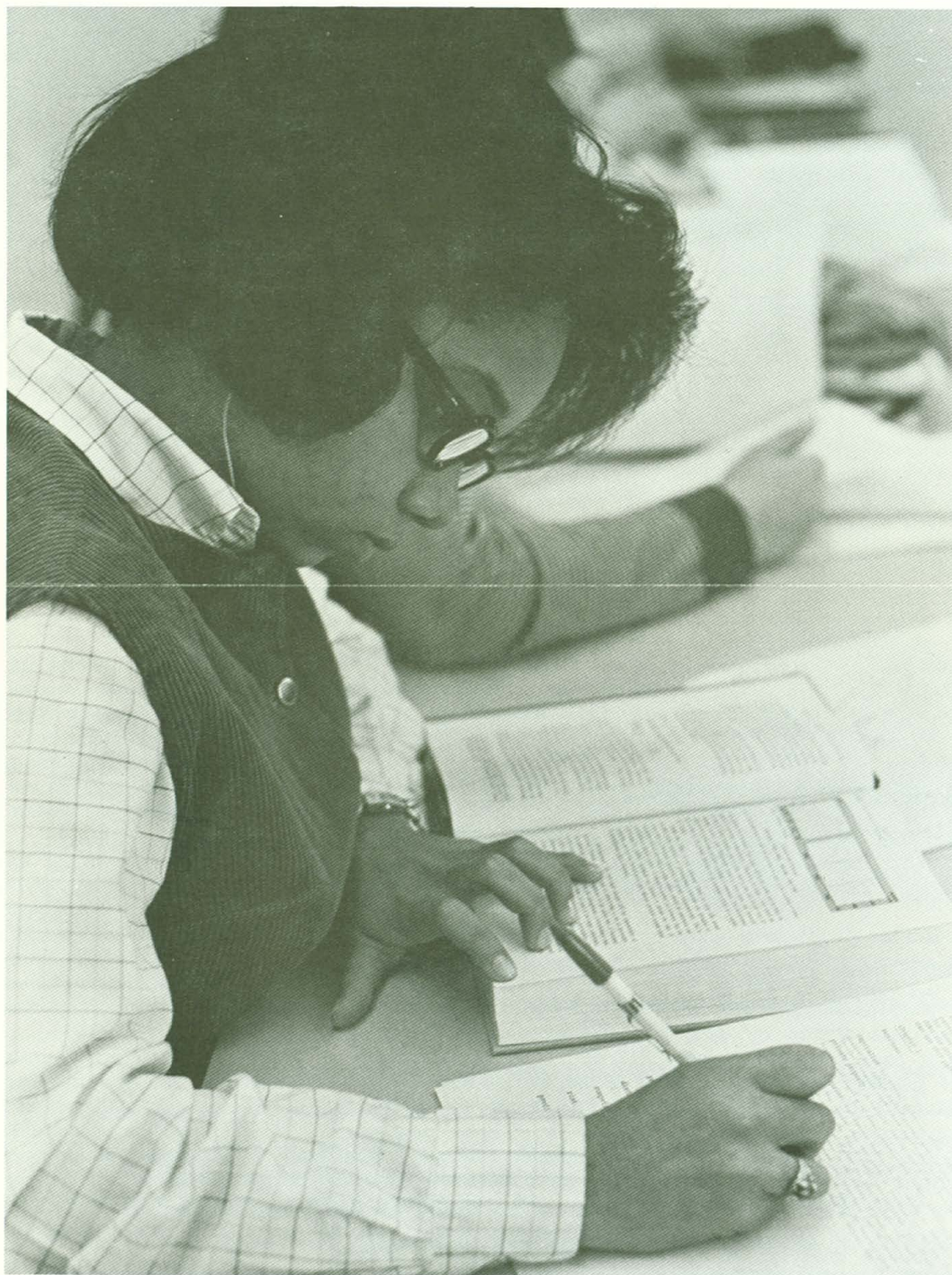


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Rochester Institute of Technology



broadening
educational
opportunities

THE SECOND YEAR'S PROGRESS

THE SECOND YEAR

A Progress Report



Sally Furth, Westfield, N. J.; Mrs. Judy Tingley teaching Vestibule English;
COVER: Rosalind Fleming, Cleveland, Ohio.

It's the midpoint of the second year since the National Technical Institute for the Deaf first opened its doors at Rochester Institute of Technology and 70 eager, young deaf men and women became pioneers in a unique program, designed to provide postsecondary technical and vocational education to deaf students within a hearing college environment.

How is the program shaping up?

"First, we have to compare this year with last year," began NTID's Director, Dr. Robert Frisina. "Last year's program was the initial experience with a large number of deaf students on this campus. It was also the year R.I.T. moved onto this new campus, and so together we had a year to learn how to accommodate one another."

"One of the basic differences," he continued, "between last year and this year, in addition to the quantity of students, is the matter of the difference in the breadth of programs available. We have nearly 275 students here now; the first-year group was primarily enrolled in regular R.I.T. programs, but the second-year group realized a broadening of the educational opportunities."

Perhaps the most prominent additional feature of the second year is the opportunity offered through the Vestibule programs, which account for over half of the total NTID student enrollment.

"Vestibule programs serve a number of purposes," said Vestibule Director, Dr. James R. Speegle. "For some students it's fundamentally a remedial program; for others it's a support program; for still others it's a preparatory program for entry into Diploma and other advanced courses of study."

The Vestibule programs include basic, preparatory, and remedial education in the area of English, reading, science, mathematics, and applied art. It offers an extended evaluation period and a program sampling experience to help deaf students determine their career objectives. The program is designed to help deaf students overcome specific and general educational deficiencies and prepare for further postsecondary studies.

Other new programs in the spotlight this year are Diploma programs, under the leadership of Victor Galloway. Current programs include Architectural Drafting, Mechanical Drafting, Office Practice and Bookkeeping, and Machine Tool Operation. As Galloway explained, "Many more Diploma programs will be added next year and in subsequent years. In addition, plans are now being laid for offering Certificate and Associate programs that bear a relationship to the Diploma programs. In other words a student could

earn a certificate by completing a "cluster" of courses in a particular area, earn a Diploma by completing a second cluster, and finish an Associate program by completing a third."

In order to ensure compatibility between the students' training and the needs of industry, committees are being organized in the various specialty areas. Cooperation within R.I.T. has been noteworthy in this effort, according to NTID Dean, Dr. William E. Castle, who commented: "Mr. Galloway has been able to set up *ad hoc* committees with each of the R.I.T. colleges to look at those Certificate/Diploma/Associate programs that bear a relationship to their curricula. All of the colleges were very willing and, in fact, very enthusiastic about being involved."

A giant step forward in communication at NTID was accomplished recently in the form of a "Vistaphone" picture-telephone system. Six "Vistaphone" units, essentially based on a telephone/television combination, and an interconnecting dial switching system, were installed at NTID for field testing purposes. They are on loan from the manufacturer, Stromberg-Carlson Corp., a Rochester-based subsidiary of General Dynamics.

The "Vistaphone" is the newest of a number of experiments in improved communication for the deaf at NTID. It enables deaf persons, for the first time, to communicate spontaneously via the telephone. "It surprises some people," commented Dr. Frisina, "that the deaf cannot independently use a telephone, and so when they see the 'Vistaphone' they say, 'Oh, why of course, it just never occurred to me that they can't use a telephone.'"

The very unique fact of NTID's existence as an institution for the deaf within an institution for the hearing brings up a very obvious question: Is the arrangement working out?

Dr. Frisina commented: "The progress has been rather remarkable and quite satisfactory if one thinks in terms of the 18 months we have had deaf students on this campus. The accommodation is a rather positive one, both by the deaf and hearing students, as well as by the general faculty and administration of the Institute."

"The R.I.T. faculty that I have met seems to take the NTID program in stride very well," observed one relative newcomer, Sal Parlato, coordinator of the Vestibule Learning Center: "I think that they might even take a little pride in the unique nature of NTID."

Dean Castle has yet another thought on the matter of cooperation: "I feel that we are being dealt with on a very

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The first known telephone installation for use by deaf persons is now in experimental operation at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, (NTID), at Rochester Institute of Technology, (N. Y.).

The system utilizes picture-telephones, enabling deaf persons to communicate by visual means such as lipreading, sign language, and fingerspelling.

Six of the units, developed by Stromberg-Carlson Corporation, a Rochester-based subsidiary of General Dynamics, are on loan to NTID for field testing and evaluation. They are located in various offices in NTID, and are interconnected by a special dial telephone switching system, capable of handling both voice and video signals.

Use of the "Vistaphone" system is NTID'S latest experiment in improved communication for the deaf. Research efforts such as this augment NTID's primary objectives in providing educational programs.

The "Vistaphone" system makes possible, for the first time, spontaneous conversation by deaf persons via the telephone.

"It is really impossible for a hearing person to understand the impact this system has on the deaf people who use it. Their world is almost totally visual and, until now, immediate and spontaneous communication required face-to-face meeting."



Telephone Comes to the Deaf

by Dr. D. Robert Frisina, Director, NTID

The telephone has been commonplace in American homes for well over a quarter of this century. Yet, since its invention, its utility has been beyond the reach of deaf persons. The convenience, time-saving, personal and social features of telephone communication simply have not been a direct part of a deaf person's daily living. There has been a more subtle consequence related to the inability to use the phone independently; it has been an impediment to job advancement in many instances.

Since a basic mission of NTID is to prepare deaf students for successful employment upon completion of its education and training programs, telecommunication for and with deaf students becomes an important component in NTID's instructional, curricular and placement efforts. Six Vistaphones, a new form of telecommunication, are now being field tested at NTID.

It is somewhat ironic that Alexander Graham Bell, so vitally interested in deaf people, through his inventive genius gave to hearing people a device that placed

the deaf individual at a disadvantage relative to his hearing counterpart. However, through Vistaphone, the spontaneity and independence associated with telephone usage are now becoming available for deaf persons. Some might say that since its use is limited to intramural coverage it is not *really* telephone. I have confidence that when it is put into the hands of inventive people many uses will be uncovered even in its present form.

The generosity of those at Stromberg-Carlson who have created the Vistaphone, and made it available to NTID, is gratefully acknowledged and applauded. The Vistaphone system in its present form at NTID functions essentially as a campus telephone system of communication of deaf with deaf, and deaf with hearing persons. It utilizes regular telephone lines which were installed by the Rochester Telephone Corporation. From the standpoint of the user it operates in a manner similar to the regular telephone — except it has two-way audio *and* video.

During the next few months NTID will explore and test the Vistaphone's applicability and its usefulness for deaf persons in educational and other settings.



Left to right: Dr. D. Robert Frisina, John Kubis, and Linda Kessler.

Linda Kessler, a college freshman, has just discovered the telephone. The pretty blue-eyed coed had never used a telephone until last week. Linda is deaf, and for her the telephone has just been invented.

The telephone she used is unlike any found in most homes or offices. It is a picture telephone, and with it Linda is able to communicate visually by means of lip reading, sign language, and fingerspelling. Six of these sight and sound telephone units are used in the first known telephone installation for the deaf at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, (NTID), at Rochester Institute of Technology, (N. Y.).

The "VISTAPHONE" picture telephone system in use at NTID was developed by Stromberg-Carlson Corporation, a Rochester-based subsidiary of General Dynamics. The equipment is on loan to the Institute as a result of a joint effort of NTID and Stromberg-Carlson to improve communications for the deaf.

The system includes the six "VISTAPHONE" station units and a special dial-activated switching system capable of transmitting video as well as voice signals. NTID staff members will evaluate the system in this application during the field trial period.

"It is really impossible for a hearing person to understand the impact this system has on the deaf people who use it," said Dr. D. Robert Frisina, director of NTID. "Their world is almost totally visual," he explained, "and until now immediate and spontaneous communication required face-to-face meeting."

Innovation in teaching and communication techniques are an important by-product of NTID's primary efforts in education of the deaf. Use of the "VISTAPHONE" system is the most recent of a number of experiments which have quickly built NTID's reputation as a pace-setter in its field.

The experimental "VISTAPHONE" system was found in NTID's own "back yard." Stromberg-Carlson, a 75-year-old Rochester firm, is a leading manufacturer of telecommunication equipment for the nation's Independent telephone companies, government and industry. The company developed the "VISTAPHONE" system two years ago and has had it in experimental operation in several locations.

To further adapt the "VISTAPHONE" system to a deaf environment, audible signals such as ringing and busy tones can be converted to visual light signals.

The installation at NTID is strictly internal with no connection to outside telephone lines.

Lowe, Skidmore Hold R.I.T. Swim Records

by Jack Smith, Sports Information Director

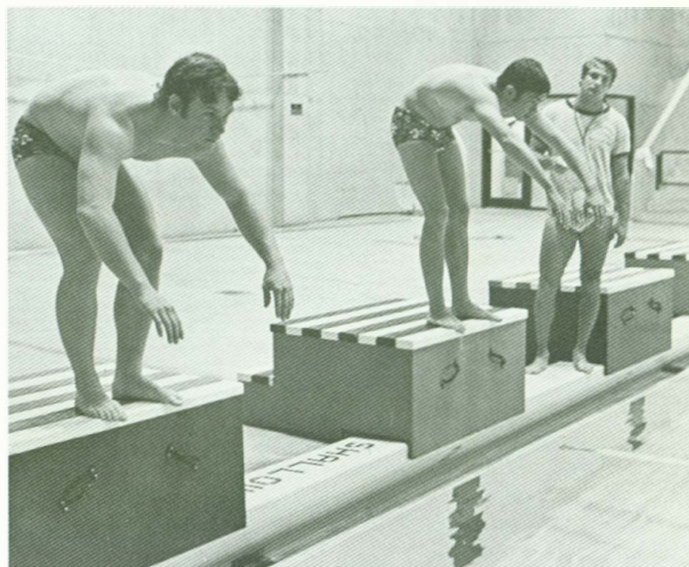
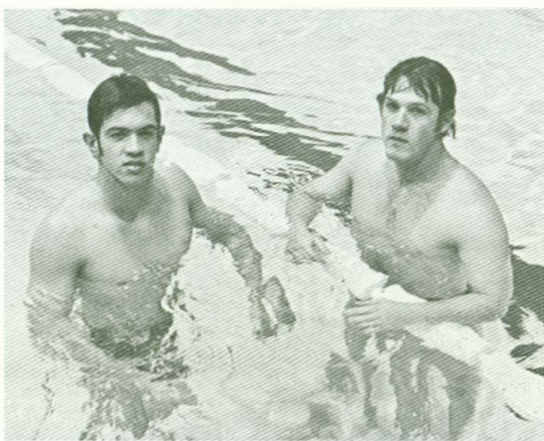
Although they are unable to hear the starting gun, two deaf swimmers at Rochester Institute of Technology know what to do once they get in the water.

Geoffrey Lowe and Byron Skidmore, both enrolled in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at RIT, own Tiger swim records.

Skidmore, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Skidmore, 2588 Kingston Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, cracked RIT's 200 meter butterfly record Saturday as the Tigers halted Ithaca College 62-49. The freshman science major swam his specialty in 2:41.2, snapping the old standard of 2:43.3 set by Jim Leveson last season.

The former Cleveland Heights High School star registered two firsts, one second and five third places in five RIT meets this year.

"Both boys are versatile enough to swim in several events," RIT Coach John Buckholtz pointed out. "Skidmore can be used



At left, (l-r), Byron Skidmore and Geoffrey Lowe; above, with R. I. T. Swimming Coach John Buckholtz, in one of many practice sessions.

in the 200 yard backstroke, 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard freestyle, but I'm sure he feels most at home in the butterfly."

Lowe, a sophomore in mechanical engineering, has tied the 200 yard breaststroke record of 2:43.9 which was set by Dick Neslund last season. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Lowe, 112 N. Garfield St., Hinsdale, Ill., also competes in the individual medley and has earned two first places, two seconds and a third at RIT.

"Neither boy is able to hear the starter's gun," Coach Buckholtz said. "They watch for the other swimmers to move and then they start. But they sure aren't at a disadvantage in the water. Both boys are outstanding competitors. They work hard in practice and are determined to improve. Since both swimmers are so young, we're looking for even greater things from them in the future."

THE SECOND YEAR *(continued from page 2)*

receptive basis overall, and one reason for this is that both Presidents Ellingson and Miller have exuded attitudes to administration and faculty that have had an effect on the way people think about us as a part of this total institution."

Dr. Mark Ellingson was president of R.I.T. at the time NTID became established. Dr. Paul A. Miller, who became president in the fall of 1969, is a former assistant secretary for education for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and, while in that capacity, was involved in the establishment of NTID at R.I.T., in 1966. It was through this project that he became familiar with R.I.T.

Mrs. Judy Tingley of the Vestibule English faculty commented: "I am really impressed with the way people go out of their way to help, bringing new ideas to our attention."

But perhaps the most meaningful comment of all came from a student, Miss Adriana Blasina, who was part of the first group of deaf students to enter NTID 18 months ago. She said: I think we are making some progress but we need to remember that we are still in the process of growing. We will take a few years to get fully adjusted, I'm sure."

With plans for construction, new programs, and multiplying enrollment already in the works, the future looks promising for NTID and for education of the deaf, in general.

Or, as Dr. Frisina summed it up: "Few could disagree that, if future progress comes in leaps and bounds like the progress of these past 18 months, the future for deaf youth of this country can be nothing but positive!"



NTID Vestibule Science Chmn. Fred Hamil, left, and James N. Orman of NTID's National Advisory Group, during January NAG Conference.

Job Placement Workshop Sponsored by NTID

The problems of unemployment, underemployment, and low wages among the deaf were tackled in a two-day Job Placement Workshop, sponsored by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

The Workshop, at Rochester's Sheraton-Airport Inn, Jan. 15 and 16, was designed to facilitate planning of objectives and programs as they relate to the placement process for young adults.

The Workshop was prompted, largely, by research findings in recent years which indicate that . . . "the young deaf adult is underemployed, receives lower wages, and experiences unemployment to a greater extent than his or her hearing counterpart."

Research efforts have further shown that these employment conditions remain relatively constant even when professional and other advanced training is introduced. Consequently, more extensive and intensified placement efforts are viewed as a means of alleviating these problems.

Moderator for the Workshop was Dr. Jack Clarcq, director of the Division of Student Development at NTID. Augmenting the NTID staff participants were several representatives of state employment services, job placement services for the disadvantaged, unions, business and industry, and vocational rehabilitation.

Among those participating were: Edward Croft, executive director, Rochester Jobs, Inc.; Donald Errigo, manager of professional compensation and organizational development, General Dynamics Electronics Division; Robert Lauritsen, director, Saint Paul Regional Technical Vocational Program for the Deaf, Saint Paul, Minn.; Norman Silver, manager of special placement, Tektronix Co., Beaverton, Ore.; and Fred Purcell, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and member of NTID's National Advisory Group.

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