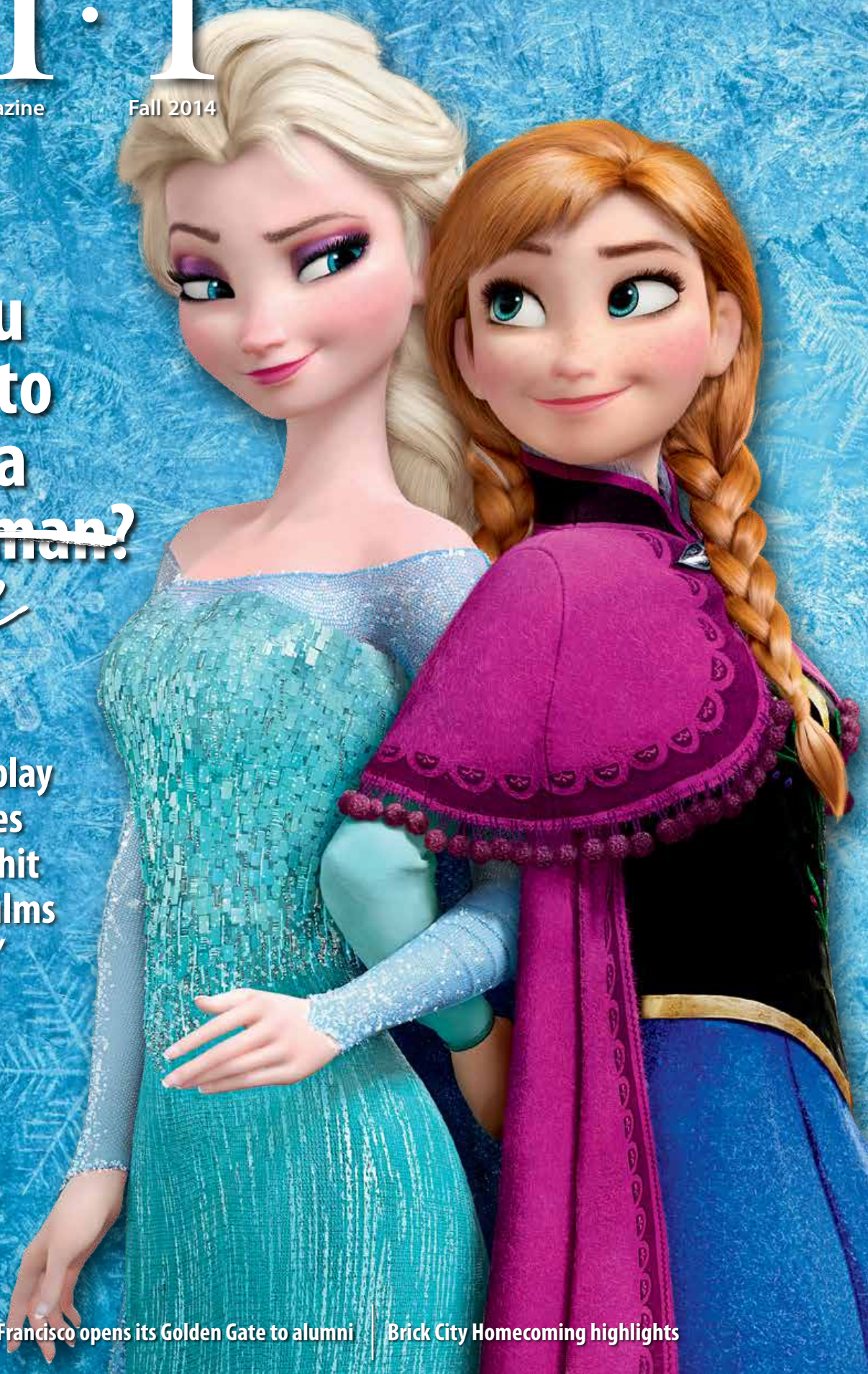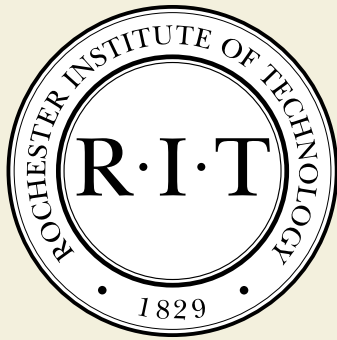# R·I·T

The University Magazine   Fall 2014

Do you want to build a ~~snowman?~~ movie

Graduates play leading roles in creating hit animated films like 'Frozen'

San Francisco opens its Golden Gate to alumni | Brick City Homecoming highlights

A top 100 global university by 2025

Joshua Locke landed a job as a microelectronics-processing engineer at Texas Instruments. Hadjara Moussa, of Niger, is the recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship and a social entrepreneurship award from the U.S. Department of State. David Principe is already a principal investigator for two NASA-funded grant projects in astrophysics. Chenae Laldee is Miss Black Deaf America and is pursuing a career empowering the black deaf community worldwide.

I am in awe every year during commencement ceremonies as our graduates venture into the world with confidence and poise. RIT conferred degrees on nearly 4,000 graduates in the Class of 2014, including the impressive group noted above.

I noticed two important milestones during ceremonies this year. RIT passed Cornell and is now the second largest producer of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) degrees among all private universities in the nation. (Brigham Young is No. 1.)

Also, a record 28 graduates earned their doctorates. A doctoral program in engineering will begin this fall, becoming RIT's seventh Ph.D. program and joining astrophysics, color science, computing and information sciences, microsystems engineering, imaging science and sustainability.

We are witnessing a turning point in RIT's history, and this brings me to the Strategic Plan 2025. Emerging themes are developing as we craft the plan. These include:

- RIT as a student-centric university. The student population and the careers for which we are preparing them are in constant flux. We must stay ahead of these changes.
- Diversity with a broader meaning. We must deploy our remarkable diversity, not only ethnic, racial and social, but also programmatic, intellectual and experiential as an engine of innovation and creativity.
- RIT as a national research university. RIT will soon be elevated from a "master's university" to a research university by the Carnegie Foundation as we increase the number of Ph.D. degrees we grant. This will eventually affect some of our rankings, such as *U.S. News and World Report*, and provide us with new opportunities.
- Expanded global reach, identity and alumni engagement.
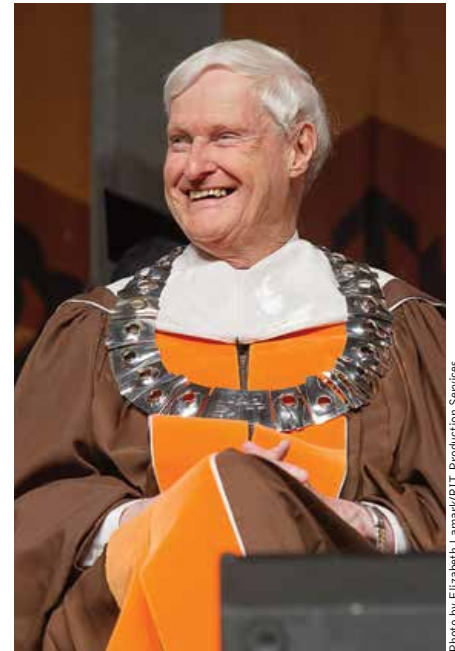
I would like to see RIT become recognized as one of the top 100 universities in the world within a decade. I don't believe we can achieve the goal of being one of the finest world universities by simply copying what others are doing. To the contrary, we must develop our own distinct identity and a reputation for excellence in important emerging fields.

For example, I believe we are witnessing a merger of two distinct disciplines in which RIT holds very strong hands. These are computer gaming and film and animation. These two fields, along with our traditional strength in imaging science, can position us to be global leaders in the huge emerging field of digital media.

I welcome your feedback. Email **strategicplanning@rit.edu** or go to **rit.edu/president/plan2025** for more information. We are taking input through Sept. 30 with the goal of having the plan approved by the Board of Trustees in November. Help us chart the direction of RIT for the next decade. Together, let's continue to be in awe of our university.

Cordially yours,

Bill Destler, President
www.rit.edu/president

R·I·T

The University Magazine   **Fall 2014**

Departments

Other Features

Cover

At least eight graduates worked on
Disney's *Frozen*, which is the highest
grossing animated film of all time.
(Photo courtesy of Disney Animation
Studios)

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Letters

Daughter of public speaking professor says thanks

Ralph Gray

I opened my RIT magazine (Spring 2014) to the Letters page and my breath caught in my throat as I read "Remembering Ralph Gray, professor of public speaking."

Tears came to my eyes as I read the wonderful memories that Howard Hansen '67 wrote about him and the kind words written last November (Winter 2013-14) by W.K. (Bill) Longcor '69. Why? Because Ralph Gray was my dad!

I actually had him as *my* professor for public speaking when I was a student at RIT from 1971 to 1975. I, too, have many fond memories of his teaching style and the memorable way he told stories, introduced material and that he was a perfectionist… to the frustration of many of us students.

He was that way at home, too. He built a harpsichord from scratch in the '60s that I have in my living room now. In the bench is a bag with every spare part he had left over and a hand-written notebook tracking every minute he spent building, what each piece cost and even a list of the mistakes he found in the directions! This chart rivals any Excel spreadsheet I've seen.

This quest for perfection was always focused on bringing out the very best in each person he touched, whether it was a student or a daughter or son. I learned so much from him and he directed my life in ways he never knew because we lost him too early in June 1976 at the age of 53. Because of his inspiration and guidance, I started a speaking and training company called Frankly Speaking Inc. in 1994 to carry on the art of public speaking that he loved. Recently in a talk I was giving I referred to a demonstration I remember him doing in class to illustrate the distance between stars and planets in a galaxy.

Those types of impressions don't happen by accident.

Thank you for sharing the insights of others into what a remarkable man my dad, Ralph Gray, truly was. Some may remember that my mother, Josephine Gray, was an associate professor of language and thought and conference techniques during that time period, too. Together they sought to send every college student they touched out into the world with a command of the English language, knowing that it would never fail them.

Elaine Gray Dumler '75 (criminal justice)

We welcome letters on subjects covered in the magazine and of broad interest to our readers. We edit for space, clarity and style. Email umag@rit.edu or write to *The University Magazine*, University News Services, Rochester Institute of Technology, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive—Brown Hall, Rochester, NY 14623.

RIT appointed Enid Cardinal senior sustainability advisor for the university in 2011. Cardinal is a LEED-accredited professional with a background in socially responsible investing and environmental policy. Cardinal previously served as director of the Office of Sustainability at Illinois State University. To watch her meRIT webinar, scan the QR code in the tree below with your smartphone or go to http://bit.ly/1mDLZ3a.

7 ways to reduce your carbon footprint

Sustainability is a high priority at RIT. As a university with more than 22,000 faculty, staff and students, we recognize that individual actions are as important as our institutional efforts. But as the buzz around sustainability and green products increases, it can be hard for individuals to know where to start. Here are seven simple steps that will get you well on your way without breaking the bank.

1. Get rid of vampires—They are fine on TV, but energy vampires (or phantom energy loads) drain your wallet. The average U.S. household wastes $100 per year in "standby" electricity consumed by devices that are off but plugged in. An easy solution is to plug your computer, peripherals and home electronics into power strips and shut them off when not in use.

2. Invest in clean energy—The cleanest energy is energy you don't use. A home energy audit will help you to identify energy-saving projects around your house and the payback associated with each one. Once you have exhausted your conservation opportunities, it may be time to start investing the money you are saving in renewable energy. In addition to federal tax incentives, financial support is available through many state and local governments for these types of projects. If you are willing to pay a small premium for electricity, you can also request green "e" certified energy through your local utility provider.

3. Don't be idle—According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, passenger vehicles account for 43 percent of all transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. So skip the treadmill or exercise bike (which use electricity) and get your workout by using more active modes of transportation like walking, biking or even public transit.

When you do drive, try carpooling; you can share expenses and reduce the wear and tear on your car. Lastly, avoid idling whenever possible—it gets zero miles per gallon. In fact, idling for one hour uses approximately one gallon of gas. In other words, a vehicle that idles for 10 minutes each day wastes more than a gallon of gas a week.

4. Try a low carbon diet—Your diet impacts more than just your waistline. For average Americans, red meat makes up 11 percent of the calories in their diet, but a whopping 25 percent of the carbon emissions. Ruminants like cattle and sheep release methane during their digestive processes, and their manure releases methane as it decomposes. As a result, red meat and other animal products are considerably more carbon intensive per calorie than grains or vegetables. Going meatless once a week will reduce your risk of preventable chronic health conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, as well as your carbon footprint. In fact, according to the Environmental Working Group's Meat Eaters Guide, if everyone in the U.S. avoided meat or cheese once a week, it would be the equivalent of taking 7.6 million cars off the road.

5. Reduce, reuse, recycle—Greenhouse gas emissions result from the production and disposal of materials, and oftentimes the easiest actions are overlooked. Simple things like opting for reusable bags, having your morning cup of coffee in a reusable mug rather than a disposable one, or carrying a reusable water bottle can add up. Recently, RIT switched to reusable to-go containers in Gracie's dining facility, and in so doing avoided having to purchase 94,000 single-use to-go containers that would end up in a landfill.

6. Be a conscious consumer—Many businesses, large and small, are actively working to reduce their carbon footprint. Support those companies by choosing their products for your purchasing needs over less conscious competitors. It will enable them to continue to advance their efforts and may encourage their competitors to follow suit.

7. Magnify your impact—I often hear the comment: "I'm just one person, how big of an impact can I really have?" My answer: a huge impact. Beyond your personal actions, think about the organizations you are involved with. Perhaps your workplace, church or child's school could use your help/advocacy in advancing their sustainability efforts. The ideas above apply to organizations, too.

On Campus

RIT starts Wegmans School of Health, Nutrition

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

RIT held a ceremony in April to kick off construction of a new Clinical Health Sciences Center, which will be home to the College of Health Sciences and Technology. The center will include a primary care clinic—to be run by Rochester General Hospital—and the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition. The 45,000-square-foot facility expansion is at the north end of Louise M. Slaughter Hall. The Clinical Health Sciences Center is scheduled to open in fall 2015.

RIT has launched a school of health and nutrition, which is charged with educating students on the role of nutrition, exercise and behavior modification in promoting healthy lifestyles.

The Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition, part of RIT's College of Health Sciences and Technology, was started with a $6 million gift from The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation.

"We are greatly appreciative for The Wegman Family Charitable Foundation's gift and their support for RIT's vision for this school," said RIT President Bill Destler. "Through its educational and research programs, the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition will have tremendous potential for changing the current health climate throughout the entire country."

The Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition will add new degree programs and will research and address critical health issues, such as high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol and the host of problems associated with obesity.

What will make the school unique, RIT leaders said, will be:

- A structure that is highly collaborative and interdisciplinary, bringing together the best of the university's technological, creative and humanities disciplines to develop effective programs.
- A focus that prioritizes the pursuit of new knowledge through highly applied research initiatives.
- A commitment to producing graduates who are well prepared to provide leadership in health and wellness.
- A connection to industry that will ensure the school is addressing the greatest priorities, whether program development, workforce development or new knowledge, to drive productivity and profitability.

The new school launched last spring with nearly 100 undergraduates already enrolled in a pre-existing minor in exercise management and a BS in nutrition management, the latter of which has 410 alumni. It joined the college's five other programs, which include biomedical sciences, diagnostic medical sonography, medical illustration, physician assistant, health systems administration, as well as the MFA program in medical illustration.

Contingent upon state approval, the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition will add a master's degree in health and wellness, a bachelor's in exercise science and a doctoral program in applied nutrition.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

Campus building certified one of greenest in U.S.

Sustainability Institute Hall, home of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS), has been certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council—the highest standard that can be achieved in the rating system.

With a score of 80 required to achieve Platinum level, the GIS building earned 89 out of a possible 110 points from the council, which named the RIT facility "exceptional" and rated it among the top 1 percent of all green buildings in the United States today.

"LEED Platinum is a significant accomplishment for our multistory research building, particularly given that it is such an energy-intensive facility combined with our challenging climate here in Western New York," said Nabil Nasr, associate provost and director of GIS. "We are especially proud that our building dedicated to sustainability has earned such a rare accomplishment, which required tremendous teamwork."

The GIS building was designed by FXFOWLE in collaboration with SWBR Architects. LeChase Construction Co. served as the design-build team leader, Stantec as civil engineering consultants and M/E Engineering for mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems design.

As a result of the building's energy-efficient systems and high-performance facades, 400kW fuel cell and the 40kW solar array, GIS is designed to be 56 percent more efficient than a standard building—exceeding the points in the LEED rating system's "optimize energy" credit. Designed with the capacity to optimize daylight and energy savings, the facility has extensive data sensors and feedback loops where RIT will monitor and inform building operations.

The building has only consumed about a third of the electricity it has generated over the past year. The rest of the electricity is fed into the campus grid for use in other campus facilities. In addition, more than half of the building's water needs have been met using recaptured rainwater stored in a 1,700-gallon tank in the building's basement.

Rich Kiley

RIT employs START-UP NY to bring jobs to Rochester

RIT applied its START-UP NY certification to entice one of its alumni to open a New York office of his highly successful Connecticut-based company.

Austin McChord

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced in June that Datto Inc., launched by Austin McChord '09 (bioinformatics), will open this summer on the fourth floor of RIT-owned 40 Franklin St. in downtown Rochester.

The company, a leading global vendor of award-winning hybrid cloud-based intelligent business continuity and backup, disaster and recovery solutions, has said it will create more than 70 new jobs in exchange for the incentives offered under the START-UP NY economic development program.

McChord is founder and CEO of Datto, which he started in 2007 while finishing his degree at RIT.

"I am very excited to be part of RIT's START-UP NY initiative and to open Datto's New York office in Rochester," McChord said. "As an RIT graduate, I know the community has the high-quality workforce needed to support our company's continued growth."

Datto, based in Norwalk, Conn., has experienced exponential growth and was listed on the Inc. 500 in 2012 and 2013. Last year, the company marked its fourth consecutive year of 300 percent annual growth, with revenues approaching $50 million annually.

RIT was the first private university admitted to the state's START-UP NY business development initiative. The state approved two RIT-owned properties—40 Franklin St. and the Venture Creations incubator in Henrietta—for the program.

START-UP NY seeks to accelerate entrepreneurialism and job creation across the state. Under the program, businesses that create net new jobs, such as Datto Inc., will operate tax free for 10 years—paying no state income, business, corporate, local, sales or property taxes or franchise fees. "START-UP NY takes New York's number one liability—our tax capital reputation—and turns it on its head by offering companies zero taxes for 10 years, as well as access to all the assets of the Empire State, particularly the talent and research capabilities of our world-class universities," Cuomo said.

Ellen Rosen

New minor created

RIT is launching the nation's first interdisciplinary minor in free and open source software (FOSS) and free culture this fall.

The School of Interactive Games and Media will offer the minor for students who want to develop a deep understanding of the processes, practices, technologies, and financial, legal and societal impacts of the FOSS and free culture movements.

The 15-credit-hour minor, open to undergraduates across the university, includes three core courses from the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts.

Interim dean named

Jacqueline Mozrall '87 (industrial engineering) was named interim dean of Saunders College of Business. Mozrall, who was a professor and senior associate dean of RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, started July 1.

She took the helm from dt ogilvie, who became RIT's Distinguished Professor of Urban Entrepreneurship and chair of the advisory board for RIT's Center for Urban Entrepreneurship.

Photo by Elizabeth Lamark / RIT Production Services

Student wins Emerging Talent award

Jen Lamere

The 2014 Net Awards, which celebrate the best in Web design and development, named a first-year software engineering student the Emerging Talent of the Year.

Jen Lamere was the only woman nominated in the 10-person category and the only nominee from the U.S.

The Net Awards are hosted by *net magazine*. The Emerging Talent of the Year award recognizes up-and-coming developers and designers under age 20 who have started to make their mark.

Lamere received the trophy at a ceremony May 9 in London. She traveled to London with Lana Verschage, the director of Women in Computing at RIT. After winning the award, Lamere was surprised in London by Andrew Sears, dean of RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

"We couldn't be more proud of Jen and everything she has accomplished," Sears said. "We cannot wait to see what she does next."

Before coming to RIT, Lamere invented Twivo, an app that allows Twitter users to block television spoilers from their Twitter feed.

"Jen really struck a chord with our judges because of how much she has achieved in the last year," said Oliver Lindberg, editor of *net magazine*. "Her Twivo app is very impressive, especially when you consider she only started coding a year ago."

Lamere also became Twitter's youngest intern ever, working on the Crashlytics team for about 10 weeks the summer before starting at RIT.

It was there that she discovered her love for client-side programming. She returned to Twitter this summer for a second internship.

Scott Bureau '11

BY THE NUMBERS	**32,000**	**2,700+**
ABOUT IMAGINE RIT FESTIVAL	Visitors who attended the one-day Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3.	Students, faculty and staff who showcased their innovative work at nearly 400 exhibits.

Celia Garland '14 (glass and glass sculpture) looks for her parents in the audience before Academic Convocation. Nearly 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees in May. Garland started a job in June at Corning Museum of Glass.

Corvette Showcase Challenge conquered

By his senior year, Dan Wang '14 (advertising photography) had photographed everything from puppies to motorcycle gangs. But he had never photographed a vehicle before.

The Houston native's first attempt at putting his commercial photography skills to work was at the Corvette Z06 Student Showcase Challenge held by Chevrolet to help introduce the new supercar in April. Wang won with 56 percent of the votes from the Facebook contest and was awarded $5,000.

The contest gave three New York-based college students the opportunity to shoot the 2015 Corvette before its public unveiling at the 2014 New York State Auto Show.

Both a professor at RIT and a representative from General Motors approached Wang asking him to be involved in the contest. He was given one day to create four images of the car. "Everything that I've been learning in the past four years at RIT culminated in what the challenge demanded," he said.

Wang credits the help of his crew in making the images such a success. Two are former Tigers, Tim Zwicky and Ryan Jenq '13 (advertising photography), who were working in New York City.

Following graduation, Wang took a position with Scheimpflüg as a gaffer/Web media director in New York City. Scheimpflüg is a lighting and camera rental house that serves the photography and motion picture industry.

Krista Bellardo '14

Photo by Brad May / General Motors Creative Digital Imaging

Graduate Dan Wang photographed this Corvette Z06 for a contest during his senior year.

10
Teams that participated in Dr. Destler's annual Power Wheels and E-Vehicle Autocross Challenge.

650
S'mores served by the popular Robotic S'more Maker exhibit.

6,538
Facebook users who "liked" the event.

Inside a hackathon

13 hours of programming
RIT Women in Computing hosted WIC Hacks on April 26. The hackathon was part of the 2014 International Women's Hackathon and drew 68 female students from RIT, area high schools and other universities.

Kick-off

The hackathon starts with interactive demo presentations from Intuit; Apple; Google; Constant Contact, an online marketing company based in Massachusetts; and the digital music services Spotify and The Echo Nest.

Getting to work

Shannon Trudeau, a third-year software engineering student, brainstorms ideas with her group, which formed after the women arrived. They decide to make a music quiz game they name Mixtery.

Arrival

Participants register for the event on the RIT campus. They will make a software project that gets women excited about STEM careers, prevents distracted driving among teens or on something else that interests them.

Assistance from mentors

The team hits a roadblock, so Trudeau, left, and group member Margaret Joslyn, a student at SUNY Empire State College in Buffalo, get help from Paul Lamere of Spotify.

Alumni participation

Laura Wieme '09, '13 (film and animation, computer science) attended the event on behalf of Apple, where she works as a senior software engineer.

Hackathons help students get jobs, make a difference

On a Friday evening after classes, the last thing that Vickie Angie '13 (new media design) wanted to think about was schoolwork.

"I needed a change of pace and I wanted to be creative," said Angie. "So I went with some friends to the weekend hackathon on campus."

Vickie Angie

Within hours she was teamed up with six other students, and after a few crazy ideas, a massive amount of junk food and little to no sleep, they had created a new product. During a five-minute presentation in front of the more than 70 people at the event, the team unveiled the prototype for Blink Band, a bracelet that allows close friends to stay in touch by flashing whenever friends post something new to their social networks. Angie and the team took home the top prize in the creative category at the American Greetings Hackathon in January 2013.

Much like a marathon, in which runners cover a lot of ground on pavement over a limited period of time, hackathons allow computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, project managers and interface designers, to cover a lot of ground on a software project with a certain theme. The "hack"

in hackathon refers to the problem solving and exploratory programming that occurs during these 12-, 24- or 48-hour coding competitions, not someone who breaks into a computer system.

But hackathons are more than coding. They have become a way for students to impress future employers, give back to the community and socialize.

"Hackathons provide our students with a number of unique opportunities that complement and build on our curriculum," said Andrew Sears, dean of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. "I'm always impressed by the energy and new ideas that our students bring to these big events."

New job fair

That wasn't always the case. Adjunct professor Remy DeCausemaker '08, '13 (applied arts and sciences, professional studies) remembers setting up his first hackathon at RIT in 2009. The pizza was ordered, cans of energy drinks were within arm's reach and he was ready to stay awake for 24 hours of open source government data aggregation.

"I think three computing students showed up, and they only stayed for five or six hours," said DeCausemaker, who is also a free and open source software research coordinator in

RIT's Center for Media, Arts, Games, Innovation and Creativity (MAGIC).

But DeCausemaker said the event was still fun and they learned about open source software development, which is software that anyone can modify and improve.

Today, hundreds of students from across the university partake in the two or three hackathons offered each semester. Since 2009, there have been more than 40 hackathons, including women-only hackathons, hackathons to build whole video games in a day, hackathons to solve problems for NASA and hackathons to win prizes from Apple and Microsoft.

Some hackathons take place only at RIT. Others are part of bigger events. Earlier this year, RIT was the regional site of Global Game Jam, which had 23,198 participants at 488 sites across 72 countries.

"Beginning in 1999 and really taking off in the mid 2000s, hackathons have become a big part of entrepreneurship, innovation and entertainment for industry and universities," said Stephen Jacobs, professor and associate director of RIT's MAGIC Center.

Facebook, for example, has become famous for its all-night coding workshops, where engineers are free to create new projects unrelated to their day-to-day activities. Some of Facebook's most popular features, including the "Like" button, Timeline and

The Mixtery team codes on five computers using GitHub, a collaborative website that allows them all to contribute to the project at the same time.

The groups present their projects. The Mixtery team wins the Best Use of The Echo Nest API award. Although Trudeau doesn't anticipate continuing Mixtery, she sees the potential to use what she learned at WIC Hacks as a baseline for future projects.

Chat, were conceived during hackathons.

"In just the last five years, the popularity of hackathons at RIT has exploded," Jacobs said.

One reason for the explosion is that hackathons are becoming a step in the interview process for employers.

The Cleveland-based company American Greetings held its first college hackathon at RIT last year, said Mark Prugh, manager of Web development at American Greetings Interactive. For the last seven years, the company has routinely hosted hack days for its own employees to inspire them and get new ideas for the company, he said. The RIT hackathon was organized as a thank you to the university for the numerous graduates and co-op students who work with the company and as a way to recruit new employees.

"American Greetings really values hackathons because it gives us an opportunity to see a student perform under pressure with a deadline," Prugh said. "We can learn more about a student's abilities in their five-minute presentation than in a typical five-hour interview."

Ryan Brown '13 (applied networking and systems administration) landed one of the three interviews with American Greetings after he participated in the company's hackathon.

Brown ended up taking a job as a software developer with Hudl, a Lincoln, Neb., company that makes high-tech tools for coaches and athletes to review game footage

to improve team play.

For Brown, the highlight of hackathons is demonstrating his group's final project in front of an interested and driven audience. At the American Greetings event, he and other programmers created Data Buffet, a real-time monitoring service for server analytics. Data Buffet won first place in the Web category.

Make a difference

Brandon Littell

Along with the excitement of a competition, hackathons allow participants to learn new skills and give back to the community. The iOS App Challenge, a weeklong hackathon hosted by Apple this winter, was a good excuse for Brandon Littell '15 (game design and development) to learn Objective-C, the primary language used by Apple.

Joined by two of his software engineering friends, Littell sought to get his feet wet in iOS development and have fun doing it.

"We created WeFree, a calendar app that helps you see when your friends are free and shows how much time you have until your next event," Littell said. "We actually came up with the idea because we were having such a hard time figuring out when to meet to work on *this* hackathon."

In 2010, more than 15 Computer Science House students worked on a hackathon for Haiti, in which they wrote a Python script to better organize a database of public school in-

formation after the catastrophic earthquake.

In 2012, RIT and Rochester community hackers helped to create a mobile version of New York's disaster preparedness website, after Superstorm Sandy took out many people's home computers.

"People in the technology field often think that liberal arts and social science students are the only ones who can directly help other people," Jacobs said. "Humanitarian hackathons are a great way for our students to build something and help solve real-world problems."

That continues to be the case for students even after they graduate.

Brown said last January, Hudl hosted a two-day hackathon event on the 14th floor of the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas.

"Not only was it decked out with free goodies, but we got to work with developers that had different expertise than our own and build anything we wanted that could benefit the company."

Angie, who now works with Nurun, a global design and technology consultancy in San Francisco, is excited to be attending the company's annual hackathon in September.

"It's three days where the whole office stops doing client work and gets to create something new," said Angie. "I think hackathons are important because they allow people's passions to come out and help us remember that we really love what we do."

Scott Bureau '11

Meet some of RIT's hackers

Mike Nolan started going to hackathons on campus his freshman year and has since been to almost 15.

"You'll be in one big room and you're all on your computers together, making jokes, playing pranks and laughing," said Nolan, a third-year new media interactive development student. "It's like any sort of party you'd go to."

Nolan didn't know much programming before starting college. In his second year at RIT, the Fairport, N.Y., native started using the FOSSBox in the Center for Media, Arts, Games, Innovation and Creativity (MAGIC) as a quiet place to do homework. After interacting with other students there, he decided to take a programming class with Remy DeCausemaker '08, '13 (applied arts and sciences, professional studies). "The more I got to know Remy, the more I started becoming involved in these hackathons," said Nolan.

At the 2013 Hack Upstate in Syracuse, N.Y., Nolan worked with DeCausemaker, Hacks/Hackers Rochester, WXXI and Inno-vation Trail to create Traffairious. The website is a visual way for users to see the proximity of local schools to high traffic roadways.

RHoKTheHood was a project that came out of the Random Hacks of Kindness hackathon held at RIT in December 2013. Nolan worked with student Mihir Singh to create a Web application that allows users to see the violent-crime rate on an interactive map.

Nolan spent the spring semester and summer months working as a software engineering co-op at Amazon in Seattle.

"It's hard to tell what got me this job," he said. "But when talking with the human resources person who pulled my résumé, she said it was due to the projects I put on there. A bunch of those projects were either started or worked on at hackathons."

Hackathons opened the door for **Jenn Kotler** '14 (medical illustration) to travel to events in Boston; Washington, D.C.; and California.

The Merrick, N.Y., native was introduced to hackathons because of her job illustrating and designing educational games with the Free and Open Source Software initiative at RIT's Center for Media, Arts, Games, Innovation and Creativity (MAGIC).

"Because of my work in a lot of the FOSS@MAGIC hackathons, a startup company asked me to come be their designer when they competed in a few hackathons out of town," said Kotler on her trips to LAUNCH Hackathon in San Francisco and Hacking Pediatrics in Boston.

When working with a startup or assisting technical teams at a hackathon, Kotler uses her artistic skills to focus on user interface design, logos or other visual project aspects.

One of the most successful projects Kotler has worked on is SkyTime, an educational game designed to teach young students how to tell time. It began as a class assignment with a team of students, who then used hackathons as a way to continue working on the game. "That's a nice thing about a hackathon," said Kotler. "You can cut off this one weekend and just get a ton of work done. It allowed us to really polish SkyTime and make it a lot better."

The success of SkyTime gave Kotler the opportunity to represent her team at the White House Champions of Change event in July 2013, which highlighted civic hackers and honored the best projects to emerge from the Hack for Change event at RIT that was part of the National Day of Civic Hacking.

Kotler hopes to continue to participate in hackathons throughout her life.

"I think I really gained a working knowledge about what it takes to make a product, specifically digital ones like apps and games," she said. "I definitely think it was hackathons that gave me that knowledge."
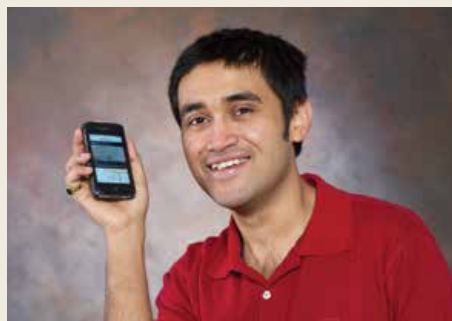
When **Debjit Saha** was in his junior year of college in Mumbai, India, he acquired a new hobby—mobile app and website development. Not wanting to switch his major from electronics, he decided to teach himself using online forums and tutorials.

Four years later, he put his skills to the test at the AT&T Rochester Civic App Challenge Kick-off Hackathon in February.

"I had never been to a hackathon back in India," said Saha, a computer science graduate student. "I thought it would be a good idea to go find out what type of projects people work on there."

Saha enlisted Ricky Laishram, a friend from home who is attending Syracuse University. They created RocReport, a mobile platform to report civic issues such as potholes, broken street lamps and snow pile-ups.

"I liked the amount of work you are able to get done in such a short amount of time," Saha said. "You also get to meet new people and interact with technologies you aren't aware of that can help you with your project."

Saha took RocReport to Hack Upstate in Syracuse, N.Y., in April, placed in the "Innovation and Creativity" category at the annual Emerging Talk startup event in Syracuse later that month and presented a final, working version of the app at the Rochester Civic App Challenge finals in May.

RocReport won third place in the new civic app challenge category at the Civic App Challenge, which along with AT&T was supported by Digital Rochester, High Tech Rochester and Hack Upstate.

Saha and Laishram split the $1,000 prize.

Stories by Krista Bellardo '14

Boston College Hockey Coach Jerry York coached both RIT Hockey Head Coach Wayne Wilson and Associate Head Coach Brian Hills in the 1980s.

RIT Head Coach Wayne Wilson and Associate Head Coach Brian Hills will face their former coach on Oct. 18.

Teacher vs. former pupils
Hockey coaches face mentor at homecoming game

On Oct. 18, a probable sellout crowd of 10,556 orange-clad fans will pack Blue Cross Arena for RIT's contest against perennial national powerhouse Boston College, the focal point of Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend. For RIT Head Coach Wayne Wilson and Associate Head Coach Brian Hills, there will be a different sort of homecoming, forged 35 years ago in a small town in northwest Ohio.

Boston College is coached by Jerry York, college hockey's all-time leader with 963 wins in 42 seasons split among Clarkson University, Bowling Green State University and Boston College. Both Wilson and Hills were a major part of York's success at Bowling Green, having played for him in the early 1980s.

The trio helped Bowling Green re-emerge as a national powerhouse, advancing to the 1982 NCAA Quarterfinals and Central Collegiate Hockey Association Championship game in 1983 before Hills, the university's second all-time leading scorer, graduated. In 1984, Wilson, a defenseman and captain, teamed with York to capture Bowling Green's one and only hockey NCAA Championship.

"Jerry is all about discipline, doing the right thing at all times like being on time, always being clean shaven and respecting one another," said Hills, who played for York at Bowling Green from 1979 to 1983 and is entering his 10th season at RIT. "On the ice, he let us play our style and taught us how to win."

Wilson would come back to Bowling Green in 1989 and serve as an assistant coach for York until the latter left for Boston College in 1994. Wilson and Hills are part of a long line of former York players who have become head coaches or team executives at the collegiate and pro level, including Dan Bylsma (formerly with the Pittsburgh Penguins), George McPhee (formerly with the Washington Capitals), Brian MacLellan (Washington Capitals), Dave Taylor (St. Louis Blues) and George Roll (Nazareth College).

"I had a great experience playing for him and later coaching with him at Bowling Green," said Wilson, who enters his 16th season behind the bench at RIT with a 282-165-49 record. "Most importantly, he made me a better person off the ice. He taught me a lot about discipline, following team rules, and so many little things like seniors eating with freshmen, and rooming with different teammates on every trip."

Both Wilson and Hills agree that some of their coaching styles and tendencies have come from what they learned from York.

"Jerry allows you to play your game and is the most positive person I've ever been around on the bench; he never gets down," Wilson said. "I've definitely learned a lot from him and emulated certain aspects into my own coaching style."

York is just as complimentary of his former pupils. "It's great to see how both Brian and Wayne came in as young pups at Bowling Green, matured into leaders for me on the ice, became great family men and have now become two of the most respected coaches in college hockey," York said. "They have both done really great things, building RIT into a

Wayne Wilson, left, and Brian Hills both played for Jerry York at Bowling Green State University. They were a major part of York's success in the early 1980s.

tremendous program."

Like last year's opponent, Michigan, Boston College is a perennial power in Division I hockey, having won five NCAA Championships and 24 trips to the Frozen Four.

Boston College has several National Hockey League draft picks on its roster and will more than likely be a pre-season top-five team when they arrive in Rochester. In addition, Rochester natives Brian and Stephen Gionta and Chris Collins all played for York with the Eagles. Both Giontas play in the NHL. "To be able to coach against him is an honor," Wilson said. "Jerry York embodies what college hockey is all about."

Once the puck drops, however, friendships will take a backseat for two hours. "I talked to (Michigan coach) Red Berenson not too long ago and he said that the crowd and the atmosphere downtown last year was electric," said York. "We are really looking forward to this game and a loud, sell-out crowd."

Joe Venniro

New home for hockey

The men's and women's hockey teams will move into the Gene Polisseni Center in time for the 2014-2015 season.

Here are some highlights of the arena:

- 4,000 seats and additional standing room for a total capacity of 4,300 fans. The majority of the seating is reserved and there is an expanded student section that is general admission seating.
- Exclusive seating, which includes club seating behind RIT's bench, six luxury suites—four are attached to the club lounge, an upscale full-service hospitality area—and a VIP "player experience" box located next to the RIT bench where eight fans can feel like they are sitting on the bench.
- Two full-service concession stands and multiple mobile kiosks throughout the venue with additional food options.
- A new RIT Athletics Hall of Fame highlighting the hall's inductees and RIT's athletic history.
- A Barnes and Noble store where fans can purchase Tiger gear.
- Two high-definition video boards.

Season tickets can be purchased at www.rithockey.com or by calling the Box Office at 585-475-4121.

If you go

The Game: RIT vs. Boston College

Place: Blue Cross Arena, downtown Rochester

Date: Saturday, Oct. 18

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Tickets: RIT will play its annual homecoming game at Blue Cross Arena for the eighth straight season. The game has sold out each of the last four years, with last year's contest against Michigan selling out 15 days before the game. This year's game is expected to sell out just as quickly. Alumni can purchase tickets at www.rit.edu/brickcity or by calling the Box Office at 585-475-4121.

BRICK CITY

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

VISIT RIT.EDU/BRICKCITY

RIT Presidents' Alumni Ball Honorees

Reserve your hotel room!

View the weekend schedule!

Buy your event tickets!

Share your stories & follow us!

RIT Brick City Homecoming   **#RITBrickCity**   **Sign up at rit.edu/brickcity**

Hotels book fast & many events sell out early! All seats in Blue Cross Arena are assigned; tickets for all other events are general admission.

October 16th-19th

Over 150 activities to choose from, including new events & favorite traditions like **50th Year Reunion Activities, Tours, Golden Circle Luncheon, Athletic Reunions, Greek Reunions, Pumpkin Chunkin, Skate with the Tigers** and more.

17TH | **Dinner & Dancing at the Presidents' Alumni Ball**
Honoring RIT Alumni A. John Bartholomew '60 and Patrick Talty '92, '02 & Lisa Talty '91, '97.

Horton Distinguished Speaker
Student Government presents the annual speaker series. Visit the website to see this year's speaker! | **18**TH

18TH | **Check out our new home!**
Open house and tours at the new Gene Polisseni Center.

Cheer on the Tigers!
Men's hockey takes on Boston College at Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester! | **18**TH

19TH | **Wrap up your weekend!**
Brick City 5K Fun Run and Walk followed by Family Brunch.
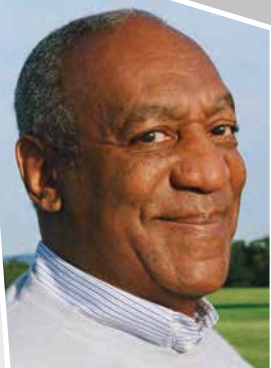
Comedian Bill Cosby
Thursday, October 16th
The Cosby Show star brings his stand-up act to campus to kick off the weekend! Presented by the College Activities Board.

Speaker Jerry Greenfield
Friday, October 17th
Saunders College of Business proudly presents the Gasser Lecture Series featuring the enterprising co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.

Tim Southerland '14 (mechanical engineering) launches a quadro-copter, a model drone, controlled by Peter Pietrantoni '14 (mechanical engineering). Agamemnon Crassidis, an associate professor in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, watches.

Designing a roadmap for U.S. airspace

Corporate and university partners become part of national plans to improve use of unmanned aircraft systems

Gale winds shear off roofs during hurricanes. Floods damage homes and properties. Improving the time it takes to assess damage after a natural disaster can be done with unmanned aircraft systems.

Although unmanned aircraft systems are associated with military and law enforcement applications, there's been a shift in thinking about using them for activities as varied as property assessments, crop surveying, rescue operations and wildlife monitoring, said Agamemnon Crassidis, associate professor of mechanical engineering in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Crassidis will bring that big-picture vision of the varied uses for unmanned aircraft systems to NUAIR, the Northeast Unmanned Aircraft System Airspace Integration Research Alliance. NUAIR is a group of more than 40 companies and universities in New York and Massachusetts selected in December 2013 as one of six Federal Aviation Administration test sites in the U.S.

The alliance will conduct research to improve current unmanned aircraft technology and recommend safe integration of unmanned aircraft in the national airspace system. Seventeen universities are involved with RIT and Massachusetts Institute of Technology as regional academic leaders.

"One of my key roles is to bring the universities together to see what kinds of research they are doing and how we can use that research," said Crassidis, who will also serve on NUAIR's board of directors. He specializes in aircraft control systems and has worked for aerospace companies such as Calspan, an affiliate of the Flight Research Facility in Buffalo, N.Y., specifically part of the team that designed flight simulation systems for jet fighter pilots.

RIT is well positioned for this work with expertise in sensor and aeronautic system development from the Kate Gleason College and in remote sensing and imaging from RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

"This is a significant opportunity to expand use of remote sensing and imaging and make that imaging accessible to a broader constituency. In some disaster situations, especially with states or counties with tight budgets, access to low-cost imaging is big for them," said Donald McKeown, distinguished researcher in the Center for Imaging Science.

The team has already received testing and development requests since the December announcement. One of those came from Pictometry and Steve Schultz '89 (computer science), chief technology officer for the company that focuses on geo-referenced aerial image capture and data analytics.

More than a year ago, Pictometry merged with Eagle View Technologies. The company had been using Pictometry's imaging systems to generate roof reports.

"It's very difficult to tell detailed information about roof conditions from traditional aerial views," said Schultz, an RIT Trustee. "We can fly high enough and get high-resolution images to provide the details, but it is cost prohibitive over a wide area. But doing this with an unmanned aircraft system, over individual homes, if needed, can get a more accurate reading. Underwriters can essentially manage their risk, and using (unmanned aerial vehicles) can help them do that."

Pictometry plans to contract with RIT for improvements to its obstacle avoidance technology, to create a comprehensive system that would fly over the perimeter of a designated area and capture the images necessary to create a roof model. Upon landing, the system would upload the raw data to the company's server to generate a roof report for the client, ideally while the client is still onsite. Schultz believes it is a viable goal and the system design and processing capability are being developed.

Using unmanned aircraft could provide multiple benefits not only for companies that can increase assessment activities and keep representatives off unstable roofs or other structures, but also for consumers who rely on insurance adjustments after crises. Improving the time to complete an assessment means better recovery from disasters.

Unmanned aircraft are more than remote-controlled model planes. Today, they consist of complex systems for collision avoidance, automated controls and navigation; they also integrate imaging systems to gather and process data. RIT researchers have already been developing aspects of these technologies and can contribute to improving unmanned aircraft systems.

Regulations currently do not permit unmanned aircraft above 400 feet without certification, and these allowances are given primarily to law enforcement or the military. The FAA has directed new test site teams like NUAIR to contribute recommendations about how corporate and commercial unmanned aircraft can be part of already crowded skies. The Northeast corridor where NUAIR will operate has some of the highest volumes of air traffic to control.

In addition to benefits of new technology and clearer regulations of industry processes, unmanned aircraft systems have the potential to impact the economy, opening up market opportunities, said Crassidis. The need for system components, low-cost sensors, platforms, autonomous control algorithms, sense-and-avoid systems and advanced imaging processing methods offers opportunities for both local companies and universities. According to the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, UAS may provide 100,000 new jobs in the U.S. and more than $82 billion in economic outcomes by 2025.

Michelle Cometa '00

At least eight graduates worked on Disney's *Frozen*, which is the highest grossing animated film of all time. (Photo courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)

Graduates play leading roles in creating hit animated films like 'Frozen'

A little bit of RIT lives inside the Oscar-winning movie *Frozen,* the highest grossing animated film of all time. It's in the characters, the costumes and the palaces.

There's also some RIT in the mob of townspeople in *The Simpsons Movie*, the city buildings in *Rio 2* and the lighting in *Epic*.

An RIT graduate helped make the hair on the characters in this summer's *How to Train Your Dragon 2*. Another came up with the mechanisms that allowed Pascal the chameleon in *Tangled* to stick out his tongue and curl his tail. A third alumnus planned the facial performance of characters in *Coraline*.

RIT graduates are making an impact in the thriving animated film world. They are setting up characters, making their hair

and clothes move in natural ways, creating backgrounds, supervising artists and lighting shots in many of today's most popular animated movies.

Dozens of graduates have worked or are currently working at Walt Disney Animation Studios in Burbank, Calif.; Blue Sky Studios in Greenwich, Conn.; LAIKA outside of Portland, Ore.; and DreamWorks Animation in Glendale, Calif.

"If it comes from Disney or Blue Sky, there's going to be a screen credit for several RIT alumni," said Malcolm Spaull, administrative chair of RIT's School of Film and Animation.

They can claim at least three Academy Awards. Along with the best animated feature film *Frozen,* graduates have worked on *Life of Pi*, which won an Academy Award for best

visual effects in 2013, and Disney's *Paperman*, which won best animated short film in 2013.

And more alumni work is in the pipeline, including LAIKA's *The Boxtrolls* (September), Disney's *Big Hero 6* (November) DreamWorks' *Home* (2015), Blue Sky's *Peanuts* (2015) and Disney's *Zootopia* (2016).

Making magic

Spaull said most of the students who enroll in RIT's School of Film and Animation have known since they were little that they wanted to make movies. The school each year receives almost 500 applications for 65 spots. After students complete their first year, they can then decide if they want to specialize in live action or animation.

Brittney Lee '06 remembers thinking about

Graduates worked on the 2012 Disney hit *Wreck-It Ralph*. David Suroviec '06 helped create antagonist King Candy and Sour Bill. (Photo courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)

Graduates are currently working on Disney's *Zootopia*, which is scheduled to come out in 2016. (Photo courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)

David Suroviec '06 and Brittney Lee '06 contributed to the movie *Frozen,* which won an Academy Award for best animated feature film.

Brittney Lee '06 designed the ice palace in *Frozen*. She first created the snowflake at the base of the palace. (Photo courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)

being an animator when she was growing up in Sharon, Pa. "I loved to draw and general performance arts," she said. "As I got older, I figured out that animation involved all of those things."

She moved to San Francisco after graduating and landed a job at a small gaming company animating and designing. But her goal was to work for a feature animation studio, so after 2½ years she started freelancing and worked on her portfolio. She was hired at Disney in the fall of 2009.

As a visual development artist, Lee helped design the 3D computer-animated world of *Frozen*. The film, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale *The Snow Queen*, is about a princess, Anna, who goes on a journey to find her sister, Elsa the Snow Queen, whose

powers have left the kingdom in perpetual winter. A mountain man and his pet reindeer, Sven, accompany her on the journey.

Lee helped bring the snow queen's magic to life and is behind the interior of the ice palace Elsa builds while singing "Let It Go." She designed the snowflake that emits from Elsa's foot and the columns, ceiling, balcony and chandelier of the palace.

"We were trying to keep it all consistent, so since I worked on her snowflake, they asked me to do the interior of the palace so it would all feel like it made sense."

Lee first made the snowflake out of paper before drawing it digitally. The palace was a challenge, she said, because writers were still working on the story as they were designing. They didn't know, for example, how long Elsa

would be there and how the palace would be used. Lee also worked on both the characters and their costumes. The art director wanted *Frozen* to feel like a grand musical, and elaborate costumes were a key ingredient to making that happen, she said.

Frozen was the first film Lee worked on from concept through production. She had smaller roles on the 2012 film *Wreck-It Ralph* and in the shorts *Paperman* and *Get a Horse!*

Frozen was also the first film Jim Hasman '01, a production supervisor, worked on from the very beginning to the very end, including helping with advertising and marketing.

Hasman started working with the visual development team overseeing the creation

Jim Hasman '01 has a long list of movie credits, including the Disney classics *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Princess and the Frog*. (Photos courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)
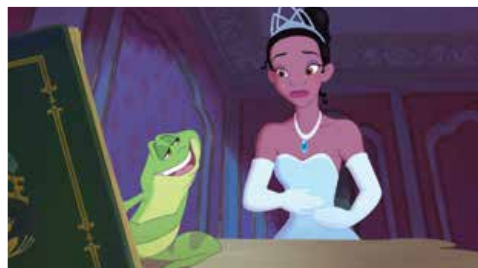
of environments and characters. After artists drew the characters and environments, they were sent to modeling to be made into 3D sculptures on a computer. Hasman ran the environmental modeling department.

Hasman also knew as a child growing up in Webster, N.Y., that he wanted to work in this field. "I used to draw all the time and my mom used to say, 'Someday you are going to work for Disney,' " he remembers.

He took a gamble after graduating and moved with his wife and 3-year-old son to California to pursue that goal.

After three months, he found a job as a writer for a production company that had a contract with the Fine Living Network. His first step into animation was a job with Film Roman working on *The Simpsons Movie*. One

of his tasks was to go through past seasons of *The Simpsons* television series and pull out cameo characters for background scenes.

Hasman eventually became a production coordinator on the film, overseeing a team that was in charge of painting all the backgrounds and another team that worked with color models.

After working on the movie, Hasman was hired to work on The Simpsons Ride for Universal Studios in Florida and California. From there, he landed his dream job at Disney, working on *The Princess and the Frog*, *The Ballad of Nessie* short, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice* Christmas TV special and then *Frozen*.

"I grew up loving Disney movies and to be a part of these movies, they are timeless," he said. "When I go back to Rochester and people come up and say, 'I didn't know you worked on that,' it is an amazing thing. You sometimes forget that people all over the world are watching these films."

East and west

While Hasman was working his way into the industry on the West Coast, several RIT graduates were breaking into animation on the East Coast.

Christos Tzeremes '09 didn't immediately find a job in his field after he graduated, so he started working in fashion in New York City. He worked for corporate Gap, lighting showrooms where Gap representatives from around the world could select clothing to stock their stores. He used his background in 3D lighting on the job.

Tzeremes became interested in lighting while on an internship in New York City for the production and entertainment company

Curious Pictures. He was told he could help with lighting or materials.

"I just told him lighting because that's what came to my head that I wanted to do between those two things," he said. "They sat me down in front of a computer and said OK, light this shot. I did and they really liked it."

In February 2010, he got a job at Doodle Pictures Studios in Connecticut working on Lego animations for commercials and websites for four months. He then went to Nickelodeon where he worked on the Nick Jr. show *Team Umizoomi*.

He managed to get a temporary job working on the film *Rio* as a lighting assistant. Blue Sky asked him to come back as a lighting temp for *Ice Age 4: Continental Drift* and he was hired full time in May 2012. As a full-time employee, he has worked on *Epic* and *Rio 2*. In *Epic*, a 2013 film about a teenager who enters another world and fights for good, he had the record for the most lit shots—94, he said.

Lighting comes near the end of the animation process. Tzeremes positions lights that affect how characters and the background look. He makes a shot look rainy or sunny, for example.

Before Tzeremes adds lights, Isaac Holze '10 works on background scenes. Holze started at Blue Sky shortly after graduation. He had worked at Blue Sky on *Horton Hears a Who!* on a temporary basis while he was a student. He was assigned to *Rio* when he returned full time, making the background look like a real environment.

After that was *Ice Age 4* and *Epic*. "For me, *Ice Age 4* was a nice chance to be part of what our studio is most famous for currently."

Isaac Holze '10, left, and Christos Tzeremes '09 are working on *Peanuts* at Blue Sky Studios. The movie is scheduled to come out in November 2015.

Epic was one of his favorite films to work on because it was a challenge creating at least a half dozen different worlds, one of which was in a deep-forest setting. For that movie, based on the book *The Leaf Men* by William Joyce, Holze and other members of his department went out in the woods to give them reference for the forest background.

Holze continued to do backgrounds for *Rio 2*, helping to build the city Brasilia and working on two of the song sequences.

Holze and Tzeremes are currently working on *Peanuts.* In that world, Holze said, they have learned less is more and they are working hard to stay true to Charles Schulz's designs.

"It has been fun to look at those comic strips and learn design elements and composition elements from him," he said.

Ferris Webby '07 is also working on *Peanuts* at Blue Sky, where he started last September. Webby worked at DreamWorks Animation for four years as a rigger, which is the person who adds a skeleton to characters. He tells the computer how and where a character's body should bend and move as well as its facial expressions.

He worked on the 2011 film *Puss in Boots* and on *Turbo*. He did some of the hair work in *How to Train Your Dragon 2* and worked on Captain Smek in *Home,* coming out in March.

Webby left DreamWorks so he could get back to the East Coast to be closer to family. "I know RIT graduates are showing up more and more at studios, and I'm hoping it will continue that way," he said.

One frame at a time

Along with computer-generated animation, graduates such as Adam Fisher '10 are leaving their mark in the stop-motion world.

Fisher's first job was with LAIKA working on the 2009 Academy Award-nominated film *Coraline* as an animation production assistant. He was offered the job working on the facial performance of the characters while he was still a student, so he put his education on hold and took a leave of absence.

Adam Fisher

"*Coraline* was amazing," he said. "There was so much excitement at the studio because it was their first feature film. There was incredible talent from all the great stop-motion films."

When that film ended, Fisher finished his thesis and worked for a commercial studio in the area. He went back to LAIKA to work on *ParaNorman* (also nominated for an Oscar) for 20 months, where he and two others animated all the faces for the film. He also worked on soon-to-be-released *The Boxtrolls,*

Scott Vosbury '04 worked on *Life of Pi*, which won an Oscar for best visual effects in 2013.

Unpredictable, rewarding profession

Scott Vosbury '04 turned a quiet street in Boston into a giant disaster scene, with cars falling out of the sky and an eight-story parking garage collapsing in *R.I.P.D.*

In *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*, he was one of the artists who helped make the octopus come alive and cover Ben Stiller in goop. And in *X-Men: First Class*, he was responsible for digitally transforming Jennifer Lawrence into Mystique.

Vosbury did this as a digital compositor at Rhythm & Hues and was one of several RIT graduates who worked there before the company filed for bankruptcy last year. While at Rhythm & Hues, he, Jen Stratton '05 and Rich Enders '02 worked on *Life of Pi*, which won an Academy Award for best visual effects in 2013.

Jen Stratton

The film and animation world is unpredictable, but RIT graduates are drawn to the profession because they are passionate about sharing their work with people around the world.

Stratton started at Rhythm & Hues in 2006 as a texture painter. Texture painters get gray computer models of the characters, props and environments from the modelers and add color and texture to them. Stratton was a texture painter on *Evan Almighty*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* and *Yogi Bear*. In *Life of Pi*, she was a texture lead and was involved with developing the look of the meerkats.

Now, she works at Disney Animation Studios as a look development artist and is working on *Zootopia*.

"I just enjoy creating things and seeing them come to life," she said.

Former Rhythm & Hues employee Chris O'Connell '00 also works at Disney as an environment modeler, which means he creates the environments the artists design.

Chris O'Connell

O'Connell has moved around in the industry, working at a game company in Los Angeles, the film company ImageMovers Digital in San Francisco working on *A Christmas Carol* and *Mars Needs Moms*, MPC Moving Picture Co. in Vancouver and Sony Imageworks.

He has been at Disney for about two years and worked on the main castle and trading post in *Frozen*, among other environments. "I feel lucky to be a part of it, to be able to work on it," he said.

He also worked on the environments in the soon-to-be-released action-comedy adventure *Big Hero 6*.

As for Vosbury, he is now freelancing. He hopes to take his visual effects experience, which also includes work on *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, Transformers* and *Hot Tub Time Machine* (to name a few), and one day be a visual effects supervisor.

"I love working on movies," he said. "It's rewarding to have your friends, family and peers be able to easily experience what you have poured your life into the last six months to a year."

Mindy Mozer

Graduates at Blue Sky Studios are working on the 2015 film *Peanuts*. (Photo courtesy of Blue Sky Studios)

Graduates at Blue Sky Studios have also worked on *Rio*, *Rio 2* and *Epic*. (Photo courtesy of Blue Sky Studios)

Several alumni helped make the 2009 film *Coraline*. (Photo courtesy of LAIKA)

Adam Fisher '10 animated the faces in *ParaNorman*. (Photo courtesy of LAIKA)

Graduates at Disney worked on *Big Hero 6*, coming out this November. (Photo courtesy of Disney Animation Studios)

a film about an orphaned boy raised by underground cave-dwelling trash collectors who tries to save his friends from an evil exterminator. Most recently, Fisher has been working in Los Angeles as a stop-motion animator on an Amazon Prime show called "Tumble Leaf" for preschoolers.

Fisher physically poses 8-inch puppets on a miniature set and then takes a picture with a camera plugged into a computer. Twenty-four frames later, he has created one second of animation. He films 8 to 10 seconds a day, which is a lot in the stop-motion world.

"It's a lot like if you see a 6-year-old playing with Legos and G.I. Joes—they are making them move around and acting out scenes," he said. "We get to do that all day."

Greg Smith '06 also worked at LAIKA on *Coraline* in the research and development group on toolsets and processes. In 2009, he began working at Disney. His first film was *Tangled*, where he rigged Rapunzel's best friend, Pascal the chameleon. He also worked on clothing and hair—not a small task in the Rapunzel story.

Smith, who was involved with both Student Government and *Reporter* magazine while at RIT, became a rigging supervisor on *Wreck-It Ralph* overseeing the setup of all the characters in the movie and supervising about a dozen people. He also was a rigging supervisor on *Frozen*.

Because the animation world is small, graduates keep in touch and help each other find positions. Many even work together on films. Hasman said he and Lee worked together for eight months on *Frozen* before they realized they were both RIT graduates.

On *Wreck-It Ralph*, Smith supervised David Suroviec '06, who rigged the characters King Candy and Sour Bill. Suroviec came to Disney in 2011 after rigging Tomb Raider characters for a video game company. (Suroviec and Lee moved to California together and were married in 2012.)

Suroviec also worked on *Paperman* and rigged Sven the reindeer in *Frozen*. He is now doing Smith's job as a rigging supervisor on *Zootopia,* and Smith has moved up to an associate technical supervisor on the film.

The first time Suroviec and the other artists saw the completed version of *Frozen*, he said, they knew it was something special. But they had to wait a few weeks before the rest of the world would know, which was tough.

"That's my favorite part, when the movie is done and we can see the reaction of people who are enjoying it," Suroviec said. "It's validation of all that hard work. Having the success *Frozen* did is incredibly validating. All that hard work was worth it."

Mindy Mozer

Faculty serve as supporting cast to flourishing film alumni

One professor received a technical Oscar for his work as an imaging scientist on a revolutionary motion picture film.

Another faculty member is a stop-motion animator who has contributed animation to several feature films, including *Coraline* and *Chicken Run*.

A third is a prolific filmmaker who has been honored at the Cannes International Film Festival.

Add to that an editor of films seen on HBO, a Hollywood writer and producer and a director of more than 400 television commercials for big-name companies, and you begin to get a picture of the faculty comprising RIT's School of Film and Animation (SOFA).

Despite their varying experience, the 17 full-time professors and several adjuncts share a common purpose: to educate and inspire budding film enthusiasts before sending them off as creative professionals in the motion picture industry.

"We try to nurture filmmakers—not necessarily specialists—so that our students have the ability to continue to grow in their careers," said Tom Gasek, a self-described "animation gypsy" and stop-motion director and animator. He has helped in the creation of a number of claymation favorites along with TV commercials of yesteryear featuring the anthropomorphized California Raisins and *Wallace and Gromit*.

"Many of the large studios want specialists because they have lots of people and they want everybody to be very good at one thing," he added. "As a faculty with many different insights and experiences in this industry, we understand that strictly specializing in one thing can be a dead-end road for a creative life."

Gasek won a Student Academy Award near the start of his career with partner Malcolm Spaull for their animated version of Lewis

Associate professor David Long was part of a group of chemical engineers and imaging scientists from Kodak who in 2008 received the Scientific-Technical Academy Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Carroll's *The Walrus and the Carpenter*—back when both attended RIT. Spaull now serves as administrative chair of SOFA, which he joined in 1980.

"This is not your typical film school or faculty," said Spaull, himself a filmmaker and documentarian who earned his MFA in cinematography from RIT in 1979. "We want our professors to be active practitioners—whether it be in live action, animation, sound, imaging science. If you're going to teach it, we want you to know it from experience."

David Long, an associate professor, was part of a group of chemical engineers and imaging scientists who developed the Vision2 color negative films that in 2008 received the Scientific-Technical Academy Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—better known as the Oscars. Actress Jessica Alba presented the statuette to Long and his fellow team members.

"This is a unique place," said Long, who serves as chair of SOFA's BS program in motion picture science—the only film school in the country to offer one. "Before I came to RIT, I was an imaging scientist at Kodak. We have a distinctive make-up in SOFA and a focus on filmmaking and technology here that enables us to produce not only filmmakers but contribute to the technical trades and the research of new technologies that are going to be used by industry."

Brian Larson is an animator and designer whose credits include the TV series *South Park* and commercials with the Keebler Elves, Tony the Tiger of Frosted Flakes fame and Toucan Sam, the cartoon mascot for Froot

Loops breakfast cereal. The RIT professor has made the transition to independent animated films—many of which promote social change.

He is currently working on a compilation film project that will feature not only his work but also that of 24 other animators from eight countries—including RIT colleagues Gasek and Carl "Skip" Battaglia, an award-winning experimental filmmaker and animator for more than three decades. At the Cannes Film Festival years ago, Battaglia's *Academy Leader Variations* won best short film and the "Prix du Jury" (the Jury Prize)—considered the third most prestigious award at the French Riviera festival.

"All of us are creating pieces using the theme, 'How I start to fly,'" Larson said. "It will be interesting to see how designers from different cultures come together to share their stories."

Not unlike how SOFA faculty members from a wide variety of backgrounds bring together their passion for the film industry—and now teaching.

One such faculty member, Cathleen "Cat" Ashworth, is a noted documentarian who has been producing video artworks, documentaries and educational programming for more than 25 years. Widely known for seeking innovative ways to communicate visually, Ashworth's early works combined video, performance and installation art—often from a personal point-of-view.

"Cat once did a documentary on beekeeping—and now she has become a beekeeper herself," Spaull said.

Rich Kiley

A camera and a bit of the set can be seen in this shot of a buffalo that professor Tom Gasek animated for Aardman Animation's *Creature Comforts USA*.

Gregory Koberger '10 (information technology) was a Web developer at Mozilla from 2010 to 2012. He and friends launched Phileas & Fogg in 2013.

San Francisco

opens its Golden Gate to RIT grads

About 2,000 alumni call the Bay Area home, and that number is steadily growing. No surprise: The region is a worldwide epicenter for innovation and technology. RIT grads fit right in.

Christopher Haupt '88, '95 (computer science), right, and his longtime friend Darin Krauss '88 (medical informatics) started Mobirobo in 2007.

They hold key positions at leading companies including Apple, Google, Facebook, Adobe, Levi Strauss, Cisco Systems, Intel and Flickr. In addition, many alumni have taken the entrepreneurial path and are involved in successful startups.

"It turns out there are a lot of alumni in the Bay Area," said Christopher Haupt '88, '95 (computer science), who moved to California in 1994. The founder and CEO of Mobirobo, a Web, mobile and game development startup, Haupt worked for Adobe Systems for more than a decade, ultimately as director of engineering.

"The cool thing about the Bay Area is there's a tremendous amount of energy. It's great. There's so much cross-pollination.

"It's the culture," he said. "It draws a certain personality type—people who say 'I want to make my mark, I want to do something special.'"

RIT graduates have been heading west for many years—to California in general and the Bay Area in particular—but recently the numbers have increased from a trickle to a steady stream, said Manny Contomanolis, associate vice president and director of RIT's Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services. "The relationships with employers take time to develop. I would say, in the past five years we have firmly established ourselves.

"Co-ops are the key," he added. "The companies can test out individual students, but

Ed Wolf '09 (computer engineering) has been a technology partner at Facebook since August 2013.

they also test out RIT. The co-op students are our most effective ambassadors."

In the past five years, 248 California companies, predominantly in the Bay Area, hired 708 co-ops who completed 1,173 co-op work assignments.

"The companies will go where the talent is," Contomanolis said. "It's a testimony to the quality of our people. Once the first co-ops and grads prove themselves, the companies come back to the well. And that's happening."

Land of opportunity

One recent arrival is Ed Wolf '09 (computer engineering), who moved to the Bay Area in August 2013 for a position as technology partner at Facebook.

"I work in the intersection of engineering and business," Wolf said. "I work with people across the entire company to understand their needs and then build and implement the technologies that make their jobs more seamless."

Since graduating from RIT, Wolf has worked as a software engineer for Fidelity Investments and as an IT business analyst/product manager for Time Inc. in New York City. He also was product manager at a New York City startup, Long Tail Video.

Wolf loves his job and the Bay Area. "Out here, it's a lot of hard work, it's competitive, challenging, a lot of very smart people focused on making technology better. It's a lot like RIT."

Gregory Koberger '10 (information technology) also moved to the Bay Area for a job with a high-profile technology company. He was a Web developer at Mozilla from 2010 to 2012.

"I liked working at a full-time job, but . . . I was young, single. I decided if I was ever going to do something entrepreneurial, this was the time to do it."

Koberger and a few friends launched Phileas & Fogg (phileasandfogg.com) in 2013. The format is a "traveling company" allowing workers to take on a variety of projects while experiencing different countries and cultures—what Koberger calls "quirky adventure."

In fall 2013, Koberger and three friends spent three months in Costa Rica, each working on various projects primarily for companies they had previously worked with in the Silicon Valley.

"I know the risks in any startup," he said. "Statistically speaking, it would probably fail. But I didn't want to look back later and feel like I didn't take the chance to do something that mattered."

Plus, he said, it is not difficult for someone with strong technology skills to find work in the Bay Area.

"I like that it's a culture where you can leave a company, stay friends with the people, start something on your own, go back. It's the kind of culture where you're encouraged to try new things."

Kevin Surace '85
(electrical engineering technology)

Current position: CEO of Appvance (www.appvance.com), a provider of Web app validation software and services. Appvance's technology identifies scalability and security issues in business and consumer apps for large organizations including PepsiCo, Best Buy and McKesson.

Career path: Surace served as chairman, CEO and president of Serious Energy (formerly Serious Materials) from 2002 to 2012. The company received widespread acclaim for developing and manufacturing innovative, energy-efficient building materials and software.

"We built a team of 420 people while delivering high-tech materials, products, software and services to 70,000 projects including the Empire State Building and New York Stock Exchange and thousands of homes."

Surace, who has been awarded 23 U.S. patents, was named *Inc.* magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year for 2009. The following year, CNBC named him one of 15 Leading Innovators for the Next Decade, and the World Economic Forum named him a Tech Pioneer.

Before joining Serious Materials, Surace held executive and technical positions with Perfect Commerce, General Magic, Air Communications, National Semiconductor and Seiko-Epson.

Remembering RIT: "My solid education and experience that I received at RIT have allowed me to lead teams in many different fields with equal expertise, passion and vigor." Surace has served as an RIT Trustee since 2007.

Currently resides in: Sunnyvale, Calif.

Rachel Lepkowski '09 (industrial design)

Current position: Packaging designer at Everett Graphics, Oakland (www.everettgraphics.com) since April 2013. She is pictured above with her personal design projects.

Career path: Lepkowski worked for packaging companies in Buffalo and Texas before moving to the Bay Area. In her current job, she works on projects for companies in the food and beverage, health and beauty, medical and technology industries. Everett has developed packaging for Williams-Sonoma, Monterey Mushroom, AMD and others. "I love it. It's an awesome field to be in."

On the Bay Area: Lepkowski has wanted to live there since high school. While on vacation visiting friends in the area, she lined up an interview and got the job. "People are wonderful. The weather is great. We're near the ocean. There's always something to do."

Remembering RIT: "I wanted to go to RIT since I was little." She changed her major from industrial engineering to industrial design with a minor in packaging design. "The way I learned to think about things at RIT put me in the right frame of mind to be successful. I have a different way of approaching things—design, creative and technical —that gives me a good leg up."

Currently resides in: South Berkeley near Emeryville

Stacey Katz Brown '86 (industrial engineering) is founder of ProjectZone. She knew before starting college that she wanted to live in California.

Early arrivals

Classmates Stacey Katz Brown '86 and Brian Stewart '86 (both industrial engineering) are among RIT's Bay Area pioneers. They went to work for ASK Computer Systems right after graduating from RIT. The company, a pioneer in manufacturing and business software, had been recruiting at RIT for just a few years.

"They brought us out for interviews and it seemed very glamorous. It wasn't hard to convince us," said Stewart, now senior director, Software Services for Genetic, Medical, and Applied Sciences at Thermo Fisher Scientific Corp. Prior to joining the company last year, he worked at Oracle for 10 years, most recently serving as senior director of applications development.

The Bay Area has much to offer, he said.

"Career-wise, the variety of companies that need skills like I have is unbeatable," said Stewart. "And for cultural and outdoor activities, there's nothing you can't do within a four-hour drive."

Brown, likewise, has found the Bay Area professionally and personally rewarding. She is founder of ProjectZone, a consulting company that helps companies implement information technology. She previously was a program manager for Johnson & Johnson and was co-founder of a successful professional services firm, JAS Systems.

Brown and her family, who live in San Jose, are active in numerous community and philanthropic organizations. In November 2010, she was elected to San Jose's Cambrian School District Governing Board. Giving back is important, she believes.

"Even before RIT, I knew that I wanted to end up in California," said the New York City-area native. "Even the bad weather is good. It's beautiful here. The cultural diversity is second to none. And in the technology industry, this is the 'if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere' place."

Henry Navas '74, '77 (MBA, accounting) was lured to Silicon Valley in 1983 after working full time for Xerox Corp. for more than 12 years. He retired in 1991 from Cisco Systems, where he worked as controller and treasurer.

Chris Zacharias '04 (new media/information technology), left, and Jeremy Larkin '01 (new media) founded Imgix, a service that makes images look better on the Web.

Grads solve problem, create business

You can surf the Web on a desktop computer. Or a laptop, smartphone or tablet. No matter what device you use, or what brand, you expect the pictures to look good.

That is no easy task, but a San Francisco company started by two RIT graduates intends to "make the Internet better by providing smarter, faster images." Imgix (Imgix.com) is a service that instantly sizes, crops and formats images from customers' websites, optimizing the images for viewing on a variety of devices.

As traffic to a website grows, said CEO and co-founder Chris Zacharias '04 (new media/ information technology), companies face the problem of making images available on many platforms simultaneously. Imgix allows customers to cache their entire image archive and manipulate size, cropping and other functions with no speed loss to users.

"We were trying to solve a problem that had plagued us personally," said Jeremy Larkin '01 (new media), co-founder and CTO. "We wanted to make more beautiful images available on the Web. The technology for imaging (on the Web) was stuck in the '90s. We wanted to figure out how to create new technology, push the boundaries."

"Everyone is looking to solve this prob-

lem," added Zacharias, a Rochester native. "The way the Web is moving, all the sites are heavily image-focused. At the same time, the big thing that has changed is the growth of mobile and personal devices, all different sizes, configurations. Apple Retina, Android, Nooks, Kindle . . . It's kind of going insane."

Imgix took root in 2011, a year after Zacharias left an enviable position as senior Web developer at Google/YouTube.

Leaving was not an easy decision. For starters, "Google is absolutely the best place in the world to work and they do pay very well." In three years at the company, he had been very successful. Among other projects, Zacharias conceived of, built, and launched YouTube Feather, a light version of the website that allows it to load quickly in parts of the world with slow Internet connections.

He didn't have another job lined up; in fact, he wasn't quite sure what he would do. However, "Given my plans for my life, I realized there was only a small window where I could reasonably afford to take big risks," Zacharias wrote in a blog post (blog. chriszacharias.com/cruise-ships).

At the suggestion of a friend, Zacharias wrote a business proposal that was accepted into a three-month program at Y Combinator, a Silicon Valley business accelerator that

provides seed money, advice and connections for promising startups.

Larkin, a native of Colorado, had worked for several companies in the Rochester area, including Logical Solutions and Xerox, before co-founding Form Collective Ltd. in 2006. That company provided Web and mobile application development and also did consulting work for clients including Wegmans, Bausch & Lomb, Carestream, Kodak and Cornell University.

"I was looking for the next thing to do when Chris got in touch with me." Larkin moved to San Francisco to team up with his friend in 2012.

They've taken on a huge opportunity and a big challenge, both say. "There is sizeable content that has to be moved quickly all over the world," Larkin noted.

Imgix, which obtained venture capital funding last year, now has eight employees, including Miguel Cardona '04, '13 (new media design, industrial design), lead designer. They are hiring, but cautiously.

"For me," Larkin said, "the big motivator is having self-direction over what I'm doing. It's rewarding to be able to bring something new—and very much needed—onto the Internet."
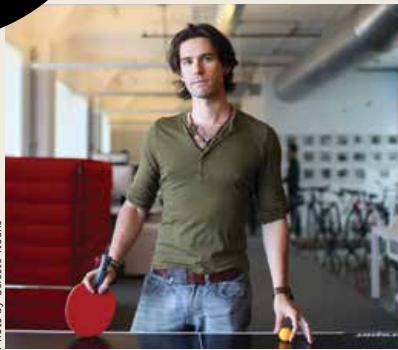
Kathy Lindsley

Photo by Celeste Noche

Mike Lewis '09 (computer engineering)

Current position: Software engineer, Airbnb (airbnb.com), a community marketplace where people can find lodging.

Career path: After graduation, Lewis worked as a software engineer at Lutron Electronics, working on the company's Quantum commercial lighting control system. He moved to New York City in 2010 and joined Oyster, where he helped develop software for a consumer hotel-booking website. He sold his car to start his own company, EventLo.com, and then co-founded Fondu, an online community for sharing restaurant reviews. "We launched at Techcrunch Disrupt and raised $575,000 in funding. We were night and day on Fondu for about two years." Fondu was sold to Airbnb and Lewis moved to San Francisco to work for the company in 2012. "The culture is incredible here: work hard, play hard and world class at what we do. It's a great place to be working."

On the Bay Area: "San Francisco is the best city I've lived in so far. For technology, the level of talent here is amazing. You can learn a lot very fast."

Remembering RIT: Lewis said the computer engineering program, with its emphasis on hardware and software, has proven very useful. "One of the things I loved about RIT was that all of my friends were very technical and hands-on. Everybody was always working on something."

Currently resides in: Hayes Valley, San Francisco

To read more
Scan to read about more alumni in the Bay Area or visit http://rit.edu/UXdbX.

Ushi Patel '00 '01 (printing management, MBA) is creative director for BoominGroup and author of *Brave the Unknown*, a book of poetry that recently won gold at the Benjamin Franklin Book Awards.

Building RIT's brand

While many grads are doing just that, RIT can't yet claim major brand recognition in the Bay Area.

"In the Bay Area, RIT is not known," said Henry Navas '74, '77 (MBA, accounting), adding an emphatic "dammit."

Navas, retired Cisco controller and treasurer and a member of the RIT Board of Trustees, believes RIT's focus—"preparing grads for real work"—is critically important to Bay Area employers. "We offer serious technological education for mature people. Our graduates are ready to work.

"Silicon Valley is dying for manufacturing engineers. We could offer programs there—they would be over-subscribed. We have to stand up and crow."

Navas added, "Graduates like Ed Wolf, who can work at the intersection of engineering and business, are in constant demand. They need to have superior critical thinking skills."

Recently an anonymous alumnus donated $3 million to RIT to establish a chair in critical thinking. The chair will support the use of critical thinking approaches throughout the curriculum.

Because of the contributions of alumni and co-ops, RIT has an outstanding reputation in certain pockets of the Bay Area, said Ushi Patel '00, '01 (printing management, MBA), creative director, BoominGroup (boomingroup.com).

"Among people who know about RIT, we have a great brand, known for really talented, smart people," she said. "A connection to RIT can be a great door-opener. However, among the general public in the Bay Area, RIT is not a household name. We need to work on that given the tremendous opportunity present here."

Eugene Fram, emeritus marketing professor from Saunders College of Business and Bay Area resident since 2008, agrees. "Our grads are all over the Valley from Google and Apple to startups. We're well known and respected in certain niches."

He has some ideas about how to expand RIT's reputation. "I think what builds the reputation of an institution is the reputation of the faculty. We need to get faculty members out here, meeting the press, visiting companies, giving talks. We've got to build a faculty presence out here."

Meanwhile, individual alumni armed with excellent skills and pride in their alma mater are carrying the banner for RIT.

"When I say I graduated from RIT, people think I said MIT," said Jeffrey Clarkson '03, '05 (microelectronic engineering), an R&D engineer at the Marvell Nanofabrication Laboratory at UC Berkeley.

"I tell people RIT is one of the top-producing colleges, and I am living proof of that. The educational background I bring is second-to-none and has allowed me to be successful in an environment that is known for its innovative drive and entrepreneurial competitiveness. RIT should be recognized for this."

Kathy Lindsley

It's much more than a donation. It's my legacy.

"I didn't realize when I left RIT that I was leaving with anything other than a bachelor's degree. As I fast forward to today, I see that RIT gave me lifetime skills. I have become a 'systems thinker,' a teaching machine. I've often asked myself—what can I do to give back? I have been involved at RIT through lecturing, mentoring, and hiring RIT students. Now, I'm giving back by including RIT in my estate plans."

—Steve Matteson, BS Engineering '77

A thoughtful gift supports deserving RIT students as they prepare for successful careers. Did you know that . . .

/ You can make a gift that actually increases your income and reduces your taxes?
/ You can make a gift that provides you a stream of income when you retire?
/ You can donate your house, take a deduction, and live in it for the rest of your life?
/ You can name RIT the beneficiary of your IRA and avoid double-taxation?
/ You can make a gift that costs you nothing now by including RIT in your will?

As Steve has done, you too can create your legacy.

Make your mark

To create your legacy, please contact Robert Constantine, Director of Planned Giving at 800.477.0376 or robert.constantine@rit.edu. Visit us online at **rit.planyourlegacy.org**.

R·I·T

THE ELLINGSON SOCIETY

Tiger Talk

Becki the Car Hunter

For the past four years, Becki Chernoff '00 (mechanical engineering) has specialized in finding vintage Mercedes-Benzes for Mercedes Motoring in Glendale, Calif. In January, she also started her own company under the name Becki the Car Hunter out of her home in Los Angeles. She counsels prospective car buyers on what kind of car is right for them, hunts for the car, schedules an inspection, negotiates the price and arranges for shipping if needed. The Skaneateles, N.Y., native also sells cars for clients, which includes preparing the car for sale, listing it on various websites and talking with buyers. Here are her thoughts on how she landed in this niche business.

I started with engineering because I was good at math and science and my dad is an engineer as well. Around my senior year, someone who was going to RIT with me had a good friend who worked at Cadillac, and I talked to him on the phone and I went to visit Detroit and he showed me around the area. I wanted to work in the auto industry. I always liked cars growing up because my dad would take me to car shows.

There were definitely classes where I was one of two girls in the class. There weren't many at all. It didn't ever bother me that there were only a couple of girls. I was comfortable in that environment.

(After graduating), I moved to Detroit and started working at a window regulator supplier in the auto industry. Then I started working for a software company. Their software was used at all different automotive plants, and I got stationed at Ford Motor Co. for about nine years. I was the help desk for the software.

After working at Ford for many years, I was eventually laid off, which was fine because I was ready to leave Detroit at that time.

I had been working for a friend finding Mercedes at a business called Mercedes Motoring in Glendale, Calif. I had been doing it long distance and I decided to move out here to Los Angeles to work in person full time.

Here I find vintage Mercedes-Benzes, mostly diesels from the '70s and '80s. I scour the country for the best of the best. I have learned a lot from my boss, JG Francis, about what to look for and how to find cars, the questions to ask. It has proven to be a useful skill out in the world because not everybody knows how to do that.

There are a lot of used Mercedes out there but they aren't well preserved. They aren't impossible to find but it takes a lot of searching to find the really, really nice ones.

I wanted to branch out on my own. I'm 36; it is time for me to do my own thing aside from just looking for classic Mercedes. I had already helped friends find cars for years. I would look online for them, go with them to see cars, help them get a good deal. It comes second nature to me and I have learned even more about the trade searching for Mercedes, so I figured why not try to do my own thing and help people find any kind of car.

They will ask me for a specific car or they will say, 'I need a new car and I need it to do this, this and this. I need to be able to go camping. I need something really reliable. I need a second car that is showpiece.' There are all different criteria and I will talk them through it and help them figure out what they might want or what I can see them in—kind of like a car therapist.

The thing that boggles my mind is that people buy homes and there are real estate agents to help them with the biggest purchase of their life. The second biggest purchase for people is usually a car and there is no one to help the middle-of-the-roaders.

I am a car hunter. Basically mechanical engineering is advanced problem-solving, and I feel like I have applied that and then some to my life. I am constantly trying to solve problems and find solutions to everything. I always enjoy learning new things and working with people and helping them.

It's a weird niche job for sure. It's totally random. I just love cars so much that it's like I kept doing what I was interested in until it turned into this bizarre career that I love.

I feel really fortunate that the thing I am most interested in is able to bring an income.

Becki Chernoff '00 uses her mechanical engineering degree to hunt for cars.

Award-winning cinematographer Michael Slovis '76 worked with School of Film and Animation students on lighting techniques when he visited RIT in May.

Photos by A. Sue Weisler

Life is good for 'Breaking Bad' cinematographer

Michael Slovis '76 (professional photographic illustration) had just returned to New Jersey from traveling abroad when he got the call to shoot a television show he had never heard of in New Mexico.

"I said, 'No, thank you. I don't really want to travel away from home,' " he said.

After he hung up, his wife, Maria, asked him who called. "She said to me, 'Is it called *Breaking Bad*?' I said, 'Yes, that's it.' She goes, 'Stop. Turn around. Call them right now.' "

Slovis did, was messengered the first season and from the first image knew it was a project he wanted to tackle. AMC's *Breaking Bad* became the "pinnacle of creativity" for the Emmy-award winning director of photography, who developed his love of visual storytelling as an undergraduate at RIT.

Slovis became interested in photography as a child using his mother's Kodak Tourist folding camera. His grandfather taught him how to process and develop film in a homemade darkroom in the basement of his home.

After one of his photographs was a finalist in the New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival, Slovis was invited to attend RIT. By the time he was a senior, Slovis had run out of photography classes to take, so he signed up for one film class.

"I made a really awful, horrible, unwatchable movie," he said. "But I was bitten. I really was hooked and I started watching movies and I started becoming film literate."

He enrolled in film school at New York University and after graduating got a job as an electrician and assistant cameraman on film sets.

One of the first films that got him noticed was *Party Girl*, a hit at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival. Other independent films and direct-to-DVD work followed.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Slovis decided he wanted to stay closer to home. He took a job in television working on *Ed* on NBC followed by *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, for which he won the 2006 Emmy Award for outstanding cinematography and was nominated again in 2007.

He began shooting *Breaking Bad* in 2008,

which earned him two more Emmy nominations. The drama was shot on 33mm film.

Slovis also photographed the pilot of ABC's *Castle*, *Fringe* on Fox, *Royal Pains* for USA Network, *Rubicon* for AMC and *Running Wilde* for Fox.

In 2010, he became a member of the American Society of Cinematographers.

For the past year, he has focused exclusively on directing, a career he began engineering since directing one episode of *Ed*, as well as a few episodes of *CSI* and *Breaking Bad*.

This summer, he directed two episodes of *Game of Thrones*, which will air next year.

"It was a hard decision to make, but I just didn't know what to shoot after *Breaking Bad*," he said. "It was that good. And it was that good of an experience."

Slovis said he considers himself to be the luckiest man in the world and he uses what he learned at RIT— such as sensitometry and basic photo sciences—on a daily basis.

"I get to do what I love to do," he said. "How many people can say that?"

Mindy Mozer

Adena Thomson '12, '13 earned one of the highest scores in the world on the CPA exam. She now has time for hobbies, such as playing violin.

Saunders grad gets top scores on CPA exam

Adena Thomson is definitely a degree above average.

The RIT alumna, who attended Saunders College of Business as an accounting major, maintained a 4.0 GPA to earn her undergraduate degree in 2012 and achieved the same repeat performance of academic excellence for her MBA degree a year later.

And now Thomson has scored the trifecta. She earned one of the highest overall scores in the world and has been recognized by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as a top Uniform CPA Examination performer and recipient of the 2013 Elijah Watt Sells Award.

Thomson was one out of 55 of more than 94,000 candidates taking the test who attained a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the CPA exam in the 2013 calendar year—and passed on the first attempt.

"When I found out in March, they held a party in celebration for me at work," said Thomson, who is employed as a staff accountant at The Bonadio Group's tax department and is in her second year of employment at the firm's Pittsford, N.Y., location. "The exams are daunting to say the least, so I'm grateful that all the time I spent studying paid off—and now I can look forward to the next phase of my career."

Thomson has worked hard to find support and stability. Born in Farmington, Pa., she was raised by parents who follow a rural way of life in a Christian religious community similar to Amish and Mennonite sects. She was uprooted several times before deciding to leave at age 17—leaving family and personal possessions behind. While juggling several jobs to continue her education, she found roots at RIT and in Rochester. Her sister, Kara (who also left the commune), is a licensed practical nurse at University of Rochester Medical Center and is studying to be a pharmacist.

With the steady combinations of work and study—"and not much sleep"—Thomson is ready for some rest and relaxation. "I'm looking forward to some down time after work and on weekends; I enjoy playing violin, golf, volleyball and softball," she said.

"Rochester has been good to me, and I certainly think my award speaks to the quality of the accounting program and the accounting professors at RIT—combined with working for a home grown firm like The Bonadio Group. The knowledge it takes to perform well on a comprehensive test like the CPA exam is a combination of on-the-job learning and academic learning."

William Dresnack, associate professor and area head of accounting and finance at Saunders College, said Thomson's latest accomplishment is well deserved.

"I don't think anyone who knows Dena was surprised to hear about her CPA exam score," said Dresnack. "Everyone who has worked with her says the same kind of things—'She's one of the best students I ever had; she's incredibly smart.'

"Dena is a superstar in intellect, but also in character and attitude. The icing on the cake is that she is a genuinely nice person, one of the 'good guys.' Even greater things are coming for her, beyond any question."

Marcia Morphy

Thomas Provo '10 opened a restaurant a year ago in Mount Morris, N.Y., after working in Boston and New York City.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Family ties pull graduate into restaurant business

Thomas Provo '10 (hospitality and service management) remembers helping behind the counter and eating family dinners as a child at his grandfather's diner in Mount Morris, N.Y.

The diner was a gathering spot in the village of 3,000—a place where everyone knew each other.

Provo has both emulated and updated that model with his Charred American Bar + Grill, which opened a little more than a year ago on Main Street in Mount Morris.

"It was in my blood to go into hospitality," he said. "It was something I knew, something I understood."

The road home took Provo through two big cities. After he graduated from RIT, he joined Marriott's management development program and was placed in a suburb of Boston. When that program ended, he moved to New York City where he was able to find a job with the food service company SSP America running a coffee shop, sandwich shop and a Buffalo Wild Wings.

Then he went to work for the New York Palace Hotel as its food and beverage manager. It was while he was on vacation from the job that Provo visited his hometown 25 miles south of Rochester and his father showed him an empty building available for rent that used to be a bar.

"I started making some plans after I went back to New York City and decided it was something I wanted to go for," he said.

He applied for grants and was awarded a New York State Community Development Block Grant and a Livingston County Sign and Facade grant. He got a loan from the local bank and updated the building.

The restaurant became part of the resurrection of the village led by New York developer Greg O'Connell, who purchased downtown property in the late 2000s and renovated it—bringing new life to Main Street Mount Morris.

More than a year after being opened, Provo said he is happy with the results. He hosts beer and wine tastings from area breweries and wineries weekly, which he said brings in the younger population. His restaurant also

Charred American Bar + Grill specializes in stuffed burgers. For details, go to www.charredbar.com.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

attracts customers who are visiting the nearby Letchworth State Park. The model worked so well in its first year that Provo this summer was able to open a sandwich and pizza shop next door to the restaurant.

"When I'm here I don't feel like I'm at work. I enjoy what I do," he said. "This has been my dream."

Mindy Mozer

Kenneth Holley '02 visited the Bronx Engineering and Technology Academy this spring to talk with high school students about RIT.

Photo by Shannon Taggart '98

Changing the story one college fair at a time

Kenneth Holley's ah-ha moment came while giving an introductory speech for New York City Toastmaster's club in 2008.

Holley '02 (information technology) talked about the importance of community—not just being a part of a community but developing it and supporting it. Audience members told him that the speech inspired them, and Holley knew his mission in life was to motivate others and lead by example.

One way he has done that is by being an undergraduate admissions volunteer for his alma mater. Over the past five years, he has represented RIT at events in the New York City area and in Cincinnati.

"I'm attending college fairs on behalf of RIT where students who look like me have an opportunity to see me, have an opportunity to dream bigger," he said. "They have an opportunity to connect with a university that can help open up so many doors for them."

Holley has become somewhat of an expert on opening doors. As a career adviser for Fedcap, a not-for-profit organization in New York City that provides vocational training, he has helped hundreds of teenagers get to the next level through job and leadership workshops. Before that, he worked as a real estate portfolio manager for Sibcy Cline Realtors in Cincinnati and in the information technology field for AXA Equitable and Citigroup in New York. He was named a "Forty Under 40" award winner by the *Cincinnati Business Courier* in 2011.

Holley got involved in RIT as an alumnus in 2008 after he moved to Cincinnati. He attended an alumni event before a Cincinnati Reds game and before he knew it, he was helping to organize other events, including a college fair at Xavier University. He began representing RIT at other college fairs in the Cincinnati area and in New York after he returned to the city in 2012.

Matt Garver '99 (applied arts and sciences), assistant director in the Undergraduate Admissions office and coordinator of alumni admissions volunteers, said Holley is one of 715 alumni who volunteered in admissions last year at college fairs, spring receptions and accepted-students events.

Holley not only donates his time, but he has encouraged other alumni to participate, Garver said. In March, for example, he recruited six graduates to accompany him to an accepted-students event in New York City.

"Families love to see alumni at these events," Garver said. "They can have real conversations with them about their experiences at RIT."

The conversations are Holley's favorite part, especially at college fairs. He said he answers the questions he can about RIT (how many sports teams are there, what is RIT known for) and sends them to the admissions staff for more information.

His goal, he said, is to help change the story for high school students, especially those who grew up in the South Bronx.

"Basically you want those after you to be able to do better than you did," said Holley. "All I'm doing is taking the time and running with it. I know if it wasn't for those before me, I wouldn't be able to do the things I am doing right now."

Mindy Mozer

Outstanding alumnus has long history of giving

John Bartholomew

Shortly after A. John Bartholomew '60 (business administration) graduated, a Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity brother asked him to volunteer for his alma mater.

The job was calling other alumni and asking for money for a new campus that was going to be built in Henrietta.

Bartholomew admits that the task wasn't his favorite volunteer assignment, in part because records weren't always complete in the '60s. But it did set in motion more than 50 years of giving of his time and talent to RIT.

Bartholomew will be honored for his ongoing support with the Outstanding Alumnus of 2014 award at the Presidents' Alumni Ball on Oct. 17 during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend.

"Knowing some of the past recipients, people I admire a great deal, I am very proud to be associated with them," he said.

As a high school student in Webster, N.Y., Bartholomew planned to attend Syracuse University and play football.

"My senior year of high school, I stopped growing. I was really, really small, so that went out the window."

He applied to RIT's business school instead and was accepted, he said, because the dean was impressed he had been an Eagle Scout. After college, he began selling office equipment, medical supply equipment and insurance before joining his family in the senior health care field.

He is now in his 51st year as a nursing home administrator, owner and operator of the Bartholomew Health Care Group, a network of four senior communities in Western New York. In 1985, the New York State Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators named him Nursing Home Administrator of the Year.

"I like to say I have forgotten more than most nursing home administrators ever

knew," he said, laughing. "That's the problem, I have forgotten it."

Bartholomew has been active with RIT's Nathaniel Rochester Society for more than 30 years, has served on the Saunders College of Business Advisory Board and continues to be involved with his fraternity. He and his wife, Mary, also have developed a scholarship program with the college. In 2011, he was recognized as a Saunders College Distinguished Alumnus.

He is also active with the local Alzheimer's Association and EquiCenter, which provides therapeutic horseback riding. Horseback riding is his hobby. He thanks his wife and son, John Bartholomew II, who will be taking over the family business, for giving him time to volunteer.

As part of his duties on the NRS executive board, Bartholomew still helps RIT with fundraising. But there's a big difference this time: "They don't make me use the telephone anymore."

Mindy Mozer

Volunteers of the Year see results of their efforts

Lisa Talty likes to tell people that she and her husband, Patrick, are the alumni who never went away.

Lisa '91, '97 (packaging science, MBA) started attending RIT in 1987. Patrick '92, '02 (criminal justice, MBA) took a few years off between degrees and finished in the Executive MBA program 15 years later. They are active supporters of the Nathaniel Rochester Society. They both have been adjunct professors. And they volunteer their time whenever they can.

The Taltys are RIT's Volunteers of the Year for 2014 and will receive the award during the Presidents' Alumni Ball on Oct. 17 during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend.

"Who wouldn't want to be involved in an entity like RIT?" asked Patrick. "It's exciting to be involved in something that is growing."

Patrick began his volunteer work after completing his MBA in 2002, working on development activities for the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. His employer, Info Directions

Inc. (now known as IDI Billing Solutions), had ties to the computing college. He is now the company's vice president of operations and chief security officer.

In 2003, he became involved with the Information Technology Advisory Board, has taught classes in Saunders College of Business and has been on the Nathaniel Rochester Society Executive Committee and is an NRS committee chairman. In 2008, he became an Alumni Association board member.

Lisa also began volunteering in 2002 with the Capital Campaign Committee, attending the kickoff event a few days before their daughter, Clare, was born.

She has taught as an adjunct professor in packaging science since 2003 and has been active with the Packaging Industry Advisory Board. She put her career as a packaging engineer on hold to be a stay-at-home mom. Patrick and Lisa have three children: Clare, 11; John, 8; and Colleen, 6.

"In our volunteer capacity, we are cheerleaders for RIT and try to show and explain

Lisa and Patrick Talty

our enthusiasm for the university and how it benefits from donors," Lisa said.

Patrick said that they volunteer because they can recognize the results of their work in areas such as increased alumni contributions to scholarships and alumni involvement.

"It doesn't go into some black hole. You can see a quick rate of return," he said. "You don't have to wait years to see your impact."

Mindy Mozer

Regional Alumni Activities

Austin
Alumni gathered at Clive Bar for happy hour on May 28.

Bay Area
On May 24, alumni gathered for an evening of baseball at AT&T Park as the hometown Giants battled the Minnesota Twins.

Buffalo
On June 21, alumni from Buffalo and Rochester took a tour of Lockport Caves.

Charlotte
Alumni joined **Candi Boston '09** at the new BB&T Ballpark as the Knights battled the Rochester Red Wings on June 5.

A Chicago
Alumni gathered at Red Ivy in Wrigleyville for Paint Nite on April 3. They ate, drank and painted their Chicago Skyline masterpieces.

Connecticut
On May 10, alumni got together for lunch and a brewery tour and tasting at Thomas Hooker Brewery. Thanks to hosts **Carla Juhas '88** and **Andrew Lamb '06**.

Dallas
Alumni gathered for the fifth Annual Sailing on Lake Lewisville event on May 24. Thanks to host **Scott Saldinger '91**.

Denver/Colorado Springs
On June 7, alumni spent the afternoon touring Sports Authority Field and having lunch at Wynkoop Brewing Co. Thanks to hosts **Dave Belden '04** and **Jen Belden '04**.

Houston
On May 29, alumni gathered at 3rd Floor for an "end of spring" happy hour.

Jacksonville
Alumni got together for happy hour and dinner at Pusser's Caribbean Grille on June 5. Thanks to organizer **Harry Drake '66**.

B Milwaukee
On April 5, for their first event as a Milwaukee alumni group, alumni gathered at Lakefront Brewery for a private tour and tasting.

New York City
Alumni gathered on April 29 at Pranna Restaurant for a special event with RIT President Bill Destler. Thanks to organizer **Pavlin Hristov '12**.

On May 15, alumni attended the Subway Series game between the New York Yankees and the New York Mets at Citi Field.

On June 29, alumni took in another baseball game as the Red Sox battled the Yankees at Yankee Stadium.

Philadelphia
Alumni attended their annual Phillies game as the team battled the Washington Nationals on July 13.

Pittsburgh
Alumni gathered on April 2 at the Copper Kettle Brewing Co. to create their own Tiger Brew. Thanks to hosts **Phil Amsler '12** and **Kirk Striebich '89**.

Portland
On June 26, alumni participated in a discussion with RIT President Bill Destler. Thanks to **Sara Weiner-Collier '97** for helping to plan this event.

Rochester
Alumni and friends enjoyed First Friday at Gallery r and a performance at the Blackfriars Theatre on April 4. Thanks to hosts **Sharyn Duffy '87** and **Shirley Murphy '81, '95**.

More than 700 alumni stopped in the Alumni Oasis during this year's Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. Thanks to **Diane Jackling '86; Michael Pollock '77; Karen Barrows '04; Eve Razis '81; Bary Siegel '66, '68, '75, '87; Brent Palmer '98; Gary Mendola '85; Sean Brown '92; Lorraine Cerone '02; Sharyn Duffy '87; Shirley Murphy '81, '95; Richard Desarra '64; Maria Paris '97; Edward Cain '71; Tom Camiolo '72; Ronni Camiolo '74; Richard and Jenna Davis; Alex Ludwinek '05;** and **Chris Paliouras-Pierce '92, '97**.

More than 50 alumni and guests enjoyed tours and tastings at Black Button Distilling and Rohrbach Brewing Co. on May 20.

More than 150 alumni came back to campus to take part in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge on May 29.

Alumni and guests enjoyed Sunday brunch at Mario's on June 1 with RIT's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Seattle
Alumni gathered for a special presentation from RIT President Bill Destler on June 24. Thanks to host **Robert Watson '12**.

Washington, D.C.
Alumni attended a Washington Nationals game against the Atlanta Braves on June 21. Thanks to hosts **Carlo Costino '04, '07** and **Phil Jones '02**.

C Reunions
More than 150 alumni and guests came back to Rochester May 2-4 for Alpha Sigma Alpha's 50th Reunion.

The RIT Jazz Ensemble held an alumni reunion May 9–11. More than 25 alumni returned to campus and more than 150 people attended the concert on Saturday night.

Class Notes

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.

1934

Mildred (Whiting) Whaley '34 (FAA) shows off her new RIT coffee mug at her 100th birthday party. She lives in Greenfield Center, N.Y., with her family.

1963

David Haberstich '63 (GAP), curator of photography at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, served as curator for an exhibition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the museum. The exhibition, "Continuity and Change: Fifty Years of Museum History," opened to the public in May. He will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a Smithsonian staff member in November.

1964

William Derycke '64 (KGCOE) is vice president, engineering at J.W. Consulting Inc., where he is responsible for developing business relationships with railways, metro properties, construction companies and systems contractors throughout the U.S. and Canada to advance the technology and service for the transportation industry.

Donald Kingston '64 (SCB) is serving in his third term on the Duck (N.C.) Town Council. He was first elected as mayor pro tempore in 2009. He retired from his business career as a vice president/officer of Kelly Services Inc. in the Washington, D.C., area in 2007.

William Kinney '64 (GAP) wrote and self-published an autobiographical adventure story about his life. *Sanctuary* contains pictures about his travels on board the boat he built in his backyard. For details, go to www.billkinney-photopainter.com.

1966

Harry Drake '66 (GAP), along with other alumni and RIT's Office of Alumni Relations, has started an RIT alumni group in the Jacksonville, Fla., area. The initial gathering was for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Chart House Restaurant in Jacksonville.

Cheryl Fausel '66 (FAA) was accepted into the International Shenzehn Watercolour Biennial that took place Dec. 10, 2013, to Jan. 10, 2014. The exhibition was in Shenzehn, just north of Hong Kong, at the Shenzehn Art Museum and is a government-sponsored international exhibition. The show featured 237 paintings selected from 2,825 entries by 1,700 artists.

1967

Andrew Davidhazy '67 (GAP), '69 (FAA) and several retired photo faculty and friends got together for lunch at MacGregor's on March 27.
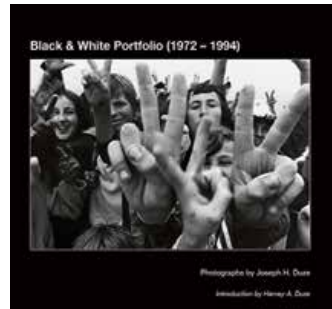
1970

James Langone '70 (GAP), photographer and Springfield Technical Community College professor, was presented the Dorothy Jordan Pryor Award on April 2. The award honors a member of the community whose life has had an impact both inside and outside of the college.

1972

Harvey Duze '72 (GAP) created a book of his father's black and white photography. Profits are being donated to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of his father, Joseph H. Duze. To learn more, go to http://bit.ly/1o72t9o.

1973

Jonathan Atkin '73 (GAP) writes that a curated show produced by American Photographic Artists of Los Angeles has accepted an image he produced aboard the SS United States. The exhibition was shown at the Los Angeles Museum of Modern Art in April and then at three advertising agencies in Los Angeles.

Elizabeth (MacLean) Leader '73 (FAA) has three pastel artworks featured as part of an art and science exhibition at the Anchorage Museum in Alaska from February through September. Her work focuses on the issue of trash in the landscape.

1974

Andrea Ptak '74 (FAA) has been self-employed as a publishing professional since 1980 and is currently serving a term as vice president of the Northwest Independent Editors Guild. She also writes a blog on "living an imperfectly sustainable life" under the moniker The Green Queen of Moderation at thegreenqueenofmod.com.

1975

Stephen Gulack '75 (SCB) retired May 24 from Golden Memories Transportation in Rochester as tour coach operator. He had previously early-retired from the County of Monroe (N.Y.) Department of Public Safety communications and finance in August 2002.

1976

Colin Butler '76 (FAA) built furniture and musical instruments after graduating. One of his instruments was chosen to be in a show at the Smithsonian. An article about his instrument led to a call from a celebrity asking him to build an entrance gate for security purposes. Today, he has built more than 1,000 gate systems for clients of high-end homes to very strong crash-resistant gates that he developed, built and patented. The picture shows one of four crash-resistant gate systems he was commissioned to build for the White House.

Laurence Goldberg '76 (GAP) writes that the members of House LS had their 45-year reunion on June 14. Activities included a Duke of Madness Euchre Tournament, campus tour, dinner and brunch.

1977

Katherine Clem '77 (CCE), '88 (FAA) will have an exhibit called "P is for Places" in her multimedia art gallery

iGalleryKathyClem in Rochester Oct. 29 through Dec. 5. For details, go to www.iGalleryKathyClem.com.

Philip Turner '77 (GAP) accepted a position at OpenText in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, as major incident manager. He was employed at GXS as an operations engineer.

Robert Whiteside '77 (FAA) exhibited the painting *Lily Dale* in the Main Street Art Gallery in Clifton Springs, N.Y. "Flora" was a juried exhibition of botanical-themed artwork.

1979

Mitchell Fisher '79 (CAST) celebrated 35 years with the same company, Unisys Corp. (originally Burroughs), working as a software engineer.

Michael Way '78, '79 (SCB) is the assistant corporate controller/assistant corporate treasurer and corporate officer at Burrows Paper Corp. in Little Falls, N.Y. Burrows Paper manufactures lightweight specialty papers and converts paper into quick-service restaurant point-of-sale packaging products.

1981

Nancy Cohen '79, '81 (FAA) was highlighted by the International Foundation for Women Artists. Go to http://ifwartistsblog.wordpress.com/2014/01/27/interview-nancy-cohen/ for more information.

Donis Flagello '81, '81 (GAP) has been appointed president, CEO and COO of the Nikon Research Corp. of America. He has served as an NRCA fellow for the past five years and assumed his new role on April 1. He has more than 30 years of experience in the semiconductor industry, encompassing manufacturing, development and research, and holds two-dozen patents.

1982

Susan Figaro Grace '82 (SCB) was named the Distinguished Dietitian for 2014 by the New York State Dietetics Association. The association recognized Grace's outstanding service to the NYSDA and the profession of dietetics at its annual conference on April 25 in Rye, N.Y. Grace is a member of the Better Me wellness team in the RIT Department of Human Resources.

1983

Raymond Grosshans '83 (CAST), director of business strategy, Center for Advanced Energy Studies, has been selected as the Energy Education Advocate award winner. The award recognizes noteworthy achievements in energy, nuclear energy or an environmental field.

Mark Winans '82, '83 (GAP) was promoted to chief manufacturing officer from vice president at Advance Newspapers based out of Wilmington, Del.

1985

Christine (Franklin) Drennon '85 (GAP), director of Trinity University's Urban Studies Program, has been named the 2014 recipient of the Marilyn J. Gittell Activist Scholar Award by the Urban Affairs Association and SAGE Publications. The national award acknowledges Drennon's record of scholarship and engagement and her commitment to addressing issues of direct concern to urban communities.

1986

Lawrence Kosson '84, '86 (GAP) and his business partner, Tim Drake, of The Roots Agency are dual winners this year of the 2013 North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents Award for Excellence as Agent in the Performing Arts.

David Lysack '86 (KGCOE) is CEO and founder of CSpeed, which won the 2013 Best Innovation Award for its LightWave Radar system to mitigate interference from wind turbines near airports and airfields.

1987

William Plutnick '87 (GAP) in February launched a professional services company. The business performs accurate laser and probe portable CMM measurement for reverse engineering and quality inspection.

1988

Chetan Kamdar '88 (COS) is now associate director, IT Business Relationship Management, Development Sciences, BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.

Mary Karol (McCarthy) Matchett '88 (CLA) received an Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College on May 11, 2013. She was also nominated to be the student speaker at the Ed.D. program's hooding/award ceremony by cohorts for her leadership in the program and in the community.

Thomas Taber '88 (CCE) has accepted the position of instructor of lighting science and design at the Construction Education Foundation Division of Northlake College in Irving, Texas. Courses will be held in the evening to coincide with Taber's full-time position as a lighting representative with The Lighting Alliance in Dallas.

1989

Elaine Coughlan-Gifford '89 (COS), '92 (KGCOE) has been a Harvard employee for 20 years as of 2013 and in February attended the Centennial Celebrations with the Stars, an appreciation event in honor of employees' contributions to Harvard. She has appeared and been acknowledged in more than 200 medical journals.

1991

Sharon Coates '86, '91 (SCB) of Zaretsky and Associates is one of three founders of Project Scion who were recognized in February by the Monroe County Legislature for their volunteer efforts. Project Scion, www.Project-Scion.org, is a collaboration of landscape designers, local business owners, area artists and neighborhood groups seeking to transform vacant city lots into resident inclusive green spaces.

Robert Martin '90, '91 (GAP) accepted a position at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs, Colo., as director of the Isaacson School for New Media. He was employed at Eagle County Schools as senior system administrator.

1992

Jason Berry '92 (FAA) invented RaceDots. After years of competing and ruining expensive cycling jerseys, he decided he needed a way to attach numbers that would keep his jerseys intact. Each RaceDot is composed of a strong, patent-pending, two-piece magnetic assembly that locks together to securely hold a race number in place without pinholes. Berry is founder and director of Gripped Films. For more, go to www.racedots.com.

Andrew Fuhrman '92 (CAST) of Applied Industrial Technologies of Richmond, Va., has been made an on-site sales representative for Dominion Virginia Power in Richmond. He is also adjunct faculty with J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

as part of the hospitality program. He is married to **Marybeth (McCarthy) Fuhrman '92 (FAA)**; they have twin sons.

Joy Parker '91, '92 (GAP) submitted a personal video to Madonna's Art for Freedom project called Terminal Freedom, and it was picked in December by Madonna and David Blaine as the winner. She gave the $10,000 award to the Greater Rochester Muscular Dystrophy Association and the ALSA, Upstate ALS chapter. (Editor's note: Ms. Parker was diagnosed with ALS in 2010 and died July 12.)

1993

Thomas Blake '92, '93 (GAP), the digital project manager for Boston Public Library, was named a *Library Journal* "Mover and Shaker" for his contributions to the library industry.

Joseph Brennan '93 (FAA) is sharing this piece from Brennan Designs that symbolizes love, purity and growth. For more, go to www.brennandesigns.net.

David Filiatrault '93 (CAST) was named CTO of Softgate Systems, where he is responsible for the strategy, development and the day-to-day management of the Softgate Systems technology platform including http://PayXchange.net.

Michael Henry '93 (CAST) has been mountaineering for almost 25 years. He started with the Grand Canyon and progressed to Machu Picchu in Peru, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and in February summited Aconcagua in Argentina. At 22,840 feet, it is the tallest mountain in the Western Hemisphere.

Robert and Susan Pearson met in 1980 after Susan borrowed his calculator. Robert gave her a new calculator, pictured above, the following Christmas.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Borrowed calculator adds up to love

Susan Greuber was in electromagnetic fields theory class in the summer of 1980 when she needed to borrow a scientific calculator. Her roommate's Great Dane had taken a bite out of her own.

She asked classmate Robert Pearson if she could use his. "I wasn't going to say no," said Robert about the request from one of only two women enrolled in his electrical engineering cohort of about 90 students. "I looked at hers and it appeared that a bear had chewed on it."

Thirty-four years later, the Pearsons are still together and RIT continues to be a part of their lives.

Susan '82 (electrical engineering) came to RIT after studying at Corning Community College for two years. A professor there was an RIT graduate and suggested that she and three other classmates transfer to finish their education.

The Odessa, N.Y., native was able to get a full-time job working in the electrical engineering technology department calibrating lab equipment and attended school part time.

Robert '81, '86 (electrical engineering) grew up in Henrietta and his father, Milton '64 (photographic science and instrumenta-

tion), worked at RIT in photographic science and instrumentation, what today is called imaging science.

Although the calculator introduced them, the couple didn't start dating until after the quarter ended. Their first outing was a trip with other classmates to Red Creek (now MacGregor's) to celebrate the end of finals.

They were married in the fall of 1982.

After graduating, Robert worked in electrical engineering in Maine for one year before being offered a teaching job at RIT. He is now the director of microelectronic engineering programs at RIT.

Susan worked in the field for a company in Victor, N.Y., until their first son, Hazen, was born in 1985. They have two other sons, Benson and Roger. (Benson graduated from RIT in 2012 with a degree in film and animation.) Susan now works at Pinnacle Lutheran School in Henrietta.

Susan said she doesn't get to campus much these days even though they live close by. But Robert keeps a reminder of her time at RIT. A few years ago he found a calibration sticker initialed by his wife on an old power supply. He keeps the power supply with the sticker in a display case outside his office.

Robert and Susan Pearson in 1980.

Susan also keeps a memento of their early days together. Robert gave her a new scientific calculator their first Christmas together.

"I still have the calculator," she said. "And I still use it."

Mindy Mozer

About Tiger Love

There are more than 4,600 RIT alumni couples. If you have a suggestion of a couple to feature, email us at umag@rit.edu.

1995

Renee Fleming '95 (SCB) was promoted to assistant vice president and personal trust administrator at 1st Source. She has 15 years of experience at 1st Source, most recently as a financial consultant in the 1st Source Asset Advisor Group.

1997

Reinhard Koch '97 (CIAS) has successfully completed a two-year distance learning course and graduated as database developer from Fernakademie in Hamburg, Germany. He lives in Frankfurt, Germany, and works as a research engineer with the printing press manufacturer Manroland Sheetfed.

Brian Roes '97 (SCB) accepted a position at Cooper/Haims Advisors LLC in Rochester, N.Y., as financial consultant. He was employed at Ashford Advisors LLC as chief operating officer.

Marcy Schuler '97 (CIAS) was promoted to supervisor, production at The Integer Group in Lakewood, Colo. Integer creates strategic marketing solutions for clients in categories that include retail, beverage, packaged goods, telecommunications, home and shelter, automotive aftermarket and power sports.

1999

Mark Schmidt '99 (SCB) has been promoted to partner at Sirchia & Cuomo LLP, a Central New York accounting and consulting firm.

2000

Heidi Felix '00 (COS) graduated from the Doctorate of Health Sciences program at A.T. Still University on March 7. She also was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Maren Hess '00 (COS), '01 (SCB) has joined Campbell University as assistant provost for institutional research, assessment and accreditation. Previously, she was the director of assessment, institutional effectiveness and compliance at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa.

Sarah Klein '00 (CAST) has joined the RIT environmental health and safety department as the EHS compliance specialist for RIT's Facilities Management Services. She is excited to be back at RIT.

Virgil Young '00 (CAST) has completed all curricular requirements for the Executive Master of Science in information systems technology program at George Washington University School of Business. EMSIST program graduates also earn CIO University Certification as the curriculum directly addresses federal executive core competencies determined by the General Services Administration and the Chief Information Officer's Council.

2002

Joseph Parise '02 (SCB) has accepted a position as HR Manager for Allergan in Irvine, Calif. He has relocated to Newport Beach, Calif.

2003

Justin Drawbaugh '01 (NTID), '03 (GCCIS), information technology specialist, Defense Logistics Agency Information Operations in New Cumberland, Pa., is the winner of the Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability Award for 2013 and the 2013 DLA Outstanding Employee with a Disability Award. He has also been selected as one of the 2014 *Careers & the Disabled* magazine's Employee of the Year award recipients.

2004

Derek Brinkmann '04 (GCCIS) and his business partners launched Citadel Studios to create the next generation of role-playing games with Shards Online, a sandbox RPG in development for PC. In the multiplayer online game, players can explore an ever-expanding universe with deep lore and dynamic environments.

David Fetzer '04 (COS) completed a fellowship in abdominal imaging at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and started as an assistant professor of radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas.

Jill Spaeth '04 (CIAS) was the only woman selected of five nominees for AIGA's 2014 national board of directors based on nominations from the professional organization for design members, chapter leadership and design opinion leaders. She will serve for three years.

2005

Marc-Anthony Arena '05 (SCB) is president of Teknosophy LLC in Rochester. Teknosophy was founded in 2011 and specializes in home and small-business relief of computer woes. Over the past few months, he has established his first retail location, hired his first full-time technician and created a division called Streamplicity, which will specialize in custom home theater PC installs.

Katie Linendoll '05 (GCCIS) created an app with weatherman Al Roker and Steve Lunny, an interactive media designer and animator. Al's Weather Rokies App, available in the App Store, is a cartoon-style game that incorporates real-time weather. Linendoll is an Emmy Award-winning TV host and technology contributor to the *Today* show.


Michelle N. (Lipchick) Putney '05 (GCCIS) and Joseph Putney are happy to announce their marriage on Feb. 5 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. RIT alumni in attendance included the maid of honor, **Brittany Lipchick '09 (COS); Adam Zeitlen '05 (CIAS);** and **Jake Zangrilli '05 (GCCIS)**.

Daniel Sax '05 (CIAS) received an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He will be working as a consultant for Accenture in IT Strategy and Transformation based in Chicago.

Brian Tajuddin '05, '05 (GCCIS) was promoted to principal software engineer at Amazon.

2006
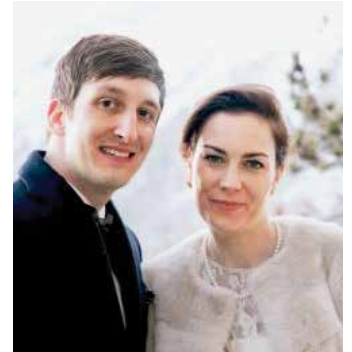
Marcel Kohler '06 (SCB) and Judith Buholzer are happy to announce their marriage on Dec. 13, 2013, in St. Moritz, Switzerland. They live in Zollikon, Switzerland.

Joseph Pawelski '06, '07 (KGCOE) and his wife, Amanda, started Overland Distillery in Loveland, Colo., in 2009. Their only product is Trinity Absinthe, which he began experimenting with while working on his master's in thermal fluids engineering at RIT. For details, go to www.overlanddistillery.com.

2007

Calvin Eaton '07, '09 (CAST) opened his first retail bakery and storefront: The Gluten Free Market and Bakery on Monroe Avenue in Rochester. The market also supports locally produced and sustainable products. For details, go to http://theglutenfreechefblog.com.

Erhardt Graeff '07 (CLA), '07 (GCCIS), a master's student at the MIT Media Lab, was admitted to the Ph.D. program for fall 2014. He was also awarded MIT's 2014 Benjamin Siegel prize for the best student paper in science, technology and society.

2008

Matthew Boswell '08 (CLA), '08 (SCB) was promoted from a senior to a manager on the healthcare/tax exempt west team at The Bonadio Group in Rochester. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Josa Hanzlik '08, '08 (KGCOE) is a sixth-year biomedical engineering Ph.D. candidate at Drexel University. She won the Whitaker Fellowship to conduct research in the Netherlands at Radbound University. She started her year abroad in April.

Mary Martha Pulick '08 (CAST) is working as an administrative assistant for a family business.

Alexander Salsberg '08 (CIAS) founded Dead End Street LLC with a friend in 2013. The company released an iPhone game called CapClash: The Caption Contest. The free game allows players to turn their photos into shareable memes. For details, go to http://capclash.com.

Kevin Tierney '08 (GCCIS) was appointed assistant professor in the department of Business Information Systems at the University of Paderborn in Germany.

Katie Timm '07 (NTID), '08 (SCB) received a master's in human resource management at Indiana Wesleyan University in 2012. She works for Department of Defense-Defense Finance Accounting Service as an HR specialist.

Geoffrey Will '08 (KGCOE) was granted licensure to practice as a professional electrical engineer in the state of New York by the University of the State of New York, Education Department Office of the Professions, effective January 2014.

2009

Wail Al Hamid '09 (CIAS) started freelancing in Saudi Arabia after graduating and last year joined a production team and produced the whole motion graphics elements for the Saudi Aramco feature film *Book of Sand*. The film won the Honorary category in the prestigious Webby Awards (Internet Oscars) as the first Saudi and foreign film to earn this award.

Geoffrey Anderson '09 (GCCIS) received a MySQL Community Award for "Community Contributor of the year 2014" for his work organizing and moderating #DBHangOps, a bi-weekly community hangout discussing all things MySQL. For details, go to www.dbhangops.net.

Kiersten (Shinrock) Blankley '07, '09 (NTID) and **Albert Blankley '09, '12 (COS)** celebrated their wedding Nov. 9, 2013, in Rochester. The couple was joined by alumni **Kate Starr '07 (CIAS)**, **Stephen DeVay '10 (GCCIS)**, **Greg Kohl '10 (GCCIS)**, **Ryan Burst '10 (GCCIS)**, **Kyla Burst '11 (CHST)**, **Joe Kim '09 (COS)**, **Kari Calenzo '11 (CIAS)**, **Teraisa Chloros '11 (GCCIS)**, **Allie Ellis '10 (CIAS)**, **Kristi Griffith '09 (COS)**, **Andrew Harris '11 (NTID)**, **Andrew Rachunok '05 (GCCIS)**, **Shawn Carr '03 (GCCIS)**, **Candi Carr '05 (CIAS)**, **Brian Mayzak '08 (GCCIS)**, **Kimi Lasser '10 (CIAS)**, **Margaret Velez '11 (GCCIS)**, **Kaelyn Rogers '11 (CMS)**, **Shannon Davies '13 (NTID)**, **Pamela Romano '12 (CIAS)**, **Jackie DeVay '10 (CLA)**, **Kathy Hall '68 (CCE)** and **Elisabeth Chogich '17 (CHST)**.

James Brooks '09 (SCB) is one of three co-founders of a men's accessories brand in New York City called Bedford & Broome. He founded the company with **Nathan Coleman '09 (SCB)** and **John Barbagallo '09 (GCCIS)**. They work with photographers **Kyle Dorosz '08 (CIAS)** and **Ross Thompson '08 (CIAS)** and graphic designer **Nathan Bachmann '08 (CIAS)**. Go to www.bedfordandbroome.com to learn more.

Kirsten Canfield '09 (CLA) created the Dr. McCleery Lobo Wolves Digital Archive (www.mccleerywolves.com) to preserve the story of Dr. E. H. McCleery's wolf pack of Kane, Pa. The archive is the culmination of her ongoing research that began during her first year at RIT.

Carl Kelso '09, '09 (KGCOE) moved to Seattle in April and started a job with Amazon in May. He married his fiancée, Emily, in June.

Balmeri Martinez '09 (KGCOE), '09 (CAST) and **Carlos Artilez '09 (CAST), (KGCOE)** are happy to announce their marriage on May 4, 2013, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They live in Santo Domingo. **Amanda Chu '09 (KGCOE)** was one of the bridesmaids.

Crystal Phan '09 (NTID) had a BFA exhibition April 14-25 at Tahoe Gallery from Prim Library at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe.

Amar Reynolds '09, '12 (CAST) accepted a position at Pactiv LLC in Canandaigua, N.Y., as production supervisor. Reynolds was employed at U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs as a veterans claims examiner.

Ana Siliezar '08 (NTID), '09 (CAST) was married to **Charles R. Sterling '05, '07 (SCB)**.

2010

Jeremy Hinckley '10 (SCB) has been hired as an assistant accountant for the healthcare/tax exempt west team at The Bonadio Group.

Erin Mooney '10 (CIAS) accepted a position at Eric Mower + Associates in Syracuse, N.Y., as a graphic designer. She creates both print and digital materials for a variety of applications.

Francis Mule '10 (CLA) was admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on Nov. 25, 2013, and the Bar of the State of New York on Jan. 23, 2014.

Jeffrey Powless '10 (SCB) was promoted to a senior accountant on the tax team at The Bonadio Group in Rochester.

Jay Ruzicka '10 (CIAS) is marrying Jacqueline Bono on Aug. 16, 2014.

Lynde Scott '10 (CIAS) accepted a position at The Integer Group in Lakewood, Colo., as a designer.

2012

Ahmed Almradi '12 (KGCOE) is working on a Ph.D. at the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, The University of Manchester, UK.

Ashley Kostreva '12, '14 (SCB) has been hired as an assistant accountant for the small-business advisory team at The Bonadio Group.

Roy Peterson '12 (CLA) graduated from the police academy and passed his certification exam.

2013

Erin O'Brien '13 (SCB) has been hired as an assistant accountant for the commercial team at The Bonadio Group.

Tiger Cubs

1 **Bruce Taylor '79, '79 (GAP)** is proud to announce the birth of his first grandchild. Cohen Michael Buote was born Feb. 4, 2013.

2 **Daniel Cavanagh '01, '08 (KGCOE)** and Julia Cavanagh are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Celia Marie. She was born on Aug. 13, 2013, in Providence, R.I.

3 **Richard Konopczynski '01 (CAST)** is proud to announce the birth of his sixth child, a baby girl, Layanah Noel, born Dec. 17, 2013.

4 **Nicole Marousek '01 (CIAS)** and Matt Biscuiti are proud to announce the birth of twin girls, Lena and Charlotte, born Nov. 12, 2013, in New Haven, Conn.

5 **Wade Stiell '97 (CAST)** and **Keayva (Edwards) Stiell '99 (CAST)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Nori Isabella. She was born on Nov. 13, 2013.

6 **Kathleen Klik '99 (CIAS)** and Brenton Klik are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Liam Ellis. He was born on Sept. 7, 2013, in Reston, Va.

7 **Laura Oberlander '00 (CLA)** and **Lance Oberlander '97 (KGCOE)** are proud to announce their adoption of a baby boy, Samuel Drake, born on Dec. 31, 2013, and adopted on Jan. 2, 2014.

8 **Mario Figueroa '02 (COS)** and Nancy B. Figueroa are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Mario Figueroa III. He was born on Dec. 26, 2013, in Troy, N.Y.

9 **Carrie Gale '99 (NTID), '02 (CIAS)** and **Ryan W. Gale '01** are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Finn W. He was born on Oct. 11, 2013.

10 **Benjamin Meunier '02 (CIAS), '03 (CAST)** is proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Jackson Benjamin, born Nov. 27, 2013.

11 **Nathan Copp '04 (SCB)** is proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Harrison, born July 3, 2013.

12 **Molly Enjem '04 (KGCOE)** and **Stefan Enjem '04 (KGCOE)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Olivia, born Feb. 4, 2014.

13 **Kimberly Feitl Brophy '04 (COS)** and **Justin Brophy '06 (CIAS)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Jameson, on March 20, 2014.

14 **Stefania LoMonaco Palozzi '04 (CAST)** and Alberino Palozzi are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Fabio. He was born on Oct. 3, 2013, in Rochester. He joins big sister Lucia.

15 **Ashley (Waltz) Walker '07 (SCB), '05 (CIAS)** and Joseph Walker are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Nia Elethea, on Feb. 8, 2014.

16 **Dean Ganskop '06, '10 (GCCIS)** and Megan Ganskop are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Mikaela, born on April 18, 2014. She joins big sister Sydney.

17 **Jennifer (Henning) Miller '06 (CIAS)** is proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Cole, born June 18, 2013.

18 **Caitlin Pionessa '06 (CAST)** and **Andrew Pionessa '06 (KGCOE)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Maxwell Giuseppe, born Dec. 27, 2013. He joins big sister Sarah.

Elizabeth Spivak '06 (KGCOE) and **Todd Spivak '05 (GCCIS)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Zachary, born on Jan. 5, 2014.

19 **Ashlee McLoughlin '07 (CIAS)** and **Doug McLoughlin '07 (CAST)** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Lucas Gray. He was born on March 27, 2014, in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

Kyle Sortore '08 (KGCOE) is proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Miles Eric. He was born on Sept. 3, 2013, in Rochester.

20 **Joshua Stetson '08 (CAST)** and his wife, Christina, welcomed their baby boy Austin Joshua Stetson into the world on Dec. 26, 2013, in Rochester.

21 **Ryan Collier '12, '11 (SCB)** and **Keziah Collier '02 (SCB)** welcomed the arrival of their first baby daughter, Charlotte Grace Collier, born Oct. 3, 2012, in Rochester. The Colliers relocated to Charlotte, N.C., in January 2014 after Ryan accepted a promotion with regional accounting firm Elliott Davis PLLC, and Keziah accepted a relocation offer with United Technologies.

Tiger baby bib

If you are a graduate of RIT and you have recently had a child join your family, request your free future RIT tiger baby bib at www.rit.edu/alumni/ updateinfo/babybib.php.

Tigerhood of the Traveling Banner adds RIT touch to weddings

After Michelle Gerson-Wagner got engaged, she turned to Pinterest in search of wedding inspiration.

One pin in particular would spark what is now a growing tradition among RIT/NTID alumni weddings—Tigerhood of the Traveling Banner.

The post was a picture of a bride and groom, surrounded by all of their college friends, holding a banner printed with their alma mater's name.

"I saw this pin and immediately knew I just had to do the same thing," said Gerson-Wagner '08, '14 (communications, service leadership). "I had over 20 alumni, both current and to-be-confirmed, for my wedding and had to get a picture of all of us together."

But she didn't wait for her own special day to get the banner traveling. As a staff member in the NTID Office of Admissions and a member of the NTID Alumni Association Board of Directors, she shared the idea with quite a few others, who then asked to borrow the banner for their own weddings.

When word of the idea continued to spread, Gerson-Wagner decided to create a Facebook group to get more alumni involved. The group, which now has more than 270 members, also serves as a place for participants to share their final photo.

After the first wedding on May 6, 2013, the banner made its way to eight more RIT/NTID weddings that year. For 2014, Gerson-Wagner expected more than 15 weddings. Due to this increase in popularity, she now has three banners, all purchased from the RIT bookstore, to avoid any scheduling conflicts.

"Alumni getting married love it," said Gerson-Wagner. "I really believe it brings back all the fun memories when they get together to celebrate a special couple, but in essence, it's often a mini RIT reunion."

For Kiersten Shinrock Blankley '09, '09 (psychology, sign language interpreting) and Albert Blankley '09, '13 (biology, public policy), more than a quarter of their wedding guests were RIT alumni. Having met when living on the same residence hall floor in 2005, including the banner at their wedding allowed them to celebrate their time at RIT and the people who made it so special.

"When you assemble everyone for the photo, you realize how much of an impact RIT still has in your life today," said Shinrock Blankley. "It reminds you of all the special memories, funny stories, embarrassing mo-

ments you would rather forget and, above all, it makes you treasure the people you have in your life."

For Kelly Metz Davis '05, '08, '13 (business, accounting, professional studies) and her husband, Mark Davis '04 (computer integrated machining technology), having the traveling banner at their wedding was a way to show their piece of RIT/NTID history. The couple met through a mutual friend during their freshman year after he caught her eye at a flag football game on campus. They were married on Oct. 19, 2013, in West Seneca, N.Y.

"It enhanced our wedding experience because we realized that without RIT/NTID, we wouldn't have the wonderful friends in our lives as we do now," said Metz Davis.

As for Gerson-Wagner, her wedding on Sept. 15, 2013, was the sixth alumni wedding to be part of the new tradition. She met her husband, Jason Wagner, online and the two were married in Rochester with more than 20 alumni in attendance.

"RIT was my home for so many years and it still is," said Gerson-Wagner. "My guest list included mentors, my current supervisor, my best friends and my co-workers. It just felt right to have the banner there."

Krista Bellardo '14

Here's how the banner works

Michelle Gerson-Wagner '08, '14 sends the banner to the provided address free of charge.

A professional picture of all RIT guests with the bride, groom or both (if both are alumni) holding the banner must be taken.

The name of the couple, their RIT class years and wedding date is signed on the back of the banner.

After the wedding, the banner is sent back to Gerson-Wagner to pass on to the next couple.

A copy of the high-resolution image is sent to Gerson-Wagner once obtained by the couple and is posted to the Facebook page.

For more information on how Tigerhood of the Traveling Banner works or to reserve the banner for your wedding, visit the Facebook page at http://on.fb.me/1qPVpxV.

1 **West Seneca, N.Y.**
Kelly Metz Davis '05, '08, '13 (business, accounting, professional studies) and Mark Davis '04 (computer integrated machining technology) were married Oct. 19, 2013. Thirty-three alumni attended.

2 **Cle Elum, Wash.**
Ashley Nini and Michael Nini '05 (computer aided drafting technology) were married Aug. 24, 2013. Seven alumni attended.

3 **Honeoye Falls, N.Y.**
Sarah (Exley) Ozimek '08 (professional and technical communication) and Mark Ozimek '09 (mechanical engineering) were married Aug. 24, 2013. About 25 alumni attended.

4 **Rochester, N.Y.**
Michelle Gerson-Wagner '08, '14 (communications, service leadership) and Jason Wagner were married Sept. 15, 2013. About 25 alumni attended.

5 **Sandusky, Ohio**
Kristi Wesson '08, '10 (graphic media, deaf education) and Jon Wesson '09 (business) were married Sept. 7, 2013. About 40 alumni attended. (The banner accidentally was left on the party bus so the photo was shot the next morning with a T-shirt.)

6 **Peoria, Ariz.**
Jessica Mikolay Madsen '04, '10 (art and computer design, secondary education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing) and Scott Madsen were married March 15, 2014. Twenty-seven alumni attended. (The banner didn't make it to them in time.)

7 **Cleveland, Ohio**
Lauren Bain Millikin '06 (social work) and Dan Millikin '01 (psychology) were married Nov. 2, 2013. About 40 alumni attended.

8 **Littleton, Colo.**
Chelsea (Bruha) Nichols '11, '12 (business management, MBA) and Andrew Reid Nichols '11 (business management) were married Aug. 31, 2013. About 15 alumni attended.

9 **Rochester, N.Y.**
Kiersten Shinrock Blankley, '09, '09 (psychology, sign language interpreting) and Albert Blankley '09, '13 (biology, public policy) were married Nov. 9, 2013. Thirty alumni attended.

How will you make your mark?

"I was born in Bhutan and moved to Nepal with my family as an infant, where we spent 16 years in refugee camps. We had no basic comforts, like water or electricity. Today I call Rochester home, and when I walk across RIT's campus I realize how fortunate I am to be here and it's all thanks to donors like you."

—Gopal Sapkota '15

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RIT remembers Massimo Vignelli

Massimo Vignelli

Massimo Vignelli, whose Vignelli Center for Design Studies placed RIT onto the international forefront of design studies, died in Manhattan on May 27 after a long illness. He was 83.

In 2010, Massimo and Lella Vignelli donated their extensive career archive to RIT.

The collection of the Vignellis' work over their 40-year career is the major resource at the Vignelli Center for Design Studies. The center's goals are to advocate design excellence at RIT and beyond through innovative programming.

Fiercely devoted to the Modernist tradition, Mr. Vignelli's designs focused on simplicity through the use of basic geometric forms in all his work. His influence spanned from package design to houseware design and from furniture design to public signage.

The Vignellis were honorary trustees of RIT when they donated their archive.

R. Roger Remington, RIT's Vignelli Distinguished Professor of Design, said the design world has lost an icon.

"As we move forward at the Vignelli Center for Design Studies, our task is to extend his legacy of excellence in everything we accomplish," said Remington, a longtime friend. "We remember Massimo as a wonderful colleague and teacher. He was beloved by his students. His advice to them was: 'If you design it right, it will last forever.'"


In MEMORIAM

Alumni

1933
Ruth (Espenmiller) Werts '33 (FAA), March 15, 2014

1936
Salvatore F. Di Schino '36 (KGCOE), April 16, 2014
Chadbourne V. Hickey '36 (FAA), Jan. 7, 2014

1940
Leona (Walker) Choffin '40 (SCB), March 29, 2014

1942
Milford A. Rahn '42 (KGCOE), March 22, 2014

1943
Doris (Kent) Aurich '43 (SCB), March 8, 2014
Kenneth Mathews '43 (KGCOE), March 26, 2014
Charles R. Straubing '43 (KGCOE), April 11, 2014

1946
Maxine R. Back '46 (FAA), Jan. 20, 2014

1948
Gerald Jordan '48 (COS), April 1, 2014
Ethan H. Seymour '48 (COS), Feb. 11, 2014
Marilyn (Searle) Woodward '48 (SCB), April 5, 2014

1949
James F. Roome '49 (COS), Jan. 17, 2014

1950
Irving Fine '50 (CCE), April 14, 2014
Norton V. Smith '50 (GAP), Feb. 8, 2014
Werner F. Wehling '50 (KGCOE), March 7, 2014

1951
Robert Hinman '51 (GAP), Jan. 23, 2014
Anne T. Jardas '51 (SCB), Feb. 3, 2014
Emmajean (Campbell) Weis '51 (SCB), Feb. 1, 2014

1952
Frederick J. Rauner '52 (COS), March 27, 2014
William R. Schlegel '52 (KGCOE), March 23, 2014
Herman F. Thomas '52 (CCE), Jan. 14, 2014

1953
Virginia (Fox) French '53 (SCB), Feb. 11, 2014

1954
Richard P. Sandle Sr. '54 (CCE), March 5, 2014

1955
C. Peter Oestreich '55 (FAA), Jan. 27, 2014

1957
Samuel H. Fruscione '52 (CCE), '57 (CAST), March 7, 2014
Stanley C. Odymala '57 (CCE), Jan. 12, 2014
Robert E. Smith '57 (KGCOE), Jan. 12, 2014

1958
Maribeth (Romberg) Aloia '58 (SCB), Feb. 23, 2014
Donald E. Dambrowski '58 (CCE), Jan. 7, 2014

1959
John M. Avery '59 (CCE), April 9, 2014
Frederick J. Bauer '59 (GAP), Feb. 16, 2014
Joseph N. Crawford Jr. '59 (CCE), Jan. 10, 2014
Arthur C. Grimaldi '59 (CCE), Feb. 8, 2014

1960
Stewart A. Nichols '60 (CCE), March 25, 2014
Harold E. Plummer '60 (CCE), April 12, 2014

Helen L. Stira '60 (CCE), April 4, 2014

1961
Robert J. Gill '61 (KGCOE), March 19, 2014
Joseph G. Yahn '61 (CCE), Feb. 12, 2014

1963
Howard L. King '63 (KGCOE), Jan. 4, 2014

1964
Jurij Sobolewskij '64 (CCE), Jan. 26, 2014
Milton Pearson '64 (GAP), May 5, 2014

1965
Richard N. Price '65 (SCB), Feb. 15, 2014

1968
Robert S. Swan '68 (CCE), Feb. 6, 2014

1969
Paul D. Frahm '69 (GAP), Feb. 26, 2014
Peter Kubarycz '53 (KGCOE), '69 (CCE), April 6, 2014

1970
Donald T. Hosenfeld '70 (CCE), March 31, 2014
Albert D. Rickmers '70 (CCE), March 26, 2014
Ronald J. Walls Jr. '70 (SCB), Jan. 23, 2014

1971
Albert H. Schultze '71 (CCE), March 2, 2014

1972
John L. Crisafulli '72 (CCE), March 17, 2014
Michael J. Millow '72 (CCE), March 18, 2014
Danny G. Ritter '68, '72 (KGCOE), Feb. 9, 2014
Kenneth L. Stickle '72 (CCE), Feb. 25, 2014

Bruce William Tougas '72 (CCE), April 17, 2014

1973
John G. Chase '73 (SCB), April 11, 2014
Gregory B. Fager '73 (SCB), Jan. 7, 2014
Richard C. Neubauer '73 (CCE), April 6, 2014

1974
Clarence W. Goddard '74 (CCE), Jan. 5, 2014
James R. Messer '74 (CCE), Jan. 24, 2014
Linda J. Sichak '74 (COS), March 31, 2014

1975
Anthony R. Vasile '65, '75 (SCB), Feb. 8, 2014

1976
John G. Cronin '76 (CCE), Jan. 24, 2014
Wayne Meister '76 (SCB), March 16, 2014

1977
Harry A. Dieter '77 (KGCOE), Jan. 4, 2014
Bruce C. Federation '77 (CAST), Feb. 26, 2014
Vivian (Mallison) Ging '77 (FAA), March 6, 2014
David E. Kuney '77 (SCB), Jan. 10, 2014
Patricia (Dixon) McGrath '77 (CLA), April 2, 2014
Richard W. Schuler '77 (CCE), Jan. 31, 2014
Mark R. Warda '77 (KGCOE), Jan. 27, 2014

1978
Jean Laurelle Ermatinger '78 (CCE), April 13, 2014

1979
Thomas Patrick Bresnahan '79 (CCE), Jan. 6, 2014
James D. Willoth '79 (COS), March 28, 2014

Kenneth Edward Wood '79 (SCB), Feb. 18, 2014

1980
Anita Alano '80 (FAA), Jan. 11, 2014
Robert Julian Ocque '80 (CCE), April 6, 2014

1981
Matthew P. Stanzione '81 (CCE), March 21, 2014

1983
Michael Scott Mattone '83 (CAST), April 3, 2014
Eileen Doris McMahon '81, '83 (CCE), March 26, 2014
Ronald Vattimo '83 (CCE), Feb. 20, 2014

1984
Gary John Duffey '84 (GAP), Feb. 12, 2014

1986
Michael Lee Shiffer '86 (NTID), March 18, 2014

1990
Margaret C. Mercado '90 (SCB), April 1, 2014

1991
Joy Parker '91, '92 (GAP), July 12, 2014

1995
Jennifer A. Hayes '91 (NTID), '95 (CCE), Jan. 30, 2014
Joel David Spector '95 (CIAS), Jan. 14, 2014

1996
Walter Arthur Roberts '96 (CCE), Feb. 13, 2014

1997
Jared M. Van Volkenburg '97 (CAST), March 4, 2014

1999
Ralph D. Bryant '99 (NTID), Jan. 29, 2014

2007
Daniel C. De Boyace '07 (CIAS), April 10, 2014

2008
Darren K. Hansen '08 (CAST), Jan. 14, 2014

2010
Shannon M. Wachal '10 (CAST), Feb. 14, 2014

2011
Gabrielle E. Oberti '11 (CIAS), Feb. 13, 2014

Faculty and staff

Frank Annunziata, professor emeritus in the College of Liberal Arts, Jan. 12, 2014

Sharon Brock, former custodian in Facilities Management Services, March 31, 2014

Richard Floberg, former film and television professor, March 15, 2014

Jennifer Hayes, interpreter on the Liberal Arts interpreting team, Jan. 30, 2014

James Papero, former adjunct instructor in the Division of Student Affairs, March 19, 2014

Milton Pearson, former principal imaging scientist at RIT Research Corp., May 5, 2014

Albert D. Rickmers Sr., former professor in School of Graphic Arts and Photographic Science, March 26, 2014

Jack Smith, former vice president for communications, May 13, 2014

Edward Steffens, professor emeritus in the Department of Hospitality and Service Management, May 22, 2014
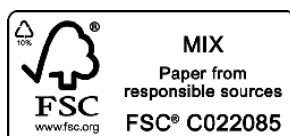
The first Tiger Walk in 2004 welcomed students to campus. Today, students wear brown and faculty, staff and parents wear orange to show school spirit.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Tiger Walk turns 10

Incoming first-year students this fall will participate in the 10th annual Tiger Walk as part of New Student Convocation.

Started by RIT men's baseball Head Coach Rob Grow '88 and the office of Alumni Relations, the first Tiger Walk was held in the fall of 2004 and drew only a small crowd. Today, faculty and staff from various departments, current students and family members flood the Quarter Mile with homemade posters and noisemakers.

When new students pass by, the crowd cheers and high-fives them as the Pep Band performs and Ritchie makes a special appearance. "It has been seen by the RIT faculty and staff as a great way to show that they are here for the students, that students are the priority at RIT," Grow said.

In 2006, to increase school spirit, new students wore brown T-shirts while all other attendees were encouraged to wear orange, an initiative that was introduced by Grow and James Macchiano '06, '09, who was then the acting Student Government president. That tradition has continued. "On that one day all of the Field House has a true feeling of RIT," Macchiano said. "It is important to let new students know how much we appreciate them and that they have truly chosen a unique school with a unique experience."

Can we count on YOU?

Give every year—make an impact every day.

Calling all RIT fellow alumni. Our gifts, those that we make as alums every year, help to ensure that current and future students receive the quality RIT education that we received. No matter the size, our gifts—combined with the gifts of fellow alumni—make a significant impact in the lives of RIT students.

/ 200 alumni x $5 gifts = book scholarship for two or three students

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/ 100 alumni x $25 gifts = two laptops for the library to loan to students for study

/ 353 alumni x $100 gifts = a year's scholarship support for one student

Our alumni gifts make an impact. We need all alums to make a gift each and every year. Can we count on YOU to make an impact?

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