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The University Magazine

Fall 2015

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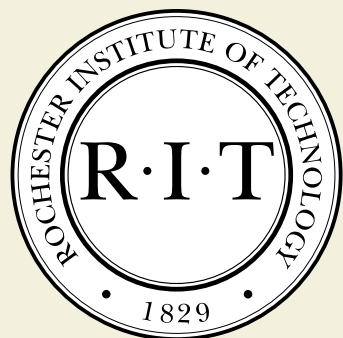
TURN TO RIT TALENT

Carrot Creative co-founder
Chris Petescia '05



Alumnus part of Pulitzer Prize-winning team

Students thriving 25 years after ADA



RIT: The University Magazine

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

“RIT will be a great world university whose academic portfolio, research agenda, and educational model align with the shifting needs of a complex planet.”

—Vision statement for “Greatness Through Difference: 2015-2025 Strategic Plan”

Evidence of RIT’s rapid ascent

RIT students are making their mark on our complex planet—and beyond—with significant contributions across the globe from Senegal to Iceland. We’ve had a surge of recent major student accomplishments that I want to share with you:

- Three RIT students won Fulbright fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Fulbright program is the largest exchange program in the country and provides funds for American students to live in another country to teach English, conduct research or earn a graduate degree. Kaylin Beiter, majoring in biomedical sciences, will travel to Senegal to study how to improve HIV medications. History Estill-Varner, an ASL-English interpreting and global studies double major, will travel to the Dominican Republic to work on a project that will ensure quality support services for deaf Dominicans. Rose Rustowicz, an imaging science major, will travel to Iceland to work with a research team from the University of Iceland to conduct remote sensing research at the Hekla volcano. A fourth student, Yasmeen Smalley, studying biomedical photographic communications, will serve as an alternate with hopes of researching the biodiversity in the coastal waters of the Philippines. RIT also had 40 international students from 25 countries attend RIT this past year through the Fulbright Foreign Student Program.

- Four undergraduate students won prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships. Elizabeth Bondi, Selene Chew, Tyler Godat and Emily Holz will each receive \$7,500 for the upcoming academic year. There are only seven other universities in the nation with four Goldwater scholars. Our students have been gaining experience that varies from working on laparoscopic cardiac surgical devices to doing a co-op stint at NASA with teams that will determine a landing site for the Mars 2020 rover.

- Two RIT students took a top prize in Microsoft’s U.S. Imagine Cup National Finals. Dan Plate, an illustration major, and Gary Porter, game design and development, won in the games category for their co-creation, Super Daryl Deluxe.

- Our cyber defense team took home third place at the 2015 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. This is the third consecutive year that RIT has been among the top contenders, placing second in 2014 and winning the national title in 2013.

- We conferred a record 42 Ph.D. degrees at commencement from our doctoral programs in astrophysics, color science, computing and information sciences, imaging science, microsystems engineering and sustainability. That tops last year’s record of 29 Ph.D. degrees.

On top of these achievements, preliminary estimates show we will welcome our largest incoming freshman class later this month. The class will also be the strongest academically and most diverse in university history as we reach an all-time record enrollment of about 18,500 students.

Finally, our alumni continue to make us proud. You can read about some of them in this issue, including David Carson '94 (professional photographic illustration), who won a Pulitzer Prize (page 30); David Borkholder '92 (microelectronic engineering), who developed wearable technologies that are being used by individuals in places as close as Rochester and as far away as Afghanistan (page 10); and alumni working at startup companies in Brooklyn (page 22).

Yours in Tiger pride,

Bill Destler, President
www.rit.edu/president

We couldn't do it without **YOU**

Thank you RIT Alumni for . . .



Volunteering

We are grateful for your time and talents.



Advocating

We are appreciative of your willingness to share your RIT experience with your family, friends and colleagues.



Hiring

We are thankful for your partnership in offering RIT students and alumni employment opportunities—co-op and permanent.



Giving

We are thrilled that your annual gifts make a HUGE impact on the lives of RIT students each and every day.

**We really couldn't do it without YOU.
Thank you for making your mark.**

Visit rit.edu/alumni / Find us on  [Facebook.com/RIT.Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/RIT.Alumni)  Follow us on [Twitter.com/RIT_Alumni](https://twitter.com/RIT_Alumni)

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ALUMNI
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October 16th-18th



Many activities to choose from including **Presidents' Alumni Ball, College Speakers, Friday Fun Night, Men's Hockey vs. Bowling Green, Student Government Horton Distinguished Speaker,** Brick City 5k, 50th Year Reunion Activities, Tours, Golden Circle Luncheon, Athletic Reunions, Greek Reunions, Pumpkin Chunkin & more.



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Cover

Chris Petescia '05 (graphic design) is a founder of Carrot Creative, a digital agency located in a former manufacturing section of Brooklyn called Dumbo. Carrot has hired many RIT graduates. (Photo by A. Sue Weisler)

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\$100!” But your  cautions
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Expert Advice

With Kelly Redder



Kelly Redder led the RIT Office of Alumni Relations for nearly 14 years, developing programs, activities, benefits and services for the university's 114,000 alumni worldwide. The university recently appointed her assistant vice president, RIT for Life, and the director of the RIT Alumni House refocusing her responsibilities on the newest initiatives for the RIT community.

How to be RIT for Life

Creating a uniquely RIT experience from prospective student to valued alumnus is what RIT for Life is all about. It has long been a goal of the RIT Alumni Association to build a deeper relationship between RIT and our alumni around the world. With the launch of the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, "Greatness Through Difference," we have an opportunity to make alumni an even more important part of university life. Equally important, alumni have an opportunity to benefit by making RIT an integral part of their everyday lives. Here is how you can be RIT for Life:

Share your experiences

- Consider becoming a career mentor. Mentoring develops your own connections with students and extends your reach on campus. Several programs exist within each of the colleges and in the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education. Learn more at www.rit.edu/recruit.
- Get connected to the RIT Professional Network, a database of volunteer advisers that provides job seekers an excellent networking resource.
- Look for co-op opportunities at companies to which you're connected, and share those with the Alumni Relations office.
- Come back to campus and speak to students in your degree program.

Personally connect

- Join the Alumni Network at rit.edu/alumni/benefits. This online networking system will connect you to thousands of alumni around the globe, as well as to all the benefits the Alumni Association offers, such as email communication on alumni events and activities in your area and on campus, easy registration for alumni activities, free Wi-Fi access to stay

connected while you're on campus, and access to free library services, databases and whitepapers.

- Join any of RIT's virtual and social networking communities—there are active RIT Alumni Association Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts, and a number of other social media outlets for alumni. On Twitter, look for #RITforLife #RIT #RITRocks and #RITNews.
- Stop by the Alumni Oasis at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival.
- Return to campus for Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend and commencement. Stop by and have coffee with your favorite professor. When you come back to campus, make sure you let the Alumni Relations office know. We'll provide you with easy access across campus while you visit.
- Share your successes and photos of your growing family in Class Notes in *The University Magazine*.

Commit to lifelong learning

Consider joining one of our hour-long meRIT webinars. Some of our recent lunchtime discussions have included "Into the Fire: Crisis Communications Starts with Preparedness," "Valentine's Day Wine & Food Pairings" and "The Harmonica and the Blues." Register for the next one at www.rit.edu/alumni/webinars.

Earn free swag

In the next two years, we anticipate launching a "Loyal Tiger" program. Twenty-five percent of the RIT community already participates in RIT for Life activities: They attend events, volunteer their time and make philanthropic gifts in support of the university. If you do one of these activities, RIT is grateful. If you do two of these activities, RIT is thrilled. If you participate in all three, you become a Loyal Tiger. Benefits will include free swag, access to special events and discounted merchandise to show your Tiger spirit.



NOTEBOOK



Stamp of approval

A set of British postal stamps

commemorating the 25th anniversary of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope includes a star detected by an RIT professor nearly 20 years ago.

The Pistol Star made international news in 1997 and continues to shape Don Figer's career in unexpected ways. Figer is a professor of physics and director of the Center for Detectors at RIT.

The Pistol Star is part of the Quintuplet Cluster near the galactic center and takes its name from the Pistol Nebula, a dying star whose gas was ejected from and now surrounds the star.

Interim dean named

Anne R. Haake has been named interim dean of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Haake, who was a professor and associate dean for Research and Scholarship in the Golisano College, assumed her new responsibilities in July. Andrew Sears stepped down to take a position as dean of Penn State's College of Information Sciences and Technologies.

The Harmonica and the Blues



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Tom Hanney, right, teaches students how to play the harmonica. The students did not need a music background to enroll in the multidisciplinary class.

A new course was offered at RIT last spring that blended a history of America's most iconic music with an understanding of the tiny instrument that's come to symbolize its sound.

The *Harmonica and the Blues*, taught by Center for Multidisciplinary Studies senior lecturer and local musician Thomas Hanney, highlighted the history of the

harmonica.

"I want the students to come away with an appreciation and an understanding of the great American art form of the blues, and the influence it has had on the world," said Hanney, who plays harmonica in blues, swing and rock bands locally and has opened for blues legends such as Buddy Guy and Robert Cray.

As RIT takes a more multidisciplinary approach to teaching, faculty such as Hanney are seeking out peers across campus to build courses like *The Harmonica and the Blues*. His new musical history course included a talented ensemble from two RIT colleges. Al Biles, professor in RIT's School of Interactive Games and Media and the Center for Media, Arts, Games, Interaction and Creativity (MAGIC) taught classes about the science of sound.

Students also toured the audio technology studio in the College of Applied Science and Technology with Mark Indelicato, associate professor of electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology. Like Hanney, both faculty are musicians, Indelicato playing guitar and Biles the trumpet.

Michelle Cometa '00

To learn more

Watch a webinar on **The Harmonica and the Blues** at www.rit.edu/alumni/harmonica.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

The August Family Atrium in the Clinical Health Sciences Center was dedicated on May 26 in a private ceremony. The facility is the new home for clinical programs in the College of Health Sciences and Technology, the Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition and a primary care center run by Rochester Regional Health. Construction began on the facility in April 2011.

A grand opening is scheduled for Oct. 2. Burt August, an RIT Trustee Emeritus, attended the ceremony.



Photo by Kyle Hofsaas

After eight days, nine states and 1,400 miles, past and present members of the women's cross country and track and field squads arrived home at RIT on March 29. The endeavor raised funds and awareness for the national Tigers for Tigers Coalition.

Women complete nine-state relay

Fifteen past and present members of RIT women's cross country and track and field squads completed an eight-day, nine-state race to raise awareness and funds for the Tigers for Tigers Coalition.

The runners spent their spring breaks on the 1,400-mile relay dubbed the Tiger Trail starting March 21

at Auburn, Ala., visiting six other colleges with tiger mascots along the way. The Tigers for Tigers Coalition helps conservation efforts in protecting the 3,200 wild tigers in existence.

The women were featured in several newspapers, radio and television stories, including *Runner's World*.

NOTEBOOK

Tops in Princeton Review rankings

Saunders College of Business ranked seventh on The Princeton Review's "Top 25 Online MBA Programs for 2015."

This is the first time that The Princeton Review has done a comprehensive ranking of online MBA programs. Saunders College offers an online Executive MBA program.

In addition, RIT, for the fifth consecutive year, has been named one of North America's greenest universities by The Princeton Review.

RIT also is one of the top schools in the world to study video game design for 2015, according to rankings from The Princeton Review.

RIT's game design and development program was ranked sixth at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

New Saunders dean

Jacqueline Mozrall '87 (industrial engineering) was appointed dean of Saunders College of Business.

She had been serving as interim dean since last July.

Mozrall has held several key leadership roles at RIT, including senior associate dean of RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Three students win Fulbright fellowships

Three RIT students who graduated in May have won Fulbright fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Established in 1946, the Fulbright student program administers highly competitive grants to foster international exchanges in education.

“Over the past five years, RIT’s had two Fulbright winners, so to have three at once is quite the achievement,” said Jenny Sullivan, assistant director of RIT’s Study Abroad and Fellowships office.



Kaylin Beiter

Kaylin Beiter, a bio-medical sciences student and Rochester native, will travel to Senegal to work with Dr. Coumba Toure Kane at Dantec Hospital in Dakar to study how HIV medication adherence struggles and drug resistance are leading

to a growing degree of HIV viral diversity.

History Estill-Varner, an ASL-English interpreting and global studies double major student from Independence, Mo., will travel to the Dominican Republic to collaborate



Estill-Varner

consistent and proficient, thus ensuring quality support services for deaf Dominicans.



Rose Rustowicz

of the landscape, which will allow them to map and monitor hazardous and vulnerable areas.

Yasmeen Smalley ’13 (biomedical photographic communications) was named as an alternate in the event that one of the other

with the country’s National Association of the Deaf and the National Interpreting Association to build a sustainable Interpreter Training Program and assessment model to ensure that interpreters of Dominican Sign Language, LESDOM, are

Rose Rustowicz, an imaging science student from Amherst, N.Y., will travel to Iceland to work with a research team from the University of Iceland to conduct remote sensing at the Hekla volcano in order to create a multidisciplinary assessment

students declines or is unable to make their international journey.

If selected, the Houston native will visit the Philippines to work with Al Licuanan and other researchers from De La Salle University to develop a photo-documentary featuring their research on environmental factors that have led to mass destruction of biodiversity in the coastal waters of the Philippines.

“We had 16 applicants this round and each of them was exceptionally qualified,” said Sullivan. “I’m proud of our awardees. They are multi-talented leaders focused on using their skills and talents to improve the world.”

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest exchange program in the country and provides funds for American students to live in another country for one year to teach English, conduct research or earn a graduate degree.

Similarly, 40 international students from 25 countries attended RIT during the last academic year through the Fulbright Foreign Student Program.

Derrick Hunt ’15



RIT President Bill Destler conferred degrees upon some 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students in May.

Undergraduates nab Goldwater awards

Four undergraduate students have won awards from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program.

Elizabeth Bondi, Selene Chew, Tyler Godat and Emily Holz will each receive \$7,500 for the 2015–2016 academic year. They were among the 260 award winners chosen from 1,206 nominees.

The Goldwater Scholarship is based on academic merit and regarded as one of the most prestigious undergraduate honors. It is awarded to students committed to pursuing careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.



Elizabeth Bondi

overwritten text in historical documents using image-processing techniques.

Bondi, from Dansville, N.Y., is a third-year student in imaging science and a member of the RIT Honors Program. She works with Roger Easton, professor in RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science,

to recover erased and

Bondi plans to pursue a Ph.D. in imaging science or computer vision, with the goal of conducting research in computer vision and teaching at the university level.



Selene Chew

and Statisticians. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in applied mathematics and to work on computer vision research questions in industry.

Chew and her mentor, Nathan Cahill, professor in RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences, explore techniques for improving algorithms that cluster similar points and classify regions of hyperspectral imagery.

Godat, from Greensboro, N.C., is a third-year student and double major in physics and applied mathematics.

For nearly three years, Godat has explored

Chew, a resident of Ithaca, N.Y., is a third-year student in the computational mathematics program, a member of the RIT Honors Program and a board member of PiRIT, the RIT Association of Student Mathematicians



Tyler Godat

He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in physics.



Emily Holz

Maki, assistant professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences, modeling the settling dynamics of a contact lens on the eye, a topic of interest to Bausch & Lomb.

Holz hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in targeted drug delivery.

theoretical research in the field of cavity optomechanics with his mentors, Mishkat Bhattacharya, assistant professor in RIT's School of Physics and Astronomy, and postdoctoral researcher Brandon Rodenberg.

Holz, a resident of Cottage Grove, Minn., is a fourth-year student in the biomedical engineering program. She has enjoyed a variety of undergraduate research experiences through the co-op program.

She worked with Kara

Susan Gawlowicz '95

RIT's new six-and-a-half-acre solar array farm is located south of campus off Bailey Road. The project is expected to reduce the strain on RIT's electricity grid while furthering a commitment to help protect the environment.



Massive array farm shines light on solar power at RIT

RIT has taken another step toward carbon neutrality, using an energy source people don't always associate with the Rochester region.

A massive 2-megawatt solar energy farm, consisting of 6,138 photovoltaic panels used to generate electricity from the sun, now occupies a transformed farm field south of the RIT campus.

The size of the array, which became operational on April 22—Earth Day, appropriately—places it among the largest of any college in New York state. Its output—generating enough electricity to power the equivalent of more than 200 homes a year—will be tied directly into RIT's central substation for distribution across circuits throughout the university's 1,300 acres.

"Our campus keeps growing, and that places additional burden on our central substation, which is already nearing capacity," said Tom Garland, lead project engineer for RIT's Facilities Management Services and who oversaw the array's construction during sometimes-arctic conditions last winter. "We need to develop alternative energy sources that are going to help us keep our peak power demand down and reduce the load on our transformers."

Currently, RIT's main campus consumption is approximately 72 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, according to Garland. The new solar array is expected to produce, on average, 2.3 million kWh per year—or 3.2 percent of the campus' total. All of the power will be consumed on campus and will not be put back into the grid and sold to the utility company, he added.

"This is a big step for us," said Enid Cardinal, senior sustainability advisor to RIT President Bill Destler. "As a campus, we're very large consumers of both electricity and natural gas—both of which have sizable carbon footprints associated with them."

RIT is collaborating on the project with Solar Liberty out of Buffalo, N.Y. Support for this project came from Gov. Andrew Cuomo's NY-Sun initiative, which is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

NY-Sun is a \$1 billion initiative to advance the scale-up of solar and move the state closer to having a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry.

The new array farm marks RIT's sixth solar



RIT's solar array can power the equivalent of 200 homes.

project on campus. The Golisano Institute for Sustainability has two arrays totaling 40.6 kW, and the University Services Center has a 12.40 kW system. Liberty Hill uses a 10.3 kW array to offset some of the presidential residence's electrical power. In addition to a small 2 kW array in the College of Applied Science and Technology, a new 16.6 kW array at the College of Health Sciences and Technology also became operational this spring.

Rich Kiley

By the numbers

- 2-megawatt solar array farm at RIT can generate enough electricity to power more than 200 homes annually
- 6,138 photovoltaic panels over 6.5 acres
- Expected to produce, on average, 2.3 million kilowatt-hours per year—or 3.2 percent of the university's electricity total.
- Anticipated to reduce RIT's carbon footprint by 400 metric tons annually

About solar power

- Solar panels first appeared on the market in 1956.
- Although not as effective as on a sunny day, solar energy can still be converted through clouds, producing 10 to 25 percent of its regular capacity.
- The price of solar power has rapidly decreased in recent years, one of the reasons why more than 60 percent of U.S. solar panels were built and installed during the past three years.
- Many spacecraft, including the Mars Observer, rely on solar panels for electricity from the sun.
- The largest solar plant in the world is located in the Mojave Desert, spanning 1,000 acres with a generation capacity of 354 megawatts.



David Borkholder, the Bausch and Lomb Professor of Microsystems Engineering, is an alumnus who has made a big impact in the area of wearable technologies. Some of those life-changing solutions were designed, built and tested in engineering labs at RIT.

Life-changing research

Wearable technology gives concussion data

When Navy SEALs go out on a mission, they wear blast gauges, devices on their helmets and armor that provide information on the effect explosions could have on their bodies.

Athletes are using a similar technology that gives real-time data about possible concussions after sports-related head injuries.

David Borkholder '92 (microelectronic engineering) developed these wearable technologies that are being used by individuals in places as close as Rochester and as far away as Afghanistan.

In a small, out-of-the-way lab in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, the professor, mentor and entrepreneur is teaching his students the difference between just making gadgets or widgets and making things that improve people's lives.

"Any number of times I saw him put aside things that were probably better for him professionally, to focus on something that he felt made a difference," said Jeff Rogers, former program manager for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA, sponsors of the Blast Gauge System. "That was a wonderful scenario to watch—where he cares so much about what is going on that he will put all the time possible into making it work."

Borkholder's work will make an even bigger impact in the months ahead.

In June, his company, BlackBox Biometrics Inc., was awarded a \$9.4 million U.S. Department of Defense contract to create new jobs and produce more blast gauges to support U.S. service men and women stationed throughout the world.

Rochester to Silicon Valley

It was not so long ago that Borkholder was an undergraduate student himself. He began classes at RIT in 1987 when the microelectronic engineering program was just several years old and took classes from its founder, Lynn Fuller '70, '73 (electrical engineering). Borkholder was one of the program's top students, with pointed questions and natural curiosity, Fuller said.

Making the leap from nippy Rochester to sunny California, Borkholder would go on to

receive his master's and doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1994 and 1999, respectively. Part of the graduate program included various rotations with engineering faculty, and it would strengthen the intersection of engineering and biomedical applications for him. He put these disciplines to work at two start-up companies in Silicon Valley, helping to develop a portable ultrasound system for one company and automated systems for DNA extraction and analysis for the other.

Microelectronic engineering, biomedical applications and knowledge in product development would become the foundation for his research and future products.

Even with success in Silicon Valley, he and his wife, Robin, wanted to return to their hometown of Rochester and raise their two young sons among family. He had retained his connections to RIT and sought out people like Fuller to help ease into academia. He returned to RIT in 2004 to teach in the electrical engineering program and build his research focus.

"You can put your energies into making a new gadget, some commodity. It is exciting to see it on a store shelf and know you had some small part in it," said Borkholder. "But it's different than creating something that is going to help people. I think that's what excited me about the biomedical aspects of engineering."

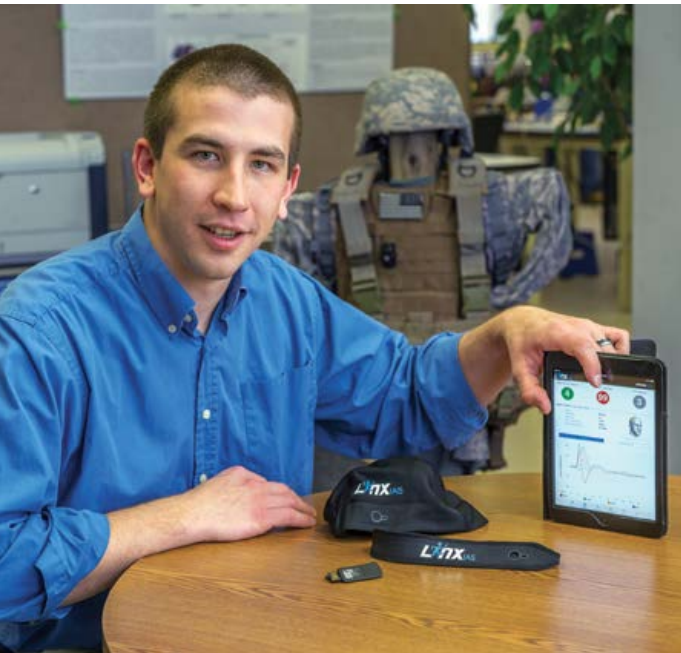
He would put those connections to work almost immediately.

'Great engineering'

Toward 2008, the U.S. was beginning to see an upsurge of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with traumatic brain injuries. DARPA was interested in creating a soldier-worn blast dosimeter that could provide information about blast occurrences and the effect they were having on soldiers.

Borkholder submitted a concept paper about a possible solution. It became a full proposal and eventually was funded by DARPA in 2010.

In the space of one year—unusual for design, development, testing, production and deployment of any new product—Borkholder and a team of students and partners delivered 1,000 units to DARPA. They were immediately de-



David Gillette '14 (electrical engineering) demonstrates the Linx Impact Assessment System, capable of measuring concussion-causing impacts.



Placement of a blast gauge on a soldier's helmet can help to assess impact from explosive blasts.

ployed in Afghanistan.

“We went from concept—paper sketches of what we thought this would need to be—actually delivering 1,000 units. And we did that in under 12 months...it was intense,” he said. “RIT was incredibly supportive through that process. I was given release from teaching so that I could focus on that and continue the other research I had going on.”

Traumatic brain injuries occur when a blast is detonated and produces a supersonic shockwave that interacts with structures—and bodies. Despite numerous casualties of war from incendiary blasts, there were thousands of soldiers who survived the blasts but later showed symptoms of damage upon return to the U.S.

Other sensor systems had been developed that primarily measured acceleration due to a blast. Additional data was needed about the overpressures with a blast, not just acceleration, Borkholder explained. Overpressure is the change in pressure relative to atmospheric pressure, and is the primary source of brain injury from explosive blast exposure.

Borkholder's gauge logged this distinctive data, among other important variables.

“He proceeded to knock out four generations of the device in a year,” said Rogers. The former DARPA project manager is now director of engineering-healthcare technologies at Google. “The third was so good that we went ahead, packaged that up, gave it to a

special operations group who flew it straight into Afghanistan.

“Six weeks later, they brought the gauges directly to DARPA and I was able to download the data from them right away. It was a very rare circumstance. Dave did an amazing job putting together so many generations so quickly. It was great engineering.”

DARPA wanted to expand use of the device. Another 1,000 units were built and shipped from RIT. The printed circuit boards were produced in Borkholder's Biomedical Microsystems Lab in the engineering college. Once the team acquired the device packaging from an out-of-state company, the final assembly and tests were completed at RIT.

Early on in the process, Borkholder asked Fuller about testing the sensors in the gauge, and he provided him with alternatives.

Little did he know that Borkholder would build an improvised device similar to a small cannon and would set off charges on a site at the edge of campus.

“Those blasts could make the mosquitos fall out of the air,” Fuller said laughing, adding that Borkholder was asked to stop temporarily because the explosions disturbed an RIT Board of Trustees meeting going on in a nearby building.

In 2011, Borkholder created BlackBox Biometrics to manufacture the blast gauge. Today, the company, based in Rochester, has nearly 20 employees, and many have RIT

degrees.

With the new Department of Defense contract, supported by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, BlackBox Biometrics is expected to take on eight more employees to help manufacture the next generation of the Blast Gauge System to be used by the U.S. Army.

On the field

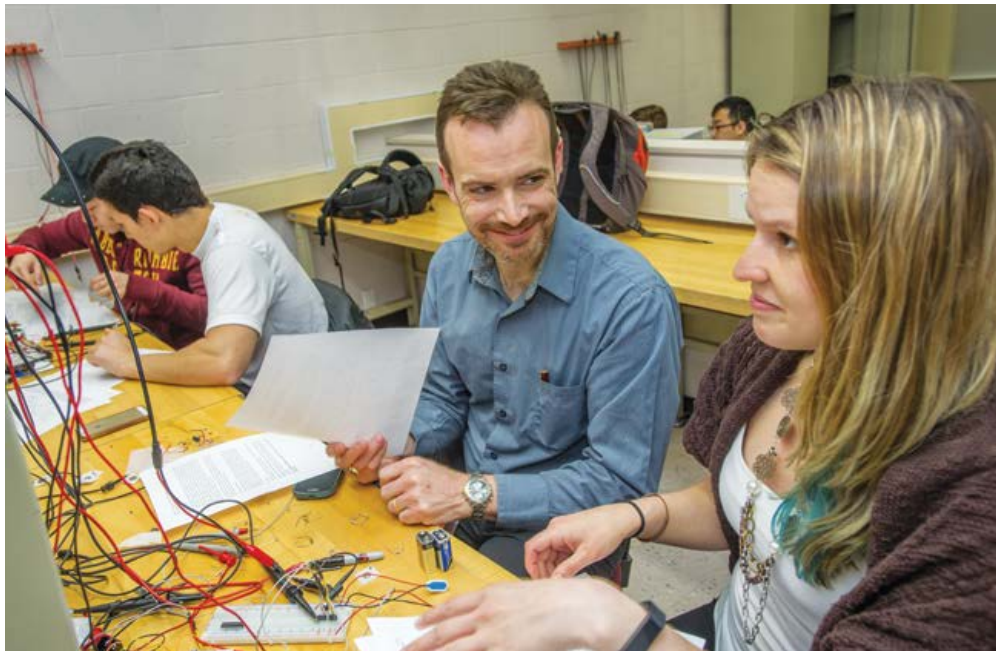
Borkholder's young family would indirectly influence the next step in his career as he watched his sons play sports.

In 2012, BlackBox Biometrics began to diversify and believed that foundational technology within the blast gauge could be used to support growing research in the area of sports-related concussions.

“We had a core competency in measuring concussive forces with wearable technologies,” said Borkholder. “That's essentially what the blast gauge was. So we took much of the core technology from the blast gauge, added to it and put in different form factors appropriate for sports.”

The team worked on it for over two years. In November 2014, they launched the Linx Impact Assessment System. It would be another timely connection of product-to-need, as the impact of concussions on athletes from the National Football League made the national news.

Linx IAS took the International Computer Electronics Show in Las Vegas by storm this



Undergraduate students such as Courtney Getman learn about using engineering to make things that improve people's lives. She was in David Borkholder's biomedical sensors and transducers class last spring.

past January. The team won three awards in Fitness, Sports and Biotech, Tech for a Better World and Wearable Technologies.

"CES was one of the craziest experiences I've ever had," said Ryan Ramplin '08 (mechanical engineering technology), lead manufacturing/mechanical engineer at BlackBox Biometrics. "I went in thinking it was a trade show, but this was a different beast with 3,500 companies and 6 million square feet of space."

Ramplin was one of the first BlackBox Biometrics employees and worked closely with Borkholder on the latest iterations of the blast gauge.

"Working with Dave—he's definitely high intensity, completely quality driven and has incredibly high standards—and that just helps to improve all the employees here," he said. "The innovation process isn't a singular line, it's very iterative, so you can make something smaller at first but then you need to go back and re-do it because you can make it better."

It was a similar pattern to how Borkholder made the blast gauge, with several iterations, one better and more refined than the last. Perhaps that is the mark of innovation.

"It's funny at RIT, they kept throwing out this word 'innovate.' I really didn't understand what that meant back then," said Michael Ostersag '11, '13 (electrical engineering), technical lead with BlackBox Biometrics. "What Dave does, and this is one of the biggest things he's imparted to me, is keeping abreast

of new technology and trying to include as much cutting-edge technology in products."

On the horizon for Borkholder is another cutting-edge device. This one would be even smaller than the blast gauge and the Linx IAS device—yet it might mean a big difference for someone having their hearing restored or an individual hearing for the first time.

Just over 10 years ago, when Borkholder started teaching at RIT, he began research initiatives with D. Robert Frisina, founding director of NTID, and his son, Robert, director of the Global Center for Hearing and Speech at the University of South Florida.

They received initial funding from the National Institutes of Health for developing implantable microsystems for intra-cochlear drug delivery to administer drugs or gene-based therapy treatments for auditory dysfunctions.

In February, the team was awarded a new multi-million dollar NIH grant for further developing the prototype device, because that early work demonstrated that compounds could be safely delivered to delicate areas of the cochlea in the ear.

"We hope that on the auditory side the technologies we develop will lead to advanced therapies for those who have hearing loss, and those that are in environments where they suffer from noise-induced hearing loss," Borkholder said.

"These are life-changing things."

Michelle Cometa '00

The latest news

BlackBox Biometrics Inc. received a \$9.4 million contract from the U.S. Department of Defense this summer to help manufacture the next generation of the Blast Gauge System.

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-Fairport) worked with the company and the DOD to move the procurement process forward. "Rochester is leading the world in advanced manufacturing and I am pleased to have helped secure this substantial investment in our growing technology sector," Slaughter said in a statement.

BlackBox Biometrics originated at RIT's Venture Creations business incubator, graduating in 2014.

About the devices

The Blast Gauge System

Each device, weighing less than an ounce, consists of several high-tech sensors and is worn in sets of three on the back of a soldier's helmet, chest and shoulder. Data from the devices are collected and downloaded for analysis by medical personnel to correlate exposure to traumatic brain injury from IED blasts. Learn more at blastgauge.com.

Linx IAS

The Linx Impact Assessment System consists of a 3-axis accelerometer, 3-axis gyroscope and Bluetooth Smart connectivity in a miniature package that fits into a specially designed headband or skull cap for athletes. The system provides real-time data on how hard and how many times an athlete is hit. To learn more, go to linxias.com.

Advanced intra-cochlear drug delivery system

The system will consist of an intricate, implantable micro-device to deliver drugs, gene therapies and other biomedical options and lead to advancements in controlled, quantitative inner-ear drug delivery for alleviating hearing loss. RIT received initial funding in February of \$615,412, part of a \$3 million, five-year project.



Shwanda Corbett, a third-year fine arts student, concentrates on using a dremel tool to add detail to her piece, *Sir Henry*, in Figure Sculpture class. Corbett, who has one arm and no legs, plans to earn her master's degree and hopes to one day inspire student artists.

Photos by A. Sue Weisler

Students thriving 25 years after ADA

Shwanda Corbett experiences life by thinking differently. Her hobbies are mixed martial arts and welding. Her dream is to earn her master's degree and build a career as a sculpture professor who inspires young artists.

The third-year fine arts student doesn't believe in limitations, despite having only one arm and no legs. Corbett is one of more than 900 RIT students with varying disabilities who learn and thrive on campus.

As the nation and RIT's campus community celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act this year, RIT remains committed to providing equal access to programs, services and physical facilities to students with disabilities.

RIT was a trailblazer in providing services to students with disabilities long before the

passage of the bill. With the addition of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in 1965, RIT became widely recognized for its welcoming atmosphere and a community proud of its diversity.

The first federal support services grant for students with disabilities was awarded to RIT in 1975, according to Judith Bernhart, academic coordinator of RIT's TRiO Support Services Office—a federally funded program serving low-income, first-generation and disabled college students.

It was at that time that the university dramatically increased its awareness of accommodations for students with disabilities through fixing curb and elevator access throughout the campus and providing necessary transportation services. Note takers

were first hired, extended testing time was introduced to students and textbooks were transcribed onto audiotapes or into Braille for those with limited vision.

In the 25 years since the passage of the ADA, significant progress has been made to develop and implement even more programs and services that are directly and uniquely tied to student access.

Here's a look at how these programs have helped three students.

A sense of belonging

Growing up in a poor, violent neighborhood in Pascagoula, Miss., Corbett wasn't allowed to play outside like the other kids. Instead, she spent hours at a time in a dimly lit room listening to classical music, drawing, painting

and scrutinizing Renaissance art books given to her by her mother.

“That room is where it all began—my exposure and devotion to art,” she said. “Even though I don’t have legs and only one arm, I’ve always been a very independent person. It was my high school guidance counselor who persuaded me to go to college and pursue my passion for art—and make something of myself.”

Surprised by a lack of accommodations for students with disabilities at Mississippi University for Women, Corbett transferred into RIT’s ceramics program, based on the recommendation of her sister Jarlisa, who graduated from RIT in May. Since arriving on campus two years ago, Corbett has kept her eye on the prize.

Today, she is a thriving art student who loves her classes in performance art, print-making, sculpture, and even her physical education classes like Extreme Fitness where she uses free weights and works on developing her core muscle strength. And she said the fact that she has only one limb drives her even harder. “Ironically, I find that I’m actually drawn to physical challenges,” she said. “I like to push myself and overcome what most people think can’t be achieved.”

Corbett makes her way around campus in a motorized wheelchair and credits faculty and staff with clearing pathways for students with disabilities—literally and figuratively—while providing a positive environment and crucial support services—all things she didn’t have in Mississippi.

“I’m most proud of the support that RIT



Shwanda Corbett says she is drawn to physical activities and breaks a sweat pumping iron and stretching in classes like Extreme Fitness and the 120-Day Fitness Challenge, pictured here.

faculty provide to their students—really whether they’re disabled or not,” she said. “I’m able to do many things on my own when it comes to ceramics, but I found that I was struggling with sculpture and figure sculpture, in particular. I do need help, which is difficult for me to admit. My professors saw my struggle and showed me alternate ways to create my artwork. I mean, art is my whole life. This level of caring is so important to my success here and to my future as an art instructor.”

Corbett takes advantage of housing accommodations, including a larger-sized dorm room and bathroom that makes maneuvering her wheelchair much easier. She is also eligible to use RIT-provided transportation services for door-to-door pick-up and drop-off if Rochester’s snow and ice inhibit the use of her wheelchair.

“Let’s face it; there are always things that I’m going to need help with, like pouring metal, for example. But I’m glad that I’ve been given the tools to do most everything myself.”



Shwanda Corbett takes a break from working in the studio to connect with Monica Potter, a second-year fine arts studio major. Corbett says classmates provide her with much appreciated help and support.

Ready to face his future

Mason Chronister shares a birth date with the historic signing of the ADA—July 26—although one year apart. Even though he wasn’t born when the law was passed, he maintains an acute awareness of what the legislation means.

Chronister, who earned his Associate in Applied Science degree in administrative support technology in May from RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf, is deaf and has Usher Syndrome, a rare genetic condition resulting in a combination of hearing loss and slow-developing visual impairment that causes night blindness, loss of peripheral vision, and ultimately, complete vision loss.

Chronister, from Red Lion, Pa., was born deaf to hearing parents and attended mainstream schools. He didn’t start noticing the effects of Usher Syndrome until he was about 14 years old.

“As time has gone on, it’s gotten worse,” he said. “Today, I’m not able to see at night and my peripheral vision is so limited that I can’t



Mason Chronister, who earned his Associate in Applied Science degree from NTID in May, lives with Usher Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that combines hearing loss and visual impairment. When he was a student, he used services like note taking and interpreters specializing in low vision to help him succeed.

see objects in my walking path. Sometimes I look clumsy because my balance has been affected. But despite all of my challenges, I've always known that I can accomplish anything."

Chronister knew that attending a school for the deaf would be his best option, and the reason he selected RIT was clear.

"RIT seemed like a friendly place for people with a variety of disabilities and the Usher Syndrome community at RIT/NTID was growing," he explained.

As a student, Chronister used the services that best suited him, including note taking, interpreters specializing in low vision and the Vision Support Committee, a campus organization committed to assessing and addressing potential accessibility and safety concerns for low-vision students.

"Sometimes a professor would write too small or use a marker in a color that I couldn't see well," he said. "But once I explained to them what Usher Syndrome is all about and what I needed as a result, everyone was responsive, accommodating and helpful."

He also found ways to make his campus living environment functional and comfortable. His request for a single room on a lower level was accepted by Disability Services and facilitated by Housing Operations after he sometimes tripped over his roommate's

belongings.

"Living in a single room was much more relaxing for me and of course, I knew where everything was. In addition, my residence hall advisers would leave hallway lights on so I could see if I needed to get up in the middle of the night for some reason. Everyone was so



As a student, Mason Chronister, far right, performed small roles in theatrical productions including *Damn Yankees!* and *Hairspray*.

patient and understanding."

With assistance, Chronister was also able to pursue his interest in theater.

"I saw another student with Usher Syndrome participate in the theater, and that really inspired me," he said. "It was a true team effort—from our director to the other

deaf and hearing actors and interpreters—to be sure that everything came together and worked out for me."

As for his career aspirations, he recently started working as an administrative professional with the Defense Logistics Agency, a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense located about an hour away from his home in Pennsylvania.

"No one knows what the future holds," Chronister added. "Every day they are making strides in the medical field and I continue to keep my strong faith. With the support of my family and friends, I refuse to let my loss of vision and hearing prevent me from doing everything I want to do. I refuse to set up barriers for my own success."

Leaps and bounds

Early on, Brittany Dzugas-Smith and her family knew that there were setbacks related to her language development—setbacks that would prevent her from learning to read until she was 12 years old.

Today, Dzugas-Smith is a third-year ASL-English interpreting student at NTID, on the cusp of graduating from college and beginning a career as a sign-language interpreter.

Dzugas-Smith has spent her life working through her language-based learning dis-



Brittany Dzugas-Smith, a third-year ASL-English interpreting student, says that she and other students with language-based learning disabilities are supported through a variety of programs and services offered at RIT.

abilities, which include dyslexia; dyscalculia (difficulty understanding and manipulating numbers); executive function disorder, which is characterized by difficulty organizing and maintaining schedules; and central auditory processing disorder, a hearing problem that interferes with the way the brain recognizes and interprets sounds. She attended Landmark High School in Massachusetts, dedicated to serving students with learning differences.

“At Landmark, the only foreign language offered is sign language,” she said. “Many of the students need special instruction and remediation to learn to read and write English, so it would be hard to begin learning another language on top of that. I absolutely fell in love with sign language and it just seemed to come naturally to me. Now I can’t imagine doing anything else with my life.”

During her first and second years at RIT, Dzugas-Smith worked to understand her educational needs, including making use of extra time on tests and assignments and taking tests in separate locations.

She has utilized the EMPOWER program, a fee-based service offered through the RIT Academic Support Center that helps students address issues related to academic planning and strategies, organization, motivation,

procrastination and course selection.

Her TRiO Support Services mentor helps her edit research papers and create résumés. Other services available free-of-charge for students include study groups, one-on-one assistance navigating college life, career and co-op advising, and financial literacy education.

Dzugas-Smith also knows that she and other students with language-based learning disabilities are supported by the Academic Support Center when it comes to receiving additional tutoring and mentoring.

“There is a wealth of opportunity and resources that help students like me succeed at RIT,” she said. “I also take matters into my own hands, though, and meet with my professors regularly one-on-one throughout the semester to check in about my progress. My professors are also very accommodating and are willing to do what they can to help me.”

Dzugas-Smith also has a message for those people unfamiliar with language-based learning disabilities. “Students with disabilities like mine look normal; we just require teaching styles that may deviate from tradition. But I’m the perfect example of what can be achieved with the right support, encouragement and positive attitude.”

Vienna McGrain '12

A closer look at Disability Services

RIT’s Disability Services Office, which opened its doors to students in 1998, reviews requests for accommodations due to a disability and determines what should be offered. Accommodations include testing modifications, alternate testing locations, changes to standard housing placements and use of service and assistance animals.

The office also coordinates with several departments on campus including Facilities Management Services, Housing Operations, Student Health Center, Academic Support Center and Spectrum Support Program, among others, to provide or direct students to support services.

Susan Ackerman has been director of the office since 2005.

“In my opinion, the unique presence of our campus’ deaf community could be one reason for the high level of respect and customer service that we provide to our students and their families,” she said. “Our community is just so positive.”

Ackerman also knows that RIT cannot rest on its laurels. Her office continues to search for ways to offer much-needed services to students with disabilities—both current and prospective. She is working more closely with students who choose to study abroad, as well as those beginning and ending their time at RIT.

“I’d like to expand on the work we do with our graduating students with disabilities to be more supportive in the next steps in their lives—entering the workplace. And it just makes sense to reach out to our prospective students to help ease their transition into college and give them the confidence-building tools to advocate for themselves.”

By the numbers

- 903 RIT students enrolled in spring classes were registered with the Disability Services Office.
- 50 percent of these students have a learning disability and/or attention deficit disorders.
- Of the 903 students, 208 are in NTID; the majority of whom have disabilities in addition to their hearing loss.
- Approximately 100 students have self-identified as being on the autism spectrum.

Sandra Johnson

Sandra S. Johnson began her position as RIT's senior vice president for Student Affairs in July 2014. She oversees a \$25 million annual budget, 20 different offices and a staff of more than 200 people. Student Affairs serves students in RIT's nine colleges, a diverse population of more than 15,000 undergraduates and 2,900 graduate students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries, including more than 1,300 deaf and hard-of-hearing students at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

I was one of those undergraduate students who got involved. I ran orientation. I was involved in student government and residence life and I volunteered in the community. In my senior year I went from going to law school to pursuing a career in higher education.

I ended up at Barnard College as an assistant dean for the pre-college program and a residence hall director while attending graduate school. I didn't know a lot about women's colleges and here I was at one of the best women's colleges—and I fell in love with everything about that environment. I had great mentors there and a lot of doors were opened to me as a professional, including developing an understanding of a large research university because of Barnard's relationship with Columbia University.

My next career step was across Broadway to Columbia at a time when they were completing re-organizing the Student Affairs division. Again, I had wonderful mentors and was able to further develop my skills in organizational change and assessment. Then a new opportunity came across my desk at Hofstra University, a young and ambitious university looking to re-envision their Student Affairs division. So I moved off the island of Manhattan to Long Island.

Hofstra was a great place for me in many ways—more great mentors and new opportunities. I was very happy there and felt good about how we had been able to shift the campus to becoming a student-centered place.

As a VP, you end up getting calls from search firms all the time, and when I was

called about the position at RIT, my first response was, 'I don't want to move to Rochester.'

Here is where networks come into play. Another member of the search firm whom I had worked with when I was at Barnard called me and said, 'Sandy, look at RIT—it's a great place and a great next step.' I listened to her and did my homework and talked to my go-to mentors. In the end I realized this is a great opportunity.

Once I landed in Rochester, I heard Dr. Destler's vision; met with students, faculty, and staff; walked through campus; and explored Rochester. I was truly sold and very excited about making another change and being a part of a changing university and the larger Rochester community.

What has been fascinating for me is getting to know the organizational culture. I am one of those organizational geeks. I like to look at an organization and dissect it. Do we need to realign things? What can we be doing better? Where can partnerships be strengthened?

I like the challenge of how to demonstrate to our alumni and others that RIT is a different place and that we are on an upward trajectory. When I hear people say, 'This is not the RIT I remember,' I tell them that is good because it should be different because if it isn't different, it means RIT is not advancing. Quite frankly, when your institution advances, so does the value of your degree.

I have to say that working with students is my true north. With a new group coming in every year you have your finger on the pulse of where the world is going—they are the leaders of tomorrow. Students keep me fresh and focused and remind me that the world is changing around us, so either get on board or get off the train.

I am the lucky one. I wake up every morning and I love coming to work. I can't say that I ever dreaded going into work a day in my life. There were days that were harder, but that comes with the territory. At the end of the day if you feel like you made a difference somewhere along the line, then it was a really good day.

Hometown

New York, N.Y., and before that Hauppauge, N.Y.

Education

Ed.D., University of Pennsylvania; M.Ed., Columbia University; BA, political science, State University of New York at Oswego.

Work Experience

Associate dean in the Office of Student Life at Barnard College, associate dean in the Division of Student Affairs at Columbia University, vice president for the Division of Student Affairs at Hofstra University.

Interests

Traveling, my family, technology, being a forever learner.

Family

Life partner, Andrew; sons Caleb (15), Daniel (13); two Labrador Retrievers, Charlotte and Brittany.

Sandra Johnson
is RIT's senior
vice president for
Student Affairs.





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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-18th

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

16TH

Dinner, Gaming & Dancing at the Presidents' Alumni Ball

Honoring RIT Alumni Andrew Brenneman '86, '88 and Scott Saldinger '89, '91.

Golden Circle Luncheon

Celebrating all alumni from class years 1965 and earlier!

16TH16TH

Friday Fun Night

Silent Disco, Dueling Pianos, Paint Nite, Bingo and more!

Student Government Horton Distinguished Speaker

Check website for details.

17TH18TH

Wrap up your weekend!

Brick City 5K Fun Run and Walk followed by Family Brunch.



Cheer on the Tigers!

Saturday, October 17th

Men's hockey takes on Bowling Green at Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester!



BROOKLYN TECH COMPANIES

TURN TO RIT

TALENT



Chris Petescia and his high school friend Mike Germano knew if their digital agency was going to be successful, they had to work in the New York City area.

They found an affordable sublease in 2008 for their company, Carrot Creative, in a former manufacturing section of Brooklyn called Dumbo (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), which was just starting to turn over from artists' lofts to startups.

Today, Dumbo is bursting with creative companies and Carrot has grown to more than 100 employees. Carrot's crew creates apps, websites and digital media campaigns for companies and brands as diverse as Rolex, Target and The Nature Conservancy, and many do it using skills they learned at RIT.

"The talent in New York was almost abysmal," Petescia said, especially during Carrot's

early years of growth. "You think New York is ripe for that kind of stuff, but we found all these print designers who were out of work looking for jobs. We literally had to come to Rochester."

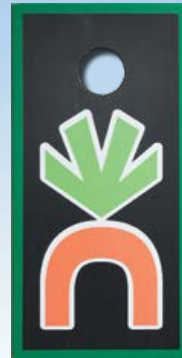
Julian Alssid, chief workforce strategist at College for America, wrote in a blog last fall in *The Huffington Post* that he found a similar response when analyzing tech startups flourishing in Brooklyn.

"The logical assumption would have been that these companies were turning to local colleges and universities for great employees," Alssid wrote. "Instead, when asking where they were finding their new talent, the nearly unanimous answer I received: Rochester Institute of Technology."

Alssid said that it is not that there aren't enough institutions of higher learning in the 333 miles between Rochester and Brooklyn.

The firms, he said, were hiring RIT graduates because they had both the academic skills and hands-on experience needed in the startup workplace.

"At least from the perspective of the companies, no other school seemed to be preparing their students nearly as well."



Help wanted

That certainly rings true for Petescia '05 (graphic design), now the chief experience officer at Carrot. Petescia and Germano started the business using their graduation money. Germano, a Quinnipiac University graduate, handled the business side, while





A RIT graduates at Carrot Creative include, from left to right, Emily Okey '12 (graphic design), Ben Gage '12 (graphic design), Alex Rainone '13 (new media design), Chris Petescia '05 (graphic design), Bridget Brennan '10 (graphic design), Whitney Brown '14 (new media design) and Tony Briceno '09 (new media interactive development).

B Carrot Creative is located in an area of Brooklyn called Dumbo. The company sprawls out on the 11th floor of a building at 45 Main St. Employees work in an open area, which lends itself to collaboration.

C Bridget Brennan '10 (graphic design) has worked at Carrot Creative full time since 2012. She likes the diversity in Brooklyn.

D Emily Okey '12 (graphic design) is a user experience designer at Carrot Creative. She likes the neighborhood feel of Brooklyn.

Petescia provided the creative power.

After a few years of working out of Germano's basement and then a small office in Connecticut, the guys made the move to Brooklyn to be closer to potential clients. That same year, real estate collapsed, causing large companies to cut back on traditional broadcast and print campaigns and turn toward cheaper digital options.

Petescia already had experience in that space. While he was a student, he built a fan website for the Dave Matthews Band that attracted 45,000 followers. The band's staff liked the site so much that they hired him to do freelance work. That work led to a Carrot contract with Major League Baseball to build a fan community on Facebook. The app had player and team pages, check-ins to venues, and places for fans to leave comments. This

was 2008—before the social network Four-square launched and long before Facebook was what it is today.

"None of the traditional advertising agencies knew anything about this, so we were brought in quietly behind the curtain to help ad agencies and PR firms do some social strategy and builds for their clients," Petescia said. "They learned about digital and we learned about business."

As their workload grew, Petescia said they were drawn to RIT's graphic design and new media design programs, where students are graduating with a strong digital understanding and are ready to work on day one.

The company regularly attends Creative Industry Day to meet students and review portfolios. (This year, Petescia was one of 60 alumni at the event.)

Creative Industry Day is where he met Bridget Brennan '10 (graphic design) and Emily Okey '12 (graphic design).

Okey already had an internship with a Chicago-based agency doing more traditional print and design work when she interviewed with Carrot. But halfway through the summer, she became interested in the user experience side of the job and contacted Petescia. She was offered a position as a junior user experience designer.

"I took the job and an hour later I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I have to move to Brooklyn.'"

But she learned that unlike Manhattan, Brooklyn has a neighborhood feel where she can walk down the street and recognize people.

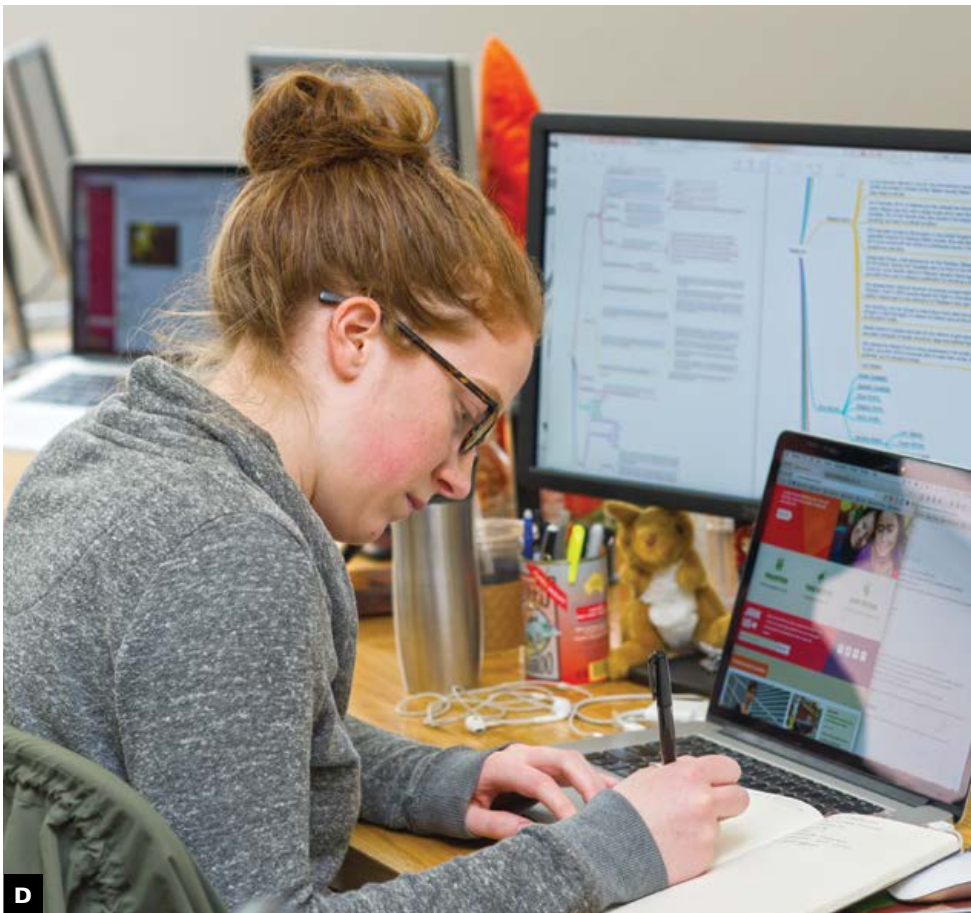
Brennan discovered that the hard way. She started at Carrot with an internship after she



B



C



D

graduated and picked an apartment outside of Times Square, which she says isn't the place where one builds a life. When it was over, Carrot offered her a full-time job but she turned it down.

"I told them, 'You know I love this company, but I can't live here.'"

She returned to Rochester to design children's Flash games but continued to freelance for Carrot at night. By 2012, she missed being a full-time designer and decided to give the New York City area another try, but this time in Brooklyn. She became one of three RIT graduates on the four-person design team and didn't regret the move.

"There is so much diversity in Brooklyn," she said. "You can really find your niche. It provides a lot of opportunities."



A Nicholas Bowlin '11 (game design and development) completed a co-op at Small Planet and was later offered a full-time position. The company develops apps.

B Brad Bambara '10 (game design and development) was recommended to Small Planet by another company where he had worked on co-op.

C Taylor Plimpton '11 (game design and development) brings his French bulldog Rufus with him to the Small Planet office. Plimpton likes the casual office environment.

D The building at 45 Main St. is home to about 115 companies. Many of them employ RIT graduates.



Game design

Carrot is located at 45 Main St., a 12-story building that is home to about 115 companies. Carrot sprawls out on the 11th floor, six floors above Small Planet where game design and development graduates Brad Bambara '10, Dylan Longstreet '10, Nicholas Bowlin '11 and Taylor Plimpton '11 work.

Gavin Fraser, the founder and CEO of Small Planet, said the company of 26 people has developed close to 70 apps since it was founded in 2009. Its clients are large corporations such as General Motors, Disney and Paramount Pictures. The four RIT graduates do both app development and make mini-games for the apps.

"They are all very highly valued employees," Fraser said. "We couldn't be more pleased than we are with our RIT talent."

Bambara had done a co-op at a sister company next door called Freeverse, which recommended him to Small Planet when he was looking for work. Then Bambara recommended Bowlin for a co-op position at Small Planet.

Bowlin was offered a full-time position after he graduated, but he initially turned it down. The company offered the job to his best friend Plimpton, who also had done a co-op at Freeverse. Later that year, another opening came up and Bowlin was available.

The graduates say they wouldn't have gotten the positions without their co-op experience. They like the work and the laid back atmosphere.

"The people here are just so awesome and the environment is great," Plimpton said. "It almost made it feel like college at times."



Paul Farina '02 (information technology) works at Huge in Brooklyn as a technical architect. The company develops digital products.

Silicon Valley of the East

Dumbo, which sits between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges, has become known for its cool vibe, cobblestone streets and spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline.

The atmosphere in Brooklyn reminds Paul Farina '02 (information technology) of Silicon Valley, where he worked for Intel right after graduation. Farina grew up on Long Island. After a year away he wanted to return to the East Coast. He did, working in New York City for large financial institutions.

Then in 2010 he saw a friend at an engagement party wearing a pin that said Huge. He asked about it, applied for an open position and was hired. Huge was then a design company but it was preparing to add a technology department to build the designs. Farina is now a technical architect.

Huge has more than 450 employees in Brooklyn and more than 2,400 worldwide. The company develops digital products for medium to large companies.

The company is sprawled out on the second floor of 45 Main St. Employees fill a big open space that lends itself to collaboration. Kitchen areas are stocked with snacks and drinks. Small dogs sleep or sit quietly next to their owners.

When Farina takes a break, he plays video games in areas set up like living rooms.

"I used to go to work at Intel in cargo shorts and sandals back when business casual was still the norm," he said. "The companies in Brooklyn are now following suit. The atmosphere is laid back and casual but delivery focused. Company events help form stronger bonds between the employees."





Chris Petrillo '07 (new media design) works at Big Spaceship. He designed the company's Foosball break room.

The same is true at Big Spaceship, where Chris Petrillo '07 (new media design) has worked for eight years. When he started, the digital creative agency had about 50 employees. Today, that number has doubled. Petrillo designs apps and websites.

Like Huge, Big Spaceship has a relaxed atmosphere where pets are welcome. Petrillo even designed the company's Foosball break room where his coworkers gather when they need to clear their heads.

Petrillo has watched Dumbo transform into a high-tech haven and tourist attraction. He said there are so many competing companies that he has to be careful about what he talks about in the hallways and the elevators because another company in the building might be pitching for the same job.

Fitting in

Adam Smith, associate professor of new media design and program chair, said Brooklyn

and the San Francisco/Silicon Valley area are currently the two hottest places for new media alumni.

That's in part because of the importance startup companies are placing on the role of design. RIT students graduate with a breadth of skills—graphic design, animation, knowledge of user experience and entrepreneurship, which makes them attractive.

"It allows them to take on that multi-role aspect that a startup requires of you," Smith said, adding that faculty members keep the curriculum relevant by talking to alumni.

Carrot, which moved into 45 Main St. in 2011 after working in an office a block away for three years, continues to grow.

In 2013, Vice Media purchased Carrot; Petescia and Germano still oversee it. That opened the door to bigger opportunities—recent clients have included Cartoon Network and Ferrari. Carrot also recently began working on a website for Malala Yousafzai, the

Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. The website aims to inspire people worldwide to support the global education of girls.

More work means the need for more employees and space. In late spring, Carrot took over additional space on the 12th floor, and two RIT interns joined them this summer. Because of Brennan's experience, Carrot sets them up with housing nearby. The company also loans its corporate apartment to employees so their families can visit.

The company has become its own family, celebrating holidays together and enjoying what Brooklyn has to offer after work.

"It has been so easy to hire RIT people because they know the drill. They know how to work hard. They start day one and it's very easy to fit in," Petescia said. "For a young person moving to the city, having a community that feels like home is really important."

Mindy Mozer



Alumni work at MakerBot Industries in Brooklyn. MakerBot makes desktop 3D printers and scanners.

Graduates part of growing Brooklyn company



Gunipero

James Gunipero '11 (mechanical engineering technology) started at MakerBot Industries four years ago when the company had about 40 employees and was 2 years old.

Today, more than 400 people work for MakerBot, which makes desktop 3D printers and scanners and has three offices in Brooklyn. Gunipero is one of a handful of alumni who have been part of that growth.

Gunipero moved to Brooklyn after graduating and was looking for work when his parents suggested he find a hackerspace, a place where people share tools and work on collective projects, to network.

"It was awkward," Gunipero said about the visit. "But I stuck around and talked to a handful of people and two of them had worked at MakerBot and said MakerBot is right downstairs, you should totally apply."

Gunipero was hired in November 2011 to work as a customer service agent but after three months was moved to product development, where he worked on the Replicator 2 Desktop 3D printer and the Replicator 2X. As the company grew, Gunipero's job grew with it. He became a process engineer, quality manager and director of manufacturing quality.

As director, he supervises a group of about 15 people, including Tom Montagliano '04 (electrical engineering technology).

Montagliano was hired as a sustaining engineer in 2013 but moved to the position of test engineer after a week because of his back-



Montagliano

ground. He had worked as an engineer for MKS Instruments Inc. in Rochester and for the Centers for Detectors at RIT before moving to Brooklyn. He became the manager of the test engineering department, growing it from nothing to a group of seven.

"There was a lot of electricity in the air," Montagliano said about the time he was hired. "You could sense that something big was happening."



Jean-Brice

A month later, Montagliano hired Reginald Jean-Brice '12 (electrical/mechanical engineering technology), who applied at MakerBot after a year of working at Leviton Manufacturing in Melville,

N.Y., as an applications engineer because he was looking for something more challenging.

Jean-Brice commutes one hour and 45 minutes each way from Long Island to work as an electrical design engineer.

"You learn more here in three months than you could in three years anywhere else," he said.



Palmer

Mark Palmer '06 (industrial design) and Wallace Patterson '06 (new media publishing) also started elsewhere before coming to MakerBot.

Palmer worked at Symbol Technologies, which became Motorola Solutions, based in Long Island for eight years before he met someone at a party

who worked for MakerBot.

Palmer got hooked on 3D printers when he was a student and has always used them in his work. Now as director of industrial design, he plays a role in steering the creative direction of the products. He works in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, in a building across the street from the factory where the products are being made.

"It's not abstract," he said. "We make the decisions here and it shows up at the factory. There's nowhere to hide."



Patterson

Patterson worked in the printing industry and owned his own company for a short time before he learned about MakerBot by reading *TechCrunch*.

"It always stuck in my head. Every three to four months I would go on their website and look at the career postings and watch the company grow and read the news articles," he said.

In 2012, he applied and became the first sales person on the team. Today, he is a senior key account and enterprise specialist and works to establish MakerBot Innovation Centers at universities.

All are glad to be part of a company *Fast Company* named as one of the world's top 10 most innovative companies in consumer electronics.

Said Gunipero: "It has been exciting to have been part of the growth at MakerBot."

Mindy Mozor



Residents taunt police officers who were arriving to break up an angry crowd in Ferguson, hours after an officer killed Michael Brown. (David Carson, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—Aug. 9, 2014.) Editor's note: All photo captions are provided by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Alumnus part of Pulitzer Prize-winning team



David Carson

the aspiring photojournalist looked for colleges, his first choice was RIT.

"I thought, 'Stan Grossfeld went to RIT. It's got to be a good school,'" Carson said. "He was someone I really looked up to when I was younger."

Now Carson '94 (professional photographic illustration) may be the one inspiring today's students. In April, he joined Grossfeld '73 (photography) as one of eight RIT graduates who have won a combined 12 Pulitzer Prizes.

Carson was a member of the photography staff of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photo-

When David Carson was a high school student in the Boston area, he admired the work of *Boston Globe* and Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Stan Grossfeld. That's why when

graphy for the newspaper's coverage of the events in Ferguson, Mo., following the police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, by a white police officer.

The Pulitzer Prize Board honored the photo staff "for powerful images of the despair and anger in Ferguson, Mo., stunning photojournalism that served the community while informing the country."

Eight photographers and three editors submitted a gallery of 19 photos from the shooting scene, street protests, funeral and arson fires. Carson contributed seven.

"Your celebration is tempered by the fact that someone lost their life at the beginning of these events," said Carson, who has worked at the *Post-Dispatch* since 2000. Before that he was a staff photographer for the *Naples Daily News* in Florida and a contract photographer at the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* in Rhode Island.

"But I am extraordinarily proud of the job that everyone at the paper did in covering the

events as they unfolded to show people in St. Louis what was going on in their backyard."

Carson said he wasn't working the day of the shooting or the first night of the riots, but the self-described news junkie was watching the events unfold on Twitter. He asked photographers on the scene if they needed help.

"I felt compelled to get out there and help tell this story," he said.

He and the rest of the staff worked long days for two weeks doing just that, getting little sleep and sometimes forgetting to eat.

He said there were times that he was scared. Once was when he was taking pictures of a QuikTrip that had been looted and set on fire. Earlier in his career, Carson had covered the war in both Iraq and Afghanistan and drew upon the hostile environment training he had received.

"I didn't take stupid risks," he said. "I was cautious in the decisions I made and was aware of my surroundings."



A protester shields himself from exploding tear gas canisters. On this night protesters attempted to throw Molotov cocktails, rocks and bottles at police. (David Carson, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—Aug. 13, 2014.)

A member of the St. Louis County Police tactical team fires tear gas into a crowd of people in response to a series of gunshots fired at police during demonstrations in Ferguson. (David Carson, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—Aug. 18, 2014.)



A looter armed with a gun in his waistband steals items from a QuikTrip. (David Carson, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—Aug. 10, 2014.)

William Snyder '81, a professor and program chair of the university's photojournalism program, said Carson made some of the most iconic images from the Ferguson protests under extremely difficult circumstances.

Carson consulted with Snyder, a winner of four Pulitzer Prizes, when working on the Pulitzer entry.

"He represents the very best traditions of our program: resourcefulness, professionalism under pressure and great storytelling images," Snyder said. "I am so very proud of him and this accomplishment."

Along with Snyder and Grossfeld, the other Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalists from RIT are Paul Benoit '76, Robert Bukaty '82, Ken Geiger '11, Dan Loh '95 and Anthony Suau '78.

"I have got a long way to go before I reach William Snyder's level of achievement or Stan Grossfeld's level of achievement," Carson said. "I feel really fortunate that we were selected this year."

Mindy Mozer



Tim Soine '07, '13, his wife, Shannon, and their two dogs moved into a 210-square-foot house a year ago.

Photos by A. Sue Weisler

Couple takes big step with tiny house



Tim and Shannon Soine graduated from college, bought a 1,600-square-foot home, got married and filled it with stuff. But Shannon always thought

about taking a nontraditional approach to the American dream.

First, she suggested to Tim '07, '13 (telecommunications engineering technology, MBA) that they sell their three-bedroom house and build a yurt, which is a portable, round tent.

"I looked at a picture and was like, 'You are insane,'" Tim said. "I'm not going to do that, that's crazy."

Then Shannon, a State University of New York at Geneseo and University of Rochester graduate, stumbled across the tiny house movement. The idea of downsizing intrigued Tim. It could be a way to pay off their student loans and free up some money to travel internationally. But they had to find the right house.

After six months of searching, Shannon,

who teaches English to speakers of other languages in a Rochester elementary school, found what they were looking for on the social media site Pinterest. The house was in Washington, D.C.

Tim, a product line manager for Harris RF Communications, happened to be in the area on business a short time later so he stopped by to take a look. "As soon as I walked in the door, I fell in love with it," he said. "It's such a cozy open space."

This summer, the couple and their two 70-pound pit bulls celebrated one year of living in their own 210-square-foot house. Their only regret is that they didn't build it sooner.

"We could have avoided so much debt and saved so much money," Shannon said. "We probably could have had our student loans paid off by now."



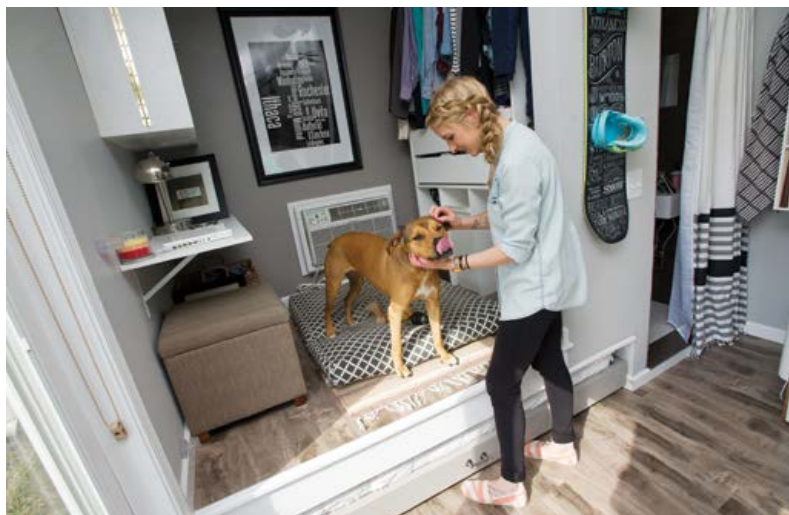
The bathroom is separated from the rest of the house with a curtain.



One perk of the new home is a 100-inch projection screen that pulls down.



The couple rebuilt the closet to maximize the space with compartments.



The bed pulls out from under the office area, which is also where the dogs sleep at night.

The move, though, wasn't without its challenges.

The first one came after they purchased the plans to their tiny home, which is called a Minim House. They were contacted by the reality television series *Tiny House Nation*. The show used the couple's budget to hire contractors and build the house in four days—filming it all. The episode aired in July 2014.

The couple had to quickly downsize. They donated more than 20 garbage bags of clothing as well as thousands of dollars of household goods. They gave furniture and dishes to their family and friends. Saying goodbye to the kitchen supplies was particularly hard for Tim, who loves to cook.

Then they had to adjust to living in 210 square feet. Everything inside their new home has more than one purpose. Their kitchen island is also a dog crate big enough to hold both dogs and can extend into a dining room table. The seat in their office doubles

as a laundry bin. The washing machine will also dry clothes. They keep their off-season clothes, snowboarding gear and Tim's homebrewing supplies in space under the couch.

The bed pulls out from under their office/closet area, which is unique for a tiny home and why they liked this floor plan. Most are built with lofts.

The biggest adjustment, they said, was getting used to the small bathroom and the five minutes of hot water that comes with having a 6-gallon tank. And they had to rebuild the closet to maximize the space with drawers and compartments.

But there are perks to the new home as well. They have a 100-inch projection screen that pulls down over the windows with Surround Sound. The walls, ceiling and floor are made out of structurally insulated panels, keeping the little house warmer in the winter than their big one. The bathroom has an incinerating toilet so they don't need sewer hookups. And Tim said he likes cooking on

the gas stove in the small kitchen. With two burners, he just has to be more creative with how he positions pots and pans.

Another perk is that their house stays clean. Before, it was easy to leave the dishes and go into another room, Shannon said. Now they are forced to pick up as they go, which includes making the bed each morning.

Their dogs, Juno and Adam, also seem to like the new living arrangements. They are never more than a few feet from their people when they are home.

They are still tweaking inside. For example, they have to figure out what to do about the bathroom, which is separated from the rest of the house with a curtain. That can be uncomfortable for company.

Tim said he hasn't been surprised that they adjusted so quickly to tiny house living because in their big house they were always in the same room together. "It's an inexpensive and interesting way of life."

Mindy Mozer

Alumni Updates



Cole Bowden '13 (mechanical engineering) showcases one of his intricate burger creations.

Fun with puns turns into 'Bob's Burgers' cookbook



Mix together a love of puns, a dash of culinary curiosity and some engineering know-how, and what do you get? In the case of Cole Bowden '13 (mechanical engineering), you might just get your very own *Bob's Burgers* cookbook.

Bob's Burgers is an animated sitcom on Fox revolving around Bob Belcher and his family, who attempt to run a successful burger joint

but often run into comedic misfortune. Each episode of the show also features a pun-laden daily burger special written on the chalkboard behind the restaurant's counter, such as the "Sympathy for the Deviled Egg Burger," the "Blue Is The Warmest Cheeseburger" and the "Human Polenta-pede Burger."

A self-described "obsessed" fan of the show, Bowden decided to make the imaginary burgers a reality and started a cooking blog called the Bob's Burger Experiment. The patty-grilling prodigy has been running the passion project since he was a senior at RIT and posts a new burger creation practically every week. And now, the engineer-turned-chef is in early talks to have his work published in an official cookbook.

"Loren Bouchard, the show's creator, emailed me last year and told me he was a huge fan of the blog and he encouraged me to keep going," said Bowden, who works full-time as an engineer for Honda. "We stayed in touch and later on, he mentioned that he wanted to publish a cookbook with my involvement. I was floored, I couldn't believe it."

Bowden and Bouchard are still finalizing the details of the project, but Bowden is already working on some fresh ideas.

"The recipes in the book won't be exactly the same as the blog because I want to make them even better based on my previous experience," Bowden said.

The Bob's Burger Experiment has also helped Bowden learn his way around the kitchen and sparked his interest in cooking. For Bowden, the process of cooking draws many parallels to engineering.

"I like to see how things are made," he said. "Anything that I can make myself, I would rather make myself."

Derrick Hunt '15

To learn more

To read Cole Bowden's cooking blog, go to <http://thebobsburgerexperiment.com>.



Aiyana Mathews '02 (printing management and technology) is the founder and CEO of Gardner-Mathews Travel Concierge in Atlanta.

Photo by Karen Cox, ValCox Photography

Risk pays off for graduate's travel business

Aiyana Mathews '02 (printing management and technology) has always had a penchant for travel. Now, it's her business.

Mathews is the founder and CEO of Gardner-Mathews Travel Concierge, which is based in her hometown of Atlanta. She started her business in 2010 and has been able to stand out from the competition by focusing on building itineraries around cultural festivals like the Festival of Fire in Spain and the Cape Town International Jazz Festival in South Africa. Gardner-Mathews also handles traditional leisure, business and government-related travel and has even started providing local tourism of Atlanta.

"I have the best job in the world," said Mathews, who speaks Japanese, Spanish, Wolof and Swahili and has visited more than 30 countries. "All of the things that I've learned since coming to RIT set me up for success."

The enterprising alumna indulged in her passion for international travel while she was a student at RIT. On her quarterly

breaks, she took trips to South America and Europe. During her sophomore year, Mathews moved to Japan for seven months as part of a research scholar program.

"That was my introduction to Japanese culture and although I didn't know it at the time, it laid the foundation for my future," explains Mathews.

After returning to the states and completing her degree, Mathews worked for several major American printing companies and Delta Airlines. But in 2007, an opportunity to join the Japan Exchange and Teaching program presented itself to Mathews and she took it. Through JET, Mathews lived in Shikama, Japan, for three years and worked as a cultural ambassador throughout her town and the Miyagi Prefecture, even serving as co-director of an art and culture show in Miyagi's capital city, Sendai. When she reached the end of her tenure in 2010, Mathews moved back to the U.S. and came face-to-face with the country's faltering economy.

Unfazed, Mathews used the situation as a catalyst to combine her business acumen with



her travel expertise. In late 2010, she established Gardner-Mathews Travel Concierge, named after her maternal and paternal family names, with nothing more than her personal savings. She earned her first customers two months later and business has been brisk ever since. Mathews plans at least five trips per month and is hiring a team of employees to help her meet customers' demands.

Now entering her fifth year of business, it's safe to say that the risk has paid off for Mathews both professionally and personally.

"Even now, I still love packing my suitcase, going to the airport and getting lost in a new place," she said. "I believe that my passion for travel is what makes my clients confident in my ability to service their travel needs."

Derrick Hunt '15



Nick Gawreluk '13 (print media) was named one of the Top 20 Under 40 by a leading publication for commercial printers.

Alumnus recognized as rising star in print industry

A quick glance at Nick Gawreluk's '13 (print media) résumé would probably lead you to believe he's a print industry veteran rather than a 23-year-old just starting his career.

He has the education: graduating with honors from RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. He has the experience: working for five print industry giants, including positions in Brazil and Germany.

And now he even has the awards: recently named one of the Top 20 Under 40 by *Printing Impressions*, the leading publication for commercial printers.

"When the editor of *Printing Impressions* called me, I was shocked," said Gawreluk. "To have my name mentioned with all of those other outstanding individuals is an honor. I'm not letting it get to my head, though—if anything it just makes me want to work harder."

After graduating from RIT, Gawreluk was hired by online printing company Mimeo as a product manager. Gawreluk spent two years with Mimeo at their Memphis and Berlin

offices before Hewlett-Packard's printing division scooped him up and made him a business analyst.

Although he is currently located in Atlanta, Gawreluk aspires to one day return overseas and pursue his dream of becoming an international business manager.

"I feel very fortunate that I was able to find my passion so early because it really helped me get ahead," said Gawreluk.

Unlike most people, Gawreluk began his career while he was still in high school. The St. Paul, Minn., native attended Roseville Area High School, which maintains a well-known graphic arts program, and worked for various printing companies over his summer breaks.

In his senior year, he led the school's student-run printing business to a record \$150,000 in sales.

When the time came for Gawreluk to begin applying to colleges, he became interested in RIT due to the recommendations of his printing teacher Brian Hoag.

"Brian always shared with his students that

RIT was the leading print media educator in the world and if we took things seriously we could make an impact in the program," said Gawreluk. "So I flew out to visit during my junior year to check out the campus and I was sold right away."

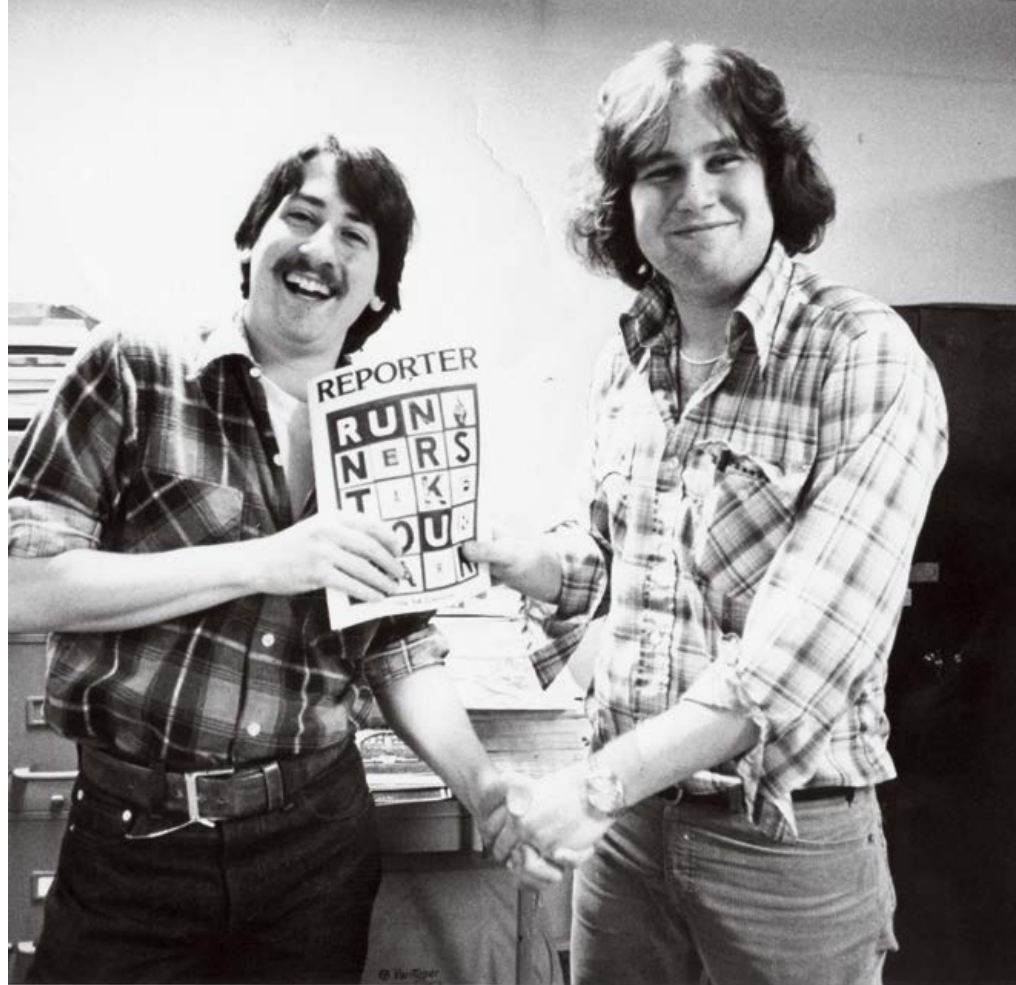
At RIT, Gawreluk was instructed on state-of-the-art equipment and continued to expand his print industry knowledge.

He earned two international co-ops with Heidelberg and ran a blog for *Printing Impressions* throughout his four-year education. Somehow, he also found time to compete every year on the men's track and cross-country teams.

"RIT was an incredible experience and directly prepared me for the work I do today," said Gawreluk.

"With the combination of world-class professors, industry-leading equipment and co-ops, RIT uniquely positions students for long-term success year after year. I'm a proud alumnus and I look forward to staying involved with the university."

Derrick Hunt '15



Mitch Klaif '79 (printing management) is senior vice president and chief information officer for Time Warner Inc. As a student in the late 1970s, he worked for *Reporter*.

Grad makes career pulling off the impossible

A few months before the iPad became available in 2010, Apple asked Time Inc. to sign a confidentiality agreement so Time could have a pre-release iPad on which to develop a magazine app.

"The CEO of Time Inc. at the time said, 'Do you think a building full of journalists could keep a secret?'" remembers Mitch Klaif '79 (printing management). "So she declined to sign it."

That left Klaif, who was the chief information officer for Time Inc., and his team 40 days to build an app that would be in the app store on the day the device was released to the public—without a device on which to test it. "Everyone said it was impossible. But it was really important to Time Inc. And we were there. That Saturday morning in the app store, *Time* magazine was there."

Klaif has made a career out of pulling off what seems to be the impossible. In January, Klaif, who doesn't have a technology education, was named senior vice president and chief information officer for Time Warner Inc.

The man who came from a print back-

ground has built a career by working hard, building relationships and hiring good employees. Klaif came to RIT because he was drawn to publishing and spent much of his time on campus working for *Reporter*. After he graduated, he interviewed with newspaper companies and landed a job with Dow Jones as an assistant production manager. He moved up quickly and was a production manager at a plant in Silver Spring, Md., by the age of 23.

When he was 27, the company asked him to move to Hong Kong and build a newspaper printing plant in the basement of an office building. He was given little direction but completed the task, which today he considers one of his greatest career accomplishments.

He worked for Dow Jones for 18 years before he left to join a start-up company publishing magazines about emerging business in Asia.

When he got the opportunity to go to Time Inc. in 1997, he was a little surprised. "I was afraid they were missing the fact I didn't have an IT background. They said, 'No,

no. You know publishing. You obviously get things done. You know journalists. We are a publishing company."

At Time, he did everything from managing the company's business continuity program to leading the launch of 21 digital magazines across all tablet platforms in four months.

At Time Warner Inc., which spun off of Time Inc. in 2014, he manages the corporate technology group, global infrastructure, information security and several other corporate centers of excellence. He also works closely with technology leaders at Warner Bros., HBO and Turner Broadcasting, the company's three major divisions.

Klaif said he has had fewer than six job interviews during his career. Instead, he creates opportunities through his past performance and by building relationships. He is excited about this new opportunity.

"What's next is to continue to have fun, continue to contribute and help as many people as I can achieve their goals. And that will make me happy."

Mindy Mozer



Clancy Cottman '77 (fine art photography) has started four oil and gas companies from the ground up.

Graduate masters art of oil business

When Clancy Cottman was a student at RIT, he made art from scratch through his photography. Today, he builds wealth from scratch in the oil and gas business.

Cottman '77 (fine art photography) has started four oil and gas companies from the ground up since he worked a summer in the early 1980s on an oil tanker in the Gulf of Mexico for Sun Exploration and Production Co.

"You are taking different elements, including engineering, geology, geophysics, and you are creating something," he said. "Building from scratch is what I like about this business and what I enjoyed about art."

After getting his undergraduate degree, Cottman made his living as a photographer, making custom murals, advertising prints and even album covers for Handel's *Messiah*. But he found himself interested in business, so he enrolled in night school at the University of Rhode Island to work on an MBA in finance. After he graduated in 1982, he returned to Sun Co.

"It was interesting because most of these people, all they had were business degrees," he said. "You didn't find people with a varied background. I was an unusual duck at that time."

He had talent in the exploration part of the business, which involved combining science, technology and relationship building to get a project drilled.

But after a few years, Cottman said, he realized a big company wasn't the right environment for him, so he left to start a new one. It's a pattern that would repeat itself throughout his career.

At Benton Oil and Gas, which he and colleagues took public in 1989, Cottman got to use all of his skills.

The vice president of business development negotiated deals and moonlighted as the company's photographer, shooting its annual reports. The company grew quickly, becoming one of the first to go into Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and finding success in Venezuela.

In 1997, he left that now large company

and founded PetroFalcon Corp., which focused on projects in Venezuela. In 2005, he sold PetroFalcon and the next year started NiMin Energy Corp., which he sold in 2012. Today, he's the managing director at Chisholm Partners, which is focusing on projects in Kansas, New Mexico and west Texas.

Cottman said to be successful in the oil and gas business, a person has to be an optimist. Even after years of research and preparation, a well can turn up dry. But there are success stories.

Cottman's favorite happened in the early '90s in Venezuela where a predicted 20 million barrel oil field turned out to be 200 million barrels of oil.

Along with optimism, he said, a key to success is passion.

"You can't make yourself fit into something. I couldn't fit into a big oil company," he said. "You have to find something that gets you excited every morning to go to the office. After all these years I still really enjoy what I do."

Mindy Mozer

Brenneman named Outstanding Alumnus of 2015



Andrew Brenneman

After Andrew Brenneman graduated, he made an effort to stay in contact with RIT/NTID.

Brenneman '86, '88 (accounting, business management) was the first deaf alumnus to serve on the RIT Board of Trustees.

He served on the NTID National Advisory Group and the Alumni Campaign Leadership Committee for NTID.

He was NTID's Distinguished Alumnus in 2007 and RIT's Volunteer of the Year in 2010.

Brenneman will be honored for his ongoing support of the university with the Outstanding Alumnus of 2015 award at the Presidents' Alumni Ball on Oct. 16 during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend. The award is the highest honor RIT can

bestow upon an alumnus.

"I told Dr. Destler I don't think I really deserve this," Brenneman said. "There are so many other people who deserve it. I give a lot of my time to RIT but I still feel like I don't give enough."

Brenneman has been making an impact at RIT since he was a student in the 1980s. He was the first deaf member of RIT's Alpha Sigma Lambda Honorary Society, which recognizes academic achievement and leadership in college organizations.

After graduating, Brenneman, who is a fifth generation salesman, was recruited into J.P. Morgan's Management Training Program. He was one of only 100 graduates to be chosen from the original pool of 1,500 who applied. Brenneman worked with J.P. Morgan for seven years, holding various positions from system liaison to business support analyst.

From there he went to Sprint, based in Reston, Va., as an account manager.

At Sprint he was promoted to national account executive, then to senior national account executive.

He is a four-time recipient of Sprint's President's Club Award, given to the top 1 percent of sales performers. As a senior national account executive, he is responsible for nationwide sales.

He and his wife, Mary (Fracassini) Brenneman '84, '86 (applied art and computer graphics, accounting), have two children, Andrew and Hannah.

He said at RIT he learned how to be a critical thinker and how to move quickly because of the quarter system. The fast pace prepared him well for the business world.

"I am very thankful for the education that I received at RIT. I'm thankful for the staff and the faculty and their commitment. They obviously truly care about their students' success. I appreciate that so much," he said. "I know I'm very lucky."

Mindy Mozer

Saldinger honored for outstanding volunteer work



Photo by Vonda Kaatz Hussey

After co-helming one of the largest RIT alumni chapters for the last nine years and leading the charge on two Big Shot projects, Scott Saldinger '91 (film and video) will see his extensive volunteer work recognized.

Saldinger will receive the RIT Volunteer of the Year award at the Presidents' Alumni Ball on Oct. 16 during Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend.

The passionate alumnus was the driving force behind the 2013 Big Shot of Cowboys Stadium and the 2001 Big Shot of the Alamo. He has also served as co-president with Jennifer Neary '99 (hotel management) of the Dallas/Fort Worth RIT alumni chapter, which has grown to nearly 800 members, for the past nine years. Prior to his work with the Dallas alumni chapter, Saldinger was the president of the San Antonio alumni chapter.

"I'm just blown away by this. I'm not

typically at a loss for words, but my surprise at receiving this award nearly rendered me speechless," said Saldinger, a 24-year veteran of the broadcast television industry.

"RIT has been an inspirational part of my life for a very long time. Receiving this is really about the chapters I've been able to lead and their support in participating and growing our alumni community. I'm fortunate we have such a great group in Texas. I couldn't do it without them."

This will be the first Brick City Homecoming Saldinger has attended since the event began more than a decade ago. Although Saldinger grew up in Henrietta, N.Y., he says he may have a hard time readjusting to the cold.

"If the engineering students could build a dome and keep campus at a balmy 78 degrees year-round, I think I would probably visit more."

Derrick Hunt '15

Class Notes

Key to abbreviations

CAST	College of Applied Science and Technology
CCE	College of Continuing Education (now CMS)
CHST	College of Health Sciences and Technology
CIAS	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
CLA	College of Liberal Arts
CMS	Center for Multidisciplinary Studies
SCB	Saunders College of Business
KGCOE	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
COS	College of Science
FAA	Fine and Applied Arts (now CIAS)
GAP	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CIAS)
GCCIS	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
NTID	National Technical Institute for the Deaf
SVP	NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

About Class Notes

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

1962

Brian Shapiro '62 (FAA) has expanded his website, www.brianshapiroart.com, which includes many of his works not previously published. His most recent painting, "Finding the Parsha 4," is in the American Jewish Life Gallery. It shows a humane and tender moment in a Jewish service.

1964

Peter Browne '64 (SCB) received the 2015 John Newton Russell Memorial Award, the highest honor given by the insurance industry. Browne is co-founder of Price, Raffel & Browne.

1972



Peter Doran '72 (FAA) is the founder and lead photographer for Doran Originals LLC, a postcard company serving the Carolina Coast

with postcards, magnets and playing cards. Visit doranoriginals.com and peterdoranphotography.com to view items. Doran and his wife, Cynthia (Hudson) Doran, live in North Carolina and have three children: Austin, Marshall and Mallory.

1974

Gary Bonvillian '74 (SCB), '81 (CAST), Thomas University's president for the past nine years, announced to the Board of Trustees on April 22 that he plans to retire on June 30, 2016. Bonvillian became the 10th president of Thomas University in Georgia on July 1, 2006. In the fall of 2006, TU had an enrollment of 685 students. The number has grown to 1,138 domestic students for the fall of 2014.

1975

William Truran '75 (GAP) is preparing to teach classes for William Paterson University, including studio lighting, advanced Photoshop and a Lightroom class. All are evening classes.

1976



Lorenzo "Larry" Rodriguez-Tripi '76 (GAP) won the First George Eastman House Award at the 24th Annual Members Exhibition at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center. His photo-etching, "JFK," was the winning print.

1977

Gregory Morden '77 (SCB) is proud to announce his marriage to **Linda Gill '73 (SVP)**. They were married in The Bronx, N.Y., on Jan. 2, 2015. They will continue to live in Charlotte, N.C.

1979

Carel Dunaway '79 (NTID) retired on Dec. 13, 2013, from Entergy at Arkansas Nuclear One, a nuclear power plant producing electricity for power company Entergy Arkansas. He worked as a drafting/CAD technician.



Jerome "Jerry" Nevins '79 (GAP) was awarded the Veritas Award, the first actively

teaching faculty member to receive it, from Albertus Magnus College, where he has taught for the past 35 years.

1981



Thomas "Chris" Fitzsimmons '80, '81 (KGCOE) was honored by the National Reconnaissance Office at a ceremony in February. He pioneered the

development, production and test of lightweight optical and structural components. His efforts resulted in the elimination of a significant weight from the large aperture, heavy optical subsystem used in the nation's electro-optical imagery reconnaissance satellites, with no reduction in image quality. His career in national reconnaissance spanned from 1966 to 1998.

1984



Peter Handler '84 (CIAS) received the Audubon Award for Art Inspiring Conservation in April at the Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show

Preview Gala. The award honors an individual who uses art to communicate the value of nature, interpret conserva-

tion challenges and inspire humanity to protect wildlife.

1986

Ronald J. Klimley '86 (SCB) is the director of training with global responsibility for performance and development at Afni Inc., a global BPO Company.

Michael Petta '86 (CLA) was recently appointed to the title of senior attorney at the New York State Office of the State Comptroller's Division of Legal Services. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from Pace University School of Law in White Plains, N.Y., in 1989. Petta has been married to his wife, Jamie, for 14 years and they have one child, Nicholas, 12. They live in Stillwater, N.Y.



Robin Styles-Lopez '86 (FAA), manager of marketing and creative services, has been promoted to associate at KSQ Architects. She joined the firm in 2012 and oversees the day-to-day marketing activities of KSQ and specializes in graphics, branding, marketing communications and collateral materials.

1988



Ken Huth '88 (GAP) is proud to have his photo of Geva Theatre Center's *Clybourne Park* published in the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*. Also, recently several of his theater photos were requested by the Ford Foundation and are being considered for covers on a series of books: *Monologues for Actors of Color*. Huth has worked for 21 seasons in professional theater, and while based in Durham, N.C., still flies in to work with Geva Theatre Center in Rochester. See more of his work at HuthPhoto.com.

1989

Peter Donnelly '89 (CAST) was ordained by Bishop Richard J. Malone of the Diocese of Buffalo to the permanent diaconate on May 23, 2015, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y. While Donnelly was studying the pastoral ministry at Christ the King Seminary from 2011 to 2015, he was serving his home parish, St. Gregory the Great Church in Williamsville, N.Y., in ministry assignment as a team member for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

Robert "Bob" Kalka '89 (CAST) was promoted to vice president of IBM's security business unit. He and his wife, **Kelly Porter Kalka '88 (SCB)**, live with their two children in Austin, Texas.



Jessica (Santelli) Loy '89 (FAA) recently published a book called *Weird & Wild Animal Facts*. Readers are introduced to fun facts about 14 well-known species, includ-

ing hippos, kangaroos, vultures, tarantulas, jellyfish and hummingbirds.



Pietro "Pete" Giovenco '89 (CAST), '12 (SCB) has been named chief operating officer at Bergmann Associates, where he will oversee the company's day-to-day operations and

future growth. Giovenco, a civil engineer by trade, has been with Bergmann for 26 years and was instrumental in the development of various businesses and capabilities within the firm, including land development and commercial/retail building design.

1990

Tom Ashe '90 (GAP) has written the book *Color Management & Quality Output: Working with Color from Camera to Display to Print: (The Digital Imaging Masters Series)*. He is the associate chair of the Master of Professional Studies in digital photography at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and is an internationally recognized educator and consultant in digital photography and color management.

1991

Katrin Eismann '91 (GAP) is the series editor for The Digital Imaging Masters Series, which features cutting-edge information from professionals and instructors in the photography field. The series has released books by two RIT alumni: *Camera & Craft: Learning the Technical Art of Digital Photography* by **Andy Batt '95 (CIAS)** and *Color Management & Quality Output: Working with Color from Camera to Display to Print* by **Tom Ashe '90 (GAP)**. Eismann is the founder and chair of the Master of Professional Studies in digital photography program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and she is an internationally respected artist, teacher and author.

Leslie (Polederos) Figueroa '91, '91 (KGCOE) re-entered the engineering workforce as a program engineer at Tenneco in Grass Lake, Mich., after 13 years raising children.

1992

Brian Wilson '92 (GAP) started a job Dec. 1, 2014, at Fry Communications in Mechanicsburg, Pa., as a night shift bindery and sheetfed supervisor. He was previously employed by Fry Communications as a prepress supervisor, left the company for 12 years and just returned.

1994

Matthew Arlauckas '94 (KGCOE) is the new Web applications developer for Saunders College of Business at RIT.



Christine (Mino) Bjanas '94, '95 (CIAS) was awarded the 2015 Teacher of the Year award at Kingsway Regional High School in Woolwich, N.J., in recognition of her exemplary service over the past 20 years. She is the department chair for the visual and performing arts and teaches computer art to students in grades 10-12.

1995

Andrew "Andy" Batt '95 (CIAS) wrote the book *Camera & Craft: Learning the Technical Art of Digital Photography: (The Digital Imaging Masters Series)*. Batt is a professional photographer who creates images for editorial, advertising, interactive and corporate clients.



Michael Ruzhansky '95 (SCB) joined Lenox Advisors Private Wealth Management in New York City. He is a certified financial planner who formerly worked at PNC Bank, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and Citigroup.

1996

Beverley (Waller) Braun '96 (COS) has been named partner at Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP, a full service corporate law firm. She is a member of the firm's litigation practice group.

1999



Derek J. Punaro '99 (CAST) was named president of the Board of Directors of the East Aurora Cooperative

Market, a startup food co-op in East Aurora, N.Y. The co-op comprises more than 1,000 member-owners and is slated to open in the summer of 2015.

2000

Karen Tobin '00 (COS) married **Brad Johnson '12 (CIAS)** in Rochester on Oct. 31, 2014. "It was a lovely fall day with our families."

2002



Nicole Bukowski '02, '02 (CAST) and **Trevor Waite '99 (CAST)** were married on Jan. 17, 2015. Both worked with

the RIT Tech Crew and Bukowski is a sister of Delta Phi Epsilon.

2004



Patrick Applegate '04 (CAST) was promoted to the rank of major in the United States Air Force and shortly thereafter celebrated the birth of his third child. He graduated from the United States Air Force Air University in March 2013 with a Master of Military Science in operational warfare.

2005

Karin (Knippa) Faiella '05 (CIAS) and **Chris Faiella** were married at the Bedford Village Inn in Bedford, N.H., on Jan. 2, 2015. They live in Los Angeles.

Katie Linendoll '05 (GCCIS) received an SVForum Visionary Award in June. The Visionary Awards celebrate Silicon Valley leaders in technology, education, venture capital and entrepreneurship. Linendoll is known for her first-look technology stories and gadget roundups. A writer and contributor for the *Today* show, Linendoll also regularly contributes to NBCNews.com and recently completed filming two series for *Popular Science*.

2007



Michael Metz '07, '07 (CIAS), acting as a lead design engineer, helped launch Osterhout Design Group's new consumer augmented reality glasses at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January 2015.



Luka Boric '07 (CAST) published *Hacking a Car Purchase: How I Bought a Brand New Car and Saved \$5,000* on the Amazon Kindle Book Store. Boric

wrote the book in order to help people become more confident in negotiations.

2008



Allison (Nighswander) Christiansen '08 (GCCIS) and **Michael Christiansen**

are pleased to announce their marriage. The wedding took place in Rochester on July 26, 2009.

Breanna Dobbe '08 (CIAS), former women's hockey and crew member, turned a graduate school project into a nonprofit. During her tenure in the Academy of Arts' advertising graduate program, she was part of a team that created a mobile app that would turn everyday physical activity into a method of fundraising for those in need. Synergia Effect is now a nationally recognized charitable organization.



Kevin Shimkus '07, '08 (COS) gained a strong interest in the study of skeletal muscle and wet lab research during his undergraduate studies. Coupled with a fascination of spaceflight, he is pursuing his doctorate at the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University. He is involved in the muscle aspects of two major research projects associated with spaceflight.

2009



Aaron Cook '09 (CAST), a mechanical engineer in Erdman Anthony's Facilities Engineering and Energy Services group in Rochester, has received his building energy modeling professional certification from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

Amar Reynolds '09 (CAST), '12 (CMS) has taken a position with Mondelez International Inc., an American multinational confectionery, food and beverage conglomerate, employing 107,000 people around the world. He will be a production supervisor at the Henrico, Va., facility.

2011

Andrew Clark '11 (CIAS) and his company, Bruer, won an award in the kitchenware category in the IHA Innovation Awards for its Cold Bruer slow drip coffee product. The winners in each of 13 categories were announced during the 2015 International Home + Housewares Show in Chicago.



Jamie Garcia '11 (CIAS) has been hired as art director for SKM Group, a full-service marketing communications agency. Garcia's primary client is

Tops Friendly Markets, for whom she'll create and design marketing collateral materials to align with the grocery retailer's branding and goals.

2012



Thomas Gamer '12 (KGCOE) passed the New York State Professional Engineer examination on May 31, 2013. He also passed the LEED

Green associate examination on June 10, 2014, and the LEED AP Building Design + Construction exam on March 11, 2015. Gamer was promoted to associate at Erdman Anthony and Associates on Dec. 10, 2014.

2013



Elaine Cost '13, '14 (SCB) has been hired as an assistant accountant at The Bonadio Group. She is working in the government, compliance and labor division.

Roberta Dombrowski '13 (CIAS) is now an instructional design production assistant at PI Worldwide in Wellesley, Mass.



Cori Kolb '13, '14 (SCB) is working as an assistant accountant in the commercial division of The Bonadio Group.

2014



Nicole "Nikk" Bouteiller '14 (NTID) will receive a BS from the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies program in December 2015. Bouteiller graduated

in May 2014 with an associate degree in applied liberal arts. Upon graduation, Bouteiller plans to pursue the professional studies master's program at RIT and possibly focus on secondary education.



James Di Pasquale '14 (CAST) was recently hired as a project engineer in the Facilities Engineering and Design Services group in the Rochester office of Erdman Anthony.

Jake Leone '14 (KGCOE) was recently hired as a mechanical engineer by RedViking in Raleigh, N.C. RedViking has headquarters located near Detroit and is an engineering firm that provides custom turn-key manufacturing and dynamic test solutions.

Tiger Love



Jake Brunner '08 and Bonnie Harriman '06 met at Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend in 2011. They were married in May.

Crush turns into love at homecoming

Bonnie Harriman '06 (graphic design) almost didn't attend Brick City Homecoming & Family Weekend in 2011. She had just landed a new job in Manhattan and was preparing to move. Then her car broke down.

But she hadn't been back to RIT since she graduated and many of her volleyball teammates were going to be there, so she decided to make the trip to Rochester.

Meanwhile, Jake Brunner '08 (finance) was a regular attendee. Brunner, who was living in the Syracuse, N.Y., area, liked to participate in the lacrosse reunion games and spend time with his teammates during the weekend.

Brunner and Harriman didn't officially know each other. But the Saturday night of alumni weekend, former volleyball players and the alumni lacrosse players ended up at the same bar in downtown Rochester and Brunner decided to say hello.

"I knew who Bonnie was because I thought

she was cute," Brunner said. "She was a couple of years older than me so I didn't really pursue her then."

"I had no idea who he was," Harriman said. "I had no idea he had a crush on me in college."

The two hit it off and stayed up talking at a friend's house until 5 a.m. Brunner told Harriman to call him on her way home to Boston the next day if she got bored in the car. Two hours into the drive, she called and they talked the rest of the way.

They talked every day from that point on and a month later Brunner visited Harriman in Manhattan. They decided to start a relationship.

A year later, Brunner was able to get a job in New York City as a finance director for NBC Universal. Harriman works as an art director for Hook & Loop, an internal creative agency in New York City.

They got engaged on Nov. 17, 2013,

and were married May 8. They now live in Stamford, Conn., and commute to the city.

Harriman said it's funny looking back at it all. When she was living in Boston she was looking for the right person but couldn't find him. Then that Brick City weekend she stopped looking and found Brunner.

"It was really all about my teammates that weekend," she said.

As for Brunner, he had forgotten about Harriman until he saw her again.

"I nudged one of my buddies and told him that I used to have a crush on her," he said. "So I figured I would go up and talk to her."

They are both glad he did.

Mindy Mozer

About Tiger Love

To suggest one of RIT's 4,600-plus alumni couples to feature, email us at umag@rit.edu.

Tiger Cubs



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.

1 Nancy (Bickel) Weigle '92 (GAP), '94 (CIAS), husband David and big brother Noah welcomed Erin Marie into the world on March 19, 2011. Weigle continues to enjoy being a stay-at-home mom and uses her photo skills to take lots of pictures of the little Weigles.

Christopher "Chris" Bearup '93 (COS), '95 (CAST) and Michelle Bearup welcomed Max Fenway into the world on Feb. 17, 2015.

Trina Viggiano '97 (CAST) and Dan Viggiano '97 (KGCOE) are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Zachary Charles Viggiano, on Aug. 14, 2014. He joins older brother Danny, born March 12, 2010, and big sister Courtney, born Oct. 29, 2012.

2 Scott Brasse '01 (CAST) and his wife, Sarah, are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy, Jacob Lawrence Brasse, on Feb. 7, 2015, in Rochester.

3 Melinda (Cole) Class '01, '03 (CLA) and Clipson Class '01 (CAST) announce the birth of their daughter, Lochlyn Sloane Class. She was born Sept. 22, 2014, in Rochester. She was welcomed home by her siblings Bronwyn, Ronan and Rhiannon.

Timothy Kennery '03 (SCB) and Gina Kennery are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Connor Rocco. He was born on March 17, 2015, in Winston-Salem, N.C.

4 Laurie (Jerome) Hedberg '04 (CIAS) and Mark Hedberg '04 (GCCIS) are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Rylie June Hedberg. She was born on April 5, 2015, in Rochester.

5 Peter Maskelony, 8 months, is ready to cheer on the Tigers before the men's hockey game against Minnesota on March 28. He is the son of Lauren (Williams) Maskelony '05 (KGCOE) and Phil Maskelony '05 (KGCOE). The jersey was made out of "terrible towels" handed out at hockey games during the regular season.

6 Julie Blackwood '06 (COS) and wife Macie are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jordan Marie. She was born on Feb. 18, 2015.

7 Bradley "Brad" Bowers '06 (GCCIS) and fiancée Maylee McDonald are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Brielle Alyssa Bowers, on Jan. 31, 2015.

8 Heather Grotke '07 (COS) is proud to announce the birth of her baby girl, Carly Rae Grotke, on Feb. 18, 2014.

9 Abigail Lapp '07 (CIAS) and Jameson Lapp '07 (GCCIS) are proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, Lorelai Anne, on Jan. 8, 2015.

10 Kristi Mitchell '14 (SCB) is proud to announce the birth of her baby boy, Carter Ryan Mitchell, on Dec. 8, 2014.

Regional Alumni Activities

Dan Christner '07 and Victor Santiago '13 are your **contacts** in the Office of Alumni Relations for regional alumni activities. Contact them toll free at 1-866-RIT-ALUM. To learn more about RIT alumni events, go to www.rit.edu/alumni.

Bay Area

On April 4, alumni, parents and guests enjoyed an afternoon at the Bodega Del Sur Winery in Murphys, Calif. Thanks to RIT parents **Victor** and **Evelyn Reyes-Umana** for hosting the group at their winery.

Boston

On March 28, alumni and guests gathered at Tavern in the Square to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State. Thanks to **Robert Tamulis '90** for hosting the event.

On May 20, 30 alumni and guests took in a Major League Baseball game as the hometown Red Sox hosted the Texas Rangers.

Buffalo

On March 10, more than 50 alumni and guests gathered at the Saturn Club to listen to RIT President Bill Destler discuss the university's strategic plan.

On March 28, alumni and guests gathered at the Thirsty Buffalo to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State.

Charlotte

On April 3, alumni and guests gathered at BB&T Ballpark for a picnic and evening of baseball at one of the best minor league parks in America.

Chicago and Indiana

More than 100 alumni and parents gathered at Legends of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., prior to the men's hockey victory over Minnesota State. Thanks to all alumni and parents who made the trip to South Bend.

A Connecticut

On April 30, Donald Figer, director of the Center for Detectors at RIT, gave a special presentation to a group of alumni and guests at The Hartford Club. His presentation focused on Transformative Technology for Exploring Inner and Outer Space. Thanks to **David '87** and **Claire Smith** for sponsoring this event.

Dallas

On May 30, alumni from Dallas, Houston and Austin enjoyed lunch at Los Jalapenos. Thank you to alumni hosts **Scott Saldinger '89, '91** and **Jennifer Neary '99**.

Denver/Colorado Springs

On March 25, alumni gathered for dinner to help plan more events in

the area. Thanks to **David '04** and **Jennifer Belden '04** for hosting.

On March 28, alumni gathered at the Blake Street Tavern to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State.

Florida

On June 27, alumni in the Jacksonville area hopped on the Trolley of the Doomed tour and enjoyed an evening exploring the ghostly side of St. Augustine and surrounding areas. Thanks to **Harry Drake '66** for hosting this event.

Houston

On March 21, alumni and guests took a private tour of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo at NRG Stadium and enjoyed a concert by country star Brad Paisley. Thanks to **Mark Biscone '99** for hosting this event.

Los Angeles

On March 28, alumni gathered at Busby's in Santa Monica to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State. Thank you to hosts **Matt Singer '06, Mike Rinaldi '04** and **Jen Smith '06**.

On April 11, alumni gathered at the J. Paul Getty Museum for a private tour showcasing the Getty's architecture and gardens. After the tour, they enjoyed lunch at the outdoor café. Thanks to **Jen Smith '06** for hosting this event.

New York City

Alumni gathered for Wine & Women: Financial Tips & Free Mini Makeovers. Thanks to **Ainka Munroe '05, '07** for hosting the event.

B Peru

Alumni from the Andean region of South America held a special event in Lima, Peru, on March 24 and welcomed several RIT faculty guests. Thanks to **Carlos Cornejo Rojas '09** for organizing the effort.

Philadelphia

On June 6, the Philadelphia alumni chapter took a private tour of Yards Brewing Co. Thanks to host **Greg Warchol '13**.

Portland

On March 26, a group from the Portland area gathered for dinner to help plan for more events in the area. Thanks to **Brian Madden '11** for hosting this event.



Raleigh-Durham

On March 28, alumni gathered at West Park Tavern in Cary to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State. Thanks to **Mike '98** and **Sue Pail '98** for hosting this event.

Rochester

D On March 12, alumni gathered at the New York Wine & Culinary Center for a special breakfast event with RIT President Bill Destler as he presented the university's strategic plan.

On March 28, a capacity crowd of alumni came out to Jeremiah's Tavern to cheer on the men's hockey team against Minnesota State. Thanks to **Jeff Reddish '92** for hosting the event.

On April 13, alumni and friends enjoyed a craft beer tasting and dinner at CB Craft Brewers in Honeoye Falls. Thanks to hosts **Susan Shanks '97, Shirley Murphy '81, '95** and **Frank Lucas '75**.

C On April 17, 10 alumni were named the RIT Distinguished Alumni of 2015. They were honored in a public ceremony on the RIT campus.

E On April 25, more than 30 alumni and guests took part in the Laps and Lunch event at Watkins Glen International. Alumni drove their own cars on the track and enjoyed a trackside lunch in the VIP pavilion. Thanks to hosts **Tony '78** and **Donna Kocienski and Rita Haschmann '79**.

F On May 16, more than 20 alumni enjoyed a bike ride around Conesus Lake as well as lunch at Deer Run Winery. Thanks to Deer Run Winery owner **George Kuyon '79** for hosting the group.

Seattle

On March 28, alumni from the Seattle area gathered for an Underground Seattle Tour, walking beneath Seattle's sidewalks and streets. Alumni then gathered at Fado Irish Pub to watch the men's hockey NCAA tournament game against Minnesota State.

Syracuse

On March 25, more than 40 alumni and guests gathered at the Century Club to listen to RIT President Bill Destler discuss the university's strategic plan.

Multicultural events

On March 21, alumni volunteered at The Covenant House Georgia. Thanks to alumni hosts **George '00** and **Monique Mills '01**.

On March 27, alumni enjoyed a pre-game party before taking in the Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Brooklyn Nets game at the Barclay's Center.

On June 15, alumni in the Miami area gathered for a multicultural alumni happy hour at Yard House in Coral Gables.

Reunions

On March 13–15, **Pi Kappa Phi** celebrated its fifth anniversary.

On April 24–26, **Phi Kappa Psi** hosted its alumni weekend.


On May 1–3, the sisters of **Delta Phi Epsilon** celebrated the chapter's 20th anniversary.

On May 1–3, **Kappa Delta Rho** celebrated its 25th anniversary.

On May 3, the **RIT women's soccer** team held an alumni reunion and game.

On May 8–10, the **RIT Singers** held a special reunion and celebrated music director Ed Schell's retirement.





Where there's a Will, there's a way.

- Did you know that writing a Will is an essential step in securing your family's future? Yet, less than half of all adults in the U.S. have a Will. A Will establishes a roadmap to protect your heirs, safeguard your legacy, provide for charitable organizations that are meaningful to you, and reduce your estate taxes.

Without a Will, state laws will determine the way your estate will be distributed regardless of your wishes.

Don't be a part of the group of individuals without a Will. To learn more about how you can secure your family's future and the importance of writing a Will, please visit rit.edu/LeaveYourLegacy.

Take that first step. It's your legacy.

For assistance with bequests, beneficiary designations and other legacy planning questions, please contact Robert Constantine at 585.475.4919 or Robert.Constantine@rit.edu.



RIT remembers President Emeritus Paul Miller



Paul Miller, president of RIT from 1969 to 1979, died June 5. He was 98 years old.

Miller, RIT's sixth president, is credited with managing the relocation of the campus from

downtown Rochester to suburban Henrietta, as well as adding several new academic programs to the curriculum. The campus moved in 1968, but the transition continued over several years. He also introduced a new balanced budgeting procedure, a method for

forecasting student enrollment, and implemented co-ed residence halls.

"The RIT community shall forever be indebted to him for imagining all that was possible for our students, faculty and staff," said RIT President Bill Destler.

Alumni

- 1937**
C. Louis Stork '37 (KGCOE), Feb. 14, 2015
- 1940**
Nina (Bushman) Mamerow '40 (SCB), March 21, 2015
- 1942**
Harvey H. Dudley '42 (KGCOE), April 14, 2015
- 1943**
Frank H. Carlton '43 (GAP), March 28, 2015
Richard A. Mattle '43 (KGCOE), April 2, 2015
- 1944**
Catherine (Yurkiw) Jarvis '44 (SCB), Feb. 25, 2015
Robert G. Speck '44 (GAP), Jan. 16, 2015
- 1945**
John Eber '45 (KGCOE), Jan. 18, 2015
Beverly G. (Pierson) Lindsley '45 (SCB), Feb. 26, 2015
- 1946**
Ralph Gilpin '46 (KGCOE), Feb. 24, 2015
- 1948**
Glenn Brower '48 (GAP), March 8, 2015
Robert L. Koehler '48 (KGCOE), Jan. 29, 2015
- 1949**
Lauren E. Bennett '49 (GAP), Feb. 24, 2015
Christopher F. Franco '49 (KGCOE), Jan. 26, 2015
Clarence Licht '49 (FAA), Feb. 26, 2015
Alfred Vincent '49 (GAP), March 14, 2015
- 1950**
Edward P. Abel '50 (COS), March 8, 2015
Stanley Landauer Jr. '50 (SCB), March 23, 2015
Raymond A. MacNally '50 (CCE), March 21, 2015
William G. Shorts '50 (KGCOE), Feb. 7, 2015
- 1951**
Roy J. Kanous '51 (COS), March 10, 2015
Aileen (Suter) Knapp '51 (FAA), Feb. 20, 2015
Andrew Martans Jr. '51 (KGCOE), March 22, 2015
Eileen R. (Harris) Testa '51 (SCB), April 16, 2015
H. Roger Vanvoorhis '51 (KGCOE), April 7, 2015
- 1952**
Carl F. Clemens '52 (COS), Feb. 22, 2015
Bernard Jardas '52 (GAP), Jan. 28, 2015
Carl R. Rosati '52 (KGCOE), April 6, 2015
George R. Schindler '52 (CCE), March 22, 2015
- 1954**
Gary J. Bell '54 (FAA), Feb. 16, 2015
- 1955**
Suzanne (Stell) Warren '55 (SCB), March 14, 2015
- 1956**
John R. Coulter '56 (KGCOE), Jan. 16, 2015
Frank E. Kesel '56 (CCE), Feb. 19, 2015
James P. Povlock '56 (KGCOE), March 24, 2015
Norma W. Ralyea '56 (COS), April 3, 2015
Clarence H. Schepler '56 (CCE), Jan. 15, 2015
- 1957**
Elmer F. Garling '57 (CCE), Feb. 8, 2015
Raymond D. Hites '57 (GAP), Feb. 18, 2015
Francis E. Preston '57 (SCB), April 9, 2015
Constantine R. Ragne '57 (CCE), March 22, 2015
Henry G. Utz '57 (CCE), March 11, 2015
- 1958**
Kenneth A. Beltz '58 (FAA), March 8, 2015
Ruth (Green) Doukas '58 (FAA), March 13, 2015
Harold R. Gibson '58 (KGCOE), March 31, 2015
- 1959**
John P. Curran '59 (CCE), Feb. 28, 2015
- 1961**
Norman J. Mattle '61 (CCE), Jan. 8, 2015
Samuel R. Olsen Jr. '61 (GAP), Feb. 8, 2015
Elliott J. Swart '61 (CCE), Jan. 22, 2015
- 1962**
Anthony M. Cavuto '62 (CCE), March 4, 2015
Jean (Cotter) Hildreth '62 (SCB), Jan. 30, 2015
Edward B. Morgan '62 (GAP), March 17, 2015
Anthony J. Piechnik '62 (GAP), Jan. 20, 2015
- 1963**
Robert W. Crandall '63 (CCE), March 16, 2015
James W. Keenan '63 (CCE), March 24, 2015
Evelyn (Matteson) Mack '63 (CCE), Jan. 26, 2015
- 1964**
Raymond August '64 (GAP), Feb. 21, 2015
Christopher Hampton '64, '67 (SCB), Jan. 27, 2015
Arthur E. Russi '64 (CCE), April 4, 2015
- 1965**
Benjamin J. Balliano '65 (CCE), Jan. 23, 2015
Herbert S. Barbehenn '65 (COS), Jan. 30, 2015
Dale L. Rhode '65 (KGCOE), April 5, 2015
William E. Wachter '65 (CCE), March 13, 2015
- 1966**
John G. Ashby '66 (GAP), April 2, 2015
Nicholas L. Grace '66 (CCE), March 13, 2015
Elizabeth M. (Pecoroni) Jaenike '66 (FAA), Feb. 14, 2015
Donald B. MacLeod '66 (CCE), April 12, 2015
- 1967**
Roland F. Mowers '66 (CCE), Feb. 6, 2015
Robert B. Worth '66 (FAA), Feb. 27, 2015
- 1968**
Michael V. Lynne '68 (FAA), Feb. 5, 2015
Gerald E. Ott Sr. '68 (CCE), Feb. 10, 2015
- 1969**
Donald E. Brandt '69, '92 (SCB), Feb. 18, 2015
Daniel B. Slade '69 (GAP), March 14, 2015
Henry C. Ververs '69 (CCE), Jan. 18, 2015
- 1970**
James R. Jereckos '70 (KGCOE), Jan. 10, 2015
Donald R. Merriam '70 (CCE), March 1, 2015
- 1971**
Mario S. DiQuilio '71 (CCE), Feb. 26, 2015
David E. Maxfield '71 (CCE), April 5, 2015
- 1972**
John P. O'Brien '72 (SCB), Jan. 8, 2015
Sean C. Phelan '72 (GAP), Jan. 20, 2015
Robert R. Voorhees Jr. '72 (KGCOE), March 27, 2015
- 1973**
Sandra E. (Sharoff) Fontana '73 (COS), Jan. 14, 2015
- 1975**
Harold E. Ward '75 (CCE), Feb. 11, 2015
- 1976**
Richard E. Cannon '76 (CLA), Feb. 9, 2015
Frederick Robert Lane '76, '90 (COS), Jan. 15, 2015
June C. (Sommerfeld) Rivera '76 (NTID), Feb. 19, 2015
- 1977**
Nicholas Czubara '77 (KGCOE), April 2, 2015
Gerard G. Goetz '77 (CCE), March 23, 2015
- 1978**
Julie A. Green '77 (FAA), Jan. 21, 2015
Ruel R. Lovett '77 (CCE), April 12, 2015
Donald Riplinger '77 (CCE), Feb. 17, 2015
- 1978**
John P. Badura '78 (CCE), March 28, 2015
Michael Anthony Coriddi '78 (CCE), Feb. 7, 2015
Gary T. Langdon '78 (CAST), '87 (CCE), Jan. 18, 2015
Donald Eugene Newberry Jr. '78, '83 (SCB), Feb. 4, 2015
Stephen A. Wilkins '78 (CAST), Jan. 13, 2015
Guy L. Williams '78 (KGCOE), Feb. 1, 2015
- 1980**
J. Robert Blaszak '80 (SCB), Feb. 9, 2015
George M. Kenny '80 (SCB), March 4, 2015
John Lawrence Sale '80 (CCE), March 23, 2015
Robert L. Seyfert '80 (GAP), Jan. 13, 2015
- 1981**
Susan Jeanne Walworth '81 (CCE), March 31, 2015
- 1984**
Susan Bondy '84 (SCB), March 14, 2015
- 1985**
Frances Mae Pickens '85 (CAST), Feb. 15, 2015
Frank Thelen '85 (SCB), Jan. 26, 2015
- 1987**
Barry Norman George '87 (CAST), Feb. 27, 2015
Craig Allan Menard '87 (CAST), Jan. 15, 2015
Dorothy Ann Rochon '87 (CCE), March 19, 2015
- 1989**
Anne F. Merriman '89 (CCE), Feb. 8, 2015
- 1990**
Frank M. Dimeo '90, '92 (GAP), Feb. 6, 2015
- Kevin Scott Kearns '90 (CIAS), '90 (GAP), Feb. 18, 2015
Laurel Anne (Smith) Olcott '90 (FAA), Feb. 12, 2015**
- 1993**
Dore M. Karasin '93 (KGCOE), Jan. 16, 2015
- 1994**
Timothy James Koszelak '94 (COS), Feb. 8, 2015
- 1995**
Christopher Elwood Cowan '95 (CIAS), Feb. 5, 2015
Vincent Carl Migliore '95 (CAST), Jan. 17, 2015
Glen Edward Woods '95 (CLA), March 24, 2015
- 1996**
Lisabeth R. (Klein) Michael '96 (CAST), April 12, 2015
- 1999**
Raymond G. Wood '99 (CAST), April 8, 2015
- 2004**
William D. Ager '04 (CLA), Jan. 23, 2015
- 2008**
Michael F. Ey '08, '10 (GCCIS), Feb. 28, 2015
- 2012**
Andrew J. Eilertsen '12 (SCB), Jan. 8, 2015

Faculty and staff

- Keith Howard**, head of contemporary non-toxic printmaking and research, Feb. 8, 2015
- Walter G. Horne**, retired professor from the School of Printing, May 15, 2015
- John Hromi**, professor emeritus and namesake of the John D. Hromi Center for Quality and Applied Statistics, May 3, 2015
- U.T. Miller Summers**, literature faculty member from 1969-1985, Jan. 9, 2015





Former President George H.W. Bush stops briefly to talk to the media during the processional into the tent for the Academic Convocation.

Photo by A. Sue Weisler

George H.W. Bush addresses RIT Class of 1997

On May 23, 1997, RIT's 112th commencement ceremony was highlighted by a visit from the 41st president of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

The former president spoke before an overflow crowd of about 7,000, whom he told "to take risks, to dream and not to fear failure." Bush was awarded an honorary doctor-

ate of humane letters from the RIT Board of Trustees, which he accepted from then-RIT president Albert Simone, who served from 1992 to 2007.

When asked why he came to RIT, Bush responded, "I like the excellence of this school. I've long been impressed by it and when I was invited to receive this high honor I accepted." He emphasized to the graduates, "You have a

lifetime of chances in your grasp right now. Don't give up any one of them."

Last May, the university's commencement speaker was Charles Bolden, the 12th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). More than 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students, including 42 doctoral candidates, received degrees.