

Inside ► The rise of RIT Athletics



RIT: The University Magazine

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Creating critical thinkers

earning about RIT and its rich history allowed me to be both reflective and forward-thinking during my recent inaugural remarks. Let me share with you some of those thoughts. (Find more inauguration coverage on page 10.)

The path to major success in business and industry now relies more than ever on creativity and innovation. This is a product of the Digital Age, where change is rapid, information is instantly available and nations and economies are globally interconnected.

We live in one world and, across the planet, we share both problems and opportunities. Issues that come to mind are poverty, nuclear nonproliferation, global warming, sufficient clean water, renewable energy and affordable health care. Although technology can help in solving these problems, much of the solution, maybe even most of the solution, will not be technical. In many cases, we already have the technology, or at least much of what we need. But we may not have the political and social answers, or the leadership and willpower.

Of course, new technology often brings new challenges. Think about the future, when it will be possible to have your genes edited to make a better you. In what cases will this be ethical? What might be the societal risks? With progress in artificial intelligence and robotics, how long will it be before we humans are routinely interacting with machines in very complex tasks? Will we humans always be in control?

What kind of education should our students receive in order to help answer some of these questions and thereby contribute to guiding the future of society? Clearly, we need strengths in science and technology, but we must go beyond the purely practical. According to a World Economic Forum report released in January 2016, by year 2020 about a third of employment skills that were considered important in 2016's workforce will have changed.

The forum's report says the top three skills for 2020 are complex problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. The forum also highlights collaboration, emotional intelligence, judgment, service orientation and cognitive flexibility.

What does this mean for a student here at RIT? As a starting point, each student should choose a discipline for which he or she has a passion. And then, no matter which discipline is selected, the student should learn about and gain experience in critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, innovation, collaboration, communication and other high-level skills. This calls for experiential learning, including co-op and summer jobs, international experiences, participation on project teams, entrepreneurship, research and participation in student groups in and out of the classroom. Maintaining RIT's steep upward trajectory will be made possible by working across disciplines to help solve the most pressing issues of our time and by offering an education that embraces the future. We must continue to rethink our educational systems so that we are building a broad, multidisciplinary skill set where creativity is exercised at every turn.

Let's double down on making our campus a thriving ecosystem to stimulate creativity and innovation, which is the translation of an idea into a product, service or process that has economic or social value. Let's get busy creating and innovating!

Yours in Tiger Pride,

Dave

David Munson, President www.rit.edu/president @RITPresident

To read President Munson's full inaugural address, go to: http://bit.ly/RITinauguration.



Cover

Fatmah Bamashmous, a student from Saudi Arabia, is pursuing her MFA in furniture design. The furniture design program is RIT's oldest master's program.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

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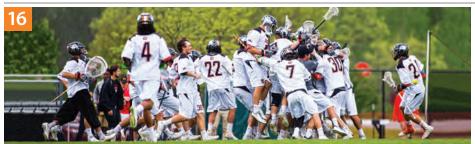
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Can you spot your classmates in photos from the weekend?

On Campus

NOTEBOOK



Challenge complete RIT has received a \$3 million

gift to conclude the Saunders College of Business Challenge initiative. The donor is Joseph M. Lobozzo II '95 (Executive MBA), founder and former president/CEO of JML Optical Industries Inc.

Lobozzo's gift concludes the business school's \$20 million Saunders Challenge that started with a challenge gift of \$5 million by local entrepreneur/ philanthropist E. Philip Saunders. The business school namesake subsequently issued a call to action—inviting alumni and friends to raise support for the college's visionary plans to create a new environment for business education at RIT.

Diversity awards

Two organizations presented RIT with awards recognizing the university's efforts in creating a diverse and inclusive environment.

For the fourth year in a row, RIT received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. RIT also was honored for the first time as an institution committed to diversity for 2017 by Minority Access, Incorporated.

RIT among top 100 universities in the nation

IT is now among the top 100 universities in the nation, having jumped 10 places in the "National Universities" category, according to U.S. News & World Report rankings.

RIT, which just last year moved into the top "National Universities" category due to its rapid increase in research and Ph.D. graduates, this year ranked 97th out of 311 universities in this prestigious category, which includes some of the nation's best known colleges and universities. These top universities "offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and Ph.D. programs, and emphasize faculty research," according to *U.S. News*.

"This ranking affirms what I've been saying all along: RIT is on a steep trajectory from greatness to preeminence," said RIT President David Munson.

The 2018 edition of *U.S. News* & World Report Best Colleges also cited strong rankings for RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering and Saunders College of Business. And the university was cited on lists for "A Focus on Student Success" for its internship programs, "Great Schools, Great Prices," and "High School Counselor Top College Picks."

This is the 35th year that *U.S. News* has issued these "Best College" rankings. Up until last year, RIT had been listed among

"Regional Universities." Overall, *U.S. News* cites 1,374 four-year colleges and universities. The rankings are based on several categories, with the most weight given to graduation and retention rates, assessment of excellence, faculty resources and student selectivity.

In this year's ranking, RIT was:

- Tied for 39th among national universities in a national survey of "High School Counselors Top College Picks."
- 41st among national universities for "Great Schools, Great Prices." The calculation compares a school's academic quality to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of financial aid.
- Tied for 61st for undergraduate engineering programs at colleges where the highest engineering degree is a doctorate.
- Tied for 64th among undergraduate business programs.
- Among 20 universities that have excellent programs that encourage students to apply what they're learning in the classroom to work in the real world through closely supervised internships or practicums, or through cooperative education.

Ellen Rosen

More rankings

The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher **Education College Ranking: RIT** placed 130th out of 1,054 U.S. colleges and universities. The ranking uses 15 individual performance metrics, grouped into four pillars representing resources (30 percent), engagement (20 percent), outcomes (40 percent) and environment (10 percent), indicators deemed most important to students when choosing a university, according to the ranking organization.

Money magazine's "711 Best Colleges for Your Money": For the new ranking, Money evaluated 2,400 colleges. Among the factors considered were graduation rate, average time to earn a degree, average student debt and financial aid.

Fiske Guide to Colleges: RIT is among the universities included in the 2018 edition. The guide is a selective, subjective and systematic look at more than 300 colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain aimed at selecting "the best and most interesting."

The Princeton Review Guide to 375 Green Colleges: RIT, for the seventh consecutive year, has been named one of the greenest universities. The Princeton Review evaluates colleges and universities on environmentally related policies, practices and academic offerings. The company has produced lists of green colleges since 2010.

Where the streets have a name

ave you ever grabbed a sandwich near the corner of Hans J. Christensen Lane and William & Mortimer Reynolds Drive? Do you know what building you'll find where William Peck Lane and Leo Smith Way meet? You will find Ctrl Alt DELi and the Bausch & Lomb Center at these intersections, respectively, but until recently you may have never heard of those walkways.

Last spring, 142 walkway signs sprouted up in 42 locations across the campus grounds. A wayfinding committee of staff from across campus created these markers as part of an effort to make the 1,300-acre Henrietta campus easier to navigate.

Many of the walkways were dedicated years ago to commemorate some of the university's most important leaders and pioneers, and the signs now serve as reminders of the past.

Not all thoroughfares on campus are named after important figures, however. When the project began, the team found that many of the walkways did not yet have names. With guidance from senior leadership, the team devised names for paths including Tiger Pass and Winding Way. Causeways like this were given descriptive but



Walkway signs are now at 42 locations across campus.

general names so that in the future they can be renamed to acknowledge additional RIT icons.

RIT's Information and Technology Services staff recently implemented a Google Maps application programming interface and has updated the mapping service with the campus walkway names.

This allows the interactive map available at maps.rit.edu or on the RIT mobile app to provide more elaborate turn-by-turn descriptions. That capability could open the door for digital signage similar to those found in shopping malls

to replace the static maps that are currently located across the campus.

It took collaboration from leaders across the university to achieve these steps. "This project is unique because while there is a technical component to it, the project also impacts the campus architecture, there are branding and marketing aspects to it, and we need to properly honor RIT's benefactors," said Michelle Mullen, senior project manager from ITS who has managed the wayfinding project.

Luke Auburn '09, '15



RIT's positive influence stretched across the world Sept. 16 as alumni gathered to participate in the annual Global Day of Service. This year, there were 28 chapter regions across the country that volunteered at 48 different charity sites, as well as four international sites in Peru, Croatia, Mumbai and New Delhi. Here alumni volunteered at the Food Bank of the Rockies in Denver.

NOTEBOOK

National center

RIT has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research through the year 2022.

The university is already certified as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education through 2021. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security jointly sponsor the National Centers for Academic Excellence. With the new certification, RIT faculty and students will have more opportunities to participate in research projects with government agencies.

Dual degree

RIT entered into a partnership with the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, also called Taiwan Tech, to offer a dual Master of Science degree program. Students would receive a graduate degree in computer and electronics engineering from Taiwan Tech and a dual degree in computer engineering from RIT.

Excellence in teaching

Assistant Professor Reginald Rogers received the Henry C. McBay Outstanding Teacher Award from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. He teaches in the chemical engineering program. This is his second recognition from the organization.



RIT welcomed the eighth class of Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars this fall. This is the largest class of scholars in the program's history.

Photo by Elizabeth Lamark

RIT welcomes its most diverse class ever

he 2,772 first-year students who entered RIT this fall are a talented group and the most diverse class in the university's 188-year history.

The entering class was selected from a record of more than 20,500 applications.

The class boasts strong academic credentials: a mean high school grade point average of 92, a mean SAT score of 1283 and a mean ACT score of 29.

Twenty-nine percent of the first-year class self-identifies as people of color, up from 26.9 percent the previous year, with 17 percent from traditionally underrepresented minority populations, up from 15 percent a year ago. Deaf and hard-of-hearing students are 8.3 percent of the class.

"We are thrilled such a diverse and focused group of students joined RIT this fall," said James Miller, senior vice president of Enrollment Management and Career Services. "This is exactly the type of community we are trying to create as outlined in RIT's strategic plan."

One of the dimensions of the plan focuses on leveraging difference, and many of the objectives focus on achieving a greater balance of women, minority men, and deaf or hard-of-hearing students in STEM majors. This year, 69 percent of underrepresented minority students and 56 percent of female students entered STEM programs.

About 53 percent of the freshman class came from outside New York state and 6 percent from outside the United States, with the largest international groups from China, India, Canada, South Korea and Nigeria.

"This is an interesting class because they are diverse in so many ways—in race, gender, income level," said Keith Jenkins, interim vice president and associate provost for Diversity and Inclusion. "The richness they bring to class discussions is simply refreshing."

Jenkins got to meet some of the new students last summer when he taught an intercultural communication class for the Summer Bridge Program, a four-week summer program for incoming students through the Multicultural Center for Academic Success (MCAS). The 50 students who entered last semester is the largest group participating in RIT's Summer Bridge program ever, 10 more than last year.

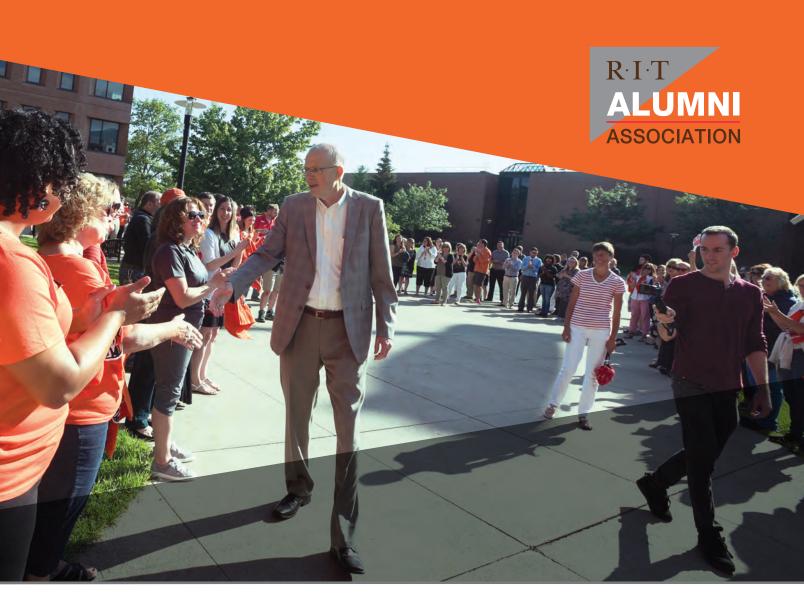
Jenkins said increased diversity is good for the students and for RIT, and helps better reflect the world community. "The growth in the diversity of students adds to the richness of our students' education overall," he said.

Among the group are 32 Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars, a record number for that program, which was established in 2010 by former President Bill Destler and his spouse, Rebecca Johnson. The City Scholars program provides free tuition and support for qualified graduates of the Rochester City School District and city charter schools, those who have the academic credentials for admission and demonstrate financial need.

While RIT continues to make strides in attracting a more diverse student body, Jenkins said "the challenge remains to close the graduation gap," ensuring that students complete their degrees on time. "We have a number of initiatives underway today to provide greater opportunities for underrepresented students to be successful in achieving their goals."

Overall, Jenkins is encouraged by this year's cohort of new students. "This class offers hope for young people who will be enthusiastically engaged in making a difference at RIT, in the Rochester community, in the U.S. and globally. They are very much globally-minded citizens."

Luke Auburn '09, '15



JOIN US ON THE TIGER TOUR

RIT President Dr. David C. Munson, Jr. will be traveling the country visiting Tiger alumni, parents, and friends and we want you there!

Hosted by RIT Alumni Chapters across the nation, the Tiger Tour is a chance for you to welcome RIT's 10th president at an event near you.

Dr. Munson will also be joined by alumni from your region who are modeling Tiger exceptionalism in their careers and community lives.

Visit rit.edu/TigerTour to find a tour date near you!



Engineering student competes on TV show

he season finale of *American Ninja Warrior* was aptly named "Crashing the Course."

Final challenges were so intense, with competitors leaping across a series of in-air, swinging wing-nut devices over a pool of water. Of the 90 competitors vying for the \$1 million prize, less than half, including RIT electrical engineering student Jonathan Alexis, would advance to the second stage of the four-part finals in Las Vegas in September.

But Alexis brought strength, speed and a big dose of humor to Season 9 of the acclaimed national competition on NBC, becoming a fan favorite.

"It's a rush. On the course, it's adrenalin," said Alexis about the competition and the experience in the national spotlight.

For the 2017 competition, Alexis was one of 70,000 people who applied for the few coveted spots in regional events. He spent the summer competing in qualifying matches in

Cleveland. Only 15 competitors from each of the regional qualifiers in six U.S. cities go on to the finals. They compete in four stages of rigorous, timed challenges, modeled after the popular Japanese show *Sasuke*. Alexis made it through two stages before being eliminated.

Obstacles vary from platform ladders suspended over pools of water that must be scaled using only upper body strength to the final 75-foot rope climb called Mt. Midoriyama that athletes must climb in under 30 seconds.

As an experienced competitor, Alexis participated for the first time in 2015, during Season 7 with his father, Jonathan Alexis Sr.

"It was a blast because it was our first year. We didn't know too many people, so it was good to have someone with you going through the experience," said Alexis, a native of Waterville, Maine. "A big part of my story was how much he was an idol and how I looked up to him in his fitness."



Jonathan Alexis moves across a challenge during the Cleveland qualifier for *American Ninja Warrior*.

Alexis returned this fall to RIT and resumed coursework in Kate Gleason College of Engineering studying robotics.

Michelle Cometa '00



Team recognized for work on shaver

Riting IT's student chapter of Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) won an award for their model of a sustainable razor that could help decrease the environmental impact of billions of disposable razors that are discarded each year.

The undergraduate team won the Best Use of Fusion 360 category, part of the national Cradle to Cradle Challenge sponsored by AutoDesk, and received a \$2,000 stipend for the campus chapter.

It was the second year an ESW team of students was recognized for its sustainable product concepts. Last year's group took top honors for its design of a recyclable broom made of biodegradable materials.

The Cradle to Cradle Challenge is a national design competition where teams from companies and universities detail how new products can be produced, manufactured, used and recycled. All products must have a business plan that includes remanufacturing

and recycling processes as well as environmental impact analysis.

RIT's team designed
a multi-part system
made of aluminum and
recyclable plastic with a
removable head that can be replaced
to allow recycling companies the ability
to process both the blade and housing as
one component. This would also allow for
the blades to be safely recycled.

Using AutoDesk, a 3D CAD-modeling software platform, the team was able to show how they minimized material waste to produce the razor.

Stainless steel is 100 percent recyclable, and consumers would have the option to recycle blades through their own community services or return used blades to the company. The team included a return package option with discount incentives

in its business model plan.

"We wanted to find a product that had a pretty large impact on the market and the environment. Even small changes would make a huge impact," said Daniel Rouleau. He and co-project manager Morgan Mistysyn are both third-year students in the industrial engineering program in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Michelle Cometa '00

Research

NOTEBOOK

Mapping black holes

RIT researchers helped pinpoint the precise location of a gravitational wave signal—and the black hole merger that produced it—detected by gravitational wave observatories.

For the first time, LIGO and the French-Italian Virgo observatories were used to triangulate the position in the universe where the binary black hole merger occurred 1.8 billion years ago.

The black holes were 25 and 31 times the mass of the sun before the collision and 53 times the sun mass after, when a merged black hole formed.

The signal was detected on Aug. 14 by the LIGO detectors in Louisiana and Washington and the Virgo detector near Pisa, Italy. The findings appeared in *Physics Review Letters*.

NASA fellowship

RIT graduate student Chi Nguyen was selected for a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship in Astrophysics Research.

Nguyen, originally from Vietnam, is a Ph.D. student in RIT's astrophysical sciences and technology program.

She is one of eight fellowship recipients selected from 141 applicants.



Center for Public Safety Initiatives Director John Klofas, right, and Deputy Director Irshad Altheimer, left, meet with criminal justice students weekly about their research projects.

Team studies crime trends

riminal Justice Professor John Klofas heads one of RIT's longest-running research programs, the work coming from the Center for Public Safety Initiatives (CPSI).

For more than 15 years, the center's students and faculty have helped law enforcement officials determine what programs may help prevent crime, although Klofas feels giving students the experience to do the research and publishing their findings is just as important.

"There's no place in the country that does any of this," he said. "Our students have a great experience and it turns out well for them." CPSI alumni have gone on to work for police departments and mapping and crime analysis companies. Six have earned or are earning their Ph.D.s.

About 40 people—including 10 to 12 criminal justice students— typically work at CPSI with a \$2 million annual budget that is funded through various sources and contracts outside of RIT, including federal and state agencies such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice and the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

Their findings are posted in reports on the CPSI website and

have been about perceptions the public has about police, community concerns and desires, homicide rates, domestic violence, recidivism of parolees, and most recently perceptions of opioid addiction.

"There's a commitment to evidence-based initiatives. Data can be useful in addressing public safety issues, and we have helped fill the void," Klofas said. "This is a new skillset, different than the skillset police officers bring. And that's a big change, one that requires efforts by local jurisdictions and monitoring of the implementation of the programs. The police are very supportive of this."



Photo by Elizabeth Lamari

Gathering data

CPSI was created after Rochester began a research partnership in 2000 to address the problem of lethal violence in the city. That led to reformation of crime analysis at the Rochester Police Department and the model for the Monroe Crime Analysis Center (MCAC) and other analysis centers across the state supported by DCJS.

The local analysis center's key staff began as RIT students, many of them criminal justice students, working for CPSI. It was a logical link because RIT already was teaching students research on crime analysis, Klofas said.

"The opportunity to really combine research with an experiential learning experience is very important," Klofas said. "And our students are addressing social issues and problems. The work of the center is oriented toward locally relevant research. The ability to help communities gather and use data at the local level is important."

Klofas and the center's deputy director, Irshad Altheimer, an associate professor of criminal justice, regularly meet with the students to discuss their progress.

One student each week makes a presentation to the group with his or her findings.

"I like the whole analytical side of things, looking at data to see if intervention would work," said Nate Le Mahieu, a graduate criminal justice student from Hortonville, Wis., who works as a research assistant at CPSI.

Le Mahieu helped conduct a survey of nearly 350 people who attended last spring's Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival about their views on opioid addiction and treatment options. The results showed few thought drug abusers should be treated as criminals, and 90 percent believed anti-overdose medications should be more available. The data suggests "the value of reframing our thinking about the nature of drug problems and society's response to them," the survey report concludes.

Results

Findings from CPSI's research have resulted in changes. Rochester officials passed an ordinance requiring electronic reporting by pawn stores after a CPSI study questioned whether items traded might be legally pawned or stolen. And police increased enforcement and worked more closely with businesses that buy scrap metal after their study showed a direct correlation to an increase in copper thefts when the price paid for copper rises.

"We're providing a substantial amount of information the Rochester Police Department is working on," Klofas said. "And we're seeing interest from other police departments across the country in what we're doing."

Another recent study found that dispute-related crime is on the rise in the city of Rochester.

"More than 60 percent of shootings are traced to ongoing disputes," Klofas said. That statistic helps police assess the risk of violence, letting them intervene before problems escalate.

In a project that has been underway for several months, a CPSI student spends three days a week downtown compiling a database of information from every shooting in Rochester where someone was injured or killed. Hundreds of variables are included, including whether the victim and suspect knew one another, had previous arguments, the time of day, the education of those involved, and even the weather.

"There's not another database like that in the country," Klofas said. "It's groundbreaking."

Greg Livadas

NOTEBOOK

Sensing technology

Research underway at RIT advances a new kind of sensing technology that captures data with better precision than currently possible and promises cheaper, smaller and lighter sensor designs.

Mishkat Bhattacharya, a theoretical physicist at RIT, is investigating new precision quantum sensing solutions for the U.S. Department of the Navy's Office of Naval Research.

The three-year study is supported by a \$550,000 grant and is a continuation of a previous award. Bhattacharya will test interactions between light and matter at the nanoscale and analyze measurements of weak electromagnetic fields and gravitational forces. Bhattacharya works in the emerging field of levitated optomechanics.

Diversity in science

RIT has been awarded \$1 million from a private philanthropy to increase diversity and inclusivity among undergraduate science majors and develop a strategy for supporting their success.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Inclusive Excellence Initiative is a five-year science education grant to develop future scientists reflecting the nation's diversity. RIT is one of 24 institutions selected to develop strategies for expanding access to science education.

Inauguration

David Munson installed as 10th president

oday's RIT is clearly different from the school created in the 19th century, and RIT must continue to evolve to help solve the challenges facing society now and in the future, David Munson told hundreds gathered Sept. 28 to witness his inauguration as the university's 10th president.

"Let's double down on making our campus a thriving ecosystem to stimulate creativity and innovation, which is the translation of an idea into a product, service or process that has economic or social value," said Munson. "We must continue to rethink our educational systems, so that we are building a broad, multidisciplinary skill set where creativity is exercised at every turn."

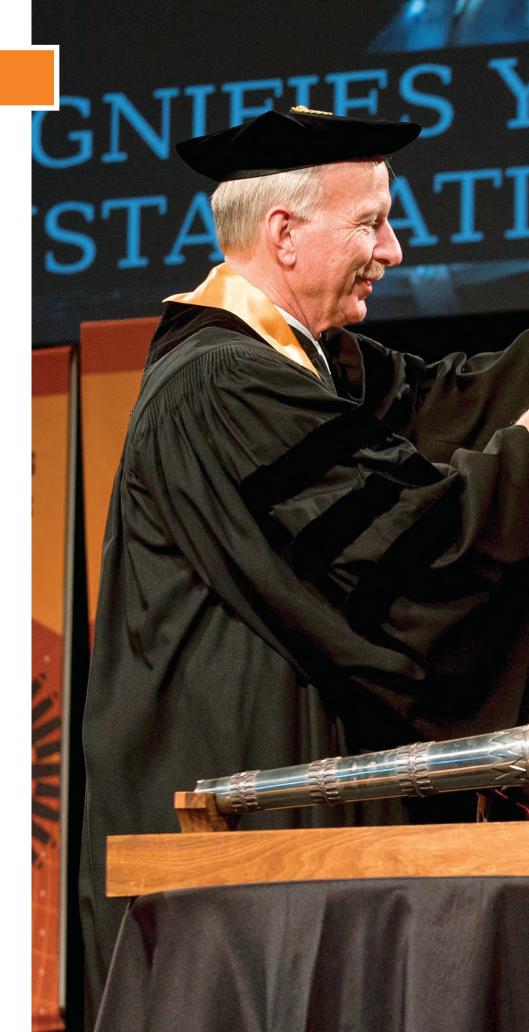
Two days of inaugural events included a student picnic, walking tours for dignitaries from more than 50 colleges from across the country and an alumni symposium. The alumni panel included Christopher Edwards '97 (film and animation), Renato Libric '03 (hotel and resort management), William Snyder '81 (professional photography) and Patricia Moore '74 (industrial design).

Dartmouth College President Philip Hanlon served as keynote speaker at the inauguration ceremony in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Hanlon, who worked closely with Munson at the University of Michigan, looked toward Munson's past to make predictions about the future for RIT.

"Dave will challenge RIT to elevate its capacity to tackle the great issues of our time — through the research and creative work that occurs on your campus and by honing a student experience that equips your graduates for impact in the years to come," said Hanlon. "He will help you realize your loftiest ambitions and overcome those sometimes artificial boundaries erected within academia that limit our ability to address such complex and wide-ranging questions."

Scott Bureau '11, '16







Legacy families uphold RIT traditions

hernee Vitello was worried when the thin envelope arrived from RIT for her son, Peter. Thick envelopes traditionally indicate an acceptance letter.

The bachelor's degree program Peter applied for, game design and development, is ranked second in the world by The Princeton Review and is extremely competitive. And RIT was Peter's first choice. He has been hearing about RIT all of his life from his alumni parents and their alumni friends.

"Mom screamed at me that there was a letter and I was so concerned because I thought she already read it and I was declined," Peter said. "Then I opened it and I saw I was accepted."

"We were all just crying and hugging and just so happy for him," said Chernee, tearing up at the memory. "We are just so pleased."

Peter, a first-year student, is one of more than 600 legacy students currently enrolled at RIT, up from less than 200 in the mid-1990s and less than 100 in the early 1980s.

Children of alumni aren't given preference when it comes to admission decisions. But they do get a few perks, including an invitation to a pinning ceremony where the legacy parent or grandparent presents his or her incoming student with an 1829 pin to symbolize that they are carrying on the family's tradition of academic excellence. They are also eligible for the RIT Alumni Legacy

Scholarship and can move in a day earlier than most of the incoming freshmen.

For the Vitello family, sharing the same college experience is what is important. Chernee '94 (marketing) and Steve '93 (professional and technical communication) met Chernee's first day on the RIT campus when she reported for work at the T&E Center (the Technical and Education Center of the Graphic Arts), where Steve was employed.

They started dating a few months later and began hanging out with a close group of friends they met through Alpha Epsilon Pi, Steve's fraternity.

Richard Winter '93 (chemistry) was Steve's big brother in the fraternity. He married



Suzanne Winter '90 (food management) and they have three children. Richard, who now works for Frontier Communications, and Suzanne met on April 29, 1989.

"Someone introduced us at a party and said, 'Sue, Rich; Rich, Sue,' and that was it," Suzanne said. "We have been together ever since that night."

Their oldest son, Robert, is a third-year student at RIT studying chemistry and is friends with Peter. Suzanne also works on campus at The Corner Store as manager of residential stores.

"Peter has a friendly face to see every day and someone to look in on him when he needs it," said Chernee, who lives with her family in Geneseo, N.Y.

Peter also has two other family friends on campus. A third couple the Vitellos hung out with during college, Eric Miltsch '92 (professional and technical communication) and Susan Miltsch '94 (social work), have two sons attending RIT. Parker is studying new media design and Cooper in majoring in illustration.

"I love that we all have sons at RIT," said Susan Miltsch, a retired social worker who lives in Henrietta, N.Y., with Eric, a founder of software company Dealer Teamwork. "I have always loved that school and I'm happy my kids are there."

Mindy Mozer

Waive the application fee

Alumni can request an application fee waiver for a prospective student. The voucher is good for one fee-waived RIT application for undergraduate admission per year. Go to www.rit.edu/alumni/volunteer/feewaiver.

To learn more

For more information on the RIT Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship, go to rit.edu/alumni/benefits and look under educational benefits.



Legacy families

RIT all in the family for David Fuehrer

RiT is in David Fuehrer's DNA.
In 1907, Fuehrer's great grandfather, William
J. Fuehrer, graduated with a degree in architecture from Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, the forerunner of RIT.

His maternal grandfather, Charles Edwards, graduated in 1937 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

His third cousin, Gerard Rossner, earned a BFA in photography in 1961. His uncle, John Hinckel, went back to RIT in his 50s and completed a degree in applied arts and sciences in 2010. And his brother and father attended RIT.

But David Fuerher '03, '04 (professional and technical communication, MBA) said that he never felt pressure to attend RIT. He learned about the professional and technical communication program from Professor Patrick Scanlon and thought it was a good fit for him.

Fuehrer today runs his own digital health company called GRYT Health.

The company's primary client is Stupid Cancer, a charity that supports young adult cancer patients and survivors. He helped develop The Stupid Cancer App, a free app that offers anonymous peer support for cancer patients, survivors and caregivers.

Fuehrer, a two-time cancer survivor, is thankful to be a part of the RIT family.

"RIT taught me how to be authentic in business and life—how to live and communicate authentically," he said.

Mindy Mozer

RIT gives alumnus and his sons an edge

rowing up in the Philadelphia area, Andrew Athias was surrounded by a close group of his father's friends whom he considered aunts and uncles. It wasn't until he was older that he realized they weren't actually related. Their connection—RIT.

"Practically everyone I met growing up who was an adult was an RIT graduate," Andrew said.

So it wasn't too much of a surprise that Andrew continued the family legacy, and now the management information systems major will graduate in December.

His father, Franklyn Athias '85 (computer science) said he met Andrew's "aunts and uncles" freshman year. They were all from the Brooklyn area and had similar interests. A few, like Franklyn, were part of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which provides financial assistance and academic support.

"We all graduated and are successful in our careers," said Franklyn, who is a senior vice president for Comcast Cable. He helped Comcast develop its first internet service and telephone service and recently led a team of 300 engineers to launch mobile service, among other business ventures.

"I've been very lucky over the years and can say I won the lottery working for Comcast. I have to say if it wasn't for attending RIT, this probably would not have happened."

Franklyn said RIT continues to give him an edge in the workforce, so he was glad when Andrew picked his alma mater. Then his youngest son, Jared, got familiar with RIT when he visited Andrew and also enrolled.

Jared '17 (3D digital graphics) now works in Los Angeles at DreamWorksTV as a production assistant.

Andrew said he considers himself RIT's biggest cheerleader. He wears some form of orange every day, he said, and has become known on campus for his school spirit.

"I found my niche and I found myself at RIT," he said. "I found the beauty in RIT as a whole."

Mindy Mozer



Franklyn Athias '85, left, poses with his sons, Jared, who graduated last spring, and Andrew, who will graduate in December.

Reunion visit results in legacy student

n unplanned tour of campus during last year's Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend is the reason Daniel Tosti is a third-generation student at RIT.

Daniel tagged along with this dad, Mike '86 (computer engineering), to Mike's 30th college reunion last year. Daniel, a high school senior at the time in Los Angeles, was impressed. He liked the photography program and the campus, so he included RIT in his 10 college applications.

In August, Daniel became an RIT Tiger.

"We were ecstatic when Daniel chose RIT because of the school and because now he is going to be close to us for four years," said his grandfather, Don Tosti '75 (continuing education), who lives in the Rochester area.

Don attended RIT at night and studied electrical engineering while working at Rochester Gas & Electric in Rochester as a meter reader. It took him nine years to get

his degree, he said. After he got it, he was transferred to the electrical engineering distribution group at RG&E and worked his way up to safety director. He worked at RG&E for 33 years.

Mike picked RIT because it was one of the few schools that offered computer engineering. He worked at Eastman Kodak Co. as a software engineer and then moved to the Los Angeles area to work for the visual effects company Cinesite. He is currently director of technology for Technicolor. His name is listed in the credits of 20 movies, including O Brother, Where Art Thou? and Kill Bill: Vol. 2.

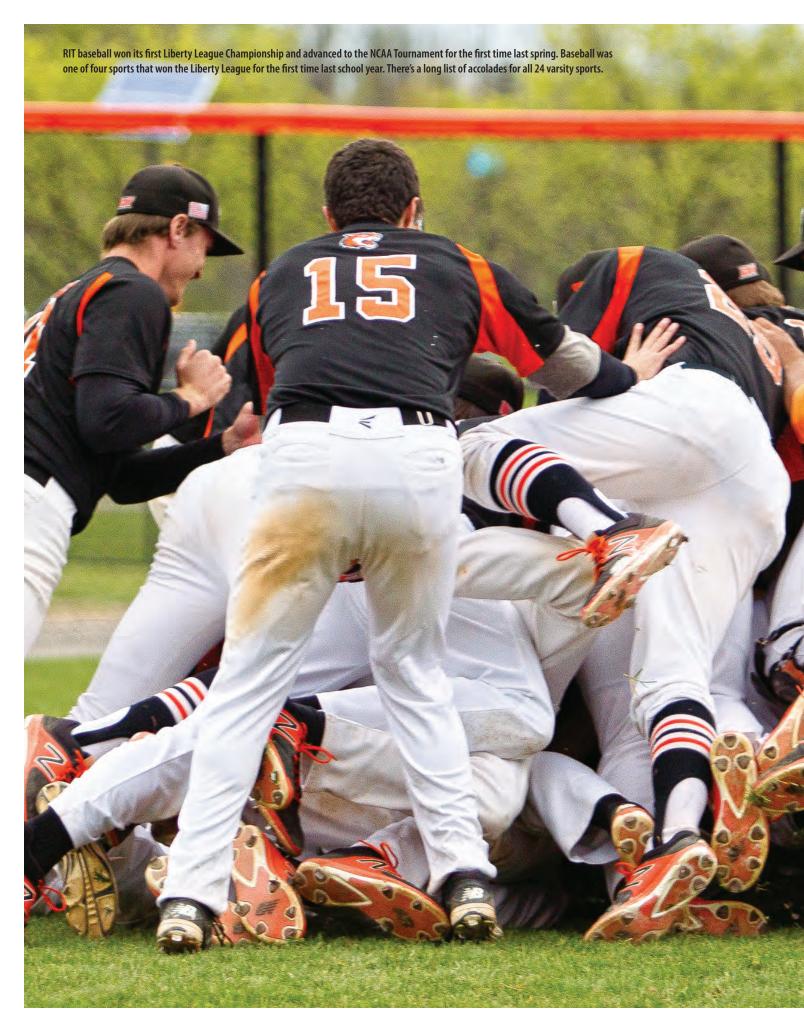
Don and Mike spoke at the Legacy Family Pinning Ceremony in August welcoming other legacy families with similar stories.

"Our alumni are part of RIT for Life around here," said Lisa Cauda, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations. "We don't use it as a tag line. We mean it."

Mindy Mozer



Mike Tosti '86 (computer engineering) places the legacy pin on his son, Daniel, who started his first year at RIT this fall.







my Reed admits that her first year as coach of the RIT women's basketball team was trying.

When she started a decade ago, the team had had only one winning season since 1987. On top of that, she only had seven players.

"It was a real struggle," said Reed, who played Division I basketball for Marshall Uni-

Amy Reed

versity and had worked as the assistant basketball coach at Gettysburg College for one season before coming to RIT.

Her struggle was rewarded last season when women's basketball won the Liberty League Championship and advanced to the NCAA

Tournament—the first time in program history. And the team wasn't alone. RIT baseball also won its first Liberty League Champion-

ship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time. Women's track and field won its first Liberty League Indoor Championship. Women's crew won its first Liberty League Championship last spring and made its first NCAA appearance.

And those are just the firsts. There's a long list of accolades for all 24 varsity sports, including that RIT's student-athletes earned the highest cumulative GPA in program history with a 3.32.

"I think success breeds success," Reed said. "Student-athletes get excited about what other teams are doing and they step up."

Lou Spiotti Jr., executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the rise of RIT athletics is a remarkable story but not unexpected given the growth and advancement of RIT, notably RIT's transition to a research university.

He attributes the recent success to a multitude of factors, including the support of



Will Gorman was drafted on June 14 in the 32nd round of the 2017 MLB First-Year Player Draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks. He also has a grade point average of 3.55 in chemical engineering.

RIT's leadership, the success of the men's and women's Division I hockey teams, the move of Division III sports to the Liberty League, the nationally ranked men's lacrosse team, strong coaches, a supportive environment and outstanding student-athletes who go on to be leaders after graduation.

Spiotti said he expects this upswing to continue this academic year and beyond.

"Every year we see these athletes come in with their heads held higher than the year before," Spiotti said. "There is more pride than ever before. I think we are in a really good position and we are going to get nothing but better."

Joining the Liberty League

Spiotti would certainly know. He came to RIT in 1974 as RIT's football coach, replacing Tom Coughlin—the same Tom Coughlin who went on to lead the New York Giants to

two Super Bowl wins.



Lou Spiotti Jr.

At that time, there wasn't as much school spirit surrounding sports, remembers Spiotti. And there were only half the number of sports that there are today.

Spiotti said RIT's presidents over time played a big role in developing

athletics. M. Richard Rose, who assumed the presidency in 1979, recognized that athletics was a way to serve students as well as a catalyst to school spirit. He acknowledged

that athletics could serve as an extension to the greater Rochester community.

Hockey became the beacon, with men's soccer and men's lacrosse becoming perennial powers as well.

The 1982-83 season marked a milestone in the men's hockey program, as the Tigers won their first NCAA Championship in Division II. A second championship came two years later at the Division III level.

"That's when everything started coming together," said Spiotti, who became athletic director in 1980; football was cut in 1977.

Spiotti said each RIT president since has helped elevate athletics.

Al Simone was supportive of men's hockey moving from Division III to Division I in the 2005-06 season. (Women's hockey followed in 2012, a few months after winning a Division III national championship.)

Bill Destler championed RIT's Division III sports leaving the Empire 8 Conference and joining the academically aligned Liberty League, which includes universities such as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University. Spiotti said RIT made a full-court press to join the league and Destler led the charge.

League officials wanted to know RIT's commitment to athletics. Would RIT make part-time coaches full time and invest in facilities? Would women's sports be strengthened?

"Our advantage was that we not only had a terrific athletic program but a highly reputable academic institution," Spiotti said. Destler and the presentation team made a strong case and RIT was accepted for the 2011-12 academic year.

RIT enjoyed immediate success. Men's indoor track and field was the first Liberty League champion that winter while men's lacrosse won the first of its six straight league titles. Men's lacrosse went on to play for the 2013 and 2017 national championships.

"I think what has happened—it has raised the game," Spiotti said. "We are in a different league—a stronger league, a better league. It's a different ball game. But we are very competitive."

Becoming full time

The Liberty League has certainly been a different ball game for RIT baseball and head coach Rob Grow '88 (business).

When Grow, a former player and 2006 RIT Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, started as RIT's baseball coach in 1991, he was "very part time."

Grow would work his day job as a buyer at Xerox Corp. in Webster, N.Y., and then drive to RIT to run evening practices. He did that for a dozen years before he got a job on campus as director for Alumni Relations affinity groups. Being on campus helped eliminate the driving time, but Grow still didn't have time to develop relationships with high school coaches and find those high school baseball players who were the right fit for RIT.

Upon joining the Liberty League, Grow became a full-time coach, as did coaches for men's soccer, women's soccer, softball and women's lacrosse.

Five years out, RIT is seeing a difference. Grow has been able to expand his recruiting efforts into Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey and visit recruits in their hometowns.

"We aren't just going out and finding the best baseball players," said Grow, who was named Liberty League Baseball Coach of the Year last spring. "We are going out and finding smart, hardworking, good kids who are great baseball players."

Grow uses Will Gorman as an example. Gorman, an outfielder who set RIT single season records for home runs and runs scored, was drafted on June 14 in the 32nd round by the Arizona Diamondbacks and made his professional debut the following month. He also has a grade point average of 3.55 in chemical engineering.

Gorman said he has played baseball since he was a child growing up in the Albany, N.Y., area, but he was under the radar for most college coaches. Grow spotted him at a showcase in Rochester.

He picked RIT because of the strong academics. He had no idea that four years





Women's crew won its first Liberty League Championship last spring and made its first NCAA appearance. Amy Guthrie '18 (electrical engineering), second from right who sat stroke seat for the varsity eight, earned the first RIT women's crew All-America honor in program history.

later engineering would become his backup career. He plans to finish his five-year degree next fall after taking the spring semester off to start his second season of professional baseball.

Gorman and the rest of the baseball team enjoyed their strongest season in program history last spring, making their first NCAA Division III Baseball Championship appearance after winning the Liberty League Championship.

Phillip Ferranti Jr. '79 (business administration), who played baseball from 1975 to 1979, was there to watch. Ferranti has been a supporter of RIT baseball since he graduated. He also is a member of the RIT Athletics Hall of Fame

"The Liberty League title was great but making the NCAAs was even sweeter," said Ferranti, who helped lead the Tigers to three Eastern College Athletic Conference finals, including a championship in 1977. But his teams never made the NCAA Tournament.

"That's what our goal has been for the entire program is to get into the NCAAs. And I think there's more to come."

Athletes become leaders

Sandra Johnson, senior vice president for Student Affairs, said not only are athletics at RIT getting stronger, but student-athletes are doing remarkable things.

"We hear all the time from employers that they want to hire our student-athletes," Johnson said. "These are individuals who leave here understanding how to be a member of a team and the importance of good communication. They know how to solve problems and collaborate with others."

Amy Guthrie '18 (electrical engineering) and Sarah Szybist '17 (biomedical sciences) are two examples of that.

Guthrie earned the first RIT women's crew All-America honor in program history last spring, along with helping her team win its first Liberty League Championship and a fifth-place finish at the national championships.

Guthrie, who sat stroke seat for the varsity eight, had never even tried rowing when she started at RIT but a friend as well as a rower both convinced her to try the sport. She joined freshman year and liked the challenge.

"I feel like the athletics program held me to a higher standard," she said. "Throughout my years of athletics, I learned how to not only put in the work that was asked of me, but to put in the work that was required of me to get to where I wanted to be."

Guthrie has completed her athletics eligibility but has one year left of school. Over the summer she did an internship with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. She received a full-time job offer and will return to work there after she graduates.

Szybist was named the 2016 COSIDA Academic All-America of the Year for Division III Women's Volleyball. Szybist is the second RIT student-athlete to receive the honor, joining volleyball player and RIT Athletics Hall of Famer Ushi Patel '00, '01 (printing management, MBA), who received it in 1999.

Szybist, who had a 3.94 grade point average, led all of Division III during her senior season with 770 kills and finished her fouryear career with 2,563 kills, which is sixth all-time in NCAA Division III history. She is now in medical school at Rocky Vista University, College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Szybist said she picked RIT because her coach emphasized the importance of academ-



Point guard Cori Okada, a junior majoring in electrical engineering from Fullerton, Calif., moved thousands of miles away from home because of RIT's strong engineering and co-op programs. Her basketball team won the Liberty League Championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history last season.

Photos by RIT Sports Information

ics as well as athletics. Her choice is paying off in medical school.

"I'm sitting in some of my classes and I am so glad I took this course with this professor because it's all review right now," she said.

Szybist said one reason she was successful is because academics was valued by all the members of her team, who would do homework in between games and on road trips.

She noticed the rise of athletics during her time at RIT, she said, with more teams excelling in post-season play. "I am excited to see how they continue to grow and how the teams just keep on getting better."

Looking ahead

Spiotti, too, is excited for the future. RIT's new president, David Munson, has already talked about the importance of athletics attracting top students to RIT.

Spiotti said facilities such as the Gene Polisseni Center, the new home for men's and women's hockey that opened in 2014, have become a source of pride for all athletes. Renovated locker rooms for other sports, including the new Ronald S. Ricotta Wrestling Locker Room that opened last February, are

better than some Division I sports.

A part-time strength and conditioning coach, who started in the 2015-16 season, has also made measurable improvements for athletes.

But maintaining a program that is consistently in the top 10 to 20 percent of the nation requires resources, including full-time assistant coaches, athletic trainers and support staff, he said.

It requires continuing to hold both athletes and coaches to very high standards on the field and especially in the classroom, Spiotti said. And it requires the integration of all athletes.

One way that happens is through Tiger Den events, sponsored by the RIT Student Athlete Advisory Committee. This is where each team picks one game per season for all student-athletes to attend.

Grow said athletes today support one another much more than they did when he was a student-athlete.

His baseball team, for example, stopped practice and watched the women's basketball team win the Liberty League Championship.

"I thought it was important for the baseball team to support them but also for them to see someone win the championship on their home court, because that was our goal."

Another Liberty League championship is the goal this year and in the coming years for both teams.

Strong seasons, combined with RIT's top academics, will help Reed continue to build her program.

"There's no question we are recruiting players now who seven years ago would never have looked at us," Reed said, "not because the academics weren't good, but we weren't good."

Now she can sell both sides of the university, adding that every player she has coached in 10 years has had a job after graduation.

That's why Cori Okada, a junior majoring in electrical engineering from Fullerton, Calif., picked RIT.

Okada moved thousands of miles away from home because of the strong engineering and co-op programs. Basketball has been a bonus—a very sweet gift for the point guard.

"Winning the Liberty League was probably one of the best moments of my life," Okada said. "We are looking to do it again this year and get back-to-back championships."

Mindy Mozer and Joe Venniro



Although she never touched a power tool prior to studying at RIT, graduate student Fatmah Bamashmous has learned quickly and is in the process of creating intricate pieces of furniture for her thesis show in the spring.

RIT'S GRADUATE PROGRAMS

OFFER DISTINCTIVE, CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION

s Fatmah Bamashmous painstakingly crafts furniture for her thesis in RIT's woodworking studio, she uses a mixture of traditional hand tools and state-of-the-art power tools. She has a distinct vision for what she is trying to accomplish, and her designs draw inspiration from calligraphy and the Arabic alphabet.

"I want to create modern furniture with distinct Arabic influences, which you don't see hardly anywhere," she said.

Bamashmous, a student from Saudi Arabia pursuing her MFA in furniture design, relishes her time in the shop. "The facilities at RIT are absolutely the best," she said. "The equipment is amazing."

After studying interior design in Saudi Arabia, she wanted to better understand how to make furniture she was incorporating into her designs. Wanting to study at a top school with the best equipment possible, she learned about RIT's internationally recognized program through its prominent place on lists ranking the top furniture design programs in the world.

The furniture design program Bamashmous is enrolled in is RIT's oldest master's program. RIT awarded its first master's degrees to three students in the woodworking and furniture design MFA program in 1960.

Today, RIT offers 73 master's programs, with 14 new programs added in just the past 10 years. The newest program is a Master of Science in media arts and technology that was introduced this year, and next year students will begin studying for their master's in data science.

The number of master's programs is likely to grow even more in the near future—during RIT President David Munson's address to the community in August, he announced an ambitious long-term goal of rebalancing the RIT student body to one-third graduate students and two-thirds undergraduate students. Currently, RIT has 3,222 graduate students out of a total 18,963.

RIT's master's programs vary from research-based curricula that can serve as launching pads to prestigious Ph.D. programs to career-focused programs that prepare students for coveted positions in industry.

"We have so many unique programs and pathways for graduate students to take at RIT," said Twyla Cummings, dean of graduate education. "There are professional master's, research-based master's and highly customizable options such as the MS in professional studies from the School of Individualized Study."

GRADUATE PROGRAMS



Mariel Abreu '07 (MBA) travels throughout Latin America to locations like Rio de Janeiro for her job as a fixed income analyst at T. Rowe Price Associates.

Global graduates

Mariel Abreu '07 (MBA) analyzes fixed income securities of some of the largest financial institutions in Latin America for Baltimore-based asset manager T. Rowe Price Associates.

Working in the Emerging Markets group, she evaluates the financial health and repayment capacity of corporate debt issuers primarily in the banking sector. Part of her responsibilities includes traveling to Latin America to meet company representatives and regulators.

Abreu called her job "intellectually rewarding and dynamic. The industry moves quickly, markets change and I find myself always learning. My job also comes with a great deal of responsibility since my goal is to generate the best risk-adjusted returns for our clients."

Abreu, originally from the Dominican Republic, got her start in the financial industry at one of the big four accounting firms in the Dominican Republic before moving to Rochester in 2005 to pursue her MBA. Her first job in the U.S. came in the summer of 2006 after she applied for an unpaid summer internship at a boutique accounting firm in New York City through the RIT Job Zone portal.

"It wasn't a dream job," she said. "I had to

pay for my ticket to go interview, but I saw it as an opportunity to go to Manhattan and find out what I wanted to do after the MBA. I thought, 'I will make the best out of it.'"

This year, more than 56 percent of RIT's graduate students were from outside the United States, with 60 graduate students from the Dominican Republic alone, fourth-most among all nations.

"This is a testament to our internationally recognized programs and enriches the diversity of our campus," Cummings said.

Abreu's summer internship in New York paid off. She spent her spare time learning about the different careers in the finance industry and getting guidance from established professionals.

"I joined several professional groups that provided networking opportunities and informational interviews with their members," said Abreu. "My experience that summer was instrumental."

She returned to RIT in the fall with important connections, a clear understanding of the career paths in finance and determined to get into Wall Street after completing her MBA.

Upon graduating in 2007, she went back to New York and got a job as Junior Equity Research Analyst with HSBC Securities to cover Latin American banks. After weathering the financial crisis of 2008 and several management changes at her firm, Abreu managed to move her way up to vice president with coverage responsibilities of the mid-cap banking sector in 2011.

"Those were difficult years for many people in finance," said Abreu. "I saw colleagues with many years in the industry losing their jobs. Working in equity research

was a great learning experience for me. It is a hard job and you have to be passionate about it and adaptable to be able to survive in the industry. I also learned political capital is important and can make a big difference in career progression."

After more than seven years in the "sell side" of the industry and becoming a mother, Abreu thought it was time for a change. For her, moving to asset management, or the "buy side," was the ideal transition.

The change came in 2014 when she joined T. Rowe Price's Emerging Market team.

Her Latin American region banking experience, finance industry background, language skills and the lessons she took away from her time at RIT had her prepared for the next challenge.

"The MBA program at RIT provided me with the necessary business foundation that employees in finance demand," she said.



Abreu got her start in the United States financial industry through the RIT Job Zone portal. She found a summer internship at an accounting firm in New York City in 2006.

Building a better future

Closer to home, Sam Elliot '16 (architecture) works on design projects for elementary, middle and high schools in his native city of Rochester for the architectural firm SWBR. But he took a circuitous path to get back home.

After earning a BA in environmental studies in 2011 from Allegheny College, Elliot headed to the West Coast for an internship in San Francisco, but the move didn't click for him.

"When I was there I realized how much I missed home, so at the end of my internship I decided to come back to Rochester."

When he returned to the area he worked on the Greentopia Festival with Friends of the GardenAerial, an organization working to establish an EcoDistrict and elevated park around the rim of the High Falls Gorge in downtown Rochester. While volunteering with the organization he decided he wanted to pursue a graduate degree, but not in environmental policy, the focus of his undergraduate degree.

"I was more interested in doing something creative and professional, which is how I landed upon architecture and specifically RIT's Master of Architecture program with the emphasis on sustainability."

The program, approved in 2011, is unique in its focus on sustainable design, urban development and use of the latest technologies. The change in direction was revitalizing for Elliot.

"I think the rewarding thing for me was learning that I could grow and learn in new ways," he said. "Architecture obviously was a large departure from a liberal arts degree. The way our program is designed, it does a good job of bringing in people who don't have an architectural background and sets them up to hit the ground running."

Cummings said while there are many well-respected Master of Architecture programs across the world, RIT's stands out because of its unique focus on sustainability.

"Many of our programs stand out in distinctive ways because of a specialized focus or because they lie at the intersection of technology, the arts and design," she said.

As Elliot studied at RIT, he landed an internship with SWBR. The firm hired him as an architectural designer before he graduated, and he finished his thesis on nights and weekends as he worked full time.

Now he works in SWBR's education studio, contributing throughout the design process on many of the firm's K-12 projects. He maps existing conditions for renovation projects, puts together drawing sets for construction purposes and helps to supervise during the



Sam Elliot '16 (architecture) works on design projects for elementary, middle and high schools in Rochester, including this new science, technology, engineering and math education center at McQuaid Jesuit High School.

construction process itself.

Thriving in a vibrant, personally fulfilling profession, he credits much of his success to the lessons he learned at RIT.

"RIT taught me how to learn new things

quickly. That's something I'm always having to do here at SWBR because we're always trying new things and doing things in new and creative ways. The curriculum taught me to think on my feet more."





Twyla Cummings, dean of graduate education, is focused on building an even stronger culture for RIT's growing graduate student community.

Intersection of arts and technology

Some of RIT's most recent graduates from master's programs are already obtaining coveted positions in top companies across the country.

Hongbo Miao '17 (human-computer interaction) now works in Seattle for Microsoft as a program manager focused on the user and

developer experience.



Hongbo Miao '17

Before coming to RIT, over the span of four years Miao earned bachelor's degrees in information security and business administration from Harbin Institute of Technology in China and computer systems engineering from the University of Birmingham. So when

he set out to pursue his master's degree, he was looking for a unique program with an interdisciplinary spirit.

"I thought it was pretty interesting how arts and technology were combined in the HCI (human-computer interaction) program."

With focus on creating user-friendly computing technologies, HCI is a dynamic field that melds theories from psychology, science, engineering and design.

Cummings said the HCI master's program is an example of how RIT's graduate programs are often ahead of the curve. The program in this relatively young field has been around for 10 years.

The HCI program's emphasis on the user experience, coupled with its interdisciplinary nature, was what attracted Miao. He gravitated toward the concept of improving software to make people's lives easier and found that the hours he spent testing his projects on everyday users led to the best results.

"Some students focused too much on completing assignments exactly as it says in the book to get a good grade," he said. "You have to talk to the real users and learn how they actually feel about the program to get the best results."

Before graduating from the HCI program in the spring, he secured an interview with Microsoft at the RIT Career Fair and was eventually hired. Following commencement, he moved to Redmond, Wash., to join the company, and he is now working on software programs including Microsoft Graph, Microsoft Office Extensibility and Microsoft Excel.

The road ahead

As RIT looks to expand its master's programs offerings, it will take intense effort from many people behind the scenes.

Christine Licata, senior associate provost, explained that each new academic program goes through a rigorous academic program planning, review and approval process. The process ensures each program is sustainable, fills an important niche in the changing academic and workforce landscape and meets the standards set by RIT, Middle States accreditors and the New York State Education Department.

"At RIT, we don't have a single office whose responsibility is to look externally at what new programs we should offer, so it's really a collaborative effort throughout the university," said Licata. "Academic Affairs works closely with enrollment management;



Fatmah Bamashmous hopes to return to Saudi Arabia after she graduates and open her own furniture studio.

Degrees awarded

Academic year	All degrees	Master's degrees
1959-60	812	3
1969-70	1,714	110
1979-80	3,510	364
1989-90	2,775	417
1999-00	3,123	689
2009-10	3,834	897
2016-17	4,292	1,247

our deans, department chairs and faculty speak with professionals in their disciplines to see how the skills needed are changing; and groups of alumni are out there constantly feeding us new ideas."

Some programs, such as the upcoming MS in data science, grow out of recommendations made by deans' industry advisory committees. And as some at RIT work to usher in new programs, others are working just as

diligently at making sure all current graduate students at RIT have an environment to thrive in.

"We are trying to build an even stronger graduate student community and culture at the university," said Cummings. "Master's students aren't here as long as undergraduate students, but we want to make sure they feel every bit as much a part of the community."

Bamashmous has noticed the effort in creating a welcoming ambiance.

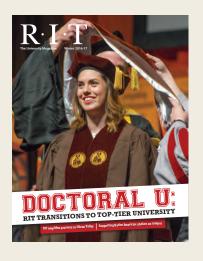
"The atmosphere is perfect; everyone is so friendly," she said. "I feel like I'm at home."

She has formed a tight bond with her fellow classmates and the professors who have mentored her, calling out Andy Buck, Rich Tannen and Adam Rogers as important figures in her development.

Upon graduation, she will return to her home country, Saudi Arabia, which sponsored her studies here through a scholarship, with a completely new skillset and a unique style incubated at RIT.

"I want to continue to design furniture and hope to open my own studio someday."

Luke Auburn '09, '15



Growth in Ph.D.s at RIT

More than 270 people have earned doctoral degrees from RIT in six programs since the first degree was awarded in 1993.

The programs are imaging science, microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, color science, astrophysical sciences and technology and sustainability. A seventh program, a Ph.D. in engineering, is expected to have its first graduates this May. And an eighth Ph.D. in mathematical modeling began last fall.

Ph.D. programs have grown so much that in January 2016 the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education changed RIT from Masters-Comprehensive to Doctoral University. This change occurs when a university graduates more than 20 Ph.D. degrees per year.

The doctoral programs are unique. RIT has the only Ph.D. program in color science in the United States. The doctorate program in sustainability is the only program in the world to focus on sustainable production systems.

The Ph.D. in computing and information sciences was designed to focus on real problems in both computing itself and business, engineering, medicine, science and social science from a fundamental research perspective.

Read more from an earlier issue of *RIT: The University Magazine* at http://bit.ly/RITphd.



Luvon Sheppard '70 is a member of the first graduating class of the Master of Science for Teachers program. Sheppard teaches illustration and painting at RIT.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Por nearly half a century, the School of Art in RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences has offered a unique, one-year master's program for highly motivated students seeking to become certified in teaching art to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We're artists who teach," said Lauren Maines Ramich, graduate director of the Master of Science for Teachers (MST) in visual arts-all grades (art education) program. "Our curriculum builds upon the model of an art educator as an artist-researcher-teacher."

As graduates of the nationally accredited program will attest, the MST program's rigor and accelerated pace—students must successfully complete 36 credit hours on top of 100 hours of field work, combined with 12 weeks of full-time student teaching in just nine short months—can be daunting compared to competitive programs that typically allow two years.

"Yet the rewards are so well worth it," said Luvon Sheppard '70, a School of Art professor and a member of the program's first graduating class. "Because of the MST program, I saw myself as more than I thought I could be."

Sheppard, a prior recipient of the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching—RIT's highest honor for faculty—credited the

program for giving him the focus and the teaching tools to continue succeeding in the classroom five decades later.

"Because of that rigor, I believe the MST program gave me an edge that has continued through with me to this very day," he added.

According to Ramich, the program addresses the fundamental purposes and processes of education as well as the impact of social, economic, technological and cultural changes upon education and art. It provides students with an environment that nurtures and promotes a creative approach to teaching the visual arts. Graduate students are provided with a unique and specialized body of coursework that focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the needs of their future students, both near and far.

Teaching in Hong Kong

Heather Leck-Leonard Potwin '11 teaches art to nearly 250 students across several middleand high-school grades at a private school in Hong Kong called Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School.

"I am so thankful I was able to studentteach across literally all grades (while enrolled in MST) because my classroom management and academic strategies are now more fluid and I feel better able to handle situations as they come up," said Potwin, whose school is located in a mountainous area of Kowloon—the mainland area of Hong Kong.

"I gained a remarkable amount of experience and knowledge from talented professors who encouraged us to push past what we perceived to be our limits," she added. "I cannot imagine completing my master's degree anywhere else."

The RIT program emphasizes innovation and creativity in teaching and learning through research, studio inquiry and community involvement.

Partnerships with area school districts, museums, practitioners, community support agencies and the local art community are key elements in the curriculum's design.

To achieve that goal, MST has forged collaborations with important community and educational organizations, including the Rochester City School District, Rochester Prep Charter School and more than a dozen other Rochester-area suburban, rural and regional school districts; Compeer of Rochester; Memorial Art Gallery; and more recently, Young Audiences of Rochester.

"Art education is so inclusive, so differentiation is really important to our program," Ramich said. "We teach our students how

Where alumni are working

Master of Science for Teachers (MST) graduates find careers as educators



Michele Agosto '94

Role: Supervisor of Art Education, Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, Buffalo Public Schools.

MST's role in success: "Most instrumental were the discussions we had in our seminars. They were reflective and often eye-opening, and guided my personal and professional growth as an educator—advocating for equitable access to the arts for all children."



Mandi Antonucci '04

Role: Art teacher and chair of K-12 Visual Arts, Batavia High School, Batavia, N.Y.

MST's role in success: "I most appreciated the way in which the MST program focused on us as artists, not just teachers. This enabled me to concentrate on becoming an artist who is good at teaching, not just a teacher who likes art."



Gretchen Ettlie '04

Role: Teaches Intro to 2D Design at RIT and art classes at Small Fry Art Studio in the Rochester Public Market after serving 11 years as an art teacher at School of the Nations in Macau, China.

MST's role in success: "The methods and materials class was great because we created actual lessons. We presented them to our classmates and got feedback. We also got to see and hear all of their ideas."



Mikenzie Monroe '08

Role: Art teacher, Queensbury High School, Queensbury, N.Y.

MST's role in success: "When interviewing, I was told I was the only applicant who sent a visual, a brochure that we made as part of our MST class. Also, when interviewing, the administrators always commented on RIT as a great school."



Rhiannon Tobeck '13

Role: Elementary Visual Arts Integration Teacher, Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts in Greece, N.Y. MST's role in success: "The professors emphasized teaching art through making interdisciplinary connections—a skill that I utilize every day."



Heather Leck-Leonard Potwin '11 teaches art to nearly 250 students at a private school in Hong Kong.

to reach a very diverse group of students immigrants, students who have special needs, the gifted and talented."

Ramich also cited the program's faculty and advisory council as important aspects of the program for contributions that make MST vibrant and stand out.

"Our faculty is so talented and experienced, with a broad scope of teaching, research and art experience," she said. "We also bring in an advisory council and monthly practitioners to meet with our students. They include people in many different areas of education, artist educators and former administrators who make the transition from theory to practice tangible and relevant."

Dreaming becomes reality

The desire to give back to the community dates back to MST's earliest days. Neil Waldman '70, a close friend of Sheppard's and also a member of the inaugural class, is an award-winning writer and illustrator of more than 50 children's books.

While applying for a scholarship to attend the MST program, Waldman wrote that he dreamed of one day returning to the Bronx, N.Y., neighborhoods where he was born and raised to create a special art academy that would help poor students attend college.

"That dream stayed with me all these years," Waldman recalled.

In 2006, he became founder and director of the Fred Dolan Art Academy, a free



Award-winning writer and illustrator Neil Waldman '70 started Fred Dolan Art Academy, a free school for Bronx children interested in studying art in college.

Saturday school designed to help Bronx youngsters attend an art college. Since the academy's genesis, 38 students have graduated and nearly all have gone on to college with scholarships, according to Waldman.

"The seeds of this academy were sewn

writing that piece to win the scholarship for MST," Waldman said.

Looking ahead

Kelly Ryan, who spent this past summer teaching art to students at Sidwell Friends School, the Washington, D.C.-based school known for educating the children of presidents and first ladies, couldn't wait to get started at MST in early August.

"At age 33, I wasn't interested in a program that was going to take two years," Ryan said. "I met with Lauren (Ramich) at the same time I accepted the job at Sidwell, and she opened my eyes to wonderful techniques and advice that I could use for my lesson plans. If just meeting with her for a few hours helped me this much, I can't imagine what I will gain from the program and faculty over nine months."

While Ramich freely offered that the MST program is not for everyone, she likened it to a "family for artists with the passion to teach."

"I scare away some of our applicants," Ramich said. "You have to be highly dedicated and committed to a very intense nine months. But we also have so much fun along the way."

Rich Kiley

Online master's degrees make learning more accessible

here were bleary-eyed mornings when Keita Wangari had to tell her children that she had been up all night.

After working a full day in sales operations and getting the kids ready for bed, the 40-year-old would spend the wee-hours of the morning researching search interface design as part of the human-computer interaction (HCI) master's degree that she was completing online at RIT.

"But I would justify those sleepless nights," said Wangari. "I'd tell my boys, 'Who knows, maybe one day mommy will work at Google."

Today, Wangari '14 is doing just that. Living with her family in Cupertino, Calif., Wangari is a user experience (UX) researcher at Google, working with internally facing tools in the payment division. She was recruited for the job after publishing a paper as part of the thesis research she conducted at RIT.

Wangari said that it's not an overstatement to claim that getting her graduate degree online changed her life. Currently, more than 240 students from 13 countries are taking the same route and are enrolled in a fully online master's degree program at RIT to open new doors in their careers, improve their salaries and advance their skills.

RIT currently offers 17 fully online master's degree programs. Among the most popular programs are the master's degree in applied statistics and the highly customizable master's degree in professional studies.

"Many of our students are working adults who are looking to change the direction of their career or to continue advancing at their company," said Joseph Butler, RIT Online program coordinator. "Online courses are great because you can continue learning, but you don't have to give up the rest of your life mov-



Keita Wangari '14 got a master's degree in human-computer interaction online from RIT. The degree helped her get a job at Google as a user experience researcher. Wangari lives with her family in Cupertino, Calif.

ing forward."

Distance learning has long been a part of RIT's culture, but the goal remains the same to make learning more accessible to students.

In 1979, the university began offering telecourses—classes conducted over TV—to employees at local companies looking to advance their technical skills. In 1991, RIT started a completely online master's degree in telecommunications software technology that incorporated email and online discussion boards.

Today, online master's students can complete their degree full or part time and only pay 43 percent of the traditional tuition rate for most programs. Full-time students typically finish a program in about two years, while part-time students might take three to four years.

New this year, RIT is offering online master's programs in health care interpretation and health informatics. In 2018, the university will open an online graduate degree in data science.

For Wangari, one of the most important outcomes of her master's degree has been the lessons and opportunities that she has been able to provide for her kids.

"When I brought my boys (now in their early teens) to visit the Google campus, it was the greatest feeling to hear my oldest say, 'Wow mom—you really did it," said Wangari. "RIT was an ideal way for someone like me to redesign myself, my career and give me the tools I needed to begin a fresh and exciting new chapter in my life."

Scott Bureau '11, '16

To learn more

To learn more about RIT's 17 online master's programs, go to rit.edu/ritonline.

More online options

RIT has partnered with more than 100 other top schools and organizations to offer online courses through edX. For more on how edX certificates can start a pathway to an RIT master's degree, go to edx.org/ micromasters.



Mato Franković '03 (hotel and resort management) became mayor of Dubrovnik, Croatia, in June.

'Knowledge is power' says the mayor of Dubrovnik

hirty-five-year-old Mato Franković, a political candidate from HDZ (Hrvatska Demokratska Zajednica–Croatian Democratic Union), was appointed to a four-year term as mayor of Dubrovnik after winning the election in his hometown last June. He said what set him apart in the race—and from his predecessors—was his leadership skills as a team player.

"An individual can have ideas and projects, but someone has to be there to implement them," said Franković '03 (hotel and resort management), who attended high school in Centerburg, Ohio, and completed his two-year degree at RIT Croatia.

"This individual is no medieval 'doctor universalis,' a man capable of knowing and doing everything," he said. "My strength is knowing how to pick a team that encompasses the knowledge and skills necessary to get the job done."

As mayor of the medieval and beautifully restored city of Dubrovnik, often called the Pearl of the Adriatic, Franković is intent on "restoring the harmony and balance in the

city which was there for our ancestors—those who built this global pearl and led it for centuries."

He is the former chairperson of the City Council of Dubrovnik and a member of the Croatian Parliament. He also served as director of the ACIM Marina Dubrovnik, was the regional nautical coordinator for the southern Adriatic region from 2013-2014 and throughout his life has been working in tourism.

The alumnus credits his education at RIT as preparation for every job he has held.

"What I remember most is the approach we had toward work tasks," he said. "Preparing yourself for any problem-solving activity is the hardest part of the job. As Sun Tzu would say, and I paraphrase, if you go into war without a strategy, you will not only lose the war but also end up looking ridiculous. I've used the RIT approach during my career as well as for my political campaign."

With a population of 42,000, Dubrovnik is home to RIT Croatia (with a campus also located in Zagreb) and is a well-known tourist destination. It has been the setting for *Game* of *Thrones* and for the 2018 film release of *Robin Hood*, starring Jamie Foxx, Jamie Dornan, Taron Egerton and Eve Hewson.

"Dubrovnik has always been attractive to global celebrities, be they literary stars, politicians, or film stars," said Franković. "We are pleased that Dubrovnik is the setting of Hollywood and Bollywood films; we support anything that can promote our city."

If the mayor of Dubrovnik could offer words of advice to RIT students, it would be to work hard, study and fulfill obligations.

"I am well aware that young people today who are 18- to 19-years-old have a hard time getting used to strict rules and obligations, but nothing else would make sense or yield any results. As the old saying goes, knowledge is power."

Marcia Morphy

To learn more

To learn more about RIT Croatia, go to www.croatia.rit.edu.



David Swerzenski '17 (mechanical engineering) helped start RIT's Theme Park Enthusiasts Club and now works at Universal Creative.

Theme park ride designer nabs dream job

avid Swerzenski has always had one career goal—work in the theme park industry.

Days after graduating from RIT, Swerzenski '17 (mechanical engineering) accomplished it. He began working on a project management team in the Engineering and Safety Division at Universal Creative, the research and development group responsible for designing rides and attractions for Universal Parks & Resorts theme parks.

"Absolutely it's a dream come true," he said. "I can't believe how awesome it is so far."

Swerzenski has been working on a new roller coaster for The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. The ride, which is replacing the Dragon Challenge, will open in 2019 at Universal's Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Fla.

Anyone who has visited Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival knows just how fascinated Swerzenski is with theme parks. He is the guy behind RIT's Theme Park Enthusiasts Club's swirling replicas of amusement park rides made with close to one-half million pieces of K'NEX.

Swerzenski was 22 months old when he saw his first carnival ride, he said. He was hooked.

The fascination followed him through elementary, middle and high school, where he played around with his K'NEX models but didn't publicly show them.

At RIT, he and a few other students started the Theme Park Enthusiasts club. The club began in 2015 with a small Imagine display and only a handful of members. By 2017, the club had grown to close to 30 members. The Imagine display also grew in 2017 to more than 30 K'NEX rides that spanned 10,000 square feet.

Last school year, the club also added a professional development component. Members listened to guest speakers, attended workshops and began competing in national design competitions. Last November, an RIT team won every award in the Ryerson Invitational Thrill Design Competition, hosted by Universal Creative.

The teams had three challenges to finish, including retrofitting a Ferris wheel to keep

children in open gondolas, designing a rollercoaster that couldn't go faster than 40 mph and redesigning the Teacups ride to make it more appealing to teenagers.

The RIT team, which also included mechanical engineering students Robert Cybulski, Mike Troise and Caroline Kruse, were offered internships by Universal Creative over the summer. Since Swerzenski graduated in May, his internship was changed to an externship and extended until December.

Swerzenski said he will be joining Universal Creative full time after the externship is over. He has really enjoyed working with both the engineering team and the creative studio team in his current role.

"It has been really cool," he said. "I didn't think coming out of school that I would get to work on such an awesome project."

As for the Theme Park Enthusiasts, he said, they'll be back at Imagine next spring with something new. "I'm excited to see where they go in the future."

Mindy Mozer





Michele Conklin Williams '94 (food marketing and distribution) was named a Woman of Influence in the Food Industry. She is a vice president at Taylor Farms.

Alumna crafts career in fresh food industry

ichele Conklin Williams '94 has had a career as colorful and varietal as the flavorful salads produced by Taylor Farms, one of the top U.S. companies in the fresh food industry. As the company's vice president of sales and new product development, she coordinates the multistep process of bringing an idea for a new food product to market.

The fresh food industry is a multimillion-dollar business in the U.S. and involves brokers, retailers, distributors, manufacturers and restaurant and culinary institute leaders as part of the growing farm-to-table business.

"I work with major grocery chains, and we do a lot of their private label development," said Conklin Williams. "It is a little bit different than traditional sales. It is more strategic account relationships in new product development."

Conklin Williams was strategic about her career from when she began in the hospitality program in RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology. Its then-new degree program in food marketing and distribution entailed learning about all the processes to

bring food to the table: ingredient selection, processing techniques, understanding packaging materials, consumer demands and a thorough understanding of marketing techniques.

"It resonated with me," she said, adding that attendance at the annual National Produce Marketing conference to network with industry professionals also piqued her interest. There she met Bruce Taylor, an entrepreneur who began Fresh Express, one of the top packaged salad companies in the U.S. Conklin Williams would eventually be hired at one of its regional facilities in Atlanta.

Over the years, she held several business development positions with companies such as Fresh Express, Catalina Marketing and Dole Foods. She also worked with an online retailer, Webvan.com, and although it struggled, one of the first calls she received after it closed was from Fresh Express to rejoin the company.

In each company, she learned as much as she could about the produce business and her clients. It is advice she gives to others looking to be successful in this industry, because it was advice given to her.

"It was clear Michele had an inherent love of the food industry but didn't know she could engage with it in any way other than working in restaurants. I simply suggested that working in the food supply chain could be an alternative," said Jim Myers '86, '93 (packaging science, food systems management), who was teaching courses in food marketing and distribution at the time. He is currently RIT's associate provost of International Education and Global Programs. "Everything that happened after is a tribute to Michele and her incredible capabilities."

In fall 2016, Conklin Williams received the Sarah Margaret Gillam Memorial Award, one of the most prestigious awards for career achievements given by RIT's School of International Hospitality and Service Innovation. Shortly afterward, she was named a Woman of Influence in the Food Industry in the annual *Griffin Report*, an industry publication.

"It was emotional," she said. "RIT meant a lot to me. I never thought I would be honored that way."

Michelle Cometa '00



Mike Waller '16 (sustainability) is director of sustainability at Rochester Regional Health. This solar array is one of his initiatives.

GIS alumnus successfully sustaining his career

hen first identifying where he would focus his education and ultimately his career, Mike Waller '16 (sustainability) thought photovoltaics the technology that powers solar cells into energy—would fuel his path forward.

"I thought—and still do—it's an amazing technology," said Waller, a native of Greece, N.Y. "But since the only thing that really matters in this world is people, I realized that sustainability is a perfect fit for me to be able to take all of my education, passion and experience in the engineering field and focus it on resolving real issues that impact the health and well-being of so many."

As the first-ever director of sustainability and special assistant to the CEO at Rochester Regional Health (RRH), Waller's role with the integrated health services organization impacts the lives of thousands of people in Western New York, the Finger Lakes and beyond.

The health system, which includes five hospitals, is the region's second largest employer.

Waller credits the RRH leadership team—

particularly CEO Eric J. Bieber-for its forward-thinking in hiring an inaugural head of sustainability.

"The health care sector has begun to realize that if we spend more time working on helping people rise out of poverty and proactively take care of their health needs, they will lead much healthier lives," he said.

Since graduating from RIT's world-class Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS), Waller has directed a wide variety of energyefficiency and renewal energy programs for RRH's more than 250 locations and 16,000plus employees—everything from boosting recycling and waste diversion efforts to carbon footprint reduction activities such as new LED lighting and motion sensors to conserve power.

One of his most recent initiatives is a 487 kw solar array designed to power 20 of the health system's blood draw laboratories that Waller views as a "stepping stone into much larger renewable energy programs."

His efforts have resulted in improving recycling rates to 80 percent of the system's waste stream, along with the implementation of RRH's first organics recycling program that sends cafeteria waste to an anaerobic digester for conversion to electricity.

"We are working on reducing our total energy usage by 35 percent, which would bring all of our buildings into the 75th percentile of Energy Star-rated buildings," Waller said.

He added that RRH also is improving its building standards by incorporating Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), one of the most popular "green" building certification programs used worldwide, into new construction activity.

After earning degrees from Marquette University and Arizona State before his doctorate from GIS, Waller-a 2017 honoree of the Rochester Business Journal's Forty Under 40 class—is confident that RIT helped put him on his chosen path.

"What sets RIT apart is its focus on hands-on and experiential learning, which is essential for people like me to be effective in their work and real life," he said. "All of that was key in preparing me for the work I am doing today."

Rich Kiley



Graduate's career takes an unexpected swing

n 2009, Ryan Steenberg graduated from RIT with a master's degree in medical illustration. Seven years later, Steenberg was runner-up in the 2016 World Long Drive Championship.

How does a medical illustrator become a champion at driving golf balls? The answer is part timing, mixed with a little luck and a love for training.

Steenberg, who earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Ithaca College, started his career as a sports strength and conditioning coach. But after a few years, he got a little bored.

"Medical illustration was something that always interested me, even coming out of high school. It was a perfect mix of passions for me, my love for being an artist mixed with my love for the human body."

But he couldn't find full-time work in the field after graduating because of the 2008 recession, so he reverted to sports performance. He opened a studio in the Rochester suburb of Brighton next to an indoor golf facility and began specializing in golf fitness.

In 2011, he attended the PGA annual trade

show in Orlando. He started talking to some of the long drivers there and they invited him to participate in an indoor exhibition sponsored by Krank Golf. Steenberg said he has been golfing since the age of 3 and has always had a knack for hitting the ball long distances.

He won the exhibition, beating a couple of world-ranked players. That got the attention of the president of Krank Golf, and Steenberg was invited to compete for the company.

Steenberg said the sport has ebbed and flowed over the past six years. He stopped competing in 2014 and 2015 but returned in 2016 after the Golf Channel became involved with the World Long Drive competition.

In October 2016, Steenberg placed as runner-up in the World Championships with a drive of 412 yards, 11 yards short of the winner. That was the catalyst, he said, for a full year of golf appearances in 2017 with two golf circuits: World Long Drive and Long Drive World Series, an international tour which launched last spring in Dubai.

While there, Steenberg visited RIT Dubai and students, faculty and staff watched him

compete.

"I never thought in a million years that I would be over in Dubai hitting a golf ball but also visiting an RIT campus," he said. "Everybody was really receptive—wonderful hosts."

Steenberg will continue competing at least through the end of 2017 and running his sports performance and fitness center, 4 Performance, in Brighton. He is currently ranked seventh in the world with his longest competitive drive recorded in July at 485 yards.

He also has partnered with OnCore Golf in Buffalo, N.Y., as an ambassador for their ELIXR golf ball that is being sold in Wegmans on the East Coast.

Between touring, his business, training, his wife and two young children, Steenberg said that he doesn't have much time for his artwork. He suspects when things calm down he'll revisit it.

"I would love to get back in touch with my inner artist," he said. "It's a looming monster in me. I never feel balanced, heart and soul, unless I'm doing it."

Mindy Mozer



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

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Class Notes

Key to abbreviations

CAST	College of Applied Science and Technology
CCE	College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)
CHST	College of Health Sciences and Technology
CIAS	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
CLA	College of Liberal Arts
COS	College of Science
FAA	Fine and Applied Arts (now CIAS)
GAP	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CIAS)
GCCIS	B. Thomas Golisano College of

Computing and Information Sciences
KGCOE Kate Gleason College of Engineering
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
SOIS School of Individualized Study

SCB Saunders College of Business
SVP NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

About Class Notes

Class Notes are edited for space, clarity and style. Share details and photos of special occasions and professional achievements in your life by going to www.rit.edu/alumni/news.



1962

Sandra Greenberg '62 (GAP) joined John Roseborough '63 (CIAS) and his wife, Usa; David Haberstich '63 (CIAS); and Carolyn Salisbury '63 (CIAS) for a mini-reunion in Maryland in April. John and Usa visited from Utah where John owns and operates Sweet Basil Thai, a restaurant in Cedar City. John, who previously spent several decades in photographic occupations, and Dave, Curator of Photography, Archives Center, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and now in his 53rd year at the Museum, last saw each other at their graduation in 1963. He and Carolyn, retired staff photographer after 30 years with the National Education Association, last met just before he moved west in 1988. The most recent get-together for John and Sandy, retired after a career as a writer, editor and photo editor with the late United States Information Agency, was in 1999, when they hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon to celebrate their 60th birthdays.

1967



A. James Leida '67 (GAP) was honored on May 11, 2017, by the Graphic Arts Association for his lifetime achievement within the printing industry of Philadelphia at its 2017

Neographics award ceremony. Leida's graphic arts career has spanned 56 years. He lives in Medford, N.J., with his wife, Laurie. He has four adult children and 10 grandchildren.

1968



Jack Hoyt '68 (GAP) and Bary Siegel '68 (GAP) connected in Chicago, where Hoyt lives. Hoyt said it made for a great reunion of two photo graduates.

1971



Michael Holden '71 (FAA) and his husband, David Merritt, celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary by taking a two-week trip to China, toasting each other on the Great Wall. They have been together for 39 years.



Robert Kiss '71 (GAP) was at the Alternative Photography International Symposium in September 2017 in Santa Fe, N.M. He presented an update on Uranotype printing in the form of a DVD video and then a Skype Q&A between his darkroom in Barbados and APIS in Santa Fe. His original 2013 APIS Uranotype presentation is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwXuZwtjHks.



Photojournalism alumna wins Emmy Award for video essay

An alumna's heart-wrenching video essay about a father's devotion and his young son's courageous fight against a rare and incurable pediatric cancer won a 2017 Emmy Award.

Kate Penn '07 (professional photographic illustration) won in the category of video essay (single camera operator) for "A Father's Love: Ayden's Final Days," which provided a poignant glimpse into the harsh reality of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

The regional Emmy Award was announced at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in Hershey, Pa. At the time of the story, Penn was working as the healthy lifestyles and outdoor adventure reporter at the *York Daily Record/Sunday News* in York, Pa.

Ayden Zeigler-Kohler, a 10-year-old boy in the York area, died in March of this year. Penn created the videos about the boy and his father, Bill Kohler, for the newspaper's website and also wrote a story accompanied by photographs.

While Penn said she was "excited and honored" to win the Emmy, her excitement was tempered by the reality of Ayden's fight and the battle that his family continues today.

"No one survives DIPG," she added. "Right now, it's a death sentence. Ayden's family is still fighting in his memory, still raising awareness and funds for research. If this award can help his story reach more people, all the better."

Penn was a general assignment reporter at the *York Daily Record* for eight years before becoming a beat writer. She continued to take her own photos and video as well as writing stories in that role at the paper, where she worked for nearly a decade. Previously, after graduating from RIT, she interned at the *Times-Union* in Albany, N.Y., and the *Bay City Times* in Bay City, Mich. Penn currently works as digital content manager at Proctors, a nonprofit arts organization in Schenectady, N.Y., producing video, photos and writing for the cultural institution's social channels and website.



Julie Carter-Merwin '72 (FAA) is proud to announce the arrival of The Seer. her fourth novel in The Tales of Earden, a classic fantasy adventure series published in

November 2017 by MacGregor House.

Jonathan Atkin '73 (GAP), '78 (CIAS) is taking maritime aerial photography to new heights. He has been all-in with drone image making since 2014 with his first GoPro attached Phantom. The Atkin Drone Team, FAA-licensed and insured, flies a fleet of five aircraft.

Edward Amos '73 (GAP) retired from AM General in 2012 and established a nonprofit consulting firm, The Lavender Group, using his Master in Public Administration. In addition, he is working with Office Depot part-time as a sales consultant-print.

1975



Steve Gulack '75 (SCB) retired from emergency management and is now back on the road as a tour bus driver with STAR Travel and Tours of Rochester.



Henry Freedman '75 (GAP) received the prestigious 2017 Printing Industries of America Innovation Technology InterTech Award for patented . ImageGrader technology.

1976



Patricia (Crosby) Kratochvil '76 (FAA) was married to Carl Kratochvil on May 20, 2017, in Penn Yan, N.Y. All of their combined children were their bridal party. Rebecca Lampson '12 (SCB) is pictured second from right front.

1977



Peter Demlein '77 (COS) attended the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, W.V., from July 19 to July 28, as an adult leader with Longhouse Council, BSA in Syracuse, N.Y. His contingent consisted of 121 youth members and 15 adult leaders. He has been an adult Scout leader for 36 years. He currently lives in Fayetteville, N.Y., with his wife, Mary Beth. He has a dental practice in Chittenango, N.Y.

1978



Kathy McWaters-Velon '78 (FAA) retired from the state of Vermont in April 2017. She has begun working as an artist with creative passions in the mixed media and surface design works.

1979



John Voymas '79 (SCB) was elected to a two-year term on American Mensa's national board of directors. Besides representing the members of the 16 local groups in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley

region, he provides support to the members in his region and is one of 15 voting members at the national level.

Craig Spiezle '77 (GAP), '79 (GAP) participated in a bike ride that started on Aug. 20, 2017, to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association. The bike ride across the U.S. included 3,800 miles and riders climbed 150,000 vertical feet over 47 days.

Mark-Paul Serafin '78 (FAA), '80 (FAA) is working as a freelance graphic designer and portrait artist and has drawn and personally presented more than 100 portraits to celebrities across New York state since 1982. He works as a substitute teacher/teacher assistant for the Liverpool Central School District, Bishops Ludden and Grimes high schools, as well as the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District.

1981



Nancy Cohen '79 (FAA), '81 (FAA) recently had her exhibition "Liaisons" on view at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in New York City.



Toni Schuster '79 (FAA), '81 (FAA) is the owner of Schuster Design Group, previous assistant director of the School of Design at the Art Institute of Dallas and visual programs

manager of internal publications for JCPenney Corp. She currently teaches design and software at Southern Methodist University and Dallas Community College.

1982



Gary Sutto '82 (GAP) is a photographer in Seattle and has produced commercial, editorial, documentary and personal photography projects from October 1985 to the present. See his

work at www.GarySutto.com.

1983



Michael Metzger '83 (SCB) has been named the new vice president for finance and administration at the State University of New York at

Fredonia. He has 30 years of experience in the private sector. He previously served as vice president and strategic advisor for Blackstone Advanced Technologies LLC of Jamestown, N.Y.



Alumni who met freshman year reunite

A group of friends bannered up with their RIT gear and had a mini-reunion this summer in Arlington, Mass.

Some of them met for the first time in the summer of 1985 at freshman orientation and continued their friendships through four years of college, marriage and careers. Two couples in the group married RIT classmates.

From left to right are Jim Merrill '85 (electrical engineering), Mark Talbot '86 (interior and industrial design), Dave Cramer '85 (graphic communications), Wendy Schwartzkopf Merrill '85 (computer science), Ellen DiResta Rogers '85 (packaging science), Ted Rogers '85 (printing and applied computer science), Mark Ambrosone '87 (industrial engineering) and Tom Turner '85 (printing).

"Everyone is successful at professional and life endeavors and proud of our friendships and RIT educations," Tom Turner said.



Bill Michaels '89 (hotel and resort management) and Brenda (Palmer) Michaels '88 (interior and industrial design) met at RIT in 1987 at Colony Manor. They own Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard in Central New York and recently published a cookbook to celebrate the mill's 160th anniversary.

Couple turns cider mill into destination

Bill and Brenda Michaels like to tell people that they have three children and their oldest child is never going to leave the house.

That oldest child is their business, Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard in Central New York. The couple recently published a cookbook to celebrate the cider mill's 160th anniversary.

Bill Michaels '89 (hotel and resort management) and Brenda (Palmer) Michaels '88 (interior and industrial design) met at RIT in 1987 at Colony Manor. Like Bill, Brenda's roommate was a hospitality major and she introduced them. But their relationship didn't develop until years later.

Brenda graduated from RIT with an associate degree and continued her education at Pratt Institute in New York City studying interior design. After Pratt, she returned to her hometown of Smyrna, N.Y., to care for her ailing mother.

Bill, meanwhile, had graduated from RIT and was running a hotel in nearby Cooperstown, N.Y. Brenda visited the hotel when she needed a break from caring for her mother so she could catch up on sleep.

In 1995, the couple began dating and they were married two years later.

That's when the oldest child entered the

picture. Bill's parents had purchased the cider mill in Fly Creek, N.Y., in 1962 primarily for the residence attached to it. At that time, the mill hadn't been operating for more than a decade. But the former owner, who lived next door, regaled Bill's parents with stories of the mill's success, and gradually his parents got the mill up and running again.

After they were married, Bill and Brenda thought about purchasing the mill but Brenda, who worked in restaurant design for several years, wanted to make sure that she liked the business. She worked for a year with Bill's parents.

"It's a fun place for people to visit," Brenda said. "So many people get joy from it."

The two have expanded and changed the business through the years. They introduced specialty foods, renovated the building, expanded the restaurant and bakery and are now open year-round. Visitors can see the 1889 water-powered, water-hydraulic press on three sides from a new second-level learning center. "Now we are a component to any Cooperstown itinerary or a destination for fall and summer visitors," said Bill, adding that they host 140,000 visitors annually.

Bill is the vice president of the business and handles the daily operations, including

working as the press operator on the weekends. Brenda is the president and works on the online store and marketing. They wrote the cookbook, which contains more than 100 apple recipes, to give guests a keepsake from their visit.

The business partnership is successful, both said, because they have a clear division of labor and work in different places: Bill at the mill and Brenda out of her home office. It also helps that it's a fun family business to run.

Bill and Brenda's actual children, Sadie, 18, and Henry, 13, have grown up with the mill. In fact, Sadie was born on the first day of opening season in 1999.

"Most people leave with a very positive feeling, and I think that's what our world needs now—more positive and less negative," Brenda said. "People need a place to go to get away from the world, and I think we provide that."

Mindy Mozer

To learn more

To learn more about Fly Creek Cider Mill and the cookbook, go to flycreekcidermill.com.



A. Gary DiFrancesco '79 (GAP), '85 (GAP), '85 (GAP) celebrated his daughter's graduation from RIT this past May 2017, adding to his family's legacy with RIT. Family graduates include Gary's wife, Debbie (Salm) DiFrancesco '84 (COS); son, Matthew DiFrancesco '10 (KGCOE); and daughter and new graduate, Katie DiFrancesco '17 (CIAS).

1986



Steven Hockstein '85 (GAP), '86 (GAP) and his wife, Karen, are entering their 25th year as proprietors of Harvard Studio Photography. They moved the studio from Montclair to nearby Little Falls in New Jersey in 2015.

1987



Robert Gaeta '87 (CAST) is general manager of the Best Western Plus Hospitality House in New York City and has been named General Manager of the Year by the Greater New York Chapter of Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International. Gaeta received the award during the organization's 24th annual Frank W. Berkman Tourism Achievement Awards in June.

Stephen Kennedy '88 (COS) is a software engineer and a writer of science fiction. His novel Perpetual Words, written under the pen name Jot Russell, is a time-travel story based on 9/11 and came out in September 2017. He also created the Science Fiction Microstory Contest in 2012 and it is still going strong on GoodReads.com.

1989



Paul Ellingson'89 (GAP) has joined Philpac Corp. of Buffalo, N.Y., as chief operations officer.

1990



Richard Coulcher '90 (KGCOE) and Zoe Blitzer Coulcher '91 (SCB) have joined forces to create a hybrid business that focuses on innovative consumer products. C Larboard LLC is a product development consulting firm as well as an e-commerce platform. Learn more at www.clarboard.com.

Peter Beckary '90 (SCB) will be working with KatiKati Inc., supporting sales efforts in downstate New York and Pennsylvania. KatiKati works out of High Tech Rochester in downtown Rochester.

Claudia Lastella '90 (FAA) graduated in June of 2017 with a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction in art education. Her research centered on increasing creativity in a fine arts classroom using meditation, yoga and guided sketching.

Todd Smith '91 (FAA), '92 (FAA) is a section supervisor at the River Campus libraries at the University of Rochester. He is responsible for managing the collections for the university.

1993



Brennan '93 (FAA) created this custom display stand for signed helmets and footballs. It is one piece in a three-piece, sports-themed commission. Learn more

at www.brennandesigns.net.

Allison Small '94 (CLA) has been a company officer with the Regiment of Midshipmen at Maine Maritime Academy since June 2015. In addition to shoreside duties, she sails on the academy's ship, State of Maine, each summer during the annual training cruise.

Scott Gentzke '96 (CIAS), '98 (CIAS) earned his Educational Specialist in Deaf Education (Ed.S.) degree from Gallaudet University and is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Critical Studies in the Education of Deaf Learners Program. He is currently the dean of students and director of residential services at St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, N.Y.

1998



David Moszak '98 (CAST), '05 (CAST) accepted a position with Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson as a package engineer for primary container research and development. This year marked his 10th anniversary with Johnson & Johnson.



Tami Tolpa '98 (CIAS) has just released a selfpaced online course "SPARK: Five strategies for the visual communication of science." SPARK was created by Picture as Portal LLC, a

venture between two professional medical illustrators. Learn more at www.pictureasportal.com.

Julio Ahumada '99 (CAST), '06 (SCB), owner of ZaZa Digital Media Marketing, has added marketing automation to its portfolio of services that include inbound marketing strategy, video production, SEO and social media management, along with Adword buying and video ad placement on Facebook and YouTube.



Mark Biscone '99 (biochemistry) went above and beyond to help a family friend. In April 2016 Biscone donated his left kidney to Matt Aklan. Faced with the options of dialysis or a transplant, Aklan asked friends and family on Facebook to sign up for donor testing. Despite living in Houston, Biscone stepped forward and traveled to Chicago for donor testing. Biscone works in health care consulting with a variety of clients. Kidney donation didn't disrupt his life for long, and the payoff, he said, was gratifying.

2000

Diane Kucharczyk '00 (COS) became an employee of Booz Allen Hamilton in June 2017 functioning as a contracts risk management process analyst. Kucharczyk aids the transformation of business practices complying with U.S. laws and regulations to increase their efficiency.



Daniel Dalin '00 (SCB) recently started a new business, A Positive Influence. He is an accomplished speaker and through A Positive

Influence has provided event management and public speaking services.

2001



Charles Gruener '01 (KGCOE), '09 (KGCOE) writes that on Aug. 11-12, 2017, a team of 12 mostly RIT alumni and staff ran a 227-mile relay called Peak2Brew, from Whiteface Mountain to Utica, N.Y. Along with Gruener, the team included RIT staff members Sid Pendelberry, Mike Bell, Don Powell, Scott Mitchell, Mark Bruno, Brett Matzke '17 (GCCIS), Lars Avery '03 (GCCIS), Justin Newcomer '08 (GCCIS) and Mikel Brown '85 (CAST).



Staci Elaan '00 (CAST), '01 (CAST) has over 20 patents and has designed some of the world's most energy efficient and rugged grid-tied inverters. The picture is an early prototype of a 6kW 240V 30-Amp output 20VDC-75VDC input power inverter. She is no longer in the power inverter business and is now working for Valve Software, the makers of the Steam platform.

Joseph Perez '01 (KGCOE) is now working at Medtronic.

Aaron Tweet '02 (NTID), '03 (NTID) was featured along with his family in an ABC News piece regarding deaf culture versus the cochlear implant. The story follows Tweet and his wife, Jillian, and their two sons, Ryder, 9, and Beckett, 5. Ryder has hearing loss in one ear but doesn't have an apparatus to enhance his hearing. Beckett was born profoundly deaf. View the story at http://fcnews.tv/2ryFyfo.

Tiger Cubs



- Paul Lenz '00 (SCB) and his wife, Ashley, welcomed Elizabeth Joy on Oct. 6, 2016. Proud grandparents are Robert Lenz '66 (SCB) and Marilyn Lenz.
- Ashley Rielly '03 (KGCOE) and Mike Rielly '02 (KGCOE) welcomed Liam Richard on Oct. 27, 2015. He is holding a hat given to them by friend Gretchen Ettlie '02 (CIAS), '04 (CIAS). All three Rielly children, Jack George, Ava Katherine and now Liam, have worn the hat.
- Joshua Leigh '03 (GCCIS) and his wife, Kellie, welcomed a new addition to the family when their son, Marshall Conrad Leigh, was born in January 2017.
- Megan Albrecht '03 (CIAS) and Matthew Albrecht '03 (SCB) announce the arrival of their daughter, Daisy Vaughn, on Feb. 25, 2017. She is loved by her older sisters Maeve, 6, and Emmy, 4, and her big brother Will, 2.
- Michael Hineman '04 (CIAS) and his wife, Katie, welcomed their first child, Marshall Thomas, on June 25, 2017.
- Suzanne Capper '03 (CIAS) and Robert Capper would like to announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin Keith Capper. He was born on March 31, 2017.
- Michelle Putney '05 (GCCIS) and Joseph Putney would like to announce the birth of their first child, Olivia Hope Putney, on May 18, 2017. Her golden retriever brothers, Apollo and Atticus, look forward to the day when they can play with her.

Erin (Vlahos) Bosley '05 (CAST) and Aaron Bosley '05 (GCCIS) along with their two children, Evelyn and Landon, were excited to learn at their gender reveal party that they were expecting a girl. Come the big day of finally meeting the baby, the baby had one last trick up its sleeve; it's a boy. Levi was born in May 2017.

Andrew Peak '07 (CAST) and Brianna Peak are happy to announce the birth of Keegan Robert. Keegan was born on Dec. 3, 2016, and is a very happy baby.

Jason Swart '07 (GCCIS) and his wife, Heather, welcomed a baby girl, Bailey Grace, in July 2017.

Jenna Smallidge '07 (CIAS) and Tim Smallidge '06 (KGCOE) welcomed their first child, Evelyn, on April 10, 2017.

Christine Stahlecker '08 (KGCOE), '08 (KGCOE) and Thomas Stahlecker '08 (KGCOE) welcomed their first daughter, Olivia Louise, on April 3, 2017.

Sneha Shetty '10 (KGCOE) and Vikrant Rai welcomed a baby boy, Sathvik, in February 2017.

- Philip Frandina '11 (SCB) and Jessica (Hall) Frandina '11 (COS) proudly announce the birth of their first child, Jack Mason, on Nov. 14, 2016.
- John Markidis '13 (KGCOE) is proud to announce the birth of his second daughter, Elliette Rose, born on June 3, 2017, in Rochester.

Michael D'Arcangelo '03 (CAST) is currently serving as the director of diversity education at RIT. He was recently awarded the Outstanding Chapter Adviser Award from the national headquarters of Phi Kappa Phi national fraternity. He has served as the volunteer chapter adviser for the RIT social and philanthropic chapter of Phi Kappa Psi for the past 10 years.



Bethany Kaplan '03 (CIAS), '05 (SCB) and Eric Demanche were married in July 2017 in New Hampshire.

2004



Louise Felker '04 (CAST) married Michael Brutvan at the Ithaca Farmer's Market in Ithaca, N.Y., on June 17, 2017. Felker is the program coordinator of the Dairy Foods Extension Program at Cornell University.

2005

Brooke Erickson '03 (CAST), '05 (NTID) started a position as the K-12 school principal at the Rochester School for the Deaf on July 10, 2017.



Neha Goyal '05 (GCCIS), '10 (GCCIS) works as a web developer at the Washington, D.C., think tank American Enterprise Institute. She celebrated her 10th anniversary this year with Kartikeya "Kart" Goyal on Feb. 18.



Brett Hall '05 (CIAS) and PBS Kids' Peg + Cat were nominated for a Daytime Emmy in the Outstanding Pre-School Children's Animated Program category for the fourth consecutive year. He serves as the show's animation director in Brooklyn. Hall also is a listed director for the studio's short film, Melia and Jo: Marshmallow Castle, which made the young audiences competition at the Ottawa Animation Festival in 2017.

2006



William Keyser '06 (CIAS) exhibited his sculpture, Foolin' Around with Red, in the exhibition "Doubles and Doppelgangers" at the Oxford Gallery in Rochester. He also exhibited Down Dog at the 60th Chautauqua Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Chautauqua, N.Y., and Blue Ribbon at the Art in Craft Media 2017 exhibition at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, N.Y.



Brian Dye '06 (CAST) graduated with his Master of Science in industrial hygiene from Montana Tech of the University of Montana in December 2015. He now serves

as a certified safety professional for the Air Force Safety Center while also being the chief executive officer for his own company, Unified Safety Group.

2007

Antonio Calabrese '07 (SCB) launched a new company, Boonle Limited Partnership. Boonle is a freelancing platform for student designers, giving them the opportunity to work with businesses and build their portfolios before they graduate.



RIT/NTID graduates return as reunion co-chairs

As the husband-and-wife cochairs of NTID's 50th anniversary celebration committee, Chris and Staci Wagner are reflecting upon the years they spent as students at NTID during the 1980s.

The 50th anniversary celebration, June 28–July 1, 2018, honors the establishment of the college through an Act of Congress in 1965. The first students enrolled in 1968.

"It's so important that we celebrate the success of NTID over the past five decades—and understand how we can pay it forward for the next 50 years," said Staci Wagner '92 (social work).

After a visit to the campus in 1987, Staci—like so many other deaf and hard-of-hearing people—felt that NTID was the right fit.

"At NTID, I found my identity as a deaf person and a place where I felt at home," said Staci, who is originally from Miami. "Becoming cochairperson of this commit-

tee with Chris was the perfect opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of those who have made NTID what it is today."

Chris Wagner '94 (social work) remembers how difficult it was growing up as the only deaf student in his elementary school and high school. His decision to come to NTID from Portland, Ore., was prompted by his feelings of being part of a community where he had a voice.

"It was during my time at NTID where I realized that although I am deaf, I could do many things," said Chris, who like Staci learned American Sign Language while at NTID.

And of course, NTID also holds a very special place in the hearts of the pair. They met on campus as students and married in 1993.

"We can't wait to see how NTID has made a difference in the lives of so many others," added Chris.



Software engineer wears many hats

One day you might find David Rusbarsky '06 (computer science) writing software. The next he might be making a promotional video for RE² Robotics. The next, he's manning a booth at a conference or writing a project proposal.

It's all good for Rusbarsky, who enjoys wearing many hats for the small company based in Pittsburgh that is a developer of mobile robotic manipulator arms.

"Whatever they ask me to do, I'll help with," he said. "I like the flexibility of doing a wide range of things."

His main project is helping to develop the Biomechanical Exoskeleton Simulator System, which will allow the U.S. Army to more accurately predict musculoskeletal stress on military personnel wearing exoskeleton suits.

The software engineer who has worked for RE^2 Robotics since 2010 is also behind the promotional videos and holiday cards on the company's YouTube channel. The fun videos show off the dexterity of the robotic arms, with the robots cutting paper snowflakes and twisting balloon animals.

Rusbarsky said his RIT education and extracurricular activities, especially his experience with the DARPA Grand Challenge in 2005, prepared him for the work he does today. He still participates in DARPA events, including the Urban Challenge and Robotics Challenge.

"Dave has been an invaluable asset to our company and we are continually impressed with his contributions," said Jorgen Pedersen, CEO of RE² Robotics. "As we search for more engineers, we'll be looking to RIT's talented graduates to apply for open positions. Anyone who's interested in applying can visit www.resquared.com for information about the latest openings."

2008



Anthony Macri '08 (KGCOE) and Alisha (Hash) Macri celebrated their marriage on April 8, 2017, at the historic Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach, Fla. The couple celebrated with RIT alumni Ken Court '08 (KGCOE); Nohl Schluntz '08 (KGCOE); Chris Wergin '08 (KGCOE) and Michelle Tomas-Wergin '08 (SCB).



Melissa Mance-Coniglio '08 (CIAS) was a featured speaker at the Bird of Prey Days event at Braddock Bay Park in Greece, N.Y., in April 2017. Her artwork showing of *Birds in the Hand and on the Wing* is of this year's featured species the Northern Harrier.



Kristine Menkins '08 (CIAS) joined the Innovative Interfaces marketing team in Syracuse, N.Y., as its lead graphic designer.

2009



Raymond Peña '09 (CIAS) completed work as a lighting artist on three feature films with Dreamworks Animation: Trolls, Boss Baby and Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie, as well as The Trolls Holiday Special, which will air on NBC and Netflix this holiday season. His current project includes working on high-resolution animated sequences for the upcoming 4D Kung Fu Panda 3 ride at Universal Studios Theme Park in Los Angeles.

2010

Stephen Nims '10 (SCB) accepted the position of senior advisor-financial analyst with his current employer, SecureWorks.



Nicholas Schneider '10 (KGCOE), '10 (KGCOE) was promoted to project leader at the Boston Consulting Group. He is based out of the Boston office

and works primarily in the technology, media and telecoms practice area.

Ihudiya Ogbonnaya-Ogburu '10 (GCCIS) is attending the University of Michigan's School of Information Ph.D. program as a Rackham Merit Fellowship recipient.



Ashley Pezze'10 (CIAS) has joined Phinney Design Group in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., as an interior designer.

2011

Mercedes Ulaszewski '10 (CAST), '11 (CIAS) was hired last fall by the Rochester City School District as a communications assistant. She is responsible for photography, videography and social media throughout the district.



Ercan Erciyes '11 (KGCOE), '11 (KGCOE) is CEO of a Chicago-based startup, Monument, which recently announced the seed round of investment. Founded in 2015, Monument delivers an artificial-intelligence-powered personal cloud solution to backup and organize photos and videos.



Ryan Raplee '11 (GCCIS) is CEO of Legal InSites, located in Williamsport, Pa., which he cofounded in May 2016. The small

team of website design, SEO, legal writing and social media professionals helps clients grow their practices digitally and maintain strong online presences.

David Press '11 (CAST), '11 (CAST) was awarded the 2017 Lodging Manager of the Year by the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association. He is assistant general manager of the Hyatt House Raleigh North Hills in Raleigh, N.C.



Brianna Schlitt '11 (CLA), '13 (SOIS) and Brynjar Leifsson '11 (SOIS), '14 (NTID) got engaged on April 13, 2017, on top of the Snaefellsjökull Glacier in Iceland. A July 2018 wedding is planned on Long Island, N.Y.



Christopher Tomkins-Tinch '12 (COS) began graduate study at Harvard University in the fall of 2017. He is working toward a Ph.D. in organismic and evolutionary biology. Prior to graduate school he worked for several years at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard as an engineer in the lab of Pardis Sabeti on bioinformatics software related to viral genomics.

Prafull Purohit '12 (KGCOE) is currently an electrical engineer in Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics at Cornell University. In his current position, he is responsible for design and implementation of the data acquisition and control system for pixel array detectors which are used in Synchrotron X-ray Imaging and Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope.



Alyssa (Lynough) Weber '12 (CAST), '12 (CAST) and Daniel J. Weber Jr. '12 (KGCOE) celebrated their marriage on June 3, 2017, on Great Diamond Island in Portland, Maine. They met while on co-ops for Amphenol Aerospace and have been together since graduation in 2012. Alyssa also received the Charles V. Culberston award for outstanding service to the American Society of Safety Engineers.



Ashley Douglass '12 (CLA) and Scott Douglass '12 (GCCIS) celebrated their marriage on May 27, 2017, at Big Spring Farm in Lexington, Va. The couple celebrated with seven RIT alumni: Francesca Fontanelli '12 (CIAS); Evan Seary '12 (GCCIS), '16 (SCB); Evan Padilla '11 (CAST); Dylan Williams '12 (KGCOE); Tim Hebert '13 (CAST); James Gimbi '12 (GCCIS) and Tim Kapusinski '12 (KGCOE). The couple met in a biology class at RIT in 2009 and currently live in Cary, N.C.

2013



Carolyn Huddleston '10 (NTID), '13 (COS) and Chi Hing Siu '11 (SCB) were married on July 15, 2017.



Elizabeth Sanford '13 (KGCOE) was recognized by People Making a Difference as an exemplar of informed and responsible community service for her enthusiasm, dedication, leadership and philanthropic support. She received her award at PMD's annual Spring into Volunteering benefit on May 4, 2017.



Shakiyla Jamison '13 (CIAS) has her non-toxic intaglio prints hanging in Lovin' Cup Cafe at Park Point in Rochester.

2014

Kyle Gahagan DeCarlo '14 (CHST) has been selected to be a TED Fellow and present at the TED talk at TEDGlobal 2017 in Tanzania in August 2017. DeCarlo is the American co-founder of the Deaf Health Initiative, an organization working to make health care deaf-friendly through advocacy, policy changes and the creation of new medical devices.



Parth Shah '14 (CAST), '16 (KGCOE) recently relocated from Boston to Bangalore, India. He started his newly appointed leadership position as director at Unique Instruments and

Manufacturers Private Limited in India. He is also currently pursuing a Ph.D. in systems engineering from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Joseph Rojano '14 (KGCOE) and Emi Sano '14 (CIAS) tied the knot on June 26, 2017. Together they celebrated with a small group of friends from RIT and beyond at a small elopement ceremony in Cincinnati.



Kristi Mitchell '14 (SCB) left RIT's **Executive Education** department to assume the role of assistant vice president of marketing for First American Education Finance, part of First American Equipment Finance.



George Glessner '14 (SOIS), '14 (CHST) recently achieved certification as a hospital emergency coordinator from Augusta University in Augusta, Ga. 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.

2015

Saulo Ferreira '15 (KGCOE) has completed one year as a strategist at the IFC-World Bank. He recently joined the advisory board at Iracambi, an organization that manages natural resources, educates for sustainability and researches ecosystems in the Brazilian rainforest.

Emily Hart '15 (SCB) traveled in May 2017 to rural communities in Nigeria to teach youth and adults about innovation and entrepreneurship, which she studied at RIT. She is coordinating with her employer, Seating Inc., to have a company drive to bring clothing, shoes and games to these communities in Nigeria.

2016



Rafael Turella Araujo Carneiro '16 (GIS), together with Ricardo Dias '16 (GIS), Bruno Scarpin '16 (CAST) and Tiago Justino '16 (GCCIS), founded CUBi in 2016, a Brazilian startup that delivers smart solutions on energy management for various industries.



Martin Pietras '17 (CIAS) and David Halbstein, a professor in RIT's 3D digital design program, traveled to Los Angeles to give a talk at SIGGRAPH 2017 about cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Marie Jubert '17 (CLA) has joined the marketing department at Barton & Loguidice as marketing communications specialist.



Hanumant Jairam Gorade '17 (CAST) completed an MS degree in manufacturing and mechanical systems integration, with a concentration in product development and supply

chain management, in May 2017 with a GPA of 4.0. He has been working as a project supply chain manager at Alstom USA, Hornell, N.Y., since June 2016.

Brendan Ryan '17 (KGCOE) has been promoted to an engineer I in the Asset Management Group of Barton & Loguidice. He is a resident of Rochester and member of Engineers for a Sustainable World.

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In Memoriam

Alumni

William G. Hager '35 (GAP), '47 (GAP), July 3, 2017

Marilyn Harmon '45 (SCB), 1953 Aug. 27, 2017 Marvin Trott '45 (KGCOE), July 18, 2017 May 25, 2017

1946

Janet (Collins) Kryk '46 (SCB), June 17, 2017

George C. Larrieu '47 (GAP), June 7, 2017

1948

Steven Hrncirek '48 (FAA), Aug. 13, 2017 Andrew Wolf '48 (COS), June 6, 2017

1949

Thomas E. Arcara '49 (GAP), Aug. 25, 2017 Gerard P. Hahn '49 (KGCOE), June 26, 2017 Ralph Griesenbeck '49 (GAP), June 14, 2017 Thaddeus Sambor '49 (GAP), June 9, 2017 Ruth U. Wisner '49 (SCB), May 25, 2017 Robert G. Puder '49 (COS), June 26, 2017 April 24, 2017

Richard C. Schlichter '50 (FAA), Aug. 6, 2017 Harry R. Stoneham '50 (CCE), July 24, 2017 Charles V. Hartlieb '50 (KGCOE), July 13, 2017 John R. Bucher '50 (KGCOE), July 12, 2017 Genevieve (Waters) Dunn '50 (SCB), June 29, 2017 William E. Burns '50 (GAP), June 27, 2017 Clarence O. Drake Jr. '50 (GAP), April 21, 2017

Edward A. Schwartz '51 (KGCOE), Aug. 12, 2017 Patricia Hutchinson '51 (SCB), July 15, 2017 George W. Wentis '51 (CCE), July 9, 2017 Willard C. Harris '51 (KGCOE), May 24, 2017 Joanne (Laird) Semple '51 (SCB), May 7, 2017

Judith (Wood) Staub '52 (FAA), Aug. 25, 2017 Frances (Frey) Metz '52 (SCB), July 8, 2017

Barbara (Bowden) Gibson '52 (FAA), June 21, 2017 Edith (Lunt) Small '52 (FAA), May 31, 2017 William A. Aman '52 (CCE), April 21, 2017

Joseph Evanchik '53 (GAP),

Angus J. MacDonald '55 (CCE), April 26, 2017

1956

Vincent A. Tassone '56 (GAP), June 4, 2017 Christa (Rhoads) Seabrooks '56 (FAA), May 19, 2017

James V. Veccia '58 (GAP), Aug. 13, 2017 William A. Stenglein '58 (KGCOE), July 26, 2017 Albin Bizilj '58 (CCE), May 26, 2017 John Robert Boyd '58 (SAC), April 28, 2017

1959

Earl E. Peters '59 (SCB), Aug. 25, 2017 Edward P. Loux '59 (KGCOE), June 27, 2017 Jesse G. Moss '59 (GAP),

1960

Donald E. White '60 (KGCOE), July 14, 2017 Abram J. Nevelizer '60 (CCE), June 15, 2017 Sheldon Schechter '60 (GAP), May 30, 2017 Thomas R. Coughlin '60 (CCE), May 21, 2017

Bertha B. Ryan '61 (SCB), May 14, 2017

1962

Michael J. Sacchitella '62 (CCE), June 9, 2017 John F. Erdle '62 (CCE), May 24, 2017

Dudley C. Bailey '63 (CCE), July 18, 2017 William M. Attridge '63 (CCE), June 15, 2017

1964

Richard E. Beach '64 (CCE), July 24, 2017 John Parr '64 (CCE), July 16, 2017 Thomas E. Allen '64 (CCE), June 21, 2017 William W. Sahmel '64 (KGCOE), May 24, 2017

Kathy (Lauer) Gerbic '64 (FAA), May 13, 2017

Anthony R. Carlisi '65 (COS), Aug. 7, 2017 John J. Andrews '65 (CCE), July 19, 2017 Robert A. Grassi '65 (CCE), July 10, 2017 Frank S. Vaccaro '65 (FAA), July 2, 2017 Anthony D. Digabriele '65 (CCE), May 13, 2017

1966

L. Carl Rumbalski '66 (FAA), Aug. 19, 2017 Norman D. Fritzberg '66 (GAP), Aug. 5, 2017 Samuel L. King '66 (CCE), July 11, 2017 Gordon C. Myer '66 (FAA), April 23, 2017 Douglas M. Michalske '66 (GAP), April 20, 2017

Anthony H. Palermo '67 (CCE), Aug. 27, 2017 Evelyn M. Burger '67 (FAA), July 22, 2017

1968

David N. Gray '68 (GAP), July 9, 2017 Thorvald T. Jensen '68 (CCE), May 13, 2017 David J. Mangefrida '68 (CCE), April 23, 2017

Leslie H. Stubbe '69 (CCE), May 24, 2017

1971

John J. Bauer '71 (CCE), Aug. 27, 2017 Terry P. Kessler '71 (KGCOE), '77 (SCB), Aug. 23, 2017 Charles E. Munson '71 (CCE), July 6, 2017 James F. Hayslip '71 (CCE), July 4, 2017 Paul A. Spickerman '71 (KGCOE), June 30, 2017 Brent S. Dann '71 (CCE), June 29, 2017

1972

Jack E. Demchock '72 (CCE), Aug. 5, 2017 Donald W. Fecteau '72 (SCB), June 3, 2017

1973

James N. Kuhn '73 (KGCOE), July 18, 2017

1974

Sam R. Giambrone '74 (CCE), Aug. 1, 2017 Janon P. Larosa '74 (FAA), June 14, 2017 Florie M. Session '74 (SCB), May 19, 2017

Edward D. Brady '74 (CLA), May 15, 2017 David M. Knauss '74 (SCB), April 24, 2017 Harold W. Bruns '74 (CCE), April 22, 2017

Leslie Ingram Miller '75 (FAA), July 2017 Wayne B. Warren '75 (CCE), July 26, 2017 Neal A. Pavone '75 (KGCOE), June 28, 2017 Terrance J. Lawler '75 (SCB), May 30, 2017

1976

Raymond B. Batz '76 (CCE), '79 (CCE), June 24, 2017

Louis Cilano '77 (CCE), July 13, 2017 Peter Eli Rodak '77 (GAP), '80 (CCE), '81 (CCE), July 6, 2017 Thomas Cornell '77 (CAST), May 26, 2017

Pamela A. Rouse '78 (SCB), '80 (SCB), June 3, 2017 Dale H. Schwan '78 (CCE), May 15, 2017

Thomas E. Cathy '79 (CCE), June 13, 2017 Jill (Lukingbeal) Becker '79 (NTID), May 17, 2017 Patricia (Simpson) Driscoll-White '79 (SCB), June 2017

1980

Paul R. Myrick '80 (COS), '83 (COS), Aug. 16, 2017 **Douglas Robert Spencer** '80 (CCE), '81 (CCE), '81 (CCE), July 31, 2017 William M. Simons Jr. '80 (CAST), July 23, 2017 William Bernard Arnold '80 (KGCOE), June 24, 2017

1981

Mary Jane Boatman '81 (CCE), Aug. 5, 2017 Clifford Marchetti '81 (GAP), March 2, 2017

1982 Helen Deloris

Zimmerman '82 (SCB), July 8, 2017 Thomas H. Muar '82 (CCE), June 19, 2017 James Anthony Grattan '82 (SCB), June 12, 2017 William Harvey Simmons '82 (SCB), April 28, 2017

1983

Gregory Walter Jahn '83 (CAST), Aug. 2, 2017 Nicholas Cristello '83 (CCE), July 20, 2017 Sandra A. Chrysler '83 (NTID), '10 (CAST), July 7, 2017 Robert A. Patterson '83 (CCE), June 2, 2017

1984

William H. Monell '84 (CCE), April 29, 2017

1985

Deborah Lee Spillane '85 (CCE), '02 (CCE), June 27, 2017 Claudia Anne Kronenberg '85 (GAP), May 16, 2017 Esther L. Pitzrick '85 (KGCOE), May 15, 2017

Ronald William Stephens '86 (CAST), July 20, 2017 Steven E. Young '86 (GAP), '88 (GAP), June 24, 2017 Wavne L. Rutkowski Ir.

'86 (CAST), May 1, 2017 Franklin R. Tate '86 (CAST), April 25, 2017

1988

William David Scott '88 (CCE), Aug. 22, 2017 Scott J. Norton '88 (CAST), July 10, 2017 Laurie M. Barrows Chiaramonte '88 (CCE), '90 (CCE), '94 (CCE), May 6, 2017

1989

Mark Anthony Malatestinic '89 (NTID), July 31, 2017 Scott William Bishopp '89 (CAST), July 30, 2017 Kendall R. Keyes '89 (CCE), July 8, 2017 Anita Green '89 (CLA), May 13, 2017 Robert B. Hicks Sr. '89 (CCE), '89 (CCE), '92 (CCE), April 22, 2017

1991

Kimberly Kay Busana '91 (NTID), '92 (NTID), May 16, 2017

1992

Theodore W. Stigler '92 (CAST), Aug. 2, 2017 Scott Charles Laque '92 (SCB), Aug. 1, 2017 Robert E. Neth Jr. '92 (KGCOE), April 20, 2017

1993

Dennis Mead Killion '93 (SCB), July 5, 2017

1995

Jeanne L. (Dubois) Stine '95 (NTID), June 1, 2017

Pamela S. Tuller '97 (CAST), June 27, 2017 Victoria G. Clark '97 (CAST), '99 (CAST), May 28, 2017 Heather M. Gerber '97 (NTID), May 1, 2017

1998

Eddie E. Glenn '98 (COS), June 18, 2017

Shawn A. Rankins '99 (CIAS), '02 (SCB), June 5, 2017 Uzara B. Carson '99 (CAST), April 21, 2017

Joseph H. Miller '01 (NTID), Aug. 4, 2017

Laura C. Peters-Laurey '04 (CIAS), May 26, 2017

2005

Heba D. Abokamil '05 (CIAS), May 21, 2017

2006

Steven W. Coleman '06 (CAST), May 9, 2017

2009

Eric D. Drummond '09 (CIAS), July 1, 2017

Kevin T. Whetstone '12 (NTID), '13 (GCCIS), '16 (GCCIS), May 27, 2017

Faculty and Staff

Melinda Beyerlein, senior staff assistant in the School of Communication, Sept. 9, 2017

William Bianchi, former budget director, Oct. 1, 2017

Peter Cardegna, professor of physics, Sept. 30, 2017

Robert A. Clark, former dean of College of Science and College of Continuing Education, June 8, 2017

Ada Frances Risley Duffus, Trustee Emeritus, July 27, 2017.

George Hedden, RIT's initial Director of Admission, Sept. 30, 2017.

Nick Jones, adjunct instructor in the Department of English, Sept. 12, 2017

Bernadette Lynch, director of RIT's I'm First program, Sept. 28, 2017





RIT President Mark Ellingson was welcomed to his new office on the Henrietta campus by Arthur Stern, RIT Board of Trustees chairman; Marcia Ellingson, Ellingson's wife; RIT Trustees; and others.

Photo provided by RIT Archive Collections

A launching pad for the next 50 years

IT President Mark Ellingson was greeted by staff with a huge sign reading "Welcome Home, Mark!" on his first day of work at RIT's brand new campus in Henrietta. His arrival and the official opening in the fall of 1968 were the culmination of nine years of intense planning, fundraising and construction.

Planning for the new campus was a painstaking process. Multiple groups played a part, from Ellingson, the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, to the architects, engineers and construction firms. Many details had to be coordinated, and reading through the records in RIT Archives elicits a sense of awe at the magnitude of the project. Details such as connecting the sewer system to the town of Henrietta, which would generate cost savings over building a separate system, all had to be debated and decided.

A team of five outstanding, internationally known architectural firms, some with extensive experience with higher education, was chosen to collaborate on the design. Landscape architect Dan Kiley worked on the overall plan of the campus. Everything about the design was planned, from the unifying

rectilinear design, the choice of brick and the carefully planned pedestrian walkways and courtyards. The proximity of the Genesee River and Red Creek, both prone to flooding, contributed to siting the campus on two eskers, putting the buildings on high ground, with the residential area on the east and the academic buildings to the west. Work on individual buildings was apportioned among the five firms. Most of the planning and design took place from 1962 to 1964; the first signs of construction did not even occur until the grading began in June of 1964.

The new campus forever changed RIT's character. No longer an urban campus, the university now had academic buildings for each college equipped with adequate laboratories and classrooms, a large student union, athletic fields, a gym, dormitories to hold 4,000 students and an equal number of parking spaces. The scale of the finished campus and buildings would feel immense after the tightly-packed environs of the city.

In September of 1968, students, faculty and staff started the school year in new quarters. A weekend of celebration marked the official opening with invited dignitaries from across the country, an academic convocation, official dedication ceremony, alumni banquet and trustee dinner. Thousands of Rochesterians also toured the new campus.

In his speech at the campus dedication, Ellingson declared "the future is absolutely tremendous" and called the campus "a launching pad for a new, exciting and challenging era." Capping off the year, 10 members of the RIT cross-country team ran a relay with a lighted torch from Washington, D.C., to RIT in 94 hours and arrived on campus to a jubilant crowd of cheering students, staff and faculty. The move to Henrietta would catalyze the many changes to come. A new chapter had begun.

Becky Simmons, RIT Archivist

50-year celebration

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

2017 Brick City Homecoming













- **D** Trevor Noah, host of *The*

- **F** Dawn Hudson, chief
- **G** RIT parent and United Circuit the Honorable Robert L. Wilkins talked about his book, *Long* 100-Year Mission to Create





2017-2018 RIT MEN'S HOCKEY GROUP TICKETS

RESERVED CHAIRBACK	TICKET PRICE
General Public	\$12
Staff/Faculty/Alumni	\$10
Student	\$5
Youth (12 & Under)	\$6

GENERAL ADMISSION & STANDING	TICKET PRICE
General Public	\$9
Staff/Faculty/Alumni	\$8
Student	\$5
Youth (12 & Under)	\$5

Group pricing is subject to availability. Schedule subject to change.

