his mentor.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

## First Ph.D. in engineering graduates in May

When Pruthvik Raghupathi began his doctoral research in 2014, he said developing sustainable energy resources was one of the biggest challenges of his generation.

He'll contribute to this task after he graduates in May. Raghupathi will receive a Ph.D. in engineering and be the first graduate of RIT's seventh doctoral program.

Seeing students such as Raghupathi succeed and graduate with doctoral honors is not new to Satish Kandlikar.

The professor of mechanical engineering has mentored and advised many students during his 30-plus years at RIT, including another first graduate of the microsystems engineering Ph.D. program in 2005.

He has shared his research successes in the area of bubbles and boiling phenomena with students like Raghupathi, and they have

worked together to advance a field where understanding fluid dynamics will be key to improving alternative energy sources.

"What impressed me about Pruthvik was that he showed a deep understanding of the theoretical basis of the boiling phenomena. In our work now, it's all about the bubbles," Kandlikar said.

That work involves developing boiling mechanisms to improve heat transfer for power generation, cooling of high heat flux devices used in space, cryogenic heat exchangers and water desalination.

"My work was part of a study to look at how surface properties affect boiling, what happens when you have different types of liquids, such as sea water, and how fouling, or contamination, affects boiling performance as salt develops on the surface," Raghupathi said.

Technology is complex, and the ability to

develop it to influence society is one of the main goals of the Ph.D. in engineering.

Launched in 2014, the program began with 10 students. Taking a multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial approach, the program addresses global challenges as economic and societal drivers, specifically in four application domains: transportation, energy, communications and health care.

It also aligns with national priorities as outlined in each of the strategic plans for the U.S. departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services and Energy.

More than 50 students are in the program today. Several from the first cohort are also nearing graduation.

After Raghupathi graduates, he intends to seek a position with an energy company's research and development area.

Michelle Cometa '00



Adjunct Professor Christopher Haritatos teaches cello to Grace Fiacco, a second-year physics major.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

## Private music lessons help students hone skills

Walk in the basement hallway of the College of Liberal Arts and you're likely to hear piano, cello, brass or violin as some 100 RIT students receive weekly private music lessons for college credit.

That's where Grace Fiacco, a second-year physics major from Lewiston, N.Y., receives cello lessons from Christopher Haritatos. During the 45-minute session, Haritatos suggested arm positions, pointed to sheet music with his bow and told Fiacco to avoid collapsing her knuckles on the cello's neck.

"I've been playing cello for a long time but never had private

lessons until I came to RIT," said Fiacco, who plays in the RIT Orchestra. "It's helped me a lot. I enjoy it and it's a great stress reliever."

Professor Jonathan Kruger, chair of the Department of Performing Arts and Visual Culture, said the lessons are offered for students who already know how to sing, or play. Most of the students are members of a music ensemble on campus.

Beginner piano and guitar lessons are also offered in hopes of "casting a wider net to the RIT community to engage them in musical activities in general," Kruger

said. He said there has been an increase in recent years of students wanting to learn piano and guitar.

The 11 adjunct professors who offer the lessons are professional musicians.

Haritatos, a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, has been teaching cello at RIT for about five years. He calls his students enthusiastic.

"I know my students aren't going into music as a profession, but I see them improving their skills. And when they graduate, hopefully they'll keep playing for the rest of their lives."

Greg Livadas

## Imagine RIT adds performing arts competition

The 11th annual Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

The event is being held a week earlier this year to accommodate for the change in RIT's academic calendar, which has an earlier commencement day.

The format of the festival is basically unchanged. It will feature several hundred exhibits, performances and activities, many involving research projects by

RIT students, faculty and staff.

For the past 10 years, then-RIT President Bill Destler offered a challenge to students to kick off the festival, as they found ways to build green vehicles, drones or health innovations.

This year, RIT President David Munson is challenging students with a performing arts contest. It is open to all current RIT students who enjoy dance, music, drama, comedy, magic shows, juggling and other acts. Performances and judging will be from 6 to 8 p.m.



Friday, April 27, in Ingle Auditorium. The winning performers will be invited to open the Imagine festival the following morning.

For more, go to [rit.edu/imagine](http://rit.edu/imagine).

Greg Livadas

### NOTEBOOK

#### New Dubai campus

RIT Dubai will receive a state-of-the-art new campus in the Dubai Silicon Oasis.

The new campus, which will feature an innovation and entrepreneurship center and sustainable building processes, will be developed in two phases, with the first portion set to open in 2019 and the second to open in 2023.

The United Arab Emirates government is funding the approximately \$136 million new campus which, upon completion, will span an area of more than 30 acres.

#### Winning 500

Men's basketball head coach Bob McVean won his 500th game at the university, as the Tigers defeated Bard College 74-63 on Dec. 1. Now in his 35th season, McVean has guided RIT to six Empire 8 Conference championships and six NCAA Division III Tournament appearances.

#### Modern language

A new bachelor's degree in applied modern language and culture will be offered to students this fall. Students will pick one language track—Chinese, Japanese or Spanish—and immerse themselves in that region's language and culture. They will also choose a second major or a focus area in a technical or professional discipline, such as computing, engineering, business, health sciences, the arts or the sciences.



# About Students



Laura Branch, a biotechnology and molecular bioscience major, has been named a member of the United States Bowling Congress's Junior Team USA.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

## RIT bowler is among the best in the nation

A member of RIT's bowling team has been named a member of the United States Bowling Congress's Junior Team USA, a prestigious honor given to the top 12 male and female bowlers in the country who are under age 21.

Laura Branch, 19, a second-year biotechnology and molecular bioscience major from Fairport, N.Y., received the honor on Jan. 7 at a qualifying tournament in Las Vegas.

It comes with a lifetime pass to the International Training and Research Center in Arlington, Texas—home of the United States Bowling Congress—where she will have access to the Team USA coaching staff. She also plans to attend Team USA camp in June, also in Arlington, where she'll be evaluated, coached and taught bowling skills, physical conditioning and more.

Based on her performance, Branch may also be selected to compete in the World Youth Championships or the Tournament of the Americas, the two largest youth bowling competitions in the world, she said.

"I can't put into words what an honor it was to be chosen to represent the U.S.A. in the sport I love more than anything," Branch said.

Her bowling interest began when she was just 7 years old and attended a birthday party of a friend at a bowling alley. "The guy behind the counter asked if I wanted to join a league," she said.

Her promising future in the sport was evident when she became a member of her high school varsity bowling team.

Since then, Branch has bowled a perfect 300 game and has once even converted the

dreaded 7-10 split. Branch owns 20 bowling balls but only uses 15 or 16 of them, depending on lane conditions and other factors.

"I like bowling because of the opportunity to always get better," she said. "There's always something you can work on, always new things being discovered about the sport and ways to make it more challenging."

Branch has a 196 average, the highest on RIT's bowling team, which won a tournament earlier this season in State College, Pa.

"This is made more impressive by the fact that the team is essentially a men's team, made up of 15 men and just two women," said Matt Gregory '12 (professional and technical communication), a volunteer coach for the RIT bowling team. "We are all incredibly proud of Laura."

Greg Livadas



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Katherine Larson, a member of Recover Rochester, collects frozen food from RIT's dining facilities to donate to local food centers in Rochester.

## Recover Rochester helps feed people in need

Several times each week, students in RIT's Recover Rochester club collect unused food from dining facilities, load it in coolers and use a Student Government van to deliver it to three meal centers in Rochester.

"Every time we deliver, they're so grateful," said Katherine Larson, a fourth-year industrial design major from Binghamton, N.Y. "It's really nice to see people's faces when they see the food coming in."

Recover Rochester started its deliveries in December 2012 to also help eliminate wasted food. So far, they've donated more than 75,000 pounds that would otherwise have been thrown out.

The process begins when the dining facilities freeze food that has been cooked but not sold. Some of the 30 members of

Recover Rochester take an inventory. The following day, other students collect and distribute the food to either Blessed Sacrament Church, Asbury United Methodist Church or the Open Door Mission. The process also helps the dining facilities know how much extra food they are regularly preparing and cut back if needed.

Geoffrey Fasy, general manager for Gracie's, said the club's calculations have helped his staff better know how much to prepare. "They used to pick up a lot more," he said. "And if it wasn't for these students, all the leftover food would go into compost."

The club is one of 230 chapters of the Food Recovery Network, which issues guidelines on what can be donated and how the food is handled.

On one collection day, students loaded the van with pizza, pasta, cookies, muffins, meatballs, quiche, chicken fingers, grilled chicken, pies, doughnuts, home fries and lentils, plus several huge bags of pretzels and more than six pounds of popcorn leftover from concession stands.

Making a delivery, Jordan Jock, a second-year computer engineering major from Phoenix, N.Y., pulled into the parking lot of Blessed Sacrament Church, which feeds 100 to 130 people a day at its supper program.

"If we didn't get this delivery, we would serve pasta tonight," said Diana Schindler, a volunteer cook at the church. "A lot of people eat because of you guys. We'll use as much as we can this week, and finish it next week. Nothing goes to waste."

Greg Livadas



## RIT researchers are taking a human approach to securing networks



RIT cybersecurity researchers are working to better understand what role human behaviors play in keeping our technology secure.

Ninety-one percent of all breaches start with an email.

A teacher clicks on a link and it redirects to a malicious website. Or a CEO accidentally downloads an attachment that triggers a ransomware attack.

There is a common link in these and almost every other cybersecurity problem, said Matthew Wright, director of RIT's Center for Cybersecurity. "It involves people."

That's why Wright is working with other researchers at RIT to think beyond the technology and focus on a human-centered approach to cybersecurity.

"While most research attention in cybersecurity is on technology—from cryptography on chips to using machine learning to detect attacks—many security problems are due to people," said Wright. "Understanding and designing for the human beings using, administering and even attacking our

computing systems is the key to making them more secure, not just on paper but in practice."

Over the last two years, the volume of cyberattacks has increased by 100 percent, according to the 2017 Cybercrime Report by ThreatMetrix. Breaches at Equifax and the spread of the WannaCry ransomware are just two of the attacks that made international news and affected millions.



Bo Yuan

RIT is helping to address these challenges as a leader in computing security education and research. "We are developing the next generation of cybersecurity experts and we want to continue enriching our educational and research offerings," said Bo Yuan, chair of RIT's Department of Computing Security.

Through the Center for Cybersecurity, founded in 2016, the university is bringing together expertise from across RIT. Faculty and student researchers are working to address these real-world challenges by better understanding how cybersecurity and humans connect, including a study of the current state of phishing on social media and by modeling how attackers will strike in the future.

"There's no silver bullet for cybersecurity problems," Wright said. "But gaining a better understanding of how humans play a role in the past, present and future of cybersecurity might teach us the best spots to aim."

### Phishing for clues

With more available attack vectors and stronger hackers, it has become harder for



Sovanharith Seng

users to keep themselves safe. Sovanharith Seng, a computing and information sciences Ph.D. student from Cambodia, is working to change that.

When deciding what to study in graduate school, Seng debated between his love of working with people in student affairs and his background in computer science.

"I found a compromise in the field of usable security," said Seng. "Here, I get to work with psychology and social behavior to take a human approach to the security problem."

At RIT, Seng is beginning research into the social engineering attack known as phishing and how it happens on social media.

Attackers can use LinkedIn to target a company's most influential people, who may have access to trade secrets. Or scammers could create a duplicate Facebook account of a clergy member and send out a link asking the congregation to donate money to a "good cause."

"I am conducting a small study with a simulated Facebook interface, where users scroll through a newsfeed and see multiple



posts from their Facebook friends,” Seng said. “I ask participants, ‘would you click on this and why?’”

Through the survey, Seng hopes to better understand the important context factors of Facebook posts that influence a user’s decision of whether they interact with a post.

In the future, he hopes someday to work with social media companies to help detect and combat phishing on their platforms.

“But we need to stay aware, because nothing works completely,” said Seng. “You will see another phishing attack in your lifetime, I guarantee that.”

## The future of cyber defense

While there is currently no crystal ball for cybersecurity attacks, RIT researchers are working on one.

Led by Shanchieh Yang, RIT’s department head of computer engineering, researchers are getting into the mind of hackers and modeling their attacks.



**Shanchieh Yang**

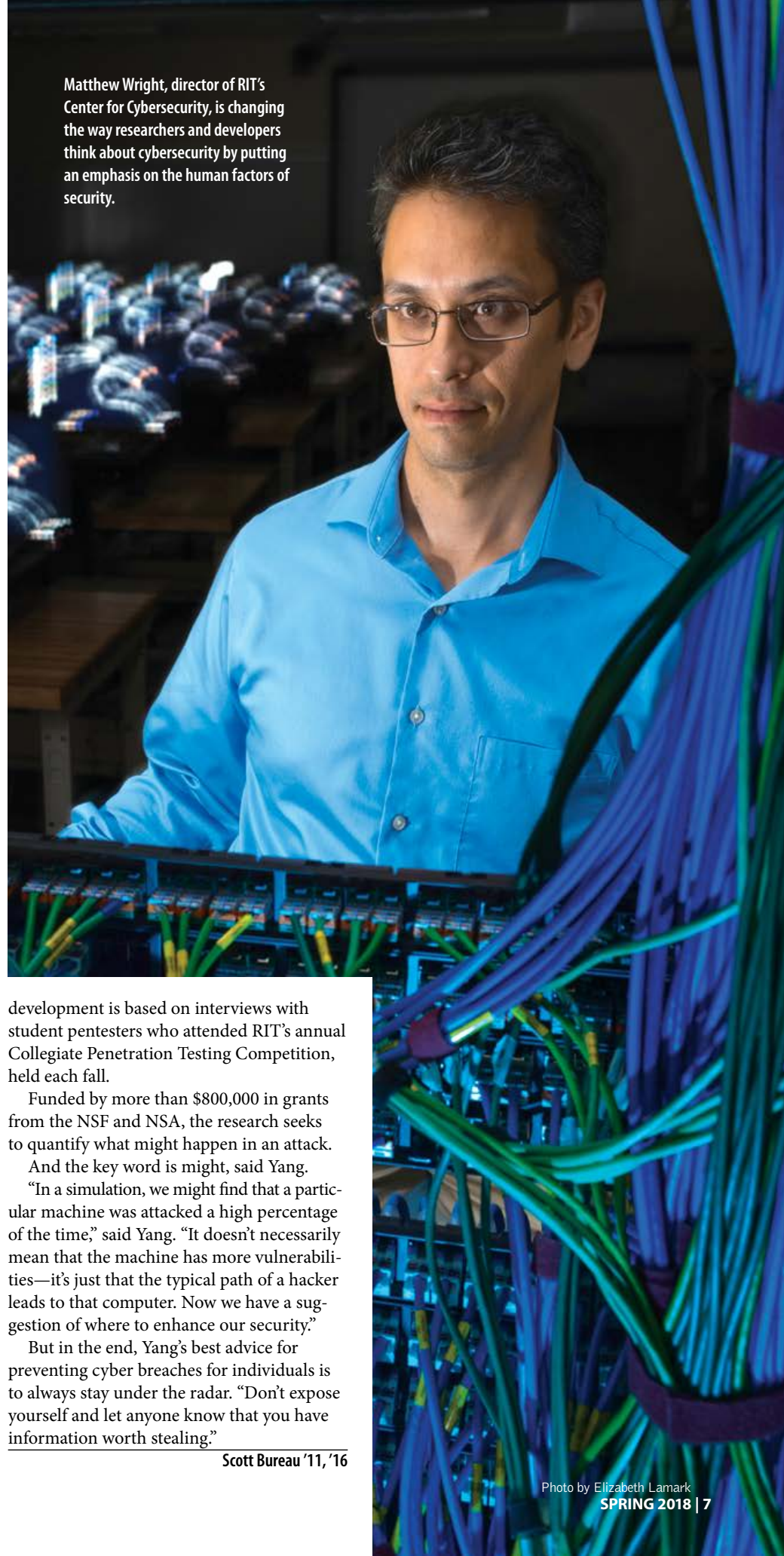
Using tools from machine learning, data analytics and theories in criminology, Yang hopes to develop algorithms and models that help experts predict which security technologies and practices

are the most effective for protecting networks given hackers’ behavior and tactics.

“Attackers can be eccentric, but they are still human beings,” said Yang. “We hope to discover and explore their attack strategies and patterns of behavior for achieving their goals.”

Working with an interdisciplinary team of faculty from engineering and computing, Yang is developing a system to characterize attack patterns and combinations of exploitive behaviors that attackers use.

They even hope to reveal additional attack scenarios that may not have been known before. Part of their model and system



**Matthew Wright, director of RIT’s Center for Cybersecurity, is changing the way researchers and developers think about cybersecurity by putting an emphasis on the human factors of security.**

development is based on interviews with student pentesters who attended RIT’s annual Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition, held each fall.

Funded by more than \$800,000 in grants from the NSF and NSA, the research seeks to quantify what might happen in an attack.

And the key word is might, said Yang.

“In a simulation, we might find that a particular machine was attacked a high percentage of the time,” said Yang. “It doesn’t necessarily mean that the machine has more vulnerabilities—it’s just that the typical path of a hacker leads to that computer. Now we have a suggestion of where to enhance our security.”

But in the end, Yang’s best advice for preventing cyber breaches for individuals is to always stay under the radar. “Don’t expose yourself and let anyone know that you have information worth stealing.”

**Scott Bureau ’11, ’16**



# PEP BAND GROWS

RIT's pep band grew to 140 with help from alumni during the men's hockey game played at Blue Cross Arena during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend last October.





# AS SCHOOL SPIRIT SWELLS

When the RIT men's hockey team played during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend last October, 140 people were in the pep band cheering the team on.

It marked the largest attendance the modern pep band has ever seen since forming in 2006 with fewer than 20 members.

"We're a fun group. The only real requirement is you have to know how to read music and play your instrument," said club president Andrew Zgoda, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major and alto saxophone player from Williamsville, N.Y.

RIT also had a pep band back when it had a football team. Once the football program ended in 1977, the pep band also ceased.

The pep band was resurrected when it was felt RIT should have one for its Division I men's hockey team, which was formed in 2005. Brian Hills, associate head hockey coach, asked around, including people in the College of Liberal Arts and its performing arts and visual culture program, for ways to make that happen.

"The pep band brings great atmosphere and student spirit," Hills said.

In 2006, Stephanie Dorn Rugg '08, '10 (chemistry), who played clarinet in the concert band, decided to see who else might be interested. "I just stood up after practice in the concert band and asked if anyone would want to be in a pep band," she said.

Fifteen or 16 people joined, including Amanda Preske '09 (chemistry), who also played clarinet.

"We wanted to play anywhere," said Preske, of Rochester, who owns Circuit Breaker Labs, which produces jewelry and home decor made from circuit boards and electronics. "We knew hockey was big, so we approached the team to see if it was something feasible. They even gave us some jerseys so we could sit with the Corner Crew. By the second or third year, we started playing at basketball games."

That first year, RIT's Athletic Association and Student Affairs helped pay for instruments for a dozen or so pep band members, and brown and orange tie-dyed shirts were sold as fundraisers so they could buy more.

The pep band became an official club

the following year. Its members traveled to important hockey games, from Albany to Indiana, sometimes driving on their own, sometimes hitching a ride on buses designated for students attending the games.

"It was a lot of fun. It was a great time," said Rugg, now an assistant professor of chemistry at Alfred State College who lives in Conesus, N.Y. "It was a great challenge, trying to start something new, trying to get music, trying to get enough people and trying to get a room. But there were great resources. My mother sewed sousaphone covers with the RIT logo."

Mark Negro '12 (mechanical engineering)



The original members of the modern pep band in 2006.

saw a flier posted on the wall that encouraged him to join. He played percussion in the pep band for six years and traveled to different venues, including the Frozen Four in Michigan in 2010, to cheer on the RIT men's hockey team. And he still plays drums with local bands.

"Being in the band helped me relax," said Negro, now a senior mechanical engineer for the Lord Corp. in Erie, Pa. "It was a nice release from engineering and all the numbers."

Greg Moss, recently retired senior director for the Center for Recreational Sports, said the pep band had some growing pains in the beginning. In the Frank Ritter Ice Arena, for example, microphones were needed, as were radios to coordinate playing in between the announcements and the Corner Crew cheers, and transportation to events needed to be

worked out.

On one trip, the band drove through blizzard conditions to a hockey game, only to be told they couldn't play because the home team didn't have a pep band, Moss said. An agreement was made that they could play, but only between periods.

The commitment from the students impressed Moss. Often, they'd give up their weekends to travel to a game, sometimes paying for their tickets and transportation.

Today, the pep band rehearses each Wednesday evening in the Gene Polisseni Center and performs about 50 or 60 times a year. They play at men's and women's hockey games, men's lacrosse games, the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, Tiger Walk and other community events.

The band has an array of instruments for students to use and gives them discounts to buy hockey jerseys worn as a uniform. The number in the band fluctuates depending on the time games are played, Zgoda said. There may only be 20 members of the pep band when women's hockey games are played at 2 p.m. Fridays, for example. "Most of us are still in classes. But the average is about 65 people for a men's hockey game," he said.

"We talk to a lot of the athletes and they say they love us and we help pump them up," Zgoda said. "They say they hear us play before the puck drops and the team is ready to go after that."

The pep band is known for playing "Hey Song," "Eye of the Tiger" and "Born to be Wild." "We call them our classics, songs the band played when they started that we still play now," Zgoda said.

And it's likely that 140 number—which swelled with visiting alumni—will grow.

Rugg said she's proud of the pep band and isn't surprised by its growth.

"It was the best time I had in college," Rugg said. "We all had fantastic chemistry, people from all different majors and all different disciplines. It was the pep band that helped me thrive to become a leader and become more well-rounded. And it's neat to know I had a little bit to do with so many people's pleasures now."

Greg Livadas







# STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAM ADAPTS TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS

**C**riminal justice and public policy double major Tayler Ruggero was working as a research assistant doing crime analysis when she saw posters for a faculty-led study-abroad trip to Rwanda where she could use mapping technology to help refugees.

"I was interested in learning GIS (geographic information systems) for my criminal justice research position and I always wanted to study abroad, so I thought why not go to Rwanda for it."

Ruggero and eight other students spent the intercession of January 2016 at the Kigeme refugee camp working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Agency collecting data on everything from bathrooms to businesses run by the refugees. They then spent the following spring semester mapping the data in a follow-up class taught by Brian Tomaszewski, an associate professor and director of RIT's Center for Geographic Information Science and Technology.

Ruggero liked the experience so much that not only did she decide to minor in GIS, but she applied for a second international experience. She spent last summer in Bonn, Germany, as a fully-funded research scientist working on Tomaszewski's National Science Foundation research project.

Study abroad at RIT has been undergoing a quiet transformation in the past five years with the growth of short-term international programs, an increase in faculty-led opportunities and a stronger connection to RIT's global campuses.

More than 400 students studied abroad in

2016-2017, a record number for the university and up from 232 in 2009-2010. That number is expected to increase in coming years. RIT President David Munson has said he wants the university to create more international opportunities for students so they are more globally connected.

"Studying abroad is a life-changing experience," said Jenny Sullivan, director of Education Abroad and International Fellowships. "The personal growth and skills the students get—flexibility, problem solving, the ability to think on their feet and see things from new perspectives—are all benefits for every person in every major. Students are waking up to the fact that the world is so much bigger than their tiny bubble."

## Faculty-led programs

Ten years ago, a few faculty members were leading trips abroad like Tomaszewski's Rwanda trip, but not many, Sullivan said. Most students studying abroad were going through third-party providers to either a study center overseas that was accredited by an American university or by directly enrolling in another university's program.

But during the last decade, busy students have become more interested in short-term programs that can last just a few weeks and can be done during breaks or over the summer. This increased interest, which is happening nationally too, has opened the door for RIT's faculty to customize international experiences, Sullivan said.

A faculty member teaches a course in the fall or spring and the travel component happens over winter break or at the beginning of the summer or vice versa as was the case in Rwanda. Students pay tuition for the course along with the flight and program fee. Scholarships are available.

This semester, six students are meeting once a week in Christy Tyler's aquatic ecology course to talk about marine and freshwater ecosystems as well as the language and

culture in Russia. Then in late May, they will spend three weeks working alongside students and faculty from Moscow State University on coursework and field research focusing on the regional aquatic ecosystems. They will work at the Zvenigorod Biological Station in central Russia and the White Sea Biological Station in the Russian arctic.

"Moscow State is one of the largest research universities in the world, so it's an opportunity for our students to interact with scientists from this world-class institution and be able to experience science in a whole different environment," said Tyler, an associate professor of environmental science. "Having them experience arctic ecosystems is something really unusual that not very many people have the opportunity to do."

This is the second time RIT students will be making the trip. Five undergraduates took the class in the fall of 2016 with Carrie McCalley, assistant professor of environmental science, and traveled to Russia in January 2017 with students from Paul Smith's College.

Celia Evans, a professor of ecology at Paul Smith's College, reached out to RIT because

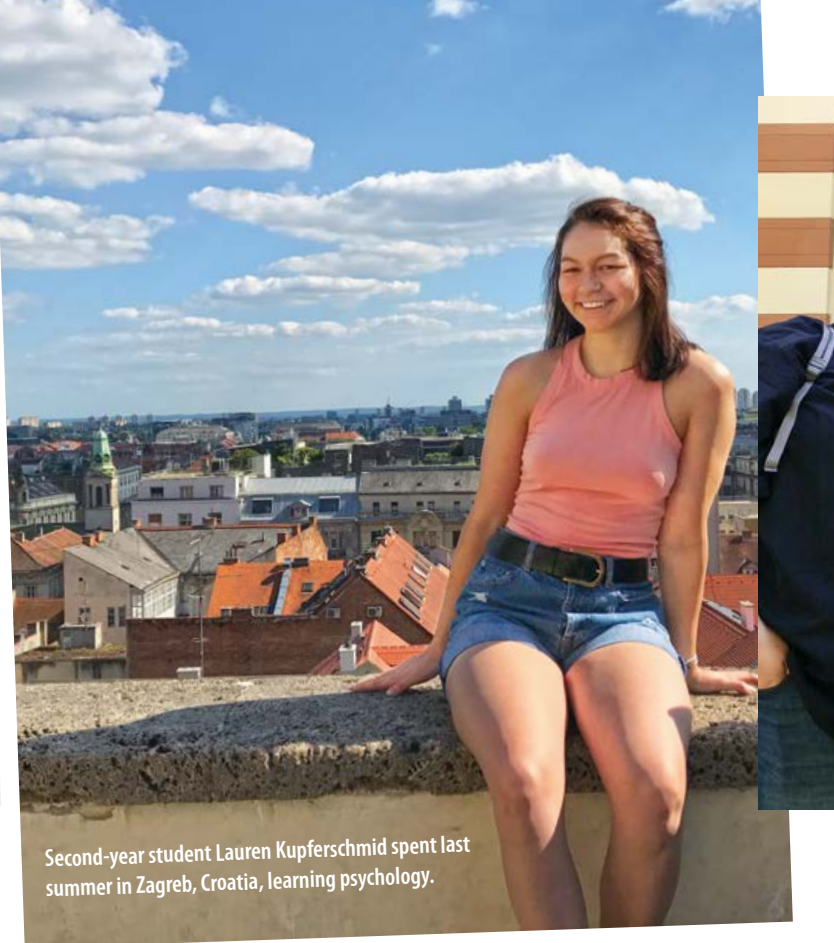
## Family trips

RIT students and their families will explore RIT's campus in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this May. Jim Myers, associate provost for International Education and Global Programs, will be leading educational excursions for six students and eight parents. "I would love for this to become an annual opportunity for our families," said Chelsea Petree, director of Parent and Family Programs, adding that applications for this trip are closed. "I have seen from campus partners and parents an interest in this opportunity, and I will work to continue it in the future."

◀ **Criminal justice and public policy double major and geographic information systems minor Tayler Ruggero spent January 2016 at the Kigeme refugee camp in Rwanda on her first study-abroad trip. She liked the experience so much that she applied for a second trip to Germany as a fully-funded research scientist.**



Biology student Hailey Richmond-Boudewyns, left, looks at mosses that survive under the snow in Russia with Celia Evans, a professor of ecology at Paul Smith's College, during a study abroad trip in January 2017.



Second-year student Lauren Kupferschmid spent last summer in Zagreb, Croatia, learning psychology.

she was looking for a larger university partner. Tyler and McCalley were intrigued at building both a research and teaching collaboration with Moscow State. The two, along with Matt Hoffman, director of RIT's applied and computational mathematics MS

## Alumni trips

Alumni also have an opportunity to study abroad with RIT faculty members. In 2014, 23 alumni traveled to Cuba for an eight-day trip with Denis Defibaugh, a professor of photographic arts and sciences, and retired National Technical Institute for the Deaf Professor Dawn Tower DuBois. This July, 12 alumni will go to the Galapagos for 12 days with Bob Rothman, a professor in RIT's Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences. The Galapagos trip is sold out. But more trips are being planned, including a trip to Iceland in March 2019 with Josh Owen, professor and chair of the industrial design program. For more information, go to [bit.ly/RITAlumniTrips](http://bit.ly/RITAlumniTrips).

program, visited Russia in summer 2016 and McCalley began teaching the RIT class a few weeks later in the fall semester.

McCalley said while in Russia students were split into four groups—freshwater aquatics, plants, insects and mammals—and spent most of their time in the field with an expert. They collected samples, studied animal tracks and talked about why different organisms were found in different places.

"The Russian curriculum is much more focused on basic science than we do in the U.S.," McCalley said. "It was a very different learning environment for some of our students—to just go out in the field with an expert and have someone show you everything."

McCalley said the experience not only gives students access to faculty expertise that RIT doesn't have, but it allows them to have interactions with Russian graduate students and faculty.

"One thing I saw a lot was this realization that Russian people are just people and they are just like us," she said.

## Global campuses

Along with an increase in faculty-led programs, RIT has begun working more closely with its global campuses in Dubai, Croatia and Kosovo.

Sullivan said last year they had the idea to have students complete a full immersion abroad in one term. An immersion is a concentration of three courses and is required for every student.

RIT Global did some research and found that psychology is the top immersion. Then they worked with RIT Croatia, which offers psychology, to build a summer study abroad experience.

Students go to Zagreb, Croatia, for five weeks and take two courses in psychology and then spend the sixth week on a study tour visiting Vienna, Austria, and Munich, Germany, and exploring places such as the birthplace of Sigmund Freud.

After the students return, they have the option to complete the immersion by taking an online course during the summer.

Twelve students participated in the program last summer, including Lauren Kupferschmid and Lauren Hoffman.

Hoffman, a third-year human-centered computing student, always wanted to study abroad and she had already taken one psychology course. "It appealed to me to get the rest of immersion out of the way," she said.

She really enjoyed having classes with students from Zagreb and said she learned about herself in the process.





Associate Professor Brian Tomaszewski, right, organized an NSF International Research Experience for Students in Bonn, Germany. From left, students Casey Hammond, Britta Schwall, Tayler Ruggero, Zachary Sutherby and Yuqing Guo pose with their German collaborators, Klaus Greve, University of Bonn, and Jörg Szarzynski, United Nations University Institute of Environment and Human Security, on the computer screen.

## Is traveling abroad safe?

In general, travel abroad is no riskier than the daily routines people participate in at home, said Jenny Sullivan, director of Education Abroad and International Fellowships. That said, RIT works very hard to ensure the safety and security of its study abroad programs. “Between thoroughly vetting overseas sites and partners, faculty training, a rigorous pre-departure program for students, RIT’s robust 24/7 international emergency response plan and in-country partners who provide on-site orientations and support, we are doing everything we can to ensure students are able to focus on their cultural learning,” Sullivan said. “Indeed, the one thing that can make us all safer, wherever we are, is greater cross-cultural understanding.”

“I definitely became more independent,” she said. “It is hard going to a country where you don’t know the language.”

Kupferschmid liked the program so much that she decided to change her major from ASL/English interpretation to psychology. She said the abnormal psychology class was especially interesting from a Croatian teacher’s perspective.

Also, the length of the trip was perfect for Kupferschmid. “It was a lot of fun,” she said. “I recommend it for sure.”

## Research abroad

RIT Global offers more than 600 programs in 60 different countries, Sullivan said. This includes affiliate programs offered through other universities and third-party providers as well as the growing number of RIT options.

A few years ago, Jeremy Haefner, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, mandated that every major identify study-abroad pathways in the curriculum, and today there’s a program that can work for every student interested.

“That really has allowed us to get through that myth that I’m a so-and-so major so I can’t study abroad,” Sullivan said. “Every student has an opportunity for a full semester.”

And there are programs, such as Tomaszewski’s NSF International Research Experience for Students (IRES) in Germany, that cover student expenses.

Tomaszewski said they are in the second year of the three-year \$250,000 NSF IRES grant. The students spend 10 weeks in Germany working directly with the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security and the University of Bonn.

Ruggero, who was part of the first cohort of five, said she was a visiting scientist at the United Nations studying how maps are used during disasters and an area’s ability to respond when a disaster strikes.

She and the other students spent most of their time doing a literature review, which they are working on publishing, as well as meeting with disaster management stakeholders in Europe.

The cohort going this summer, which includes three Ph.D. students from the Goli-sano Institute for Sustainability, will work on creating an index that can rank an area’s geographic capacity for disaster resilience.

“This is different than study abroad. This is doing basic scientific research,” Tomaszewski said. “They are reviewing disaster case studies, coming up with variables for a model. They will build the model, test it, do interviews with disaster practitioners in Germany and

tap into expertise with the United Nations.”

Tomaszewski said he studied archeology abroad in Mexico when he was 19 years old through an NSF grant. In an effort to give students the same experience, he applied for this NSF grant four times over five years before it was awarded.

Ruggero is glad he was persistent. She had never left the United States before that January in Rwanda. During her 10 weeks in Germany, she was able to visit seven countries on the weekends and expand her international professional network.

She also got to work on her own research project, which she will be presenting at the American Association of Geographers conference in April in New Orleans. In her research project, she compared the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the U.S. to the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance in Germany.

That experience will set her up well for what’s next after she graduates in May.

“A lot of your learning now is outside of the classroom,” Ruggero said. “Building on these experiences will help me in the workforce, especially people skills. That’s something I appreciate— to have that experience abroad twice.”

Mindy Mozer

# Alumnus makes largest gift in RIT history

Austin McChord '09 (bioinformatics) and former RIT President Bill Destler were discussing the upward trajectories of both RIT and McChord's company, Datto, a few years ago when Destler issued a challenge.

"He said, 'Hey, wouldn't it be great if you could give back to RIT in a really big way,'" McChord said. "And so he set out a math formula for me that if I did well, it would be some percentage. And I was like, 'OK what if it goes really well? I'm going to cap it.'"

And that's what happened. Late last year, Datto was acquired by Vista Equity Partners and merged with Autotask Corp. McChord is CEO of the new company, which has about 1,400 employees with offices in nine countries.

On Dec. 13, RIT announced that McChord is giving RIT \$50 million, the largest donation ever made to the university and the cap that McChord and Destler set that day.

The gift makes McChord one of America's 50 largest charitable donors in 2017, according to a list compiled by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. McChord is ranked 39th. Bill and Melinda Gates are first.

"I'm incredibly proud to have the opportunity to make a gift like this," McChord said. "Bill had challenged me to make a big gift to RIT, and I was up for that challenge. Today, I get to actually fulfill on that and deliver."

The gift from Austin McChord will be used to foster entrepreneurship and enhance programs in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler



## Quarters, football, canceling finals? Nope!

The guesses started streaming in after RIT officials said there would be historic news announced on Dec. 13.

“RIT will be switching back to quarters.”

“We are getting a football team.”

“The school colors are changing.”

Students, faculty, staff and alumni gasped and then cheered when they heard the real

announcement: An alumnus is giving RIT \$50 million, the largest gift ever made to the university and one of the largest ever in the region.

Here are a few other guesses that were shared on social media:

- RIT is being relabeled as an Ivy League university.

- Making a duplicate of *The Sentinel*.
- They're changing all the school signage to Comic Sans.
- Extra-large pasta bakes at the Ritz.
- Still waiting on a graduate program in Garbage Plate construction and manufacturing.
- Cancellation of all finals.

# RIT NEWS CONFERENCE HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT





McChord has been an active alumnus of RIT, serving as a frequent keynote speaker at events. In March 2016, he represented Datto at the RIT Career Fair. Datto also has sponsored programs at RIT.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

The gift will be used in two major areas:

- \$30 million to foster creativity and entrepreneurship, including \$17.5 million to launch the Maker Library & Innovative Learning Complex of the Future. This will include renovations and a new facility connecting RIT's Wallace Library and the Student Alumni Union. Additional funding will go toward purchasing equipment and endowing faculty positions and student scholarships, including new "Entrepreneurial Gap Year" fellowships to help students advance their concepts into businesses.
- \$20 million to advance RIT's cybersecurity and artificial intelligence

capabilities. This funding will be used to expand facilities, as well as to establish endowments to attract and retain exceptional faculty and graduate students, primarily in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, the largest of RIT's nine colleges.

McChord, an RIT trustee, said he gave the gift for two reasons. "I think that No. 1 it is an opportunity to give back to RIT. My success wouldn't have been possible without the time I spent at RIT."

And second, he wants to make more resources, such as the Maker Library, available to students so they can build and innovate for the future.

## Starting Datto

McChord founded Datto, a global provider of Total Data Protection Solutions, in 2007. Starting with an idea he had while a student at RIT, McChord created the company in the basement of his father's office building using \$80,000 in credit card debt.

"I left RIT and moved home to Connecticut," McChord said in 2017 when he was the keynote speaker at RIT's commencement. "I drew up a one-page business plan with the best possible case my company could someday be worth \$100,000 and I would sell it to buy a sports car, an Audi R8."

His success did not come quickly or easily. His first product contained multiple pieces of Legos and hot glue. In the beginning,





Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

RIT President David Munson, left, said McChord's gift will help propel RIT from excellence to preeminence. Former RIT President Bill Destler, right, applauds as McChord takes the podium to speak.

McChord said, he was never more than a few weeks away from going out of business.

A pivotal point for Datto came in 2013 when a major security firm made an offer to buy the company for \$100 million. He turned it down.

"I'll be honest: It was hard not to think of tropical islands, cool cars and the life of sweet leisure that kind of money can buy," McChord told *Business Insider*. "But I quickly regained my composure and thought not about myself but about what's best for the company. And at \$100 million, I realized, the company was actually undervalued."

Datto appeared on the coveted *Inc.* 500 list of fastest growing private companies in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

In 2014, Datto opened a branch in downtown Rochester, becoming the first company in the region to join the state's START-UP NY program. Datto has grown to more than 200 employees in Rochester, and McChord said he expects the company's Rochester operations to continue to grow.

In 2015, the company became Connecticut's most valuable start-up, with a valuation in excess of \$1 billion.

McChord's business success has earned him several honors. The holder of several patents, McChord was named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list in 2015 as a leader in Enterprise Technology and won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year New York Region Award in 2016.

## Other top donors

### James S. Gleason and the Gleason Family Foundation—\$34.5 million

Gleason is chairman of Gleason Corp., a Rochester-based manufacturer of machinery and equipment for the production, finishing and testing of gears. The company was founded by his great-grandfather in 1865. He is also chairman of the Gleason Family Foundation, an independent grantmaker that supports schools and universities.

### B. Thomas Golisano and the Golisano Foundation—\$26.2 million

Golisano is the founder of Paychex Inc., a Rochester-based provider of payroll, human resource and benefits outsourcing solutions for small- to medium-sized businesses nationwide. In 1985, he founded the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States devoted exclusively to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Eastman Kodak Co.—\$17.9 million

Company founder George Eastman made his first donation—a \$50 gift—to the university's forerunner, Mechanics Institute, in 1887. He later donated \$5,000 in 1892. In 1901, Eastman donated \$625,000 (approximately \$17 million today) to Mechanics Institute, and the institute's Eastman Building in downtown Rochester was opened that same year. Kodak also played an instrumental role in the establishment of RIT's photography programs and contributed \$1 million to the Golisano Institute for Sustainability in 2010.

### The Nippon Foundation—\$17.2 million

Established as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation in 1962 to focus on philanthropy related to the shipping and maritime fields, the Nippon Foundation today supports programming in education, social welfare and other fields.

### E. Philip Saunders—\$16.6 million

Saunders is president and CEO of Saunders Management Co. He launched several companies, including Truckstops of America chain (now TravelCenters of America), which grew into the largest full-service truck stop in the United States; Griffith Energy, a liquid fuel distribution company; Sugar Creek Corp., a chain of retail gas and convenience stores; and Genesee Regional Bank.

Photo by Elizabeth Lamark



RIT student Lindsay Reardon thanked McChord at the news conference for investing in students.

## Student inspired by McChord's generosity

RIT student Lindsay Reardon is thrilled about the opportunities that are in store for students anxious to create and manage their own businesses.

An entrepreneur by nature, Reardon is no stranger to self-employment, beginning as a high school student creating posters for weddings, anniversaries and other special events.

Today, the Saunders College of Business MBA student is digital marketing manager for OWA Haircare, a student-run startup that has developed Moon-dust Hair Wash, a waterless shampoo that saves water, plastic and energy and contains ingredients that are naturally derived.

Reardon's initial interest in RIT focused on film and animation, but she soon developed a love for finance and marketing and quickly realized that her unique skillset was an asset to student teams with innovative ideas.

Reardon said she became involved in entrepreneurship in 2009 when students were being recruited to participate in the Saunders Summer Startup program through the Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"I was a good fit for a lot of teams that needed someone who knew how to write a business plan, do some design work and make promotional videos," she said. "I was actually among the first cohort of students in that program that were actually paid over the summer to develop ideas that could be brought to market. It's been great watching the program grow."

Reardon, who is from Granby, Conn.,

is inspired by Austin McChord's \$50 million gift and said his generosity will present RIT students with even more opportunities than she had when she started developing her business ventures.

She was also impressed by news of a fellowship that will allow for a gap year, giving student entrepreneurs opportunities to work on their businesses full time.

"The ability to not have to worry about school or working full time is tremendous," Reardon added. "A fellowship that allows you to completely focus on your business is a luxury that not many new entrepreneurs have. This is a perfect opportunity for those who want to take advantage of RIT's nurturing environment."

Reardon and OWA Haircare founder Kailey Bradt, a product development master's student, recently took their hair-care product to Europe to engage and brainstorm with investors, innovators and industry experts at the Hello Tomorrow Global Summit.

And earlier in 2017, OWA Haircare won first place and \$10,000 in the "products" category at the eighth annual New York State Business Plan Competition.

Reardon knows there are countless RIT students just like those on the OWA team—"doers" with great ideas and the commitment to make things happen.

"This is an amazing gift," said Reardon. "I admire Austin's attitude. It's infectious. He is passionate about his company and creating products and services that are truly great. He is exactly what an RIT student should aspire to become."

Vienna McGrain '12



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

McChord was the keynote speaker for RIT's commencement celebration in 2017.

## Paying it forward

McChord said he has learned that taking time to recognize those who have helped him along the way is one of the most important and grounding things he can do.

"You can never be too thankful," he told the graduating students in 2017.

McChord has been an active alumnus of RIT, serving as a frequent keynote speaker at events, including Venture Creations graduation and the annual Entrepreneurship Conference.

Datto has sponsored events such as RIT48, an entrepreneurship competition, and hackathons, and McChord has given of his time as a mentor in the Saunders Summer Startup program, an intense program aimed at assisting entrepreneurs/innovators in developing their business concepts to a point where they are ready to begin to seek angel investment.

"One of the exciting things about being an RIT alumnus is that it truly is a university on the move. It's growing and is looking at changing its position in the world," he said. "I would love to see RIT continue to climb the ranks and get more recognition. I think this donation will help with that."

RIT President David Munson said campus leadership is currently engaged in planning what's next for the entrepreneurship and cybersecurity initiatives.

"We are so proud of Austin. He was passionate about his idea and he turned it into a big success," Munson said. "This embodies the creative element that we want to further highlight at RIT. Every student can be involved in creating things that never before existed, and then putting the result into play. His investment in RIT will help our students and faculty make their mark on the world."

Mindy Mozer and Ellen Rosen





**“ With a solid education, women can do whatever they want to do, fulfill their dreams and create their own future. ”**

*—Margaret (“Maggie”) McEwen-Craven BS ’77, MBA ’80*

RIT alumna Maggie McEwen-Craven BS ’77, MBA ’80 has seen firsthand how education can change lives. In addition to receiving two RIT degrees, Maggie worked at RIT for two decades and saw countless students struggle with the financial demands of college while trying to keep up with their rigorous coursework.

Maggie also has a special interest in bringing more women into the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). To help students with financial constraints pursue a college degree and to ensure that women are afforded every opportunity for a STEM career, Maggie established a scholarship to encourage women to become more independent and create their own future.

Through a planned gift, Maggie is leaving a lasting and permanent legacy—at a level she otherwise would not have been able to do. With her gift, Maggie will inspire RIT women of today and tomorrow to break down barriers and realize their potential.

To create your legacy like Maggie did, please contact RIT’s Planned Giving Department at 800.477.0376, [plannedgiving@rit.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@rit.edu) or visit us online at [rit.edu/lastinglegacy](https://rit.edu/lastinglegacy).

**It is more than a gift.  
It is your legacy.**



NTID  
50  
YEARS



Lady Bird Johnson attended the dedication of the NTID complex in October 1974. During the ceremony, the first lady spoke with U.S. Rep. Hugh Carey, center, and shook hands with Bill Ingraham, one of NTID's first graduates. At right is Ingraham today.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

## GRAND EXPERIMENT—GRAND SUCCESS

# 50 YEARS LATER

**F**ifty years ago, 19-year-old Bill Ingraham was about to enter uncharted territory.

After graduating from Brockport High School in upstate New York as its only deaf student, Ingraham had earned a hard-won associate degree in applied science/business administration from Alfred State.

"I knew that I wanted to earn my bachelor's degree, but I also realized that in order to do that, I needed a lot of help," said Ingraham, who had struggled academically at Alfred, relying heavily on his lip-reading skills and a roommate who shared class notes.

Ingraham's cousin told him that a new "program" was starting in the fall of 1968 at Rochester Institute of Technology and that he should consider applying for admission.

Ingraham became one of 70 deaf pioneers of RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, the first-ever college uniquely designed to teach deaf and hard-of-hearing students the technical skills necessary for them to get quality jobs. NTID's first director, D. Robert Frisina, called it the "Grand Experiment" to describe educating deaf students in a college setting with their hearing peers.

"The thing about NTID was that there was no model to follow," Frisina has said. "This was a rare opportunity in the education of deaf people."

Throughout the next 50 years, NTID would become a catalyst for diversity and inclusion on campus, creating a postsecondary learning environment never before seen in this country. With the emergence of more than 200 majors, research opportunities, doctoral degree readiness programming and a 94 percent career placement rate, the "Grand Experiment" is a grand success.





Lady Bird Johnson, kneeling, helps plant a commemorative tree during the dedication of the NTID complex in 1974. NTID alumni Deborah Hammell and Bill Ingraham, members of the first class, look on.



NTID has helped level the playing field for its graduates, which include members of the charter class pictured here.

Historical photos by RIT Archive Collections

## 50<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend

In celebration of NTID's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a reunion weekend June 28–July 1 will feature events and activities for alumni and families. Events include an opening ceremony, NTID Alumni Association golf tournament, several theatrical productions, a “welcome home” celebration, NTID Alumni Museum preview, campus tours, reunion group photos, children's activities and more.

The reunion committee is also asking NTID community members to participate in the #NTID5for50 fundraising campaign, encouraging individuals to make gifts in dollar amounts beginning with a five.

To register for the reunion, go to [www.ntid.rit.edu/50reunion/home](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/50reunion/home).

## History in the making

The story of RIT's NTID began when the first permanent public school for deaf students in Hartford, Conn., opened in 1817. The school showed that deaf people could be academically successful.

According to Harry Lang, professor emeritus and co-author of *From Dream to Reality: The National Technical Institute for the Deaf, A College of Rochester Institute of Technology*, while many residential schools continued to appear throughout the country, including Rochester's own school for deaf students in 1876, a dedicated postsecondary school that focused on marketable technical skills remained a dream.

In 1964, Congress was urged to study the educational and employment status of deaf people. One report suggested that about 80 percent of deaf adults were working in manual occupations, whereas only about 50 percent of the hearing population assumed those same types of positions.

Shortly after, the House and Senate drafted

bills recommending the establishment of a college tailored to the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students pursuing technical careers. The legislation was passed in both the House and the Senate in a record-setting 47 days.

On June 8, 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed Public Law 89-36, establishing the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

With the bill signed and plans for its execution moving quickly, more than two dozen universities across the country applied to establish the college on their campuses.

However, with connections to industry and business, pre-established programs in many technical disciplines, a favorable relationship between Rochester industry and people with disabilities, and a steady stream of deaf students who had already enrolled in some existing RIT programs, particularly in the School of Printing and the School for American Craftsmen, RIT became a strong contender.

In July 1966, a site team visited RIT's new

1,300-acre campus under construction in Henrietta. On Nov. 14 of that year, RIT was selected as the future home of NTID.

The strengths of this initiative would be a new, blended learning environment for the nation's deaf students interested in technical careers and an enhanced learning environment for the university's hearing population.

## 'I was the first'

Ingraham visited campus the summer before NTID opened. He used lip reading to conduct an interview and then went on a tour.

“They accepted me immediately,” Ingraham said. “I was the first.”

Ingraham knew that the eyes of the country—including the legislators and advocates who invested so much in this endeavor—would be trained on him, his classmates and Frisina, who was named director in 1967.

Before NTID's charter class arrived on campus, less than 1 percent of college-aged deaf people had enrolled in higher education.

Ingraham remembers being excited for the

RIT staff members learn how to finger spell in 1968. In the early years, sign language was taught by hearing children of deaf adults.



NTID opened in 1968, but construction of the main academic building, which was later named Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall, didn't begin until 1972. Construction of LBJ Hall can be seen on the left from this aerial photo.

opportunity to take his education further but was apprehensive at the same time. "I think we all felt that way."

But after he met other students, including his deaf roommates from Pennsylvania and Florida, he felt more comfortable.

Many deaf students were drawn to science, technology, engineering and math, based partly on the visual nature of the subject material, and RIT was well positioned to offer these programs to its deaf learners.

Students could enroll in programs such as electrical and mechanical engineering, business administration, printing management and medical technology, and degrees ranging from two-year associate, to Master of Science and Master of Fine Arts degrees. Ingraham studied business administration.

"Many people don't really realize how significant NTID was for opening doors and opening minds of the students who wanted to pursue STEM careers, and faculty, like myself,

who taught in those disciplines," said Lang, who taught at NTID for 41 years.

But there were growing pains during those inaugural years. During the first year, RIT didn't have full-time interpreters on staff, and only a few of the newly hired staff knew sign language.

The deaf students and the other 10,000 hearing RIT students were hesitant to mingle with one another due to perceived communi-

cation barriers and a lack of understanding of deaf culture. Despite the university's efforts to reach out to deaf students, some, who were living on their own for the first time, dropped out due to social and academic challenges.

"There was a definite sense of separation in the past," explained Gerry Buckley, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean, and a 1978 alumnus of RIT's social work pro-



Robert Panara, NTID's first deaf faculty member and founder of NTID's Drama Club, teaches a class. NTID's theater, now named for Panara, opened in 1974.



## 1965

U.S. Rep. Hugh Carey brings the NTID bill to the floor of the House of Representatives and Sen. Lister Hill brings the NTID bill to the Senate. Both pass unanimously.

Public Law 89-36, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to provide for the establishment and operation of a co-educational, postsecondary institute for technical education for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

## 1966

Rep. Hugh Carey announces that RIT is officially selected as the sponsoring university for NTID.



**1967**  
D. Robert Frisina named founding director of NTID.

## 1968

A charter group of about 70 deaf students arrives at RIT. Students could enroll in programs such as electrical and mechanical engineering, business administration, printing management and medical technology.

## 1969

NTID's first technical programs are offered: architectural drafting, mechanical drafting, machine tool operation, and office practice and bookkeeping. The student interpreter training program was also established, making NTID the first university ever to create such a program.

## 1970

NTID's technical programs grow from four to 31, and the first NTID students participate in RIT's co-op program.





Harry Lang, left, taught at NTID for 41 years. He said RIT was well positioned to offer deaf and hard-of-hearing students classes in science, technology, engineering and math.



Student involvement in scientific research has been a hallmark at NTID since its establishment. Today, NTID sponsors and encourages research designed to enhance the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

gram. “Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall, NTID’s academic building (which opened in 1974 but wasn’t named until 1979), was far away from what was perceived as the ‘main’ campus. Some hearing students would refer to us as ‘NIDS,’ National Institute of Deaf Students.”

But as the years progressed and the technology behind deaf education developed, the climate and attitudes changed.

In the late ’60s and early ’70s, access to telephone services included experimental devices such as Codecom, which required knowledge of Morse code, and the “Vista Phone,” a video-telephone communication system that could only be used on campus. The Victor Electrowriters allowed deaf and hearing people to communicate by telephone through an electric stylus system.

By the 1970s, the teletypewriter (TTY) made telephone communication much more accessible.

In 1968, captioning technology was not yet

developed sufficiently. On-campus educational media was often interpreted for deaf students.

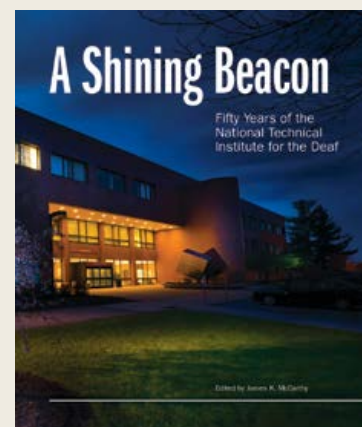
“I still have a video of myself teaching temperature and pressure in physics class with index cards and a video recorder,” Lang said. “That was my captioning during the early years.”

But by the late 1970s, NTID had become a national leader in educational program captioning, which helped deaf students become fully engaged with access to televised news, student information, announcements, academic course information and entertainment programming.

Today, with automatic speech recognition, captioning and C-Print, a real-time speech-to-text system developed at the college, NTID remains a progressive leader in instructional and communicative technologies.

RIT has the largest staff of professional sign language interpreters of any college program in the world. Last year, RIT provided more

## More history



*A Shining Beacon: 50 Years of NTID* will be available during the reunion weekend. The book includes chapters written by individuals who have witnessed change throughout the years at NTID, as well as by recent graduates looking forward to the next 50 years.

The book also includes chapters on the introduction of American Sign Language on campus, the history of performing arts at NTID, the growth of STEM education, athletics and job placement.

### 1971

The social work program is initiated at RIT, providing a new option for deaf students. A groundbreaking and dedication ceremony for NTID’s first building is held. NTID graduates its first class of 54 students.

### 1972

NTID launches Experimental Educational Theatre, the start of performing arts at the college.

### 1974

A dedication ceremony with Lady Bird Johnson takes place for all of NTID’s buildings.

### 1976

The NTID Switzer Art Gallery is established.

### 1978

Sunshine and Company, a theatrical educational outreach group, is created, followed by Sunshine Too! in 1980.

### 1988

NTID dedicates the Robert F. Panara Theatre.

### 1990

International Center for Hearing and Speech Research established.

NTID accepts its first international students.

# NTID ALUMNI FIND SUCCESS IN THEIR CAREERS



**Richard Potter '72**  
(retail management)

**Job:** Owner of Richard's Fabrics in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

**How did NTID help prepare you for your career?:** "I attended a regular high school and had no interpreter or any help with accessibility. I graduated on my own, with some help from my parents and tutoring, but I learned much more at NTID with the interpreters and notetakers that were available to me. It made learning a lot more accessible. In June of 1973, I was the first NTID graduate to be self-employed and open my own retail business. This coming June, I will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of my fabric and textile store, and I plan to retire soon."

**How did NTID help you get where you are today?:** "It has had a tremendous impact on me and has really brought so much to my life, and not just in terms of my education. I have some life-long friends from the program that I still see and keep in contact with, and I have so many fun memories that will never fade. Of course, it prepared me to be a fifth-generation business owner in my family, and my son has learned from me and has become a sixth-generation owner of his own business, Wines Tasty. My experience at NTID was really something special."



**CJ Jones '73**  
(applied computer technology)

**Job:** CEO of Sign World TV Inc. and Elevate!, producer, director, writer, actor (appeared in *Baby Driver* in 2017), entertainer, motivational speaker and musician

**How did NTID help prepare you for your career?:** "I was the first deaf computer operator at Xerox and the first person to suggest and create a co-op program for NTID students so they could be trained at Xerox. I was also the first deaf person to become a lead operator at Xerox as well."

**How did NTID help you get where you are today?:** "Since I stopped working at Xerox, I've started to pursue a career in the entertainment field. I have been self-employed full time for 35 years. I can say with great appreciation that NTID helped prepare me with knowledge, leadership skills, experience and responsibility I needed to succeed. I have very fond memories at NTID and have always spoken highly of the teachers who have helped shape me to be what I am today."



**Jacquelyn Wilson '06, '07**  
(laboratory science technology, applied arts and sciences)

**Job:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialist

**How did NTID help prepare you for your career?:** "The LST (laboratory science technology) program at NTID helped me prepare to smoothly transition into RIT for the biotechnology bachelor's program. My career required a bachelor's degree as a minimum when I was hired, and I wouldn't have accomplished this without the LST program at NTID."

**How did NTID help you get where you are today?:** "One of my favorite professors, Todd Pagano, inspired me to be who I am today. He believed in me and told me that I would succeed in anything that came my way. We still keep in touch occasionally to keep him in the loop with what I'm doing. Every time we touch base, he tells me that he has no doubts about my abilities or my accomplishments. Thank you to Dr. Pagano for the inspiration. I am happy to be where I am today."



**Jasmine Zambrano Oregel '12, '13**  
(computer-aided drafting, packaging science)

**Job:** Packaging engineer for American Honda Motor Company Inc.

**How did NTID help prepare you for your career?:** "My experiences at NTID prepared me not only for my career, but also for life. I got a better understanding and was prepared for anything once I got into RIT. NTID helped me improve my English, math and other skills dealing with the engineering program CADT (computer-aided drafting technology) by learning from my professors' experiences. NTID also helped me by having a career fair that encouraged me to find some good job opportunities that would build my experience levels, and it helped me figure out which companies I was most interested in."

**How did NTID help you get where you are today?:** "My experiences at NTID and RIT helped me be prepared for my career and gave me many opportunities for hands-on experience working with faculty members that I got to know personally. Also, I developed life skills through meaningful interaction with my sorority, Alpha Sigma Theta; students; professors; staff; and my family."

**Felicia Swartzenberg '19**



◀ **Richard Potter '72** at the opening of his store in 1973.





**Gerry Buckley, NTID president and RIT vice president and dean, right, talks with former student Robb Dooling, who graduated in 2014.**

than 140,000 hours of interpreting services, which includes classroom interpreting as well as interpreting for non-academic pursuits such as athletic events, religious services, concerts, presentations and other student life activities.

Trained student notetakers record information during classes or laboratory lectures, discussions or multimedia presentations. Last year, RIT provided more than 60,000 hours of notetaking services for students. Real-time captioning provides a comprehensive English text display of classroom lectures and discussions.

“Coming to NTID is a real homecoming for many deaf and hard-of-hearing students,” Buckley said. “This is one of those places where you have the right to understand and be understood 100 percent of the time. Some students come here and aren’t even aware of how much they have been missing. Here, our students can fully participate in a college experience, both socially and academically.”

## Opportunities today

Grace Yukawa is an example of that. The fourth-year mechanical engineering student is an NTID student ambassador,



**Fourth-year student Grace Yukawa says NTID has helped prepare her for a career in mechanical engineering. Yukawa believes that RIT’s community of deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing people makes the university unique.**

member of a sorority and works for the College Activities Board.

In high school in Seattle, Yukawa was one of about 40 deaf students in a fully mainstreamed environment with 1,700 hearing classmates. She generally interacted with her

close-knit group of deaf and hard-of-hearing peers. However, at NTID, she loves the enthusiasm of her hearing peers who are interested in learning more about deaf culture.

“NTID has helped me find myself,” Yukawa said. “Back home, I see the same people every

**1991**  
The Center for Sign Language and Interpreting Education is established.

**1995**  
A Master of Science degree in secondary education of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing is approved by New York state.

**2001**  
The grand opening of the Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center is held. The center showcases artworks created by current students, alumni and artists who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or allies of the deaf community.



**2006**  
Lizzie Sorkin becomes RIT’s first deaf Student Government president.

**2011**  
Gerard Buckley becomes president of NTID and vice president and dean of RIT—the first alumnus to lead the college.

**2012**  
Todd Pagano, now associate dean for teaching and scholarship excellence, was named U.S. Professor of the Year.

**2013**  
Rosica Hall, an \$8 million, 23,000-square-foot-building, officially opens and is dedicated to innovation and research for students, faculty and staff.

**2017**  
Robert Panara, a pioneer of deaf studies and former NTID faculty member, is immortalized as the 16<sup>th</sup> inductee into the U.S. Postal Service’s Distinguished American stamp series.





Lorne Farovitch '16 (environmental science) was part of the Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate program. Today, Farovitch studies in the doctoral program in translational biomedical science at University of Rochester School of Medicine.



More than 40 companies recruited students at the NTID career fair last year. Job titles for deaf and hard-of-hearing people have changed because of NTID.

Photos by Mark Benjamin

day in our very small deaf community. Here at NTID, I meet so many new people, people with many different backgrounds—deaf people, hearing people, people who are late deafened, deaf people who sign, hearing people who sign, deaf people who are oral. I just knew that I wouldn't be alone here, and that was just so important when I was selecting a college."

The reputation of RIT's mechanical engineering program also played a role in Yukawa's decision to enroll.

"My major requires four co-ops, and if it wasn't for the networking in the deaf community and using the resources that NTID has to offer, I don't think I would have secured those on my own," she said. "Many of the companies that I applied to were hoping to hire deaf people or people with other disabilities to broaden their scope. I wasn't aware that those specific opportunities even existed."

Out in the field, Yukawa has done research

on 3D bioprinting and on children and adults living with disabilities. Her observation visits to preschools and rehabilitation centers have provided her with insights into cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders and people who use wheelchairs. She hopes to continue work on devices that can be designed to make it easier for these individuals to complete daily tasks.

NTID actively sponsors and encourages research designed to enhance the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing people. It is home to research centers that are dedicated to studying teaching and learning; communication; technology, access and support services; and employment and adaptability to social changes and the global workplace.

Opportunities are available for undergraduate and graduate students to work directly with faculty, travel in support of their research and apply for research funding.

The Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate program, a partnership between RIT and

University of Rochester, is the first of its kind that provides scientific mentoring for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to become candidates for doctoral degree programs in biomedical or behavioral science disciplines.

And Sebastian and Lenore Rosica Hall, the \$8 million, state-of-the-art building that binds this all together, fosters innovation, entrepreneurship and research among deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing peers.

Yukawa has one more year until graduation but is looking ahead to a career designing accessibility devices.

She will join more than 8,500 deaf and hard-of-hearing NTID alumni living in all 50 states and in 20 countries, and working in all economic sectors, including business and industry, health care, education and government.

"My hope is to one day be able to level the playing field for people living with disabilities," she said.

*Continued on page 28*





Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Andrea Sinden, right, a student in the ASL/English interpretation bachelor's degree program, came to RIT so she could be immersed in the deaf community.



Lydia Callis '10 is the owner of LC Interpreting Services. A video of her expressive signing for New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg went viral in 2012.

## Cultural diversity enriches interpretation program

**R**IT isn't the only school that offers degrees in American Sign Language/English interpretation, but it does have one feature that isn't common at other schools.

"Students can interact with 1,200 deaf or hard-of-hearing students on campus and more than 100 faculty members who are well known in the interpreting field," said Lynn Finton, director of the Department of ASL and Interpreting Education. "They are able to practice and interact with people who are members of the deaf community as they learn."

Finton said this immersion in ASL and deaf culture is a unique experience that sets RIT's interpreting graduates apart from graduates at other universities.

The interpreting program offered at the university through the National Technical Institute for the Deaf has become known as one of the best in the country since it started as a summer training program in 1969.

The first bachelor's degree program was approved in 2000 as a two-plus-two program. In 2008, the two-plus-two program evolved to a full four-year program. Since 2008, more than 270 students have graduated with their bachelor's degree in ASL/English interpretation, according to NTID annual reports.

Linda Siple, a retired professor for the Department of ASL and Interpreting Education, is proud of how the program has grown and hopes the growth will

continue in the future.

"We're pioneers in this field. This profession is still very young compared to other programs offered at RIT," said Siple. "We have made tremendous leaps and bounds in such a short period of time."

When applying to schools, Andrea Sinden, a fourth-year student in the ASL/English interpretation bachelor's program from Seattle, was impressed by the programs offered through NTID. When Sinden realized she wanted to pursue a career working with the deaf community, she knew RIT would provide her with the right environment to learn.

"I could learn ASL and the skill it takes to interpret at other universities, but the ability to be immersed in the deaf community and learn from innovators in the field is something I don't think other schools can offer," said Sinden. "I felt that if I really wanted to improve my skillset, I would need to be more immersed in the language."

Lydia Callis '10 (ASL/English interpretation) is the owner and an interpreter for her own company, LC Interpreting Services, which serves people in the greater New York City region and New Jersey.

She sparked dialogue around the work of ASL interpreters on social media after a video of her expressive signing went viral on YouTube in 2012. The video features Callis interpreting in press conferences

about Superstorm Sandy for New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Callis recalls the vast cultural diversity at RIT and feels that being exposed to different cultures is a valuable experience for interpreters.

"Deafness isn't limited by race, age, gender, religion or anything else, so when you're on the job, you need to be prepared to step outside your comfort zone sometimes," said Callis. "A diverse educational environment like RIT can expose people to different perspectives and offer a safe environment for cross-cultural dialogues."

One change that is already underway at RIT to fulfill the need for specialized interpreters is the Master of Science program in health care interpretation.

The MS program, which started in 2016, expanded on the health care interpretation certificate program already in place.

The program prepares interpreters to meet the growing demand for specialization in health care interpreting for deaf patients and health care professionals, as well as prepares students to take on leadership and administrative roles.

"We are the only university in the country offering this program," said Kathy Miraglia, director of the program. "This is an opportunity for innovative teaching, learning and research that is making RIT a leader in this area of interpreting."

Felicia Swartzenberg '19



Performance groups at NTID host several productions each year. A sample of productions include, clockwise from top left, *Lysistrata*, 1975; *Tempest*, 1981; *Grapes of Wrath*, 1992; *Peter Pan*, 2002; *Hairspray*, 2015; and *Sherlock*, 2016.

## Performing arts

NTID performing arts launched in 1974 after the success of a student drama club founded by Robert

Panara, NTID's first deaf faculty member and co-founder of the National Theater of the Deaf.

Today, performance groups host several productions each season, and a comprehensive curriculum of dance and theater courses is offered. Thomas Warfield, NTID's director of dance, explained that many deaf and hard-of-hearing

students are excited for the chance to perform and said that performing arts classes are often filled to capacity. "We take a different point of view of theater and approach it from multiple angles, engaging a diverse spectrum of students," he said. "NTID performing arts is an opportunity to make our unique impact on theater and dance."



## Fifty years later

NTID has already helped level the playing field for many of its graduates.

"There is an evolution that we have witnessed over the past 50 years," said John Macko, director of NTID's Center on Employment.

Fifty years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act didn't exist, and it was a new concept for employers to consider deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates as employees. It was more challenging for deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates to work alongside hearing coworkers.

"Years ago, deaf and hard-of-hearing people were office clerks, data entry specialists and computer operators," Macko said. "Today, we're accountants, network specialists, mechanical engineers, software engineers. Job titles have changed as a result of NTID."

As a student, Ingraham excelled at tax accounting. His instructor, Bill Gasser, encouraged him to apply for a co-op with the Internal Revenue Service.

"He believed that I could do the job and had every confidence in my abilities. He always looked out for me in class; I'll never forget him and what he did for me."

After graduating in 1971, Ingraham was hired by the IRS and served as a revenue agent until his retirement 36 years later.

"I'm just amazed at what NTID has become," Ingraham said. "I'm so happy

that I had the chance to go there and I'm so happy for the students who have the opportunity to go there now. NTID introduced me to how amazing the deaf world really is."

He and his wife, Mary Jo (Nixon) Ingraham, remain connected to NTID, serving on committees and regularly attending campus events. Mary Jo graduated in 1972 and became the first NTID alumna hired on staff.

Buckley, who was named NTID president in 2011 and is the first RIT/NTID alumnus to hold that position, said students today leave prepared for the real world, where there isn't always sensitivity and inclusion. They leave understanding their rights and responsibilities, and they leave with the self-confidence to interact with hearing peers.

"As RIT and NTID prepare the next generation of leaders, I want them to walk away from this campus feeling that they were included. I want them to increase their earning potential and economic power," Buckley said. "But it's not just about money. It's about the ways they can influence the world. In that way, we've truly fulfilled our mission."

Vienna McGrain '12

## To learn more

For more details on the history of NTID and RIT, go to [rit.edu/henrietta50](http://rit.edu/henrietta50).



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*—Ashley Bonney '18, Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholar*



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# Alumni Updates



Thomas Shillea '84 is an expert in platinotype portrait photography. Prints from Shillea's *Trinity* series repurpose his platinum prints by overprinting them on Renaissance and Japanese Ukiyo-e images.

Photo by Santa Bannon-Shillea



Photos by Thomas Shillea

## Alumnus becomes expert in type of photography

Not everyone gets the chance to fulfill their dreams, but Thomas Shillea '84 (photography) was able to through his photography career. While working on a portrait project for the United States Information Agency (USIA), Shillea met and photographed Coretta Scott King in 1985.

"I was a child of the '60s and was involved in the peace and civil rights movements, so meeting her and hearing her talk about the civil rights movement was an amazing experience," said Shillea.

Shillea's years of dedication to perfecting his art have made him an expert in platinotype portrait photography and given him the opportunity to photograph notable individuals like Malcolm Forbes, Sissy Spacek and others for a USIA portrait project in 1986.

Platinotype prints are made using a platinum printing process. The resulting print has a rich color range and unique texture different from normal photos. Platinotype photos lost popularity after 1930, but a few skilled artists like Shillea, who discovered the process at RIT, work to keep the technique alive.

A photographer for over 40 years, Shillea is

still producing new work. He is working on a new series, *Trinity*, which involves overprinting his vintage platinum portraits on Italian Renaissance and Japanese Ukiyo-e artworks. One of his goals is to exhibit his Ukiyo-e inspired photographs at a gallery in Tokyo.

After Shillea graduated, he moved to Philadelphia to begin his career as a fine arts photographer. In 1982, he hosted an exhibition of his platinum portraits at the Rosenfeld Gallery.

Jay Garfinkel, the vice president of TV and Photography Production of the USIA, attended the exhibit, and four years later Garfinkel contacted Shillea about a portrait project he was planning.

"He liked my style and had never seen a platinum print before. He was impressed by its visual and tactile quality, so he invited me to work on the project," said Shillea.

One unique experience from his USIA project was photographing former President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office. It was a strange, highly restricted experience, but the portrait session was shortly after the president had been shot, so Shillea said he understood

the caution.

"I was not allowed to approach the president closer than 15 feet and was warned by a Secret Service agent that if I did so I could be shot and arrested," said Shillea. "Naturally, I was disappointed from the perspective of my photography, but I was still very pleased to have this unique opportunity."

This project is just one of many that Shillea has worked on over the years. His work is featured in museums across the country, such as the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of African American History and Culture and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In addition to his photography career, Shillea is the director of Art Programs at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Pa., where he currently lives. Shillea enjoys "sharing the sense of wonder" that he experienced when learning about platinum prints.

"If you have a dream, go for it, and don't stop going for it even if you fail," said Shillea. "There were frustrations and failures along the path of my career, but I never lost my passion or let go of my dream."

Felicia Swartzberg '19





Haltigin, a two-year captain, capped off a banner four-year career for the Tigers in 2011-2012. He was one of 20 Division I hockey players nominated for the 2012 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

Chris Haltigin '12 (biomedical sciences) is now an obstetrics-gynecology resident in Michigan.

## Former hockey captain beats cancer twice and becomes physician

**D**r. Chris Haltigin '12 (biomedical sciences) had finished his second year of medical school and was studying for his first set of board exams when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Forty-eight hours later, the former RIT hockey captain was in surgery. "It was scary and it happened at a very critical time for all medical students," Haltigin said.

The surgery in May 2015 worked and Haltigin's cancer went into remission. Seven weeks later, he took the board exam, did well and his medical education stayed on track.

Until December 2016. That's when he learned the cancer had returned in the form of a tennis-ball-sized tumor deep in his abdomen. This time he was in the middle of residency interviews and was three months away from finishing medical school.

The mass was in a hard-to-reach location, so surgery wasn't an option. Instead, he would need nine weeks of chemotherapy, which would require him to take a leave of absence from medical school. But he was still

determined to complete his studies.

He finished his last clinical rotation one day before graduation.

"Just beating cancer in itself is really special and something that will define me for the rest of my life, but I beat cancer twice during medical school and finished on time," Haltigin said. "It was pretty crazy but it's something I'm unbelievably proud of."

Today, Haltigin is an obstetrics-gynecology resident at Beaumont-Royal Oak Health System outside of Detroit. He interviewed for the position days before he started chemotherapy in January 2017.

Haltigin said although nothing can prepare a person for a cancer diagnosis, his time at RIT as a student-athlete taught him how to deal with challenges in a rational fashion. It also gave him a competitive edge, which helped him get into medical school.

Haltigin said the first time he took the Medical College Admission Test while he was an undergraduate at RIT, it didn't go as well as he would have liked.

"I am so competitive," he said. "It ultimately was like someone telling me I can't do something. I was going to prove I can do it."

Haltigin took it again after he graduated, and after playing a year of professional hockey in the ECHL league for the Alaska Aces, he enrolled in medical school at American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. (His hockey teammate Dr. Riley Clark '12 (biomedical sciences) also went there.)

Initially he wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon because he had bonded with his own surgeon who repaired his hip twice. But after doing an ob-gyn rotation as a third-year student, he fell in love with the specialty. He loves delivering babies.

He also likes working at Beaumont, where another teammate and close friend Dr. Trevor Eckenswiller '12 (biomedical sciences) works as a resident in emergency medicine.

"I am really grateful for the people who have supported me," Haltigin said. "I am grateful for where I have ended up today."

**Mindy Mozer**



Carol Alderman '14, left, records a podcast in November 2017 with Hillary Rodham Clinton for *Cape Up*, hosted by *The Washington Post*'s Jonathan Capehart.

Listen in

Listen to *Can He Do That?* at <http://bit.ly/CanHeDoThat>, *Letters From War* at <http://bit.ly/LettersFromWar>, and the pictured podcast at <http://bit.ly/CapeUpClinton>.

Photo by Jonathan Capehart/The Washington Post

## Photojournalist finds passion producing podcasts

Carol Alderman's 'ah-ha' moment came late in her junior year of college. She didn't want to leave a family gathering to work on her own photojournalism project, but when a classmate asked for help, she was willing to put her family on hold.

Alderman, who was drawn to photojournalism because she loves to tell stories, realized that day that she preferred to work as an editor in the storytelling process.

She met with William Snyder, chair of RIT's photojournalism program, and they came up with a pathway to becoming a photo editor. And that led to a job as a multimedia editor for *USA Today College* right after graduation.

"Just because you are in a certain degree or learning a very specific thing doesn't mean that's the path you have to follow," said Alderman '14 (photojournalism), whose path has taken a few turns since graduation.

Today, Alderman is an audio producer at *The Washington Post* working on podcast production and development.

Alderman said she got to where she is today because she never turned down an opportunity. As a student, she landed a photo editor internship at *USA Today* after meeting the newspaper's photo editor during a class networking trip to Washington, D.C.

When the internship was ending, she met with the general manager for *USA Today College* and pitched a full-time position.

"I said, 'I made myself a job. Can I have it?' And he said, 'sure,'" Alderman said. "Knowing what I know now, I might not be so bold, but it worked in the moment."

She managed the Collegiate Correspondent Program, overseeing a team of 10 student journalists. Since her title was multimedia editor, Alderman's boss assumed that she knew everything about multimedia and one day asked her to produce a podcast.

"I said, 'OK,' because I just say yes to everything," she said. "I went home and Googled how to make a podcast."

It was a steep learning curve that included talking to experts and reading

books, but Alderman realized that she enjoyed telling audio stories. In 2016, she joined *The Washington Post* where she could do podcasts full time.

She does everything from episode conception to recording interviews with hosts, writing, editing, finding music and publishing. She also works with public relations to promote the final work.

Two of her favorite podcasts have been *Can He Do That?*, which explores the powers and limitations of the American presidency with host Allison Michaels, and *Letters From War*, a mini-series highlighting letters written between brothers fighting in World War II. The letters are read by veterans.

"Storytelling is the one constant through this weird little path I have taken," Alderman said. "I am constantly telling stories and crafting these narratives that I think are really important for the world to hear. I learn something new every single day, no matter what I'm working on."

Mindy Mozer





John Butler '80 (professional photographic illustration) is a partner at Butler, Shine, Stern & Partners ad agency, headquartered in Sausalito, Calif.

Photo by Shahin Edalati

## Graduate helped create memorable ad campaign

John Butler '80 (professional photographic illustration) remembers the time he performed his impersonation of William Shatner—to *the* William Shatner.

"I worked with him for over eight years," said the chief creative officer, whose Butler, Shine, Stern & Partners ad agency in Sausalito, Calif., is credited with conceiving the witty Priceline Negotiator ad campaign.

When pitching the Priceline account, Butler and his creative team flew to Los Angeles and met with Shatner to present scripts. As Butler stood by him, he asked the iconic Hollywood actor if he would be OK with impersonating him.

"He gave me a raised eyebrow and before I got through the script, he grabbed it from my hands and started reading," he said. "He completely nailed it on a first read."

"He then looked at me and said, 'So you want me to play the fool, eh?' I sheepishly nodded, 'yes.' He smiled and said, 'I can do that.'"

"And that's how the 'Negotiator' was born." Butler honed his photography skills at RIT,

where in addition to learning a lot about the technical side of cameras and lighting, he also discovered a proclivity for graphic design and drawing.

"I received a solid background in all these areas at RIT, and it helped me decide what I really wanted to do," Butler said.

After studying art direction and design post-RIT, he became a junior art director and for the next six years alternated between art directing and copywriting roles at iconic agencies such as McCann New York, J. Walter Thompson and Chiat\Day.

That's when he and his creative partner, Mike Shine, decided to go west and join a San Francisco ad agency, where they met Greg Stern, an account director. The three friends decided to venture out and start Butler, Shine, Stern & Partners—BSSP, for short—a privately owned ad agency since 1993.

According to Butler, the agency is a big believer in the transformative power of ideas.

"Today's consumers are as concerned with a brand's beliefs and value system as they are

about the products they make," he said. "We see that in our own employees. We believe work can and should have a positive impact on a client's business, consumers and the world at large."

As he nears a quarter century at BSSP, Butler is more focused on the agency's strategic direction and less on day-to-day operations.

"My days are occupied helping to determine the future of the company and how we are perceived out in the world," he said.

Butler takes pride in his firm's support of causes dedicated to solving issues around societal change and racial inequality. On the less serious side, he's a "big comic art and illustration collector" and has been since he was a child growing up in Henrietta, N.Y. He serves on the board of directors at the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco.

"I love illustration, and my wife and I own a lot of book cover art," Butler said. "My own personal passion is comic art. I also collect masks, but that's another story."

Rich Kiley



Adam Kubert '81 began his lettering career at age 12 for DC Comics. He said studying medical illustration at RIT has proved invaluable in drawing anatomically correct superheroes such as Wolverine, The Incredible Hulk and Superman.

## MARVEL-IOUS COMIC ARTIST HAS LUCK OF THE DRAW

**H**e may not have superhero powers, but he certainly has a talent for drawing them.

Pencil, pen, paper, ink and “a brain that never stops” are the tools of his trade—and during his career as a comic artist, Adam Kubert '81 (medical illustration) has illustrated for DC Comics and now exclusively at Marvel Comics.

And probably the most salient fact about Kubert's style is how anatomically correct his subjects are with their detailed faces and sculpted bodies in revealing spandex couture—easily the envy of even your most avid body builders.









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ZDARSKY  
KUBERT  
KEITHPETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR  
**SPIDER-MAN**

WHAT IS PROJECT TWILIGHT?

MARVEL

#2  
ZDARSKY  
KUBERT  
BELLAIREPETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR  
**SPIDER-MAN**

Kubert is accomplished at both penciling and inking techniques and is currently illustrating one of Marvel's flagship titles: *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man*. He said the storyline is key to brainstorming "some really cool" characters in life-like detail—often with eye-popping masks and heavy-spandex gear. He said the hardest part is leaving a project at 95 percent perfection. "If you can't keep your deadlines, you can't keep your job."







The Spider-Man artist returned to RIT last fall to discuss his profession and “love for telling stories with pictures,” while offering advice to students interested in pursuing careers in illustration.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

“Wolverine can get his chest slashed open, and I can illustrate it accurately in 3D,” said Kubert with a laugh. “That comes from studying medical illustration at RIT, but my comic career started at age 12 when I started lettering for DC Comics.”

Since Kubert enjoyed science and art and wanted to be a pediatrician when he grew up, medical illustration seemed like a good fit. Yet he couldn’t escape a career following “a huge shadow” in the comic industry. His father, Joe, was an iconic cartoonist and founder of The Kubert School—which offers a three-year concentrated program in cartooning and graphic art and is located in Dover, N.J.

“My dad was a genius, a living legend for his DC Comics characters Sgt. Rock and Hawkman,” said Kubert. “My brother, Andy, is also a cartoonist for DC Comics, so

throughout my life I’ve faced some heavy, yet friendly, family competition. We both continue to teach at the school.”

Kubert has indeed found his niche and is best known for drawing villains and heroes of the ever-popular X-Men, Fantastic Four, The Incredible Hulk, Spider-Man, Superman, Ghost Rider and most notably, Wolverine. In 1992, he received the Eisner Award for best inker of *Batman Versus Predator* (Dark Horse and DC Comics).

“I didn’t grow up as a comic book fan, but I love telling stories with pictures,” said Kubert. “Comics are a fertile ground for movies; we are the idea people that producers are always looking for when considering their next blockbuster. You have to be living under a rock if you don’t believe superheroes are big at the box office—even on Netflix.”

Kubert’s skill is unmistakably captivating to look at—and he agrees comic art is an industry where you can design some pretty “cool” characters. He said it generally takes him eight to 10 hours to complete a Marvel Comics cover, but if the storyline includes eight villains versus a single superhero, it can take up to four days. His latest endeavor is illustrating Marvel’s flagship title, *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man*.

“I tell up-and-coming artists that you have to really enjoy what you do,” said Kubert, who recently relocated to Brooklyn with his wife, Tracy; children; three dogs; and a couple of motorcycles.

“Illustrating for a living isn’t a corporate job, but it’s enough to pay the bills—and for my next motorcycle.”

Marcia Morphy



# Alumni House

Future home of the  
**Joseph M. Lobo**  
**Alumni House**



COMING SOON

R.I.T.



# RIT's first alumni house set to open this summer

Joseph Loboazzo '95 stands where the Joseph M. Loboazzo Alumni House is being built on campus.

Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

RIT's first multipurpose welcome center for alumni on campus has a new name and a new location.

Construction is underway on the Joseph M. Loboazzo Alumni House, with an opening slated for this summer.

The 5,700-square-foot house on the west side of campus across the street from Riverknoll Apartments will be the first permanent on-campus facility built for alumni, primarily by alumni.

The Loboazzo Alumni House will feature a great room, porch, dining room, conference room, patio, library, catering kitchen and several administrative offices for Development and Alumni Relations staff members.

A business center will provide a shared work space for alumni to check their email, make photocopies, print boarding passes, obtain an alumni ID and even receive career counseling and advice as needed.

In addition, a kiosk will print step-by-step directions to locations on campus as well as help direct people to attractions in Rochester.

The facilities will be available to rent for milestone personal events such as weddings, birthdays and retirements in addition to university-sponsored chapter and reunion activities.

To date, \$1.5 million has been raised for the estimated \$2.1 million project.

"The Joseph M. Loboazzo Alumni House aims to provide the friendliest, most engaging, primarily service-oriented atmosphere possible, leading to a warm, life-long relationship with RIT," said Kelly Redder, executive director of the RIT Alumni House.

Loboazzo, who earned an Executive MBA from RIT in 1995, was founder of JML Optical Industries Inc. He is a member of the President's

Roundtable and has served on the RIT Board of Trustees (1999-2013); advisory boards for the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, Venture Creations and Saunders College of Business Executive MBA program; and several terms

## Select named spaces

- Chuck '61 and Elaine Maginness Welcome Center
- Bill Buckingham '64 Great Room
- Brian '78 and Linda Hall Dining Room
- The RIT Alumni Association Board of Directors Board Room
- Bill Bjorness '86 Memorial Office Suite
- A. Scott Hecker '65 Garden
- Kevin J. Surace '85 Bar
- Jim '93 and Audrey Janicki Porch
- Bud '56, '91 and Joan Rusitzky Conference Room
- Gamma Epsilon Tau Fireplace
- David A. Blonski '07 and Michelle Nicholson Blonski '06, '07 Vestibule
- John M. Slusser '75 Electrical and Engineering Room
- J. Rollin Shoemaker '60 Business Center

on the Dean's Council for Saunders College. He also served as vice chair of RIT's Powered by the Future comprehensive campaign, named the Loboazzo Photonics and Optical Characterization Lab, established the Loboazzo Executive MBA Challenge Scholarship and will establish new funds for that program.

He earned the Saunders College of Business Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001, the Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award in 2003, the RIT Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2006 and was the recipient of the 2017 NRS Award, the highest honor given by RIT's Nathaniel Rochester Society.

Loboazzo said he was impressed with the blueprints and thinks the house will be perfect to welcome alumni back to campus. He looks forward to the day when he can enjoy a cup of coffee there with other graduates.

"It is really very exciting," he said.

Redder said the original plan to renovate a home near campus would not have provided the scope and functionality needed for RIT's 125,000 alumni. The previously purchased house will be used by RIT for other purposes.

Mindy Mozer

## To learn more

Go to [rit.edu/alumnihouse](http://rit.edu/alumnihouse).

# Class Notes

## Key to abbreviations

<b>CAST</b>	College of Applied Science and Technology
<b>CCE</b>	College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)
<b>CHST</b>	College of Health Sciences and Technology
<b>CIAS</b>	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
<b>CLA</b>	College of Liberal Arts
<b>COS</b>	College of Science
<b>FAA</b>	Fine and Applied Arts (now CIAS)
<b>GAP</b>	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CIAS)
<b>GGCIS</b>	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
<b>KGCOE</b>	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
<b>NTID</b>	National Technical Institute for the Deaf
<b>SOIS</b>	School of Individualized Study
<b>SCB</b>	Saunders College of Business
<b>SVP</b>	NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

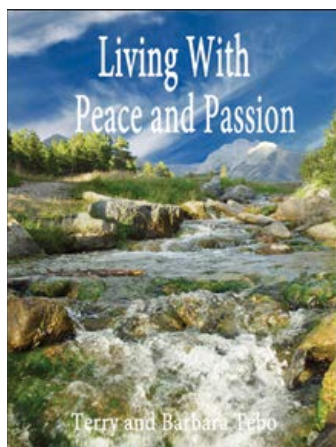
## About Class Notes

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](http://www.rit.edu/alumni/news).

## 1968

**John Guiliano '68 (SCB)** completed his 29th year as the Beavercreek Ohio High School boys varsity soccer coach. His team finished the year with a 22-0-2 record and won the Division I Ohio State championship. Over the 29 years as varsity coach, he has a record of 413-106-85, which puts him currently in the top five winning soccer coaches in the state. He completed 20 years of service in the Air Force and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1989.

## 1973

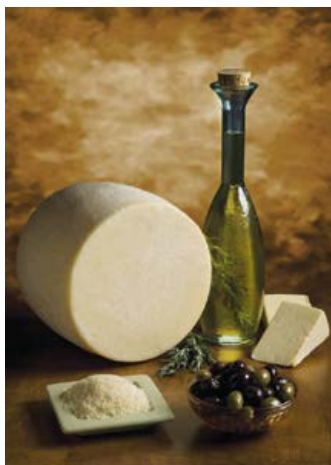


**Joseph Burke '73 (GAP)** used his photograph to design the cover for the recently released book *Living with Peace and Passion* by Terry and Barbara Tebo. The book is a daily guide for living a better life and can be purchased through Amazon in paperback or on Kindle.

## 1974

**Russell Kirk '74 (CIAS)** was selected by the United States Golf Association to photograph for the 2018 United States Junior Amateur Golf Tournament at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J. Kirk is the owner of Golfinks Photography in Roswell, Ga., and is one of the top golf photographers in the world. View more of his work at [golfinksphotography.com](http://golfinksphotography.com).

## 1975



**William Truran '75 (GAP)** has made a living with a camera ever since attending RIT. He loves being a photographer. He has two beloved cheese clients and three refrigerators full of cheese because they send it to him to shoot and they can't take it back. See all of his work at [www.billtruran.com](http://www.billtruran.com).

## 1977



**Kevin Hall '77 (FAA)** is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his branding and graphic design firm, Kevin Hall Design. The recipient

of many industry awards, he has written about the importance of good design and the role of design in business. Prior to starting his own firm, he held positions as designer/art director with General Foods and Marketing Corp. of America.

## 1978



**Gregory Hitchin '78 (GAP)** was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). His term began on Jan. 1, 2018.

He is a certified economic developer and serves as the director of economic development and tourism for the City of Waynesboro, Va.

## 1981

**Michael Dailey '81 (CAST)** is a software engineer at Plexxi.com, a hyperconverged networking company located in Nashua, N.H.

**Peter Walczak '81 (GAP)** has retired after 35 years in the capital equipment side of the printing, publishing and packaging industries. Walczak has recently joined Home Services, Exteriors Division of The Home Depot as a regional sales consultant. He also can be found in the winter months skiing the high White Mountains of New Hampshire or the Green Mountains of Vermont.

## 1982



**Gary Sutto '82 (GAP)** continues his photography in Seattle. He made a video from his backyard of the solar eclipse that occurred on Aug. 21, 2017. See it at <https://vimeo.com/231762117>.

## 1984

**Julie Moy '84 (FAA), '84 (FAA)** moved back to the East. She works as an events planner for New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies in Hamilton, N.J.

## 1986

**Gerard Skrzynski '86 (KGCOE)** was ordained as a transitional deacon at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 16, 2017. A profile featuring Skrzynski was also published in the October 2017 issue of the *Western New York Catholic*.

**Albert Zahniser '86 (CAST)** is a cloud architect at Philadelphia-based Anexinet. He recently passed the Amazon Web Services certified solution architect—professional level exam. This is his third of the five AWS certifications available.

## 1989



**Gary Zeiger '89 (CAST)** released the audiobook format of his first book, *Stingray: You Can't Hide Forever*, ahead of the planned release of his second book, *Stingray: Prophecy*, in early 2018. It will be available on Audible, iTunes and Audiobook.com.

## 1990

**Beth (Kresge-Mietz) McNeill '88 (GAP), '90 (GAP)** was hired in August 2017 as the new education program manager in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

**Sumit Mookerjee '90 (KGCOE)** left IBM after 20 years to join a software startup, StorONE, as its director of technical sales. He has had a varied career at Big Blue and ended his run on track to become a distinguished engineer. Now he gets to develop collateral, work with the engineering staff and train the technical sellers at the most revolutionary company you've never heard of...yet.



**Cindy Rosenshein '90 (CAST)** is celebrating her one-year anniversary as managing director for Dragon Rouge N.Y., an award-winning global branding agency.

## 1991

**John Frontuto '91 (GAP)** reunited with fellow film and animation classmates **Darren Ayres '92 (GAP)**, **Tim Tuchello '91 (GAP)**, **Jay Sheveck '92 (GAP)**, **Vicki Sheveck**, **Jim Baker '92 (GAP)**, and **Tim Talbott** in Los Angeles in November.



**Tamra Werner '91 (CAST)** and **Ann Marie McFee '15 (CIAS)** published their first children's book, *Koli's Birthday Adventure: Koli The Great White Shark*. The factually based fictional book gives children the opportunity to learn about the great white shark while connecting with a lovable character. The book is available online on 250 websites worldwide.

## 1992

**Paul Jeran '92 (KGCOE)** was promoted to distinguished technologist in the HP LaserJet Supplies Research and Development Lab.

**Kevin Shea '92 (GAP)** returned to the daily news business at *The Times of Trenton* and *New Jersey Advance Media* ([nj.com](http://nj.com)) after six years in the banking



and insurance industries. It was a full-circle career moment and he considers himself fortunate to be back doing what he enjoys most professionally. He is a supervising reporter and managing producer. He lives in Point Pleasant, N.J., with his wife, Kim, and three teenage daughters.

**Christine Lang '92 (CLA), '17 (SOIS)** completed her advanced graduate certificate in project management this past summer through RIT's School of Individualized Study. She also became Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt certified.

## 1993



**Joseph Brennan '93 (FAA)** writes that this Colt Police Positive .38 Special stands as a part of American history for future generations to appreciate in a new one-of-a-kind display case that he designed and built. The gun was a family heirloom that had been stored in an old cookie tin for nearly two-thirds of its existence. For details, go to [BrennanDesigns.net](http://BrennanDesigns.net).



**John Lawrence '93 (CAST)** manages three corporate operations as CFO and managing member. Preservas LLC, based in Cheyenne, Wyo., provides back office support for construction and

maintenance contractors. Total Renovation Services Inc., based in Houston, completes residential and commercial construction projects. Lawrence is also involved in real estate development and government contracting. The Lawrence family is supporting the RIT Alumni House project and has a son, John B. Lawrence, attending RIT as a sophomore in computing security. The family still lives in a suburb of Houston.

**Grant Senn '93 (CAST)** recently accepted a position at TerumoBCT, located in Lakewood, Colo., as process validation engineer. In this role, Senn will be traveling back and forth to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, supporting a new plant start up. TerumoBCT makes specialized blood drawing and separating equipment used in the treatment of multiple blood-based diseases.

## 1994

**Peter Considine '94 (CIAS)** is a managing editor at TDWI in Renton, Wash.

**Michael Seamans '94 (CIAS)** completed his MFA in photography on June 30, 2017, from New Hampshire Institute of Art.

## 1995



**Pamela (Mellen) Zellner '95 (CIAS)** is a program manager for the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Providence, R.I. She has been in the Rhode Island state government for 20 years. She is married to **Travis Zellner '97 (CIAS)** and they have two children, Miia (2000) and James (2006).

## 1997



**Shawn McCann '97 (SCB)** and his husband, Billy, opened an Abbott's Frozen Custard in Sterling, Va., on Sept. 14, 2017.

## 1998

**Jim Crocker '98 (CAST)** moved to Apple to continue building the internet after six years with Google. His family of five continues to enjoy living in Denver.

## 1999

**Nicolas Rubio '99 (SCB), '01 (SCB)** received a master's degree in political science (public policy) in 2015 and now he is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science (public policy and international relations) at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela. Since 2013, he has worked with his wife, Angela Incerti, as an independent international business senior consultant focusing on the Latin American market. Recently, he became a visiting professor at IESA, a top 10 business school in Latin America.

## 2002

**Brandyn Jacob '02 (SCB)** was promoted to vice president of Remedy Intelligent Staffing. He was also recently named

## Sheldon named new Alumni Association president



**Kevin Sheldon '02** (management information systems) began serving his two-year term as the new Alumni Association president on Jan. 1.

In addition to his career as vice president of operations at CareJourney, Sheldon is passionate about serving the RIT community and its more than 125,000 alumni.

"The Alumni Association works to support the RIT alumni community in any way we can. We are evaluating how we serve alumni in general, how to get them more engaged, and looking at ways that

we can continue to get them involved at a deeper level," said Sheldon.

Before being nominated to serve as an Alumni Association Board member in 2009, Sheldon was involved with the Alumni Association in many ways, including serving as a chapter leader.

"Reconnecting with people from RIT can help you network and make new friends, as well as strengthen your relationship with our university that has a growing prestigious reputation," Sheldon said.

While serving as president, Sheldon has three main goals.

First, he wants to continue to strengthen the dialogue between the Alumni Association, the RIT administration and the Board of Trustees. Second, Sheldon wants to work with RIT President David Munson as he re-evaluates the university's strategic plan to ensure that the Alumni Association can support the president's new vision. Third, Sheldon wants to increase alumni involvement with the association.

"If you or someone you know would like to get involved, just reach out to us," he said. "I would encourage all alumni to get involved somehow."

board president of the National Human Resources Association's Rochester Affiliate for the 2017-2018 program year. The National HR Association is a boutique human resources organization focused on the development and career advancement of local human resources professionals.

**Donald Gentilcore '02 (CAST)** has joined Barton and Loguidice's Solid Waste Group as a senior project manager at the firm's Syracuse office. He has more than 20 years of experience in management, operations, development, construction and permitting in the solid waste industry.



**Elaine Naum '02 (SCB)** was promoted to senior vice president in September 2017. She started at Partners + Napier in 2005 as an account supervisor on the Bausch & Lomb account. She was elected a vice president in 2015 and promoted to group account director that same year. In addition to B&L, over the years she has worked on and grown several of the agency's top accounts, including Delta Vacations, Friendship Dairies and BMW MINI Financial Services.

## Long-distance couple reaches finish line with Michelin

Ashley (Shoum) Gliss '09 (mechanical engineering) was focused on her senior design project, her final year of school and a new job she would start after graduation at Toyota when she first met Ed Gliss '11 (mechanical engineering).

"All along I thought it was cliché to meet someone at college," Gliss said. "I'm just going to put my head down and finish my master's degree."

But her senior design project centered around a Polaris four-wheeler that was stored in the Formula SAE Racing team's shop. And she couldn't

help but notice Ed, who was on the Formula team, making the carbon fiber components of the racecar.

By that winter, Ashley said, she was smitten. And today, the two

car-loving engineers who both work at Michelin in Greenville, S.C., have a 1½ year old daughter, Avery.

"From my standpoint for our relationship, it has been awesome because we are both engineers and we think in the same manner," Ed said. "And it doesn't hurt that we share the same interests and hobbies, so when we have down time we like to do the same things."

It wasn't always a smooth ride for the couple, though. When Ashley graduated, she worried about keeping the relationship going long distance

for two years until Ed completed school. She even tried to break up with him on May 24, 2009, but Ed wouldn't let her. In fact, he teased her about that day and 5/24 became their special date. They were married on May 24, 2014.

The plan was for Ashley to stay at Toyota in a two-year rotational program until Ed graduated and then they would look for jobs together.

Ashley, though, had been working with Michelin in her job at Toyota and was intrigued by the company and living in South Carolina. She applied for an opening and left Toyota after a year. Ed joined her there in 2011.

Although they both work for Michelin, they are in facilities located 45 minutes apart. And although they are both mechanical engineers, their work is different. Ashley said she is more analytical and likes paper calculations. Ed prefers hands-on projects.

Ashley is a technical account manager, working directly with companies such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi to develop new technology for next-generation vehicles.

Ed started at Michelin in a tire design role and two years later became a test driver, working with companies to make decisions to create the best customized tire for new vehicles. To do this he has to be an expert driver in all conditions, including performing high-speed maneuvers in the snow. (Growing up in Akron, N.Y., and attending college in Rochester helps with that.)

At the Michelin test tracks, he can easily reach speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

"It is cool we can both work on a car together and talk the same language," Ashley said. "It has been a lot of fun."

Mindy Mozer



Ashley (Shoum) Gliss '09 and Ed Gliss '11 both work for Michelin. They have a daughter, Avery.





## 2003

**Richard Gary '03 (SCB)** was promoted to vice president of Global Customer Success for the Imaging, Workflow, and Care Solutions Business Unit of Change Healthcare (formerly McKesson Technology Solutions).

## 2004

**Matthew G. Aggleton '04 (COS)** is excited to have recently started a new job at LeFell Manufacturing as a research and development engineer focused on the development of flow-forming techniques for aerospace applications.



**Justin M. Bienio '04 (SCB)** has been traveling solo around the world since January 2017 in an effort to make a positive impact on the world through international volunteering projects. To achieve a greater impact, he launched a volunteer placement agency, Global Opportunities for Altruistic Travel—GOAT Volunteers for short. The agency has established partnerships with non-governmental organizations in Costa Rica, Spain, Ghana, Malawi and Kenya.



**Brad Conrad '04 (COS)** recently accepted a position with the American Institute of Physics (AIP) as the director of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honors society.

**Gisele Couturier '04 (CIAS)** was promoted to senior manager in the audit practice of Baker Newman Noyes in Portland, Maine. Couturier specializes in serving banking and financial services institutions, health care and not-for-profit organizations. She also specializes in employee benefit plans. She has been with the firm since 2008.



**Kari Hansen '02 (COS), '04 (KGCOE)** received her doctorate degree in measurement, statistics and evaluation from the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Matthew Weaver '04 (KGCOE)** has earned LEED AP BD+C certification. He is a mechanical engineer in the facilities engineering and design services core business in the Rochester office of Erdman Anthony, a multidisciplinary firm specializing in infrastructure engineering and support services.

## 2010



**Katie Dellaquila '10 (KGCOE)** married a fellow computer engineer, Adrian Sitterle, on Oct. 21, 2017. They live in Idaho.



**Christine (Pascino) Rotunno '10 (CAST) and Corey Rotunno '09 (CAST)** have been partners in life ever since 2007, when they met in a thermodynamics class and she helped him get the courage to ask her out. They climbed to the top of Mount Marcy together where he proposed and were married on Aug. 16, 2015, on Owasco Lake.

## 2011



**Nicholas Dalton '11 (KGCOE)** has completed the LEED v4 requirements and is now certified as a LEED Green Associate. He is part of the building performance group in the facilities engineering and design services core business in the Rochester office of Erdman Anthony.



**Gary Porter '15, left, and Dan Plate '16** created the video game *Super Daryl Deluxe*. The game will launch on Playstation 4 and Steam this spring.

## Video game made by alumni coming to Playstation 4

*Super Daryl Deluxe*, an action role-playing game created by RIT alumni **Gary Porter '15** (game design and development) and **Dan Plate '16** (illustration), will launch on the SONY Playstation 4 and Steam platforms this spring.

The duo, co-founders of Dan and Gary Games LLC, have been friends since high school in Waterloo, N.Y., and created the company in 2012 when they were RIT students.

"*Super Daryl Deluxe* is one of the first video games that was ever supported financially by RIT," said Porter. "So many people at RIT helped us get to this point in so many different ways. Anyone has the ability to publish a game on PC, even though it's somewhat difficult to do. But having major platforms like SONY and Steam accept us is a big step. After five years of hard work, it's great to be validated."

The game, which allows players to construct their own combat system and features a unique visual style, is set inside a multi-dimensional high school where students and faculty are going missing and classrooms have been on lockdown for weeks. A new kid, Daryl, wanders into town and what starts out as an innocent effort to help jumpstart a contraband textbook business turns into a harrowing quest through the monster-filled school, with saving everyone's lives as a top priority.

The award-winning game has been recognized nationally. In 2015, it won first place in the Visual Quality category of the Intel University Games Showcase at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.

Later that year, the team and its game took the top prize in the Games category at Microsoft's U.S. Imagine Cup National Finals, and also won the Taco Bell Indie Game Garage competition. Since then, Dan and Gary Games has secured development funding for *Super Daryl Deluxe* through partnerships with RIT's Venture Fund and RIT's MAGIC Spell Studios. The company is currently a member of RIT's Venture Creations business incubator.





Gail Nogle '73 shot this photo, "The Brotherhood," at Maha Kumbha Mela, a Hindu festival held in India. The photo has won several awards.

## Alumna wins Gold Medallion Award for second time



**Gail Nogle '73** (photography) in January received the Gold Medallion Award from the American Society of Photographers for the second time in 18 years.

Her winning photo, "The Brotherhood," was taken at Maha Kumbha Mela,

a five-week long Hindu festival held in Allahabad, or Prayag, India. This festival is only held every 144 years, and in 2013 more than 80 million people attended the festival.

As can be seen through this photo, Nogle's favorite subject to photograph is people.

"I want to learn who people are and what they do. I am interested in finding out who they are, and people sense that and relax in front of the camera," said Nogle. "That is my gift, being able to talk and connect with people in a short period of time."

The two Gold Medallion Awards are just a drop in the bucket when looking at Nogle's accomplishments as a professional photographer.

In 1998, she was awarded a fellowship from the American Society of Photographers, making her one of 12 women and 67 men to have been inducted at the time. In 2000, she received her first Gold Medallion Award for her photograph "A Special Kind of Love."

Just in the last year, her photograph "The Brotherhood" received first place in the illustrative/commercial category for the Grand Imaging Award.

The image was then chosen to represent the United States in the World Photographic Cup, a competition which each participating country contributes 10 images in six categories to be judged by an international panel of judges.

Nogle said she looks forward to attending the awards ceremony in Queensland, Australia, in May 2018.



William Dwyer '11 (KGCOE) and Jennifer Mueller '11 (CIAS) were married in July 2017 in Geneva, N.Y.



Craig Nairn '11 (CLA), '13 (SOIS) and Colleen (Ennis) Nairn celebrated their marriage on Oct. 7, 2017, at Irondequoit Country Club in Pittsford, N.Y.

## 2012



**Amanda Phillips '12** (SOIS) and **Mike Phillips '11** (SOIS), '12 (KGCOE) co-own Maple & Honey LLC, founded in 2017. They provide consulting and coaching in personal branding and business storytelling. They work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations and individuals. Learn more at [www.maple-honey.com](http://www.maple-honey.com).

**Fumi Ishino '12** (CIAS) had his first monograph, *Rowing A Tetrapod*, published by Mack Books in November 2017. *Rowing a Tetrapod* brings together a fluctuating array of black and white photographs made in multiple locations in the United States and Japan.

**Kambiz Rakhshanbabanari '12** (KGCOE) began a doctorate degree in September in civil engineering at Coventry University in Coventry, England.

**Karamjit Singh '12** (SCB) was accepted as a senior member to The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

## 2013



**Samantha (Simek) Nock '13** (CIAS) and **Andrew Nock '13** (CAST), '17 (COS) celebrated their wedding at Oak Mountain in Speculator, N.Y., on Oct. 8, 2017. Wedding attendees included: **Nate Burrell '15** (KGCOE), **Scott Gentile '13** (CAST), **Juliana Shaw '15** (COS), **Mac Keehfus '14** (KGCOE), **Joe Gambino '13** (GCCIS), **Hannah Frank '13** (CIAS), **Mike Statt '13** (GCCIS), **Michelle Mason '15** (GCCIS), **Rachel Mitrano '14** (CIAS), **Kelsey Collins '13** (CIAS), **Theresa Garritano '13** (CIAS), **Mitchell Kowalchick '13** (GCCIS) and **Kayla Sickles '13, '16** (CHST).

## 2014



**Jessica (Burley) Chadwick '14** (GCCIS) married Gwen Chadwick on Oct. 14, 2017, after 10 long years of waiting.

**George Glessner '14** (SOIS), '14 (CHST) recently achieved certification as a hospital emergency coordinator from Augusta (Ga.) University. In September, he sat for his board certification exam (National Healthcare Disaster Certification) from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. He continues to work at Rochester General Hospital where he is heavily involved in emergency management planning as a member of the hospital emergency management committee.

**Jillian Strobeck '14** (SOIS) started working at Texas A&M University in August 2017 as the adviser to the Multicultural Greek Council and the chapter operations specialist in the office of fraternity and sorority life.

## 2015



**Andrew Karki '11** (KGCOE) and **Alexandria "Allie" Strader '15** (CLA) celebrated their marriage on Oct. 14, 2017, in Victor, N.Y. The couple celebrated with friends and family, including many RIT alumni.



# Tiger Cubs



**1** Laura Oberlander '00 (CLA) and Lance Oberlander '97 (KGCOE) are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Kathryn joined big brother Samuel in October 2017 as part of the Oberlander family.



**2** Daniel Maffia '09 (NTID) and his husband, Justin, are proud to announce the adoption of their twins, Parker and Emma DeMartin-Maffia. The twins were born Nov. 6, 2017. They can't wait until these two become future RIT Tigers.



**3** Mauricio Pommier '09, '12 (KGCOE) and Mia (Mujezinovic) Pommier '09 (KGCOE) welcomed their first son, Marko, on Nov. 14, 2017.



Stephen Parker '12 (SOIS) and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their son, Harrison Thomas, born in August 2017.

**4** Crystal (Campbell) Peloquin '13 (NTID), '17 (SOIS) and Matthew Peloquin '10 (COS) welcomed their first child, Amelia Finley, in July 2017.



Samantha Vent '15 (SCB) and Andrew Schreiber '16 (KGCOE) got engaged on Aug. 23, 2017. They met in their orientation group in 2011. The wedding will take place in Rochester in September 2018.

## 2016

**Keith Banks Jr. '16 (NTID/CAST)** was recently hired to work part time at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., as a quick-service food and beverage host. His goal is to get promoted to full-time status and work his way up in the company.

**Angelica Campa '16 (SCB)** now works at an investment firm called Wilshire Associates, where she pursues her career as a financial analyst.



**Joshua Harris '16 (CLA)** participated in the Pearl Gloves Charity boxing match on Nov. 24. Pearl Gloves is a charity boxing event featuring 24 fighters who work in professions such as lawyers, teachers, politicians, radio hosts and financial advisors. Harris was helped by a dozen RIT graduates and current students.

## 2017



**Benjamin Bondor '17 (KGCOE)** has joined Erdman Anthony as an electrical engineer in the facilities engineering and design services core business in the Rochester office.



**James Burke '17 (SCB)** has started a job with the PNC Financial Services Group Inc. as a help desk administrator in their home lending and mortgage services line of business.

**Michael Grady '17 (CIAS)** moved to Chicago to work at Volume Studios, where he performs design consulting work for clients such as Radio Flyer, Nerf, Fisher-Price and Wrigley's.



**Jason Ranney '17 (CAST)** has been hired as a pre-construction estimator at DiMarco Constructors. Ranney joins DiMarco Constructors from Lowe's, where he served as exterior sales coordinator responsible for assisting with lead generation, proposal development and project coordination.



**Daneda Westfall '17 (CIAS)** has been hired as adjunct professor of ceramics at Keuka College in Penn Yan, N.Y. In addition, she is a new member of Keuka College's Art and Design Advisory Board. She continues to manage her family business, Church Creative Flooring Inc., in Penn Yan alongside her husband, Michael Westfall. She is also working as a studio artist making ceramic wall sculptures.



**Douglas Smith '17 (KGCOE)** married **Jessie Schnall '16 (CIAS)** in Rochester on Oct. 8, 2017.

## Have you moved?

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](mailto: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](http://www.rit.edu/alumni).



## In Memoriam

# Wendell Castle, renowned ‘father of the art furniture movement,’ dies at 85

**W**endell Castle, treasured Artist in Residence at RIT and widely recognized as the “father of the art furniture movement,” died in his Scottsville, N.Y., home on Jan. 20. He was 85 years old.

The much-celebrated American designer and craftsman invented a completely new way of designing and constructing furniture, allowing unrestricted forms to be realized that would be impossible to create using traditional techniques. His award-winning pieces crossed over into the realm of sculpture that today belong to the permanent collections of more than 50 world-class museums and galleries across the globe.

“Wendell Castle is known the world over for his contributions to the field of art and design,” said Josh Owen, professor and chair of RIT’s industrial design program in RIT’s School of Design.

Up until recently, Owen noted, Mr. Castle had regularly taught a graduate industrial design seminar, which enabled RIT students to interact with the artist in an intimate setting. He also regularly opened up his Scottsville studio to give RIT students in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences a peek behind the scenes into the inner workings of his unique practice.

“Wendell gifted us with his enthusiasm, his eagerness to collaborate and share, and his generosity to deliver his intentions with tangible and always elegant results,” Owen said. “We will never forget the *joie de vivre* (French for “the joy of living”) that Wendell shared with us.”

Harold Brennan, the director of what was then the School for American Craftsmen (SAC), recruited Mr. Castle in 1962 to join the RIT faculty to teach woodworking and furniture design. SAC served as the fertile ground where Mr. Castle’s

creative roots took hold. He maintained his own studio on Troup Street in downtown Rochester, within walking distance of RIT’s former city campus during the 1960s.

When asked years later about his relationship with RIT and its connection to his work, Mr. Castle said, “The time I spent at the downtown campus was wonderful and amazing. I believe that I learned as much, or more, those first few years, as the students did. The faculty whom I met during that time and became friendly with, I still count as some of my dearest friends today. I’m also still close with some of my students from those first years with RIT.”

By 1965, Mr. Castle’s work and influence positioned him at the forefront of the growing Craft Furniture Movement sweeping the nation. He was a standout among a group of artists who became known for making furniture by a skilled hand, highlighting individual design and beauty to propel it into a new category: art.

He garnered myriad honors throughout his illustrious career, including the Leadership Medal in 2015 from the Smithsonian’s Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C.; the Smithsonian’s Visionary Award (along with fellow RIT Artist in Residence, Albert Paley) in 2014; and the Eastman Medal from the University of Rochester in 2013. The inaugural Visionary Award was established to honor those artists who “have risen to the pinnacle of sculptural arts and design.”

Mr. Castle is survived by his wife and acclaimed artist, Nancy Jurs; a brother, Wayne (Margaret) Castle of Kansas; a sister, Nancy (Gerry) Benedict of Colorado; two children, Alison and Bryon; and two grandchildren, Arabella and Archibald Staropoli.

Rich Kiley



## Alumni

### 1940

Grace E. (Kohn) Gentner '40 (SCB), Sept. 22, 2017

### 1941

John L. Bowllan '41 (FAA), Oct. 24, 2017  
John J. Vollertsen '41 (KGCOE), Sept. 16, 2017

### 1943

Jacqueline D. (Pfleege) Rabot '43 (SCB), Sept. 2, 2017  
Carlton M. Straub '43 (KGCOE), Nov. 25, 2017

### 1944

Robert W. Benson '44 (KGCOE), Sept. 6, 2017  
Marjorie K. (Kleehammer) Callan '44 (SCB), Oct. 9, 2017

### 1945

Marilyn Harmon '45 (SCB), Aug. 27, 2017

### 1947

William E. Roseberry '47 (GAP), Sept. 27, 2017

### 1948

Joseph J. Hartman '48 (KGCOE), Oct. 6, 2017

### 1949

Thomas E. Arcara '49 (GAP), Aug. 25, 2017  
Anthony J. Corsi '49 (GAP), Sept. 20, 2017

### 1950

Claudia F. (Symonds) Sullivan '50 (FAA), '63 (FAA), Sept. 12, 2017

### 1951

Charles A. Nash '51 (GAP), Sept. 7, 2017

### 1952

Bernard J. Doyle '52 (CCE), Oct. 18, 2017  
Kenneth E. Kinsman '52 (KGCOE), Sept. 4, 2017  
Donald P. Morris '52 (GAP), Oct. 31, 2017  
Judith W. (Wood) Staub '52 (FAA), Aug. 25, 2017

### 1955

Vincent De Paul Ruede '55 (SCB), Oct. 27, 2017

### 1956

Joseph J. Kizinski Jr. '56 (KGCOE), Oct. 23, 2017

Mary M. (Millison) Stephens '56 (SCB), Sept. 15, 2017  
Donald P. Turner '56 (GAP), Sept. 18, 2017

### 1958

John P. Fuino '58 (FAA), Sept. 15, 2017  
Harold Slavny '58 (KGCOE), Nov. 20, 2017

### 1959

Norman R. Gieseke '59 (CCE), Oct. 12, 2017  
Walter H. Kane '59 (CCE), Nov. 14, 2017  
Earl E. Peters '59 (SCB), Aug. 25, 2017  
John S. Tiefel Jr. '59 (SCB), Oct. 3, 2017

### 1960

Edwin B. Bush Jr. '60 (CCE), Sept. 30, 2017  
Herman A. Hermanson '60 (GAP), Nov. 15, 2017  
Paul J. Lapp Jr. '60 (CCE), Oct. 10, 2017  
Richard Sekerak '60 (GAP), Sept. 21, 2017

### 1963

Frank G. Kosky '63 (KGCOE), Sept. 30, 2017  
John G. Leinberg '63 (CCE), Sept. 12, 2017  
Joseph Zanche '63 (CCE), Nov. 9, 2017

### 1964

Clair W. Fyke Sr. '64 (CCE), Sept. 14, 2017  
Richard P. Sexton '64 (CCE), Sept. 23, 2017  
Gerald A. Yahn '64 (CCE), Oct. 18, 2017

### 1965

David W. Mokry '65 (KGCOE), Oct. 7, 2017

Wayne F. Oakley '65 (GAP), Sept. 20, 2017

### 1966

Robert E. Dewald Sr. '66 (CCE), Oct. 10, 2017

### 1967

Robert L. Alles '67 (GAP), Nov. 2, 2017  
Anthony H. Palermo '67 (CCE), Aug. 27, 2017

### 1968

John R. Edwards '68 (KGCOE), Oct. 31, 2017  
Gene P. Weltzer '68 (CCE), Nov. 17, 2017

### 1969

Ronald B. Beiswenger '69 (KGCOE), Oct. 29, 2017

### 1970

Ernest S. Mori, CPA '70 (SCB), Aug. 31, 2017

### 1971

John J. Bauer '71 (CCE), Aug. 27, 2017  
Verdi L. Curtis '71 (CCE), Nov. 30, 2017

### 1972

Melvin E. Bruns '72 (CCE), Oct. 17, 2017  
Peter S. Schragle '72 (COS), '81 (CCE), '90 (CCE), Sept. 1, 2017

### 1973

Roberta M. (Eadie) Gamlin '73 (NTID), Oct. 6, 2017

### 1974

Michael P. Dinsmore '74 (CCE), Nov. 2, 2017

### 1975

William J. Bianchi '75 (SCB), Sept. 30, 2017  
Victor H. Pimentel '75 (GAP), November 2017

Terry L. Tiede '75 (KGCOE), Sept. 27, 2017

### 1976

Nancy Lynn (McKee) Fein '76 (COS), Nov. 16, 2017

Dennis B. Miller '76 (GAP), '83 (GAP), Oct. 7, 2017

### 1977

David C. Eanes '77 (GAP), Oct. 6, 2017  
Andrew Malcolm '77 (GAP), Sept. 4, 2017  
Chief Thomas J. Roche '77 (CLA), Oct. 10, 2017  
Thomas J. Whatford '77 (CLA), Nov. 1, 2017  
Michael C. Wine '77 (NTID), Oct. 28, 2017

### 1978

Robert Anthony Fawls '78 (SCB), Nov. 18, 2017

Dudley Bradstreet Killam '78 (CCE), '78 (GAP), Nov. 23, 2017  
Robin Lee Reese '78 (CAST), Oct. 15, 2017

### 1979

Robert T. Ealy '79 (SCB), Nov. 3, 2017  
Jonathan B. Harding '79 (SCB), Oct. 24, 2017  
Allie Clay Peed III '79 (GAP), '81 (GAP), '91 (CAST), Sept. 14, 2017

### 1980

Linda Mary (Iannone) Myers '80 (COS), '82 (COS), Oct. 19, 2017

### 1981

Mark Richard Carlson '81 (CLA), Oct. 6, 2017

### 1982

Mary Jane Hannan '82 (CAST), '02 (SCB), Oct. 16, 2017

Laura L. Kane '82 (CAST), Sept. 5, 2017  
Jane E. Lowerhouse '82 (NTID), Sept. 20, 2017

Ralph A. Shoemaker Jr. '82 (KGCOE), Sept. 15, 2017

### 1983

Lawrence James Regan '83 (CCE), Nov. 2, 2017  
Pearlie Mae (Green) Trotter '83 (CLA), Oct. 17, 2017

### 1984

Curtis J. Braun '84 (CCE), Oct. 14, 2017  
Walter Marvin Babcock '84 (CCE), Nov. 19, 2017

### 1985

David Doktor '85 (CCE), Sept. 15, 2017

### 1987

Jean F. Davis '87 (CCE), '87 (CCE), '88 (CCE), Sept. 27, 2017  
Douglas L. Sengillo '87 (SCB), Oct. 16, 2017

Edith Lynne Hotchkiss '87 (NTID), Oct. 8, 2017

Brian Mark Stell '87 (CCE), Nov. 21, 2017

### 1989

Maria A. (Baumes) Vanvolkenburg '89 (COS), Sept. 16, 2017

### 1990

Kurt Eric Beek '90 (CAST), Oct. 13, 2017  
Hung Chi Lai '90 (CAST), Oct. 25, 2017

### 1992

Mary Ann Abernatha '92 (NTID), Oct. 29, 2017

### 1993

Joseph Simon Lazarus '93 (SCB), '96 (SCB), '03 (GCCIS), Oct. 15, 2017

### 1995

Dennis Lee McCain '95 (CAST), Oct. 31, 2017

### 1997

Robert B. Bancroft '97 (CAST), '97 (CAST), Oct. 9, 2017

### 1998

Matthew J. Lyon '98 (KGCOE), '03 (KGCOE), Sept. 28, 2017

### 1999

Michael E. Krzywda '99 (CAST), Oct. 26, 2017

### 2000

Mark E. Chilbert '00 (SCB), '00 (SCB), '00 (SCB), Sept. 5, 2017  
William J. McKinney '00 (CAST), Sept. 2, 2017

Robert K. Quick '00 (CAST), '03 (CAST), Oct. 1, 2017

### 2006

Catherine A. Groden '06 (SCB), Nov. 27, 2017

### 2012

Brittany C. Coombes '12 (SCB), Nov. 25, 2017

## Faculty and Staff

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

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



## Remembering Nancy Fein

Nancy Fein, a longtime RIT trustee, former president of RIT's Alumni Network and a trailblazer in the automotive industry, died Nov. 16 after a battle with cancer.

A 1976 graduate of the College of Science, Mrs. Fein served on the Alumni Executive Council and the Alumni Network Board of Directors, being named president of that board in 1999. Mrs. Fein's dedicated work earned her the RIT College of Science Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

A profile of Mrs. Fein was the cover story in the inaugural edition of RIT's *The University Magazine* in 1999. In 2002, she was elected to the Board of Trustees and in 2007, she was chosen for the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Mrs. Fein worked at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester as a systems analyst and business systems advisor. When her parents moved to the West Coast in the 1980s, she followed them, joining Toyota Motor Sales/USA in 1982. She became the first woman in Toyota sales operations upper management and held a number of management positions at Toyota before becoming the group vice president of customer service at Toyota Motor Sales, USA.

She was the only female group vice president to have served in Toyota USA's principal business operation units, including both Customer Services and Vehicle Sales. She retired from Toyota in 2015.



from the Archives



In spring 1968, picnic-goers just south of Grace Watson Hall gathered to celebrate the almost completed new RIT campus. Among many other changes, the tennis courts pictured above would later be moved to make way for the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Photo provided by RIT Archive Collections

## Celebrating 50 years at the Henrietta campus

Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year, RIT will celebrate the growth of the campus we affectionately refer to as “Brick City.”

In 1968, the university moved from downtown Rochester—where it had been since 1885—to farmland in the town of Henrietta. For the grand opening, the community got to tour the campus on a motorized tram and see exhibits that showcased features of the new buildings.

Fifty years later, RIT is celebrating this milestone with a year of activities. Highlighting the anniversary is a Henrietta campus rededication ceremony and downtown campus ceremony during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend Oct. 19–21.

“With all that has happened since 1968, it is stunning to consider that the transformation is not complete,” said William A. Buckingham ’64 (business administration),

honorary chair of the 50th anniversary. “As we look back on how much has changed since we placed the first brick in Henrietta, the potential for RIT to be transformed and to continue to transform the lives of RIT family members is awe-inspiring.”

Throughout the year, RIT will host “50 Acts of Kindness,” a series of programs and events that demonstrate how RIT Tigers give back to the Rochester community. In addition to blood drives and service projects, 300 members of the RIT community will package 50,000 meals to be distributed to local organizations, including Foodlink in Rochester and the RIT Food Share program, an on-campus organization that supports students experiencing food insecurity.

The celebration will culminate with a Futurists Symposium hosted at the 2019 Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, held April 27, 2019. The event will showcase

the future of technology and innovation, including what’s next at RIT.

“Our past is being celebrated, but our future awaits,” Buckingham said.

Scott Bureau ’11, ’16

### Get involved

Go to [rit.edu/henrietta50](http://rit.edu/henrietta50) to share your memories of RIT, view historical yearbooks and stay up-to-date on the latest anniversary events.

### Coming soon

*Transforming the Landscape: 50 Years on the New RIT Campus*, an illustrated history of the Henrietta campus architecture and how it was built, will be available in early September from RIT Press, the scholarly publishing enterprise at RIT.



# JOIN US & **CELEBRATE** **50** YEARS AT THE HENRIETTA CAMPUS

**SAVE THE DATES | OCT 19-21, 2018**



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

# Experience the **FUTURE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## 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, April 28.

**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](http://www.rit.edu/imagine).

