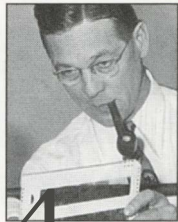


News & Events



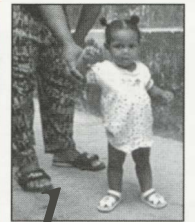
2 Sum41 to rock RIT in concert



4 CET celebrates 50 years



5 Helping hands on spring break



1 RIT students document Cuba

MyRITsite debuts this spring

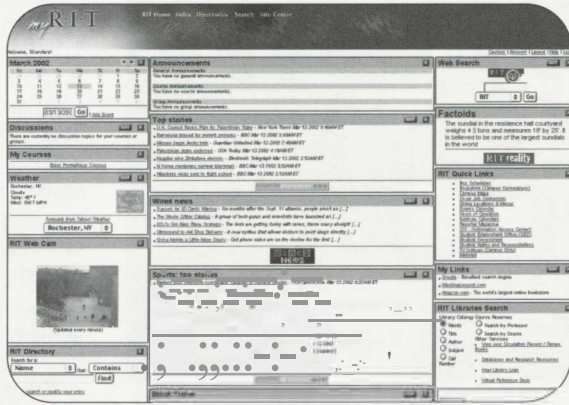
Wouldn't it be great to go to a single Web site for all things related to your life at RIT? A place where you could check the weather, read class messages, look at your calendar, catch up on RIT news, read local and national headline news, get national sports updates and more?

MyRIT - a student-oriented one-stop online shop for all things related to RIT - is coming this spring. Similar to portals such as myYahoo and myMSN, MyRIT will be a campuswide, fully customizable Web portal.

"MyRIT will be an effective tool to keep up on what's happening at RIT and the outside world," says Bob Finnerty, chief communications officer. "The ability to personalize and customize are also features that make the portal extremely attractive."

The initial phase of the portal will be rolled out April 1. Planned features include RIT news, weather, WITR streaming audio, news feeds from the *Democrat and Chronicle*, national news, a personal calendar and more.

Subsequent phases will address additional



Screen shot of MyRIT portal

student-oriented features as well as those geared towards faculty, staff and alumni.

"Implementing a campuswide portal for students, faculty, and staff is a key strategy for RIT," says Kristi Davis, portal project manager. "This effort is an exciting project for us and many people have expressed great interest and are looking forward to the initial rollout."

To access MyRIT on April 1, go to <http://my.rit.edu/> and log on with your DCE username and password. An informational Web site about the portal is at my.rit.edu until the portal goes live. •

NCR³ revitalizes military vehicles

Sustainment of military vehicles becomes critical in times of crisis, when planes, ships, tanks, trucks and other equipment are in constant use, often under extreme conditions.

RIT's National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery has begun groundbreaking work with the U.S. Office of Naval Research to manage and predict the "health" of naval ships and Marine Corps vehicles.

On Wednesday, March 27, the Center unveiled this work and the NCR³ team demonstrated the logistics center set up to track the vehicles' "health." U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, who were instrumental in securing the funding for this research program, were present for the demonstration at the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies.

Working on military humvees and light armored vehicles, NCR³ is developing technologies to monitor systems and forewarn of failures, apply material-aging technology to



NCR³ engineers examine a light armored vehicle.

better define the expected life cycle of components, evaluate their failure modes and rates, and develop cost-effective techniques to restore worn components.

NCR³ researchers are developing software and new devices that can track temperature, noise, vibration, contaminants in oil, fuel consumption and other variables and relay the information via satellite to a central base. The system works on single units or on fleets of vehicles, says Nabil Nasr, director of CIMS.

Remote sensors wired into equipment provide feedback on the vehicles' state of health and their predicted performance, sending data to computers either at base camp or back in the United States via satellite. The information then can be used to diagnose problems and to recommend repairs.

"This development of approaches to monitor and forecast the 'health' of systems is a valuable extension of the knowledge gained by NCR³ from its analyses of the failure modes of a range of components and products," says Nasr.

With funding from the federal budget, NCR³ is establishing a new initiative: Defense Modernization and Sustainment. The focus will be on methods of prolonging the life of military equipment in use now and on designing future equipment so it can be easily upgraded with devices and systems such as those currently under development.

"The effort promises to improve availability, reliability and maintainability of critical Marine Corps vehicles," says Paul Rispin, ONR program officer. "The program operates in support of the Marine's Autonomic Logistics operational requirement, and is a follow-up of the Center's excellent work in the field of ship remanufacture."

NCR³ has been working with the Navy for the past four years to integrate remanufacturing strategies in the design and maintenance of major defense systems. The 2001--02 defense appropriations bill passed by the 107th Congress included \$3 million to continue that effort.

"This project is a smart and cost-effective way to upgrade our military equipment ... and RIT is an important partner in meeting our military's strategic needs," says Schumer, who championed the funding in the Senate bill. Slaughter, who helped initiate this program with ONR four years ago, as well as helped secure this year's funding, added, "These funds will keep RIT as a leader in innovative engineering and research." To date, RIT has received \$11 million in federal support for this research. •

CIMS reorganizes-new leadership emerges, units restructured

Nabil Nasr is the new director of RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing



Nabil Nasr

Studies and assistant provost of academic affairs. Bill Sheeran has resigned his position after being with RIT for four years.

In the last few years, several new areas have emerged from the National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery at CIMS focusing efforts in these areas:

- Sustainable systems research
- Defense modernization and sustainment
- Material recovery and recycling
- Manufacturing Technologies, such as lean enterprise

"In my new role, I plan to grow our partnership with industry," Nasr says. "CIMS' other business units are wonderful complements to our work in remanufacturing and resource recovery and I am particularly excited to develop that synergy even further. These areas of focus will enable us to take CIMS to the next level as a state and national resource."

"RIT has been truly fortunate to have Nabil Nasr at the helm of our National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery. I look forward to his matching the tremendous record of success with that operation throughout the rest of the CIMS endeavors," says Stan McKenzie, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

organizational changes that will make CIMS even more efficient and effective. Bill came in to do a job and he did it. The RIT campus and the Rochester and state

business communities owe Bill a debt of appreciation for his strong advocacy, contributions, and accomplishments in furthering the CIMS mission." •

RIT scientist devises eye-tracking device

Imagine an ordinary pair of racquetball goggles souped up with high tech gadgetry: two tiny camera ne pointed toward your

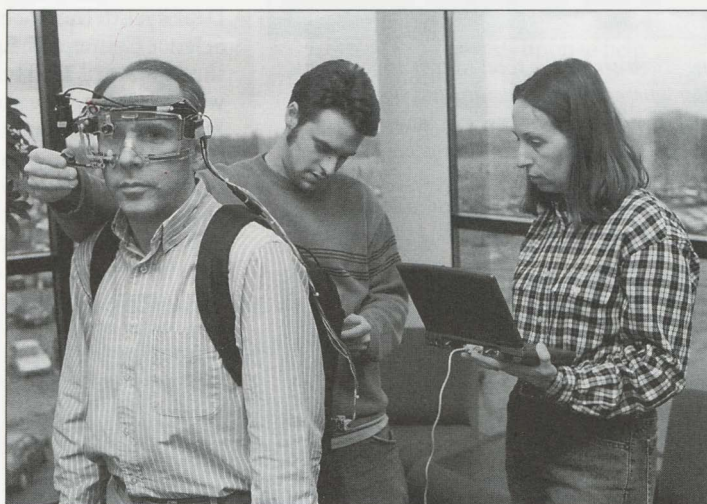
eyes, the other at what you are looking at - an infrared light source, and a dentist's mirror to reflect the image of your eye. A braid of wires drapes from the modified goggles to a backpack containing electronic equipment.

Don the headgear and the device will track what you are looking at and how you move your eyes to take in information. The unique device-known as a wearable eyetracker - was designed and built at RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science to study how people use vision in everyday life.

The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory is partnering with RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science to develop the next generation of wearable eyetrackers--robust, daylight-capable, and wireless.

Research in RIT's Visual Perception Laboratory is focused on fundamental questions about how people use visual perception during complex tasks. Researchers at the NRL are interested to learn how experts locate difficult-to-find objects in natural scenes. The three-year project is sponsored

by the NRL with \$420,000 in funding. The RIT/NRL team will conduct a range of visual experiments designed to unlock



Graduate students Jason Babcock and Roxanne Canosa outfit imaging science professor Jeff Pelz with the RIT Wearable Eyetracker.

strategies people use when searching complex natural scenes.

For more than a century, scientists have used eye movements to study vision in laboratory settings. Now scientists are opting for realistic environments, the impetus behind the RIT Wearable Eyetracker.

"Knowing how people move their eyes in the laboratory tells us almost nothing about how people search for things in the real world," says Jeff Pelz, associate professor of imaging science and director of the Vision Perception Laboratory, where the wearable eyetracker was developed.

continued on page 4

Globalization talks feature poet, economists

The Caroline Werner Gannett lecture series continues with two upcoming talks about globalization from the perspective of a poet, a former president of the World Bank and an economics scholar.



Carolyn Porche

Poet and human rights activist Carolyn Forche will give her talk, "Against Forgetting:

Globalization, Human Rights and The Voice of Witness," at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4. Forche, a professor of poetry at George Mason University, has written and edited more than 15 books including, *The Angel of History* and

Against Forgetting: Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness.

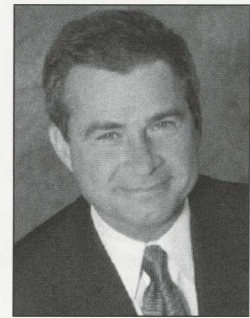
Barber Conable, president of the World Bank from 1986 to 1991 and a New York congressman from 1964-84, and William Tabb, professor of economics at Queens College and political science at the City University of New York Graduate Center, will present "Unequal Partners?: Citizenship and Corporate

Globalization," at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11. Tabb has written and edited 10 books including *The Amoral Elephant: Globalization and the Struggle for Social Justice in the Twenty-First Century.*

Both lectures—free and open to the public—will be held in Webb auditorium in the James E. Booth Building. For more information, call 5-2057 or log onto www.rit.edu/gannettseries. •

Microsoft exec to give Gasser lecture

Technology offers a growing array of opportunities for businesses to better serve their customers. But how can



Mike Adams

companies and other organizations use it to the fullest advantage?

Mike Adams, director, Global Performance Excellence, World Services Division at Microsoft, will share his insights as the College of Business presents the William D.

Gasser Distinguished Lecture Series in Business. The event, 3 p.m., Monday, April 1, will be held in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building.

Adams' presentation, "Integrating Technology for Performance Excellence," will examine Microsoft's entrepreneurial spirit and illustrate how "cool" technology helps the company improve quality and management systems. The customer experience, performance measures, planning, communication and organizational goals are all influenced by ever-changing technology.

Prior to joining Microsoft in 2000, Adams was president and CEO of Mike Adams & Co., a performance management and creative services practice—where his services ranged from conducting strategic and business planning sessions to writing theme songs and jingles. He also served as the head of quality at Florida Power and Light and FPL Group Inc. Adams speaks worldwide on topics such as benchmarking, customer satisfaction, business performance and strategic planning.

The Gasser Lecture is hosted annually by the College of Business to advance interaction and dialogue between business and academic communities.

The lecture series is made possible by a gift from the late John Wiley Jones, former honorary member of the RIT Board of Trustees and founder of Jones Chemicals Inc., in memory of William D. Gasser. Gasser taught accounting at RIT from 1967 until his death in 1977.

A reception will immediately follow the Gasser Lecture, which is free and open to the public. To register for the event, contact Donna Slavin at 5-2199 or dlsbbu@rit.edu. •

Hard rockers Sum 41 perform April 6

The rock band Sum 41, best known for its hard edge and disturbing lyrics, will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, in RIT's Clark Gymnasium.

Opening for the band are H2O and Auto Pilot Off. With pounding guitar riffs and heavy drum beats, Sum 41 is described as a choir of Hell's Angels that are the new breed of hardcore. After playing shows with punk acts like Down by Law, Gob and Ten Foot Pole, Sum 41 released its debut album, *HalfHour of Power*, followed by *All Killer No Filler*. The band's latest album, *Motivation*, hit stores earlier this month, featuring the tracks, *Motivation*, *All She's Got*, *Crazy Amanda Bunkface* and *What We're All About*. The band also recently released its own DVD, *Introduction to Destruction (Video Treats to Move Yo Peets)*.

Tickets—\$10 for RIT students, \$15 for RIT faculty/staff and \$20 for the general



Sum 41 will perform at RIT's Clark Gym on April 6.

public—are available at the candy counter and game room. For more information, call 5-2239. •

Self-Instruction Lab open

The Self-Instruction Lab, located in room 3205 of the Lyndon Baines Johnson building, welcomes the entire RIT community to support its sign language learning.

The SIL offers videotapes, videodiscs and CD ROMs on basic sign language lessons, short stories signed in English and ASL, deaf culture and technical signs.

Hours are Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Bonnie Murnford at 5-6336 (v/tty) or bsm5558@rit.edu, or log onto <http://www.isc.rit.edu/~482www/sil>.

Housing information

Faculty and staff should be aware that housing selection for RIT students will be held on April 6 and 7 in the Fireside Lounge, Student Alumni Union.

Students should not have to miss class or work to participate in the housing selection process. Absentee forms are available at the Housing Operations office in Grace Watson Hall for students who have a conflict with the housing selection time. Students with questions regarding the process should be directed to the staff at RIT Housing Operations, 5-2572 (v), 5-2113 (ty) or housing@rit.edu.



IMAGING SCIENCE SATURDAY... RIT's imaging scientists hit the road March 16 for Science Saturday at the Rochester Museum and Science Center where students, faculty and staff from the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science helped introduce children to a new world of light. The overview included hands-on activities for children to discover such concepts as color contrast and color separation, remote sensing and remote learning, microgravity, eye tracking, optics, astronomy and medical imaging. Here, Maria Helguera, coordinator of the distance learning program at CIS, uses a slinky to demonstrate a concept of ultrasound for a curious visitor.

Quality conference, April 3

RIT's Center for Excellence in Lean Manufacturing is supporting the American Society for Quality, Rochester Section's 58th annual conference, Solving Business Problems—The Practitioner's Approach, Wednesday, April 3, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The Greater Rochester Quality Council also supports the conference.

The conference focuses on the industry-recognized improvement methodology of DMAIC (define-measure-analyze-improve-control). Gordon Black, chairman and CEO of Harris Interactive Inc., will give the keynote speech during lunch. Vince Faya, director of Value-Based Six Sigma for IIT Industries Inc., will deliver the morning address.

Cost is \$175. Student discounts are available. ASQ recertification units are given for conference attendance.

For registration information, call 458-5913 or visit www.asqrs.org.

NPD forum set for April 9

A collaboration between the College of Business and area companies renews its focus on improving the way new products and services are brought to market. State-of-the-Art New Product Development will be discussed during the latest meeting of the RIT New Product Development Forum on Tuesday, April 9.

Presenters include Abbie Griffin from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ron Lasser from Product Development Consulting Inc., and Bruce Claxton from Motorola. John Ettlie, RIT's Madelon and Richard Rosett Chair, will serve as the moderator.

The event, which includes a continental breakfast, will take place between 7:15 a.m. and noon in Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason Building. Registration fees will be waived for RIT students, faculty and staff who wish to attend. For more information, contact Angelo Fuino at 5-7431 or jafbbu@rit.edu.

Images show history from deaf perspective

NTID is helping to bring History Through Deaf Eyes to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue, March 28 through April 28. The traveling exhibit, which is free to the public, presents United States history from the deaf community's perspective using objects and images collected by individuals, organizations and schools for deaf children.

Portions of History Through Deaf Eyes have been designed locally to tell the history of the deaf community in Rochester, including NTID and Rochester School for the Deaf, and how our community has become a center for education

and communication for the largest population of deaf people, per capita, in the country.

Rochester is one of a few select cities to host History Through Deaf Eyes. Once the exhibit leaves here, it will be placed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Funded by the New York state Department of Education through the special efforts of Sen. James Alesi, the exhibit's stop in Rochester is a collaborative effort of NTID, RSD and RMSC. For more information about the exhibit, visit www.rmssc.org/museum/exhibits/exhibits.htm. •



On June 8, 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed into law the bill creating NTID. This milestone in deaf history is one of many included in the History Through Deaf Eyes exhibit.

Viewpoints

A reflection on Women's History Month

This column presents opinions and ideas from your peers on issues relevant to higher education. We welcome response and hope "Viewpoints" inspires discussion amongst you, the RIT community. To suggest an idea for a column, e-mail to newsevents@rit.edu.

by Jessica Mills, fourth-year applied photo student; president, Feminist Action on Campus for Every Student; undergraduate assistant, RIT Women's Center



Jessica Mills

The month of March has changed much in the last 30 years. It has been transformed from an ordinary division of the calendar based on the phases of the moon, to being heralded as a month dedicated to women's accomplishments throughout history.

In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women selected March 8 to become the focus for a week of celebration and education dedicated to women's history. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential message supporting the observance of Women's History Week, and 1981 saw the passing of a resolution through Congress declaring the week of March 8 to be National Women's History Week.

The National Women's History Project was founded in 1980 and became the focus for women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders and educators advocating for the extension of National Women's History Week into National Women's History Month. In 1987, this resolution was quickly approved with bipartisan commitment and support.

National Women's History Month has become a major national and international celebration giving society the opportunity to honor and pay tribute to influential women from the past.

Often and routinely surfacing in the years since the passing of this congressional resolution, is a questioning of the necessity for National Women's History Month. To these people I can only give experience as an answer.

Growing up in a somewhat liberal town in south Florida, I rarely learned about the accomplishments of women in any of my grade school classes. Betsy Ross is one woman

I can remember learning about year after year, and although I would never belittle her contribution to American History by sewing the first American flag, I cannot help realize that her accomplishment still falls within the stereotypical gender roles assigned to women.

Only during certain times, like Women's History Month, for example, did supplementary education about women and their achievements get added to the course work and guidelines set down by educational institutions which recommended the use of history books that rarely even acknowledged the existence of women.

Furthermore, it was only during Black History Month that I remember learning about Harriet Tubman, whose involvement in freeing slaves and ending slavery goes way beyond the typical boundaries set for any man or woman.

Within the constraints of a traditional education, I don't remember learning about any women whose historical endeavors

extended beyond what was or is expected of women. It was not until I moved to Rochester to attend RIT that I learned about influential women such as Susan B. Anthony, an abolitionist, suffragist, women's rights advocate, and political and social activist.

This area of New York is filled with important women's history, yet a friend told me her children have never taken a class field trip to the Susan B. Anthony House or Women's Rights National Park.

Through the women's studies course at RIT, and based on my own personal research, I have taken it upon myself to learn about the impact women have had on our national and world history. By talking to friends and family, I have found that learning about women's historical contributions at the collegiate educational level tends to be the typical experience for many people. Yet, these types of college courses are still relatively new and continue to be viewed with skepticism.

Although I lament my own lack of early education about women, I can only imagine that the situation was worse for past generations educated before National Women's History Month became a national and international institution.

As history books are being revised to include information about more women and their accomplishments, largely due to the influence of National Women's History Month, I expect that the situation in grade school education has and will continue to improve.

Until there is no longer any need for women's studies courses because this information will already be included in a standard education, there will be a need for Women's History Month. The month of March gives people a chance to celebrate the overlooked achievements of their female contemporaries and ancestors. National Women's History Month gives women the opportunity to add another chapter to the history books—this chapter is called "HERSTORY." ■

Pitkin to retire; McKenzie named Wallace Library interim director

Chandra McKenzie loves books or—more encompassing—"information management." With a deep appreciation and constant curiosity for words and human intellect, McKenzie steps with confidence into the interim directorship of Wallace Library, effective April 1. She will serve in this role until a permanent



Chandra McKenzie

director is chosen.

"I'm pleased to announce Chan's appointment," says Provost Stanley McKenzie, "as she continues the terrific work of Pat Pitkin in directing one of the most technologically advanced libraries in the world."

An RIT alumna with a B.S. in criminal justice and M.S. in instructional technology, along with a master's of library science from State University of New York at Buffalo, Chan McKenzie joined the library in 1977 as assistant to the head of circulation. She moved up through a series of appointments to associate director of Wallace, where she oversees four departments while managing the reference department, the coordinators for library distance learning, electronic resources, RIT archives, library marketing and library user services. Most recently she served as project manager with Pat Pitkin for launch of Java Wally's.

McKenzie, a published poet well known in the community for her work and public readings, was a certified sign-language interpreter and has provided signed bibliographic instruction for RIT's deaf population. She has also taken the Institute Mediator Training program and is an RIT campus mediator.

"I welcome this opportunity as interim director to focus my energy on making improvements to the library facility and services that RIT depends upon to help enrich the community," says Chan McKenzie.

The moniker of Renaissance Woman well fits Pat Pitkin as she prepares to retire from RIT after 28 years to become CIO and executive director of library, information and technology services at Mount Holyoke College.

"At RIT I've had a great deal of opportunity

to initiate change and hopefully make a difference to our students and community," she says. "Library staff and I have taken Wallace Library to an advanced state of technical advancement and most recently, with Java Wally's, revitalized the concept of *Library* as an important learning place as well as a technological service. At Mount Holyoke, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to take the library, computing and instructional technology services to the next step, the integration of all these areas with the curriculum."

Director of Wallace Library since 1980, Pitkin led advances on many fronts, includ-



Pat Pitkin, who maintains horses, sometimes rode her Vespa to work, leaving her furred friends at home.

Advocates to help reach diversity goals

Keeping in line with RIT's commitment to diversity, last year, RIT joined 50 other universities by becoming a campus affiliate of the National Coalition Building Institute, Inc., a national nonprofit leadership training organization.

A new group of leaders has emerged charged with specific goals to enhance the institute's awareness of its diverse student, faculty and staff population.

RIT's diversity advocates, a group of 30 faculty and staff members gathered from a variety of disciplines, have spent a year in leadership and diversity training, and are committed to assisting the RIT community reach its diversity goals.

The goals of the team include creating dialogue that explores perceptions of diversity, increasing awareness and consciousness of diversity related issues and encouraging cross-cultural interaction.

"Our team was designed to promote a welcoming campus environment and help build a spirit of community on campus," says James Bundy Jr., campus affiliate director and manager of diversity initiatives and patrol

services in the campus safety department. "As diversity advocates, we pledge to encourage positive change, promote leadership, and educate the community about our diversity issues. Diversity education doesn't rest with one person, but with each one of us."

RIT's diversity advocates are also available to facilitate diversity workshops and roundtable discussions to departments and colleges. To contact a diversity advocate or for more information about the program, contact Bundy at 5-7158, or one of the Diversity Design team members: Alfreda Brown, Eulas Boyd, Latty Goodwin, Patti Spinelli, Kathleen Martin, Alan Vaala, Karey Tompkins Pine, Adrienne Morgan, Markelia Weaver and Julie White. ■



SHARING SURVIVAL STORIES . . . Three NTID/RIT alumni who survived the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City discussed their experiences during a recent visit to campus as part of NTID's Deaf Presenter Series. Susan Zupnik, '84, business administration; Carl Andreasen, '87, computer science; and Robert Jacaruso, '84, civil engineering construction are all employed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and were working in the World Trade Center on the day of the attacks. Zupnik and Andreasen made a dramatic escape from the 43rd floor of the building and Jacaruso, from the 74th. In November, NBC's Dateline reported on their harrowing ordeal.

Sidewalk sale, April 10-12

If you're trekking through the Student Alumni Union April 10, 11 or 12 you will encounter Campus Connections' semi-annual Sidewalk Sale in the atrium outside the store.

Shoppers can find savings from 10 percent to 40 percent on clothing, photo supplies and assorted products from computer items to sportswear to general books and gifts. The sale starts at 10 a.m. Campus Connections is open until 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Corporate Education and Training celebrates golden anniversary

Computers have replaced Linotype machines, software has superseded stripping, and letterpress has given way to high-speed Web lithography since the first



Norman Reamer, director of GARD's Printing Information Service, and Mary Ann Cully examine negatives in 1954.

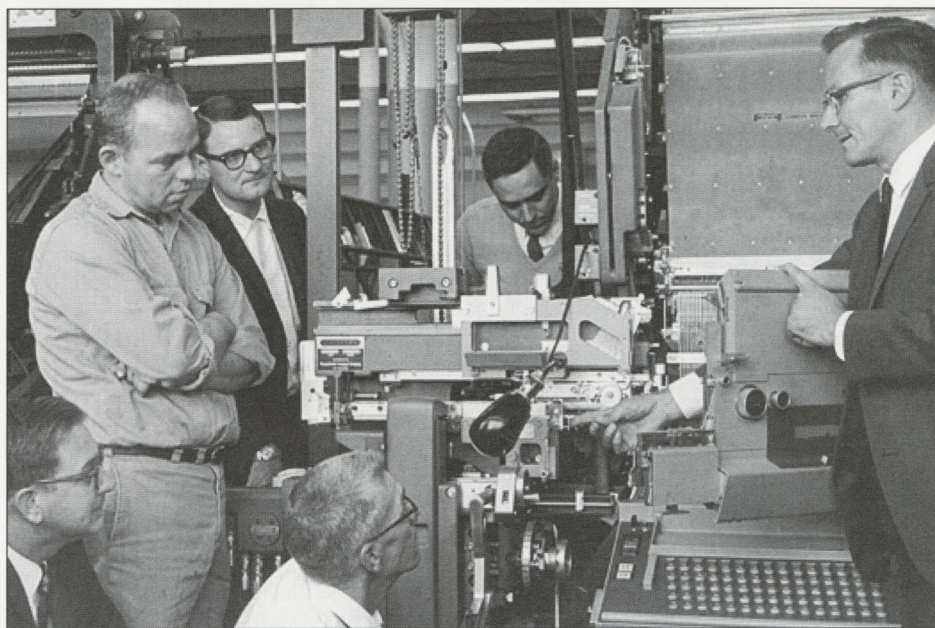
industry training programs were conducted by RIT's Graphic Arts Research Department (GARD) in 1951.

But one thing has not changed: the commitment to providing the printing industry with the highest caliber training and support found anywhere in the world.

RIT's School of Printing launched GARD during an era when new technologies like phototypesetting and the shift to Web offset had created a severe shortage of trained personnel in the industry. As a dedicated resource, GARD provided the training and research to help printers modernize their plants, control production and get a handle on emerging processes that would change the way they do business in the decades to come.

RIT's first non-credit training program for industry was a three-week survey-of-printing seminar developed in 1951 at the request of the Mergenthaler Linotype Co. and the Frazier Paper Co. for their management trainees. Reaction to the program was overwhelming, and soon other companies were requesting similar training.

By the 1970s, the center was hosting dozens of industry training programs a year.



Robert Tompkins, right, demonstrates the Linotype Elektron for seminar participants in 1967; in the lower left corner is GARD instructor Ralph Squire.

Today, RIT Corporate Education and Training carries on the legacy of world-class industry training. And RIT's Printing Applications Laboratory continues the mission of providing print trials and

material evaluations to help industry suppliers improve the quality of their products.

Excerpted from CET's *Training Update* magazine, June–December 2002 issue. ■

RIT prof designs "smart plants"

An RIT professor is finding a way to make "smart plants"—crops that can detect and evade traces of pathogenic bacteria before the bacteria assaults and cripples the plant. Michael Savka, assistant professor of biological sciences, is genetically changing plants to make them disease resistant and to increase food production.

Plants that sense a bacterial pathogen at the onset of potential disease development is a new concept, Savka says, and involves the exchange of bacterial signals or bacterial hormones. Genetically manipulating the plant to produce a minimal amount of the bacterial hormone can fool the pathogenic bacteria. The plants produce and secrete bacterial signals that the bacteria themselves sense and prematurely respond. This makes it easier for the plant to detect the pathogenic bacteria and to launch a systemic defense against the potential invasion.

Savka's plant model system uses tobacco because of the ease of tissue culture and genetic manipulation. He has already constructed plants that produce and secrete the desired bacterial hormone. He is confident that the approach can be applied to a variety of plants.

"One example of potential benefits to come from this research is corn that is more resistant to disease," Savka says. "Corn, a favorite food of the horned beetle, is easily infected by a pathogenic bacteria carried by the insect. The bacteria ultimately plug up the plant's water conduction systems, causing a vascular wilting disease resulting in plant death."

Savka uses plasmids—circular pieces of DNA in bacteria—as a vehicle to shuttle genes from one cell to another. Savka also employs genetics and molecular biology to express genes in certain parts of the plant cell, such as in the chloroplast which produce the building blocks of the bacterial hormones.

"Plant genetic manipulation makes it possible to introduce certain genes that potentially can be beneficial to reduce corn vascular wilting diseases," Savka adds.

Today's technology enables scientists to take genes from bacteria or any other organism and insert them into plants, he says. "Before 1980, scientists could not readily dissect mechanisms in the plant at the genetic level. Now a genetic blueprint of a plant is known which has hastened the unraveling of complex mechanisms in the plant."

Genetic engineering of plants is still in a developing stage, he says, and is misunderstood by many because it is a new technology. Savka's students, however, are eager to learn about plant biotechnology, and quickly fill up his classes. ■

Pioneer fighter pilot to discuss "breaking down barriers"

One of the first female fighter pilots in the U.S. Navy will visit RIT on April 11 for a talk on "Breaking Down Barriers."

Missy Cummings spent 10 years in the Navy flying F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets and A-4 Skyhawk airplanes. "The talk will be



Former Navy fighter pilot, Missy Cummings, will talk about her career and her book, *Hornet's Nest*, on April 11.

about my experiences as an aviation pioneer, my transformation from a small-town southern belle to a woman of strength, and the importance of conquering fears," she says.

After resigning from the Navy in 1999, Cummings wrote *Hornet's Nest: The Experiences of One of the Navy's First Female*

Fighter Pilots. The book is an account of her Navy career from graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy through jet-pilot training, first tour in the Philippines, rise to the rank of lieutenant and eventual resignation because of what she calls "blatant abuse and discrimination."

Cummings filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the Navy in 1998, claiming privacy rights granted under the 1974 Privacy Act were violated. The lawsuit was later dismissed but an appellate court recently ruled in her favor allowing the case to proceed.

"This case has attracted a lot of attention as a case of 'first impression'—or, without precedence—and it's likely it will end up in the Supreme Court," Cummings says.

Also, legislation sparked by the case that would provide privacy protections for members of the military was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hearings on the bill, currently before a committee, may be held this spring.

Cummings is now pursuing a doctorate in systems engineering from the University of Virginia while on leave from her position as an adjunct professor of engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Her talk—free and open to all—will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. in Xerox Auditorium in the James E. Gleason Building. It's sponsored by RIT's Society of Women Engineers, the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the College of Applied Science and Technology. Copies of Cummings' book will be available. ■

Eye-tracking device

(from page 1)

"Locating small objects in cluttered scenes seems effortless, yet scientists have been unable to create flexible computer vision systems that rival our visual abilities in natural environments," Pelz says.

Moving the eyes is a fundamental part of human vision. Peoples' eyes are in almost constant motion, making over 150,000 rapid movements daily. Pelz's eyetracker monitors those movements, displaying where a person is looking on a video monitor.

Pelz, who leads the RIT research team, uses this data to study vision in everyday tasks. The wearable eyetracker—Pelz's brain-child—has evolved from an immovable setup of computers, monitors, cameras, eye-tracking control unit and video recording equipment to a miniaturized, portable unit that can fit in a backpack.

Pelz and graduate student Jason Babcock replaced the eyetracker controller, computers, VCRs and bulky, fragile headset, with a self-contained system.

The major innovation developed at RIT was the new headset that makes it possible to monitor eye movements as people perform everyday tasks in natural environments. Babcock modified the racquetball goggles by installing an infrared-reflecting mirror to illuminate and image the eye, and two micro-miniature video cameras, together weighing less than an ounce.

The wearable system had to be light, comfortable and resilient enough for the wearer to perform regular tasks. While sunshine is still a stumbling point for the eyetracker, the scientists can perform experiments lasting up to an hour, using any indoor part of the world as a lab, Pelz says.

In addition to Babcock, other students in the Visual Perception Laboratory use the eyetracker in their research, such as Roxanne Canosa, a graduate student working to improve artificial vision systems.

"Computers are good at many things, but perception isn't one of them, yet," says Pelz.

By studying how humans use vision in complex situations, Canosa is designing better vision algorithms for computers. Marianne Lipps, an undergraduate imaging science student working with Babcock and researchers at Eastman Kodak Co., is using the wearable eyetracker to compare how photographers view scenes before, during and after taking pictures. ■



IMAGES FROM MOTOWN . . . John Collier's gritty view of the Detroit skyline is among a collection of photographs that will be displayed on campus next month. The *Detroit Focus Portfolio* highlights the creativity of more than three dozen artists with strong ties to America's automotive capital. The images were originally collected for the *Detroit Focus 2000* festival of photography and are now featured as part of this traveling exhibition. The history of RIT's *Big Shot* project is also included with the display. The *Detroit Focus Portfolio* will appear March 8–21 in the photo cases on the second floor of the Frank E. Gannett Building.

Sun, fun and community service for some RIT spring breakers

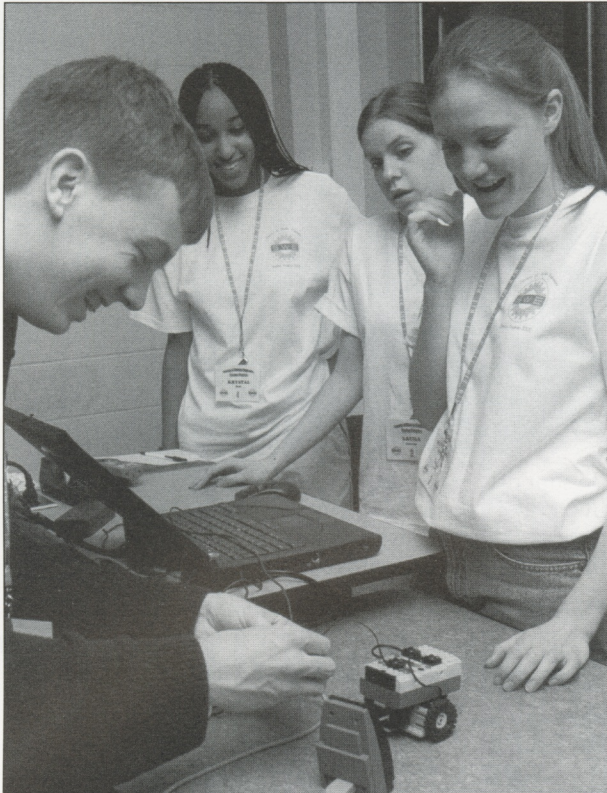
Fun in the sun during spring break took on a very different meaning for second-year civil engineering technology student David Cox. Although Cox and 16 of his friends did get golden tans in the Caribbean sun, they opted to spend their time and money helping others.

Cox and other members of RIT's Interservice Christian Fellowship left the gray Rochester weather for the beautiful country of Jamaica where they spent 10 days working at an orphanage, a summer camp and the Caribbean School for the

Deaf. The group arose at 6 a.m. each morning and often didn't stop working until after dark. They also performed puppet shows and led sing-a-longs and spent days playing with the kids.

Gail Virginia Walton, a second-year hospitality management student also went on the trip.

"The trip was an eye opening experience, and one I will never forget," she says. "I will always remember the children at the orphanage starving for love, and



RIT STUDENTS SEE THEIR SHADOWS...

Thirty-seven girls from more than two dozen high schools in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania visited RIT for the second annual "Shadow Day," March 14-15. The girls, all juniors in high school, participated in hands-on engineering-related activities with RIT student mentors, attended classes and spent a night in an RIT residence hall. Shown above, Brian Dagan, first-year information technology major, helps students, from left, Krystal Bush, Laura Grzywna and Sara Brooks program a LEGO Mindstorms robot. The event was sponsored by RIT's Society of Women Engineers, RIT Women in Engineering and RIT Admissions.



Isobel Werner and other student members of RIT's Interservice Christian Fellowship taught sign classes at the Caribbean School for the Deaf in Jamaica as part of their spring break experience.

fortunately, we were able to provide that love—even if it was just for one day."

The RIT students then proceeded to Mandeville where manual labor was part of their Jamaican experience. While at a Christian summer camp, the students built a ropes course and rock climbing tower, both activities that help promote group interaction and teambuilding.

The students rounded out their trip at the Caribbean School for the Deaf. In addition to helping with construction and painting, they also taught sign classes to the deaf children.

The students each paid \$700 for their trip, and held fundraisers and collected donations

to offset the cost. They also organized the tools they would need for their jobs and had larger items like cables and poles delivered to their worksites in Jamaica.

Cox says that he doesn't regret a single moment of his community-service-spring-break experience. In fact, it helped fulfill a desire he's had for years.

"I've always considered doing mission work after graduation, and thought this would be a great way to explore that a bit. I knew this would be a great experience, but had no idea about the impact this would have on my life. There is much greater happiness in helping others than living only for yourself." ■

News & Events survey

How do you spend your time reading News & Events?

- I read cover-to-cover
- I read multiple articles each issue
- I read at least one article each issue
- I skim the headlines
- I rarely read News & Events
- Other, please comment:

What would you like to see more of in News & Events? (check all that apply):

- Administrative messages
- Donation/grant stories
- Faculty/staff profiles
- Faculty/student research projects
- Lighthearted items
- Photos
- Sports features
- Student features
- Technology features
- Other, please comment:

How often do you read stories about the following? (Mark as follows: 1-always, 2-sometimes, 3-rarely, 4-never)

- Administrative messages
- Donation/grant stories
- Faculty/staff profiles
- Lighthearted items
- Sports features
- Student features
- Technology features
- Other, please comment:

Dear News & Events readers:

We are looking for feedback to gauge reader satisfaction with News & Events and encourage your comments and suggestions. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey, or access online at: www.rit.edu/newsevents/survey.html.

Your news tips are welcome. To find out areas covered by reporters and how to reach them, visit www.rit.edu/news and select "contact us." Tips can also be sent to newsevents@rit.edu.

How would you describe your satisfaction with how well your college or division is represented in News & Events?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Not satisfied
- Don't know
- Other, please comment:

List college or division here:

Please rank 1 to 5 (1 as highest) how you get your news and information about RIT?

News & Events	1	2	3	4	5
Local media	1	2	3	4	5
RITStaff e-mails	1	2	3	4	5
RIT home Web page	1	2	3	4	5
Word of mouth	1	2	3	4	5
Other, please comment:	1	2	3	4	5

Do you read News and Events online at www.rit.edu/newsevents ?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

As a communication vehicle, News & Events role on campus is:

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know
- Other, please comment:

How accessible is News & Events?

- No problem: I receive it via internal mail or U.S. mail
- Fine: I read it online
- Easy: Boxes are conveniently located and full

- Sporadic: Boxes are scarce or often empty
- Difficult: I have no idea where to find it.

Additional comments

To help our survey, we need the following information from you:

What college or division do you work in:

Are you (check one):

- faculty
- staff
- retiree
- student

To enter raffle for gift certificates to either Campus Connections or Ben & Jerry's, please provide your name and contact information. Raffle drawing will be held on Friday, April 12.

Additional comments:

Please clip this survey and return via inter-office mail to:

Vienna Carvalho-McGrain
Co-Editor, News and Events
University News Services
Building 86, Room 1183

Or complete the survey online at:
www.rit.edu/newsevents/survey.html

Deaf education book available

Three NTID faculty members share authorship of a new book that arguably offers the most comprehensive look at deaf education ever written. *Educating Deaf Students: From Research to Practice*, published by Oxford University Press, was written by Marc Marschark, Harry Lang and John Albertini, professors in NTID's Department of Research. The book is intended for educational administrators, teachers, future teachers and parents.

"One of NTID's many goals is to conduct research that enhances the education and educational opportunities of deaf and hard-of-hearing students," says Marschark.

"Translating research findings into practice is always a challenge, but in writing this

Educating Deaf Students

From Research to Practice



Marc Marschark
Harry G. Lang
John A. Albertini

book, we were able to do that in a way that should be helpful to anyone who is interested in developing deaf people's education."

Marschark is editor of the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* and was the first director of the Center for Research, Teaching, and Learning at NTID.

Lang is a leader in science and mathematics education for deaf students. He has previously published a number of books describing the contributions of deaf people in the history of science and technology.

"As an educational researcher, it's exciting to be a part of this project that summarizes cutting edge research, yet is written in a style that can be easily understood by parents, teachers and others who can make a difference in the lives of people who are deaf," says Lang.

Albertini teaches English as a second language to undergraduate students who are deaf or hard of hearing and language development to future secondary school teachers of deaf students.

Educating Deaf Students: From Research to Practice is available at Campus Connections. ■

Loaned exec helps kick-off United Way campaign

Sept. 11 hit close to home for Terri Stevens, RIT's loaned executive for the



Terri Stevens

2002 United Way Campaign. Her son works near the World Trade Center and she was unable to reach him by cell phone until several hours later. Concern deepened when they discovered one of his classmates from McQuaid Jesuit High School, Brandon Buchanan, was one of the tragic victims in the terrorist attack.

"We car-pooled to school with Brandon and his death hit us hard," says Stevens, manager, academic credits and custom training programs, Corporate Education and Training. "I went to visit Ground Zero and I vowed I would do something more—beyond business reasons.

"I've lived in this community for more than 30 years and this year's theme for United Way, We Take Care of Our Own, summed up exactly how I felt," she adds. "I'm honored to have been selected for this 10-week assignment; it's a good way to spend extra time with some of our corporate customers."

Gift giving goes a long way with United

The 2002 RIT campaign runs from April 3–26; followed by a Day of Caring, Wednesday, May 1. Come join the fun at the following United Way events:

Campaign Kick Off

- Wednesday, April 3, 11:30–1:30 p.m., Student Alumni Union

Sponsored by Ben & Jerry's—Get a scoop of your favorite ice cream served by President Albert Simone, Provost Stan McKenzie, and many other RIT "celebrity" dignitaries. Festivities include music, juggling performances and sweepstake entries to win an SUV or Corvette.

Video Showings

- Wednesday, April 3, 11:30–1:30 p.m., SAU, Alumni room
- Wednesday, April 10, 8:30–9:30 a.m., SAU, 1829 room
- Tuesday, April 16, 12:30–1:30 p.m., SAU, 1829 room
- Tuesday, April 23, 3:30–4:30 p.m., SAU, Alumni room

View this year's United Way video and be eligible to win an SUV, sports car and other prizes.

Daily Raffle

- April 4–17

The earlier you return your pledge card with a completed raffle ticket, the more chances

you have to win. Visit the website at www.rit.edu/~940www/GOV/unitedway for winners of daily drawings.

Car Wash—

- Wednesday, April 24, 11–1:30 p.m. A "celebrity" wash: Located across from D Lot across from Varsity Track.

Taste of RIT—

- Friday, April 26, 9:30–1:30 p.m., SAU Cafeteria

RIT Food Service sponsors this delicious event with a sampling of appetizers, entrees, desserts and beverages. Grand Prize raffle drawing at 1 p.m.

Hockey Meltdown—

- Saturday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., ESL Sports Center at Monroe Community College, Henrietta campus.

The 4th annual Hockey Meltdown:

RIT's men's roller hockey team vs. RIT's men's hockey team.

Day of Caring—

- Wednesday, May 1

Day of Caring offers hundreds of people an opportunity to contribute to our community by volunteering at area health and human service agencies. For more information, contact B.J. Young at 5-4966.

Way because money raised goes to support more than 300 health and human services programs in the greater Rochester area. RIT has set a goal for \$285,000 and invites

the campus community to pledge its support. Thanks to past efforts, RIT has earned an Award of Excellence for seven consecutive years. ■

RIT's United Way families prove "we take care of our own"

The purpose of United Way is twofold: Your gift provides a gift.

While many people pledge their support to United Way's annual campaign, they never imagine needing the special services and support offered by the organization's funded agencies.

Two RIT families share their personal and poignant experiences on the United Way posters that are going up around campus—citing the strengths of this charitable organization that helps so many.

When Toby Schley was born three months early, he weighed in at 1 lb. 11 oz. His mother, Sara, could fit her ring around his upper arm.

"United Way proved to be invaluable to our family because it was critical that Toby receive home care instead of

going to a hospital or clinic," says Sara, assistant professor in the department of research at NTID.

"Plus, their early intervention program



Toby Schley, surrounded by family members, poses for United Way poster.

hooked us up to parent support groups and community services. We met people who know so much about kids with delayed motor and language skills, like Toby, and have a great sense of the big picture."

Diagnosed with a mild case of cerebral palsy, the two-year-old now smiles a lot, enjoys snuggling with his big sister, Hannah, chair-dances to music and blows kisses.

"Someday Toby will be walking and we'll be running after him," says Sara with a laugh.

Likewise, Maureen and Ray Glegg never imagined they would be on the receiving end of United Way's community resources.

"Our son, Adam, was diagnosed with learning disabilities in kindergarten. He was unable to learn, was clueless in the classroom," says Maureen, staff assistant at RIT's Office of Student Conduct and Mediation Services.

"Kids would make fun of him, call him stupid. So Adam would cry, scream, miss the bus, anything to avoid going to school."

Knowing Adam's emotional welfare was at stake, the Gleggs decided to enroll Adam at the Norman Howard School in seventh grade. Adam, 15, has blossomed during the last three years. The 10th grader loves math, history and social studies—and with his friend, Jonathan—even organized school football games during lunch.

"Going to school is no longer an issue. Adam has a great sense of humor, smiles a lot, and to see him take charge and form such strong relationships with his peers is so rewarding," says Maureen. "It's such a relief to see your child happy and we thank the school and United Way for that." ■

RIT offers tuition break for Rochester-area unemployed

Displaced, dislocated, disoriented, distressed: All apply to workers in Rochester and across the nation who have found themselves without a job in the last few months.

New York Department of Labor data show that the state's and nation's unemployment rate in December 2001 was 5.8 percent, up from 4.5 percent in New York state and 4.0 percent in the nation a year before.

For people who take being laid off as an opportunity to re-prioritize their life and pursue a new career, RIT offers a break where it's most needed.

The Professional Re-employment Education Program offers a 60 percent tuition discount to qualified Rochester-area employees who have lost their jobs as a result of economic or business conditions.

Students in PREP find that the tuition break isn't always the biggest benefit, though. The program also offers career counseling, academic advising and general old-fashioned handholding and reassurance.

In fall 2000, Karen Goldenbaum had decisions to make. At age 54, she had been laid off from her job as a mechanical engineer in steel manufacturing for the transportation industry in Utica. She moved to Rochester, near her daughter and son-in-

law, and set her sights on RIT—a school she'd always wanted to attend.

But where to begin? She wound up talking to Gene Clark, assistant director of part-time and graduate enrollment, who guided her through the process.

"If it weren't for the staff and faculty going out of their way for me, I wouldn't be at RIT right now," Goldenbaum says. "I'm thrilled to be at RIT. It's a school I've always admired."

Since she has a background in art and education in engineering, she decided to study packaging science. In her fifth quarter at RIT, she expects to graduate next fall with a bachelor's in packaging science.

"Life offers lots of opportunities," Goldenbaum says. "Suddenly something happens that gives you an opportunity you never thought of before and you find yourself doing something completely different. We take different paths in life than we expect. Things are difficult sometimes. But sometimes the awful things lead to new discoveries. It all seems to work out in the end."

PREP began at RIT in 1995 and enrolls 125 to 150 students per year. "PREP puts empty seats to the best possible use by offering them to people who, through no fault of their own, lose their jobs. It enables them to increase their skill sets, become

more competitive in the workforce, and to make a difference in their lives," says Clark.

Someone who couldn't agree more with the need for continued education to stay competitive is Jackie Monahan. "Everyone should take at least one class a year to stay current in the job market," she says. "If I wasn't taking classes, I'd be reading a trashy Jackie Collins book."

Monahan always wanted to go to college. She graduated from high school a year early and started work at Eastman Kodak—just for a year, she thought, before she went to college; 28 years later, she was still there.

She pursued higher education on and off, finally enrolling in night classes at RIT for two years. In August 2001, she was laid off from her job and decided to pursue school full time. Only money held her back.

Through PREP, Monahan will get an associate's degree in business management through RIT's multidisciplinary studies program. It's a degree she has worked hard for.

"Work was a breeze compared to school," she says. "You want so badly to be perfect and sometimes you just can't."

Monahan says she used to have the attitude that experience was more important than education. But after being at RIT, she has a new appreciation for that university diploma. ■



KUDOS FOR ENGINEER OF THE YEAR . . . Bill Larsen, left, associate professor of civil engineering technology, accepts the Leo H. East Award from Paul Wilkens, senior vice president of Rochester Gas & Electric Corp., for being named Engineer of the Year by the Rochester Engineering Society. Larsen received the award at the organization's annual ball on Feb. 23.

Trash patrol: New campus recycling campaign underway

There's a more civilized form of "trash talk" echoing across campus, and it's helping to boost awareness of an important environmental issue. After nearly a year of discussions and planning, a new universitywide recycling campaign is officially underway.

Judy Levy, faculty member in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences' foundations department, provided the catalyst for this effort. It was during last year's Earth Day celebration that she first pondered the need for better recycling opportunities.

"I sent a letter of inquiry to all faculty and staff," recalls Levy. "I asked for responses from others who were interested in effective recycling at RIT, and

there were responses."

After considering the existing problems, members of the newly formed recycling committee agreed upon various strategies to help implement their campaign. Among their recommendations, offer more containers for disposing recyclable materials. Facility Management Services has already supplied 100 special containers and expects to provide more in the future.

To heighten the campaign's profile, students have played an important role. Contests were held to create both labels for the recycling containers and posters stressing the importance of recycling. Chrissie Lemond in the School of Design created the winning labels. Photography

students Dan Brand, Jana Cruder, Min Twa Kim and Levi Brown were honored for their poster entries. Each student received a cash prize of \$400.

"It's the first big thing I've ever won," says Brand. "I hope people find that the posters are a fun way to think about recycling."

As the recycling effort moves forward, a network of volunteers is being established to monitor developments. Representatives in each building will be available to report problems and offer suggestions to supervisory staff.

"The wheels turned very slowly in the beginning," admits Steve Brede, coordinator of recycling for Facility Management Services. "Now the interest is up there and

we're ready to get going. We can do a lot better job on campus of recycling, and that's what we're really after."

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer for RIT recycling campaign is asked to contact John Mark Smeenk at jmsdis@rit.edu. ■

TURN YOUR TRASH INTO SOMETHING USEFUL



This recycling reminder, designed by photography student Dan Brand, is among four posters that will be displayed across campus.

RIT students take the LEAD for April leadership conference

Leadership seems so easy to those who have mastered it—Winston Churchill, Rudolph Giuliani, Indira Gandhi, Oprah Winfrey—and so elusive to those who desire it.

RIT students can take full advantage of learning the dynamics of effective leadership skills on campus by participating in the LEAD program (Leadership Education and Development). Deepening its impact at RIT and the community at large, LEAD has designed a first-ever conference featuring executive leaders this April. This builds upon the popular Community Brown Bag Series on leadership.

Founded in 1998, the program is specifically designed to enrich student lives and foster career success through personal development. Jointly sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and the Center for Campus Life, LEAD is in the RITreat, room 2120, SAU.

"Strong leadership skills are in demand by employers world-and-nationwide—in business, science and technology, politics, religion and the arts," says Molly McGowan, assistant director, leadership and community service programs, Center for Campus Life.

"RIT students are technically focused and academically very bright, but sometimes they struggle with communication skills that would help them become leaders in their fields," adds McGowan, who helped found the program on campus.

LEAD, open to all RIT students, schedules activities throughout the academic year. Like similar programs on campuses across the country, the primary focus is personal development—covering topics such as creative thinking, deaf culture, assertiveness, conflict resolution and mediation, goal setting, networking, time management and cross-cultural communication.

About 400 RIT students are taking advantage of the mentoring opportunities, workshops, community service projects, corporate leadership training and retreats. According to Catherine Winnie, director, academic enhancement programs, students from the Honors program (voted last Nov. 1 as an official pilot program for fall 2002), have been



Ryan Giglia, assistant director for campus life programs, left, and Molly McGowan, leadership and community service programs, help unload supplies with students at Jefferson Middle School.

involved with LEAD. "They serve as mentors during the retreats, help build leadership skills through activities, and market and publicize new projects," says Winnie.

During the winter quarter, 70 LEAD students attended the Paychex Leadership Conference, held at the company's corporate office in Penfield. The daylong program included a series of sessions on teamwork, situational strategies, cultural awareness and goal setting, plus tips on job readiness and strategic interviewing.

Other popular LEAD activities include the overnight retreats in fall and spring, and the Community Brown Bag Series (two sessions per quarter), open to RIT students, faculty and staff.

The Brown Bag series closes with a leadership discussion on Managing Political Waters with keynote speaker Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president, Student Affairs. The event will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, in Clark A; dessert provided.

The community service component of LEAD has proved to be a win-win situation. Besides volunteering at area soup kitchens and nursing homes, the Sojourner House and Hillside/Crestwood Children's Centers, a few dedicated students continue to participate in a 10-week project at Jefferson Middle School.

"About 97 percent of the Jefferson Middle School students are below poverty level and many need help with their schoolwork. So LEAD students help them with their math curriculum, plus do sessions on self esteem and career planning," explains McGowan.

New this year to the LEAD program is the advisory board consisting of a core of six students. "Developing the advisory board was a big plus for LEAD and these students have really taken the initiative in leadership building. They have scheduled a conference on the RIT campus this spring and invited area colleges and high schools to attend," says McGowan.

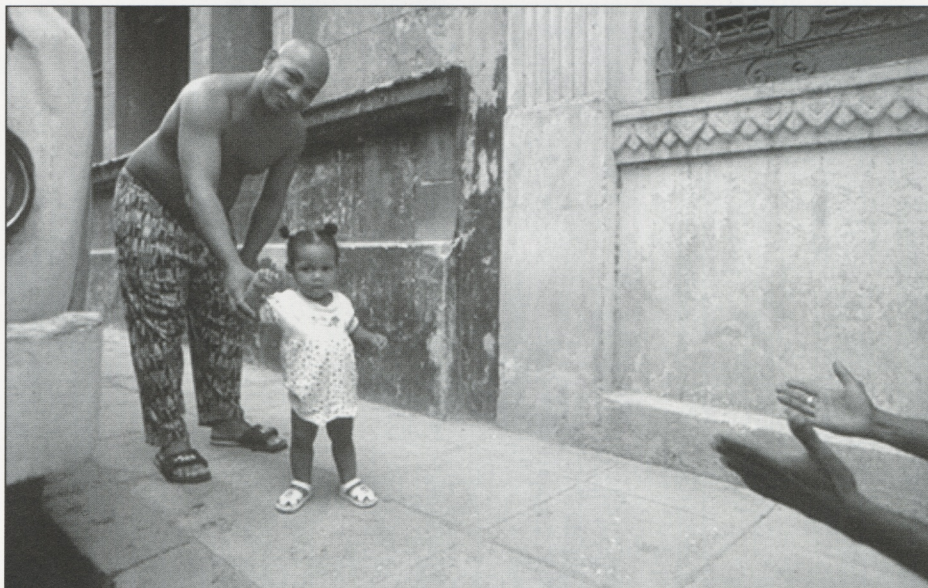


HONORING THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES... In commemoration of Women's History Month, RIT's Women's Center helped coordinate A Tribute To Women, March 18. Faculty, staff and students were encouraged to create artwork representing their feelings towards a special woman in their lives. Shown here, staff and students express themselves through the art of drumming.

The two-day conference, Spring into Action: Developing Yourself for the Future, will be held April 19 and 20, at the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Small group sessions feature key speakers, including: Tom Hubbard, chief executive officer, High Falls Brewing Co.; Dana Miller, chief of operations, Xerox Corp.; and nationally known presenter of "Better Grades in Less Time," Gary Cohen. The cost is \$5 per person and includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

"It's a first for us, a first for Rochester," says McGowan. "At RIT, we have taken the LEAD by initiating a collaborative conference on leadership."

"Students choose their careers because they have great ideas, clear vision and are ready to change the world, but leadership skills can put them over the edge and at the top of their profession." ■



CUBA REVISITED... A father shares the pride and excitement of watching his daughter take her first steps. The moment was captured on the streets of Old Havana by Michael Turano, a fourth-year biomedical photography student. He and 15 other RIT students spent a week documenting the Cuban lifestyle for Photography in Cuba. The special-topic course was introduced last year by the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Images taken by this year's class will be displayed in the photo cases on the second floor of the Frank E. Gannett Building from April 22 to May 3.

Aerodynamic boost: Track star flies solo on and off the field

At a time when most sophomores are settling on what major to choose, track standout Curtis Howard has moved past that decision—achieving more in his 20 years than many have in a lifetime.

After his parents gave him a flying lesson as a gift at age 13, the summertime venture turned into a lifetime pursuit. Howard quickly fell in love with flying and made it one of his goals to get his pilot's license as quick as he could.

While most 16-year-olds are worrying about getting their driving permit, Howard was counting the days to fly solo. After completing his 20 hours of solo flying in a 172 Cessna single-engine plane, Howard earned his wings with a pilot's license at 18.

"I really respected my flight instructor because he treated me just the same as everyone learning to fly," Howard said. "My most memorable flight was when a bird went through the propeller and hit our windshield, but there wasn't much we could do except keep flying."

Following the flying certification, the

Canadian-born Howard decided to earn his U.S. citizenship after his mother remarried and moved to Malone, N.Y., with her American husband.

Howard chose U.S. citizenship because he was living here and because it would help his job search after graduation.

Revoking his Canadian citizenship proved to be a difficult decision for Howard—until he learned the Canadian government would still recognize him as a Canadian citizen. Howard became a U.S. citizen in October 2000.

After hopes of a flying career in the Air Force were dashed by less than 20/20 vision, Howard turned to RIT's computer engineering program. However, his love for flying remains a goal and he plans to obtain his commercial pilot's license with more hours of training in bigger planes with multiple engines.

As an achiever, Howard likes to keep busy, but despite his great talents on the track team, his collegiate running career almost didn't get off the ground.

"I actually came to RIT with the intention of not running because of the time that it would cut into my class work," Howard said. "However, I started running with the cross country team as much as I could in the fall and found that I could keep up with both. It also allows me an outlet from just doing schoolwork all the time."



Curtis Howard—RIT student, track star and pilot

"I find track has also helped with my transition coming to a school so far away from home," he says. "My teammates have become my extended family."

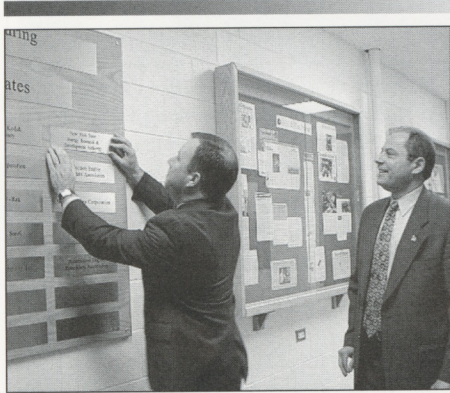
RIT men's track head coach Dave Warth is happy with Howard's decision to run as

he has positioned himself as one of the elite runners in the East region.

"Curtis is a year behind schedule because of his injuries breaking his collarbone over winter break skiing last year, forcing him to miss the indoor season, and the Achilles injury," Warth added.

After overcoming the injuries that limited Howard's freshman season, he has blossomed as a sophomore middle-distance specialist in the 800-meter, 1000-meter and 1500-meter events, as well as the distance medley relay and 4x800-meter relays. Howard has posted a 1:58 in the 800 and the second best times in RIT history in the 1000 (2:33) and 1500 (4:05).

"Curtis has a quiet work ethic, does all the little extras and leads by example," Warth said. "He has run the 1500 in the top five times that we have ever had at RIT, but I don't think he has realized his full ability and I am convinced his best running is ahead of him and that could happen as soon as this spring." ■



PART OF THE FAMILY... Bill Flynn, left, president of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority affixes a NYSERDA plaque to NCR's Partners and Affiliates Wall. Nabil Nasr, right, director of RIT's National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery, inducted NYSERDA into the affiliates program, March 12.



SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY... Tiger men's lacrosse senior Preseason All-American Dan Tuschong leads RIT into action hosting Elmira on Wednesday, April 3, at 4 p.m. and Alfred on Saturday, April 6, at 1 p.m.

Call for nominations

RIT's International Student Scholarship Committee seeks nominations for the Outstanding International Student Scholarship Award, given annually to one or two international students who have made special contributions to RIT campus life.

Nominees must be full-time students who have completed three academic quarters and are in good academic and judicial standing. The candidates must be in the United States on valid F-1 or J-1 visa status. Faculty and staff should submit nominations by Thursday, April 4.

For more information, contact Karen Thireos at kktrgr@rit.edu or submit nominations via interoffice mail to 1202 Eastman, Office of the Registrar.



DYNAMIC DUO... Dennis and Larry Kessler (right) accept the 2002 Herbert W. VandenBrul Entrepreneurial Award during a recent luncheon in their honor. The Kessler brothers own 63 Burger King and Friendly's restaurants across upstate New York. Offering congratulations (left) are William Buckingham, RIT Board of Trustees chair; Thomas Hopkins, COB dean; and Bill VandenBrul, Herbert VandenBrul's son.

News makers

• **Bruce Austin**, chair of the department of communication, presented "Acquiring and Accumulating, Collecting and Deaccessioning American Arts and Crafts Objects" to the Rochester Historical Society in March.

• **Richard Newman**, assistant professor of history, wrote *The Transformation of American Abolitionism: Fighting Slavery in the Early Republic*, University of North Carolina Press, due out in April.

• **Michael Radin, Bill Basener, Darren Narayan, Marcia Birken, Carl Lutzer**, professors in the department of mathematics and statistics, and **Anne Coon**, professor of language and literature, recently presented at the American Mathematics Society's Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Diego in January.

• **Michael Savka**, assistant professor of biological sciences, co-authored the paper, "Tobacco etch virus leader sequence enhances inducible

indoleacetic acid-lysine synthetase activity in transgenic plants," with Robert Black and Andrew Binns, published in the journal, *Plant Physiology and Biochemistry*. Savka also presented a poster on multiple bacterial quorum-sensing signals produced by transgenic plants at the National Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists in Rhode Island. The presentation included undergraduate research by alumnus Jason Weil.

• **James Worman**, professor of chemistry, will present "Nature's Way: A New Environmental Course Sequence on Biogenic Organohalogenes" at the National American Chemical Society Meeting in Orlando, Fla, in collaboration with Gordon Gribble of Dartmouth College. Worman also has had a paper accepted for publication in the April issue of the ACS journal, *Organic Letters*, which he co-authored with former students Arati Naik and Michelle Ferro.

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