

# Transforming **RIT**

The Campaign for **Greatness**

## PROFESSORSHIPS

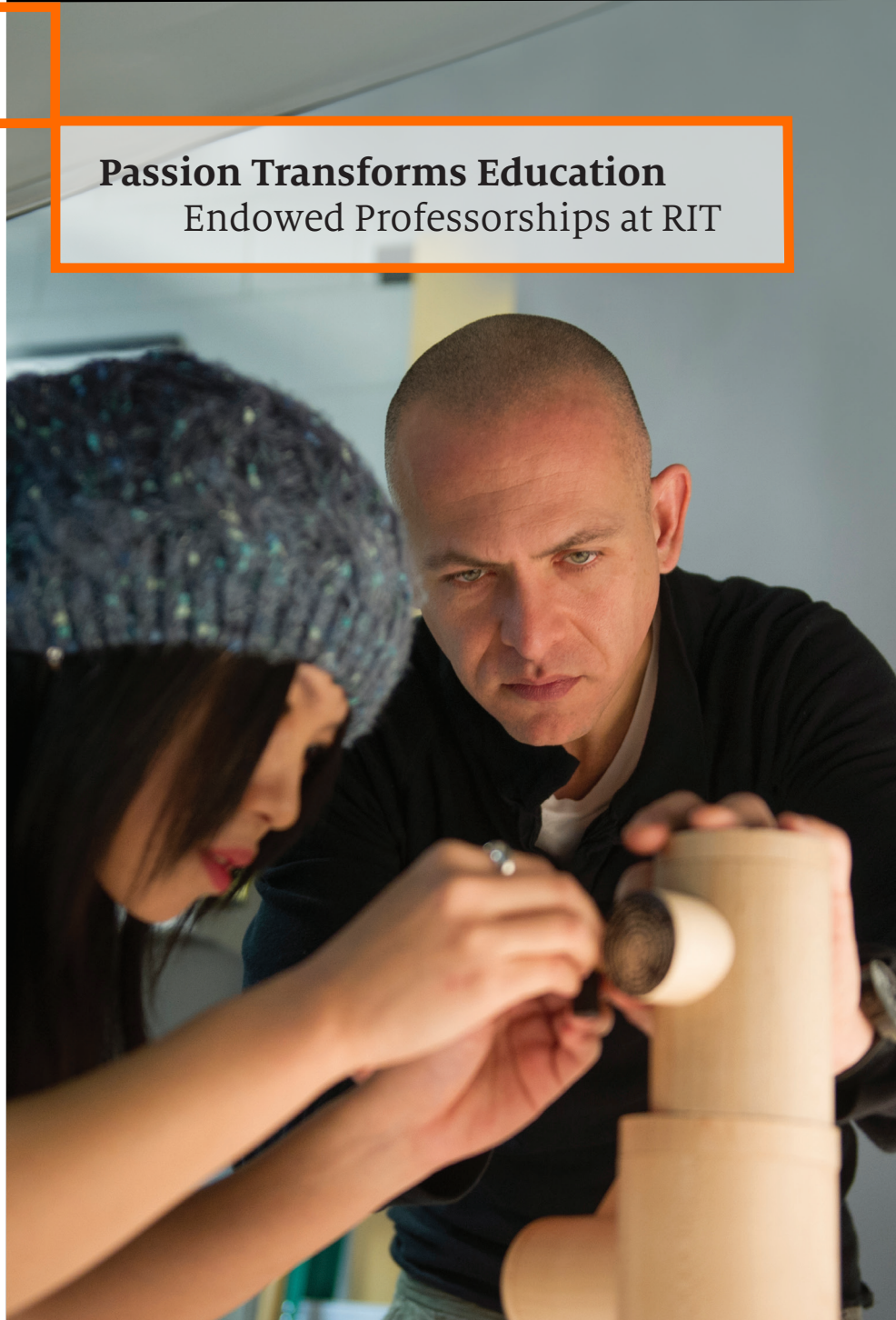
### Leadership Can Be Taught, But Passion is a Part of Your DNA.

RIT professors are a rare breed. Unwavering in their commitment to student success at all degree levels, they are focused on real-world impact and passionate about teaching students how they can make a difference in the world. Professors are more than classroom instructors. They are mentors who teach our students to:

- **Think critically**
- **Communicate persuasively, logically and effectively**
- **Solve problems collaboratively and creatively**
- **And make decisions ethically**

Great professors teach their students how to challenge assumptions and think across the boundaries of their disciplines. They ignite passion in their students by demonstrating that passion in their own research and scholarship. And, they launch careers and futures that will change industries, lives, and the world.

### Passion Transforms Education Endowed Professorships at RIT





## Benefits of Endowed Professorships

In addition to ensuring outstanding teaching, endowed posts can serve specific purposes, depending on the goals of individuals or organizations that establish them.

At RIT, endowed posts have been established to:

- > Advance a particular research area
- > Study teaching methods for a specific discipline
- > Seek ways to diversify a particular field
- > Create a new degree program or discipline at RIT
- > Work between two or more disciplines to develop multidisciplinary knowledge

**RIT professors do more than teach. They demonstrate what it means to pursue a calling.**

## The Mark of a Great University

Outstanding faculty members are a key element to educational quality. Their teaching skills, their published works, research accomplishments, and reputation in their disciplines help to establish the university's national stature.

In addition to driving RIT's reputation, great faculty members help to drive enrollment, especially for master's and Ph.D. candidates. As RIT pursues an aggressive advanced research plan and extends the graduate program portfolio, nationally-recognized faculty members are paramount to success.

The demand for outstanding faculty members is high in all disciplines. RIT's strengths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines, and our desire to further faculty diversity across the university, increases the competition for faculty and hence the need to develop an attractive recruiting program. Endowed faculty positions are at the core of that program.



The mentor relationship with my faculty members in the Saunders College of Business was far tighter than I would've imagined. Dr. Philip Tyler was a mentor during my MBA studies and remains a great professional contact and personal friend. In fact, his impact has spanned generations, as he also became a mentor to my daughter, Julie, when she attended RIT.

– Kevin Gavagan MBA '79



# Several RIT Endowed Posts are Pursuing Exciting Goals at RIT in Education and in Industry:

## Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking



The Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking was created by an RIT alumnus to honor his former professor, Gene Fram, who served RIT's Saunders College of Business from 1957–2008. The Fram Chair is unique in that it is not based in any one college. The Chair supports and increases applied critical thinking across the entire university and seeks to ensure it is a fundamental part of an RIT education.



*The ability to think critically gives us the power to consider fully and make well-rounded decisions for ourselves and for our world, and there is no more important work than that. Critical thinking is, and should be, part of the fabric of RIT. We must continue to lead by example through our teaching and scholarly efforts and by creating opportunities that encourage and support the growth of critical thinking in all we do.*

– Jennifer Schneider, Ph.D., Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking

## Caroline Werner Gannett Endowed Chair



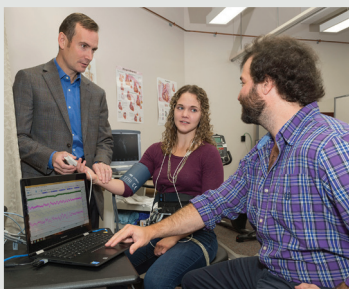
The Caroline Werner Gannett Endowed Chair is charged with challenging students to interpret modern media and communication in ways that include critical and creative analysis of digital culture and data curation. Design visualization, geospatial technology, electronic literature, and virtual or augmented reality are part of the student experience guided by the Chair. Professor Lisa Hermsen, the current Chair, specializes in the rhetoric of science, technology, and medicine. She is the principal investigator for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study “community” from many perspectives, including historical, geographical, literary, environmental, and socioeconomic.



*As students head into the world on internships and jobs, we want them to be prepared to interact with communities that have a very distinct sense of identity and place but are also dealing with myriad economic and cultural changes.*

– Lisa Hermsen, Ph.D., Caroline Werner Gannett Endowed Chair

## Bausch & Lomb Professor of Microsystems Engineering



With aspirations to be viewed as more than a vision care company, Bausch & Lomb created an endowed professorship in microsystem engineering to advance innovation in medical technology. Dr. David Borkholder '92 is the current professor and an expert in the biology of the inner ear and auditory dysfunction, with a strong focus on therapy-directed microsystems and sensors. He holds several patents related to cell-based biosensors and DNA analysis and is a charter member of the National Institutes of Health Bioengineering of Neuroscience, Vision, and Low Vision Technologies study section.

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## **Bausch & Lomb Professor of Microsystems Engineering**

Most recently, Dr. Borkholder was charged with leading RIT's signature research initiative in personalized healthcare technology, which seeks to develop mobile and wearable technology to directly monitor patients' health measures. Borkholder, an RIT alumnus, professor, mentor, and entrepreneur, is teaching his students the difference between just making gadgets or widgets and making things that improve people's lives.



Holding the Bausch & Lomb Endowed Professorship gives me the time and discretionary funds to explore new areas of research. This freedom is essential in aggressively expanding research in my laboratory and also enables RIT to offer highly valuable research experiences to a broader range of graduate and undergraduate students.

– David Borkholder, Ph.D.  
Bausch & Lomb Endowed Professor

**For more information on making a transformative gift of greatness, contact:**

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**Transforming RIT**  
The Campaign for **Greatness**

## **Your Support of Endowed Professorships Will Launch RIT into Greatness**

Supporting an endowed professorship requires vision for what great scholars/teachers can mean to RIT. The university has reached new heights in national recognition, and endowed professorships are an important part of a mature educational environment, as well as a critical part of our path forward.

### **Endowed Professorships**

Each of RIT's colleges seeks endowed posts in exciting fields of study. Endowed professors enhance the academic environment for students and their colleagues.

**\$2,000,000–\$5,000,000 each**

### **Endowed Visiting Professorships**

Visiting professorships bring nationally-recognized thought leaders to RIT for one- or two-year terms. Visiting professors infuse specific expertise into RIT's academic environment, expanding student and faculty members' knowledge in key, highly focused areas.

**\$1,500,000–\$2,500,000 each**

### **Endowed Research Professorships**

Research professors extend RIT's reputation in specific fields through leading-edge research and scholarship. RIT research professors are leading in fields, such as gravitational waves, astrophysics, sustainability, materials science, and education for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, just to name a few.

**\$1,000,000–\$2,000,000 each**

### **Endowed Directorships**

Part subject matter expert, part lead administrator, directors for RIT's centers or laboratories are pivotal to success. Directors generally come with strong academic backgrounds and ensure smooth business operations, guide research and outreach activities, and serve as the 'face' of their center or laboratory.

**\$2,500,000 each**