

2 Performing Artists Series, 2002-03



3 COB alum connects with heavy hitters



4 More than just paper airplanes



4 Local alumnus still missing

Opening day talks stress "building on success" of key initiatives

Under clear blue skies, the RIT community celebrated the opening of academic year 2002-2003 with the President's Community Address Sept. 4 in Clark Gymnasium. With introductions by Stanley McKenzie, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the event included talks by Academic Senate chair Joyce Hertzson, Staff Council chair Dave Edborg, Commission for Promoting Pluralism chair Alfreda Brown, and President Albert Simone. Summations of their remarks follow:

President Albert Simone. President Simone noted that RIT should be proud of all its accomplishments in the past year. Highlighted areas included enhancing the diversity of the faculty and student body as well as improving student retention. But now is not the time to rest on these laurels, Simone added in his report to the RIT community titled, Building on Success.

Several programs were cited as exhibiting initial success, including the Honors Program, the newly emerged Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, RIT's increased grants and partnerships with government and industry under *First-in-Class* initiatives and the improvements and additions to the physical

infrastructure of the campus.

"We must continue to build strongly upon these successes," Simone said. "We should be guided, in all of these areas and especially in

the diversity area, by the following principles:

- This is just the beginning.
- What we have begun is an ongoing commitment.
- Remember we are moving from tactical to strategic engagements.
- We expect continuous improvement.
- We must sustain the gains made along the way."



Left to right, Dave Edborg, President Albert Simone, Joyce Hertzson and Alfreda Brown gather before opening talks.

Simone also urged faculty and staff to reflect on the tragic events of Sept. 11. RIT will be "proactive and contributory" in the war against global terrorism. "A number of

RIT programs are important in the free world's war against terrorism," he said, noting programs in the Center for Imaging Science, engineering and computer/information systems.

RIT continues to be in the favorable position of being able to establish higher student-enrollment targets,

while at the same time increasing quality and diversity of programs and student body, he said. A number of new milestones were reached, including total enrollment growing to about 15,500 students. About 460 (a record number) new AALANA (African American, Latin American, Native American) students will be on campus this fall. Key to overall enrollment numbers is student retention. Simone noted nearly 40 action items are underway to improve retention and student success.

In new hires, 26 AALANA faculty members have joined RIT. "I could not be more pleased or proud of our faculty search committees, department chairs, deans and staff who have worked to bring about this result," Simone said. "The quality of education at RIT will increase as a consequence of a more diverse faculty."

Simone emphasized that RIT's mission remains that of a teaching university, "which is at the frontier of knowledge in every discipline, which does significant applied

research in selected disciplines. Partnerships with industry and government are an integral part of the educational and research process." Simone reiterated several key points he made this spring to the Academic Senate in his paper, Teaching, Scholarship, and Service at RIT: Expectations and Enablers. Simone expects further discussion with faculty on the topic this academic year.

In academic affairs, RIT is starting a Ph.D. program in microsystems and new master's degree programs have been approved in the fields of biomedical computing/computer science, bioinformatics and telecommunications engineering technology. Several new bachelor and associate degrees have also been developed.

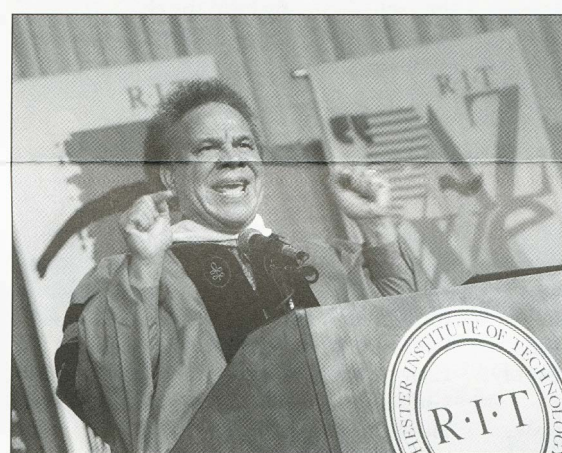
Simone added that the university must also meet the challenge of external factors as RIT builds on its successes in the coming year, and he is confident that RIT can rise to the challenge in such times of uncertainty.

"Never before has education been more

continued on page 4

Enrollment highlights

- Total enrollment of 15,500 students, up from 15,160 from a year ago. Both full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate enrollments are RIT records.
- Applications for freshmen admission increased 3 percent and exceeded 8,900, a new record.
- Applications for graduate admission increased by 3 percent, also a new record. Total applications to RIT exceeded 15,100—another milestone for RIT.
- RIT's freshmen class is expected to number 2,400—a record.
- The average SAT score of the freshmen class is 1209, similar to the Class of 2001.
- About 50 percent of the freshmen class come from outside New York state.
- The freshmen class contains 25 students who are National Merit, National Achievement or National Hispanic Scholars.
- The international student population is expected to grow beyond last year's record of 1,351 students.



FRANK TALK ABOUT DIVERSITY... More than 1,500 of RIT's first-year students were treated to a rousing presentation about diversity and prejudice from Samuel Betances, above, senior consultant with Souder, Betances and Associates Inc., at the Convocation for New Students, Sept. 4.

Betances encouraged students to resist the temptation to stay in their rooms and communicate solely by e-mail. "Get to know other people and get out of your comfort zone," he said. "Being here is not an accident. You have been chosen to join the RIT family." Betances also recited a poem titled, "We Are One" and reminded students that "we need each other."

Ritskeller transforms into ultimate sports-lovers paradise

Every university should have one. But RIT is the first.

The first-ever ESPN Interactive Experience on a college campus has opened in the remodeled Ritskeller. Featuring more than a dozen TV screens, an ESPN SportsCenter desk, comfortable seating and the Ritz menu, it's like ESPN in 3-D.

Mark your calendars for the grand opening at 4:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 13, with free food and giveaways for the RIT community. A private ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. features RIT President Albert Simone and Sean Bratches, executive vice president of affiliate sales and marketing for ESPN. Bratches, an RIT College of Business alumnus, helped make the new venue possible (see story, pg. 3).

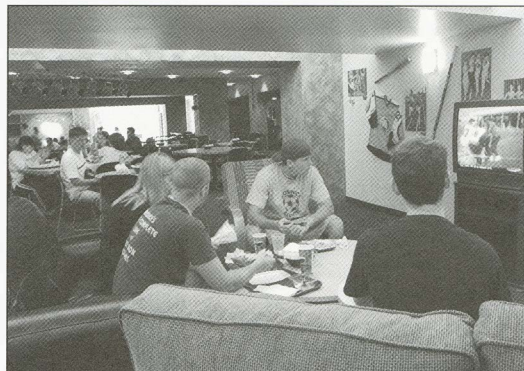
The project is made possible through partnerships with ESPN and Time Warner Cable, who is offering expanded cable service to on-campus students.

ESPN SportsCenter talent, Trey Wingo, will be present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and afternoon grand opening.

An interactive experience, the Ritskeller Sports Zone will add to the social and

educational experience for students, faculty and visitors.

"We're trying to make the Ritskeller more of a fun place to be, a better dining experience," says Gary Gasper, director, Student



The ESPN Interactive Experience in the Ritskeller

Alumni Union Food Services. "People shouldn't just come down to the Ritz for something to eat. They should come here as somewhere to go."

The Ritskeller saw a complete refurbishment this summer as part of the ESPN project. Gone are the angular tables

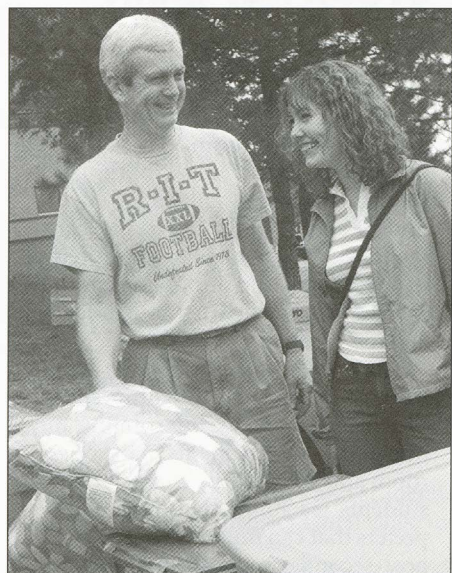
and chairs, replaced by more modern, and comfortable, dining furniture and soft-seating clustered around TV sets.

The remodeling has resulted in a warmer, comfortable feel, with new carpeting, wall treatments and some eye-catching fiber-optic lighting. RIT, ESPN and western New York sports memorabilia cover the walls.

The ESPN Interactive Experience also extends over into the SAU Game Room, allowing access to and from the Ritz.

The Ritz ESPN Interactive Experience features the SportsCenter desk, the heart of ESPN and a recognizable piece of furniture to sports fans. The desk anchors all the happenings—the quips, the clips, the scores and the scoops—all brought to you by the best in the business. Here, visitors can try their own hand at reporting a "highlights segment" and send the video clip to friends and family via cable modem.

Overall, the Ritz has evolved into a mix of a coffee shop/sports bar/cafeteria, notes Gasper, including additional menu offerings. But one thing hasn't changed. While the TV sets offer sports galore all day long, *The Simpsons* will still be on at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. ■



ALL IN THE FAMILY... First-year College of Science student Emma Reilly, from Reading, Pa., arrives at RIT during move-in with her dad, Terry. Her sister, Maggie, is a third-year student in the College of Science.

Performing artists concert season kicks off Sept. 27

The Performing Artists Concert Series kicks off the new academic year with the Rochester Classic Jazz Band at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27.

Back by popular demand, the band features seven of Rochester's finest jazz musicians: John Beck (drums, percussion, vibes), Rod Blumenau (piano), Jeff

Campbell (acoustic bass), Jim Doser (saxes, flute), Mike Kaupa (trumpet), Brad Paxton (drums, percussion, vibes), and Bob Sneider (guitar, banjo).

The program will contain a broad range



of styles, including swing, Dixie, bop and Latin. There will also be a classic "drum battle" and "vibes battle."

Tickets, available at the candy counter and game room in the Student Alumni Union, are \$5 for students, \$10 for faculty/staff/alumni, and \$15 for the general public.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets using Visa or MasterCard, call 5-2239.

Other concerts in the line-up for this year include The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra on Nov. 8 and the Chamber

Music Society of Rochester on March 28.

For more information, visit www.davidigital.com/concert. ■

Campus Safety says "Trust the Bus"

Trust the Bus.

It's a simple slogan that says it all for students who are looking for fast and reliable transportation around campus. Students can avoid transportation and parking issues if they rely on the shuttle, operated by RTS.

"The RTS bus service is fast, reliable and makes frequent runs between all university housing and the academic buildings," says Gary Caton, manager of campus safety parking and transportation services. "We say leave the driving to the RTS professionals and trust the bus."

Besides, you can read a book on the bus, take a power nap and not worry about scraping ice off your car in the winter, Caton points out. But most importantly, you won't be late for class while trying to find a parking spot.

If you decide to use a car on campus, please note the following revised parking polices for this year:

Students living in apartment and residence halls may park in:

- U and F lots after 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- D, E, J, L, M, S, T, N lots after 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- C, K, G, H lots, any time.

First-year resident students must park in B lot from 1 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Sunday.

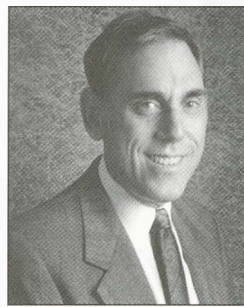
For complete parking information and bus schedules, log onto the site finweb.rit.edu/CampusSafety or call the parking office at 5-2074. ■

Gasser lecture series spotlights success story

It began as a two-man operation housed in an abandoned chicken coop. The story of how that company became a producer and global distributor of computer technology is the focus of an upcoming discussion sponsored by the College of Business.

Jeff Green, chairman and cofounder of Hutchinson Technology, will share his insights as part of the William D. Gasser Distinguished Lecture Series in Business. The event, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, will be held in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. The annual lecture is designed to advance interaction and dialogue between business and academic communities.

Hutchinson Technology, headquartered in Hutchinson, Minn., designs and manufactures suspension assemblies for computer disk drives. Technology pioneered by the company is also improving the quality of health care. Its "biomeasurement" device provides real-time, non-invasive analysis of the oxygen levels in human tissue.



Jeff Green

Since its creation in 1965, Hutchinson Technology has grown to over 4,000 employees with manufacturing facilities in Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Sales support offices are located in Singapore, China, Thailand, Japan and the Netherlands.

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

Sneak peak at fall Gannett lecture series

The 2002-03 Gannett lecture series continues exploring the impact of globalization with a new lineup of speakers. Robert Manning, the Caroline Werner Gannett Professor of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and coordinator of the Gannett lectures, will kick off the series on Thursday, Sept. 19, with his talk, *Globalization and Its Discontents*.

Manning has written extensively on Mexican immigration and the North American Free Trade Agreement. A past senior Fulbright lecturer to Mexico and a specialist in comparative international development, Manning is editing a book on U.S. moral leadership.

The fall-quarter lectures will also include a talk by author and scholar George Ritzer, a distinguished professor from the University of Maryland, whose pathbreaking *The McDonaldization of Society* has been translated into 12 languages. The founder of the international *Journal of Consumer Culture* will speak here on Thursday, Oct. 3.

On Thursday, Oct. 17, David Reid, the Benjamin Forman Chair of International Business at RIT and director of the Center for International Business, will team up with Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, to present *Globalization: What You Don't Know Will Hurt You*.

Author, filmmaker and political activist Saul Landau will give his talk, *Race to the Border: Globalization Collides with Human Rights and the Environment*, on Thursday, Oct. 31.

Two films will be shown each quarter as a new component of the Gannett lecture series. The first film, *Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy*, will be shown on Thursday, Sept. 26, followed by *Maquila: A Tale of Two Mexicos*, on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Films and lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building.

For more information, call 5-2057 or visit www.rit.edu/gannettseries. ■



ALUMNI IMAGE-MAKERS... An appreciation for nature is captured in *Landscape Specimens*, a photographic series by RIT alumnus Derek Johnston. A freelance photographer in Colorado, Johnston will join five other recent graduates from the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences as a panelist for the Charles Arnold Lecture Series.

Talks are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium.

Other alumni participants include Steve Barston, Amanda Friedman, Sylvia Kapuscinski, Tom Montante and Joe Toreno. Works from each photographer will be displayed in the SPAS Gallery, third floor of the Frank E. Gannett Building, following the Sept. 20 panel discussion.

HONORS STUDENTS

STAND OUT... Students in RIT's new Honors Program participated in the 11th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, sponsored in August by the College of Science and the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Shown standing, from left to right, Brian Witowski, Patrick Kelley, Nicole Waxmonsky and Gary Kapral were the first honors students to garner funding for summer research. They worked closely with their faculty supervisors to conduct original research in the areas of biology, chemistry, computer engineering and physics. Kelley is a student in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering; Witowski, Waxmonsky and Kapral are in COS. Photo by David Mathiason.



IT curriculum meeting

RIT will host the Conference on Information Technology Curriculum III, Sept. 19-21, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester, 125 East Main St. The conference, sponsored by the Society for Information Technology Education, will include a tour of RIT's information technology department facilities in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

Circuits conference

RIT will host the 15th annual IEEE ASIC/SOC Conference, Sept. 25-28 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center.

The conference is expected to draw 200 educators, engineers and researchers worldwide from the field of application-specific integrated circuits/system-on-a-chip. Hirokazu Hashimoto, president and chief executive officer of NEC Electronics Inc. will be the keynote speaker.

The conference is sponsored by the Circuits and Systems Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. For more, visit <http://asic.union.edu>.

Call for musicians

RIT Philharmonia seeks musically inclined faculty/staff members to play their instruments alongside students. Rehearsals are 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays in the Student Alumni Union rehearsal room, next to the game room.

Contact Michael Ruhling, assistant professor of music, at 5-2014 or mergsl@rit.edu.

"Quit and Win"

The Student Health Center is looking for a few good smokers—cigarette smokers, that is, who want to quit and have a chance to be monetarily rewarded for it.

During October, the Student Health Center will run a "Quit and Win" challenge. Smokers who successfully quit for a month will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 cash prize. All participants will receive Quit Kits and movie passes.

Student smokers can register during the last two weeks of September by logging onto www.rit.edu/~333www/smokingform.html, visiting the Student Health Center or sending e-mail to Donna Willome at dwxshc@rit.edu.

\$780K NSF grant

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significant academic disadvantage due to a lack of effective communication in mainstream classrooms. The NTID/NSF Interpreting Project aims to optimize student learning by enhancing an understanding of the process of learning through sign language interpreting in classrooms, and improving communication among instructors, students and interpreters.

The project will examine the factors thought to influence the comprehension of sign language interpreting and learning by deaf students in the classroom and will identify characteristics of students, teaching situations and interpreters that can improve learning in post-secondary education. The team also will explore alternative technologies for communicating complex and technical information to help offset a shortage of qualified interpreters. ■

ESPN exec plays a role in RIT "zone"

Maybe it's a "guy thing," but what guy wouldn't love working at a place where the primary job focus is sports? Football, baseball, hockey,



In his role at ESPN, COB alumnus Sean Bratches (center) interacts with the top names in sports world such as NFL legends Joe Namath and Tony Dorsett.

tennis, golf—you name it. It's all there, 24 hours a day.

While that may be a dream job for some, it's been a 15-year reality for Sean Bratches, ESPN's executive vice president of affiliate sales and marketing.

"This is a perfect marriage," he says. "I'm a huge sports fan."

Among his responsibilities at ESPN, Bratches works at establishing and maintaining relationships with cable and satellite television companies or any operation in a position to distribute ESPN content.

"This business is one that changes almost daily," he explains. "There are changes in technology, regulatory changes, operational and product line changes. The enjoyment I get

from my job is the constant challenge of anticipating those changes and seeking out ways to capitalize on them."

Since graduating in 1984 with a bachelor's degree from the College of Business, Bratches has maintained close ties with his alma mater by participating in RIT-sponsored events and advising students and recent graduates on their career objectives. Bringing the ESPN Interactive Experience to campus continues this long-standing commitment.

"We are very pleased to work with the RIT and Time Warner Cable to showcase the ESPN brand and foster greater student enrichment on campus," Bratches says. "Both RIT and Time Warner Cable are leaders in their respective fields, and we are very excited to work with them on this project." ■



WELCOME ABOARD... Enjoying the festivities for RIT's 85 new faculty members across all eight colleges are, from left to right: LaMarr Jackson, College of Business; Cyril Reade, College of Liberal Arts; and Jon Horne, College of Applied Science and Technology. The annual reception took place this year on Aug. 30 in the Gosnell Atrium, following orientation at the RIT Inn & Conference Center and campus tours on Aug. 29.

Campus Safety deaf awareness training

RIT Campus Safety presented two training sessions on working with deaf people for 54 new deputies of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. The presentation, One World: Two Views, was created when the sheriff's department requested assistance from Campus Safety in educating the officers, who will be assigned to the Jail and Court Security Bureaus following completion of their basic certification, on how to better interact with deaf people. The eight-hour course was tailored specifically for the deputies and taught from a deaf perspective.

"We wanted to foster a sensitivity around issues related to deafness, and ensure that the deaf community in Rochester is

respected and better understood by law enforcement," says James Bundy Jr., manager of diversity initiatives and patrol services at Campus Safety.

Included in the presentation were role-play and hands-on exercises, discussions about deaf culture, the role of an interpreter in correctional settings, and new technology, along with a basic introduction to American Sign Language, including signs commonly employed in jail, the manual alphabet and simple numbers.

"The recruits were quite impressed with the program," says Angela Curry, Jail Bureau program coordinator. "When inmates see that the deputy knows sign language, it puts them at ease because they know what they're saying is understood." Curry says that getting an interpreter could take anywhere from a half-hour to two days, and writing notes back and forth isn't the best way to communicate under stressful circumstances.

"We would really like to praise the Sheriff's Department for being aware of the need and taking the initiative to promote deaf awareness among deputies," says Bob Craig, director, Campus Safety. "Law enforcement officers must obtain proper, accurate and current information before they interact with the public. There has been very little information available to deputies in the past, and the material that has been used is now outdated. We hope to use the presentation to get rid of negative attitudes and false myths."

RIT Campus Safety is experienced in working with and handling situations involving deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. As a condition of employment, each officer must take ASL I and II, and senior or master Campus Safety officers must complete ASL III.

Plans are underway to teach some basic sign language to RTS bus drivers who provide transportation services for RIT, so they can communicate with the deaf students who ride. ■

Cell-tower expert authors industry handbook

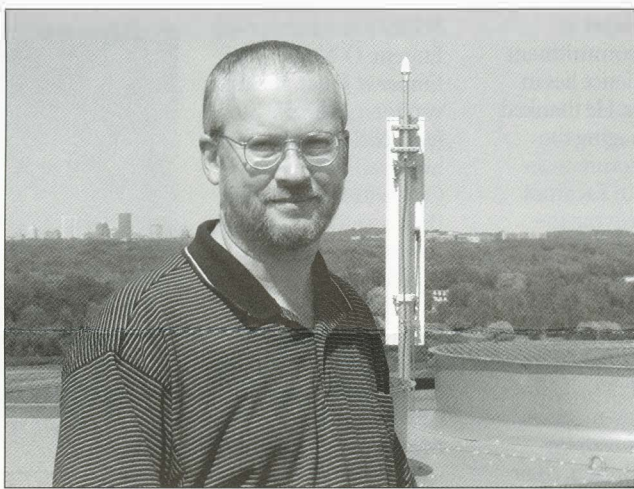
He's not Mr. Mayor, but he once joked that students can call him "Your Honor."

Though they share the same name, the similarities between 'hizzoner'—Rochester

engineering studies at Syracuse University. From there, he joined Microwave Filter Company in East Syracuse as vice president and director of engineering. He has consulted for municipalities including Pittsford, Rochester, Rush and others since 1987. He joined the RIT faculty in 1989.

Faith still has an important place in Johnson's life. He's active in RIT's C.S. Lewis Fellowship, a group for faculty and staff interested in integrating their Christian faith with their academic and intellectual lives.

"I find that my original plan to join the clergy helps me counsel and comfort cell-tower companies when they don't get approved for the site they wanted. Some call that value-added service," Johnson jokes. ■



Bill Johnson, professor of telecommunications engineering technology, alongside a cellular base-station antenna atop RIT's George Eastman Building. Rochester's skyline is over his right shoulder.

Mayor William Johnson Jr.—and Bill Johnson the RIT professor end there.

Rather than budgets and tax rates, RIT's Bill Johnson is an expert on microwave and radio-frequency engineering and cellular telephone issues—specialties for which he's renowned through consulting work and expert testimony on cell-tower building permit and zoning issues. In fact, you could say he wrote the book on it.

Johnson, professor and program chair of telecommunications engineering technology, was technical advisor on *Planning and Design Manual for the Review of Applications for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities*. Published by the New York Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, it details wireless technology and cell-tower site selection, design and environmental and zoning considerations, and includes sample legislation. The manual was distributed to every municipality in New York state.

"It's most valuable to municipal boards that need to know how to process and review cell-tower applications under laws that were envisioned to cover housing developments," Johnson says.

"Much of my work serves to either justify or dispute site selections proposed by wireless service providers," he says, adding that rather than advocating for one side, he presents both pro and con arguments. His opinions are in demand due to the proliferation of cell-tower applications corresponding with high demand for cell phone service.

But, how did a one-time ecclesiastical student become a preeminent expert on cell towers? After earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religion from The King's College in Briarcliff Manor, Johnson decided to switch to electrical

Grant helps fund RIT optoelectronics research

RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology will establish the Consortium for Optoelectronics Packaging Education with funding of \$249,284 from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation/2002 Manufacturing Education Plan Grant Program.

Manian (Ram) Ramkumar, interim director of RIT's Center for Electronic Manufacturing and Assembly and associate professor of manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology, will lead a two-year study of manufacturing processes in optoelectronics packaging assembly.

Research will be supported by undergraduate courses and lab curricula developed with grant funding. Two-day workshops for students and two-week workshops for industry partners and faculty will also be supported.



Manian Ramkumar

Optoelectronics packaging, an integral part of digital imaging, electronics, high-speed voice and data communications, Internet, telecommunications and wireless applications, is expected to grow to a \$10 billion industry by 2006, according to Ramkumar.

"Optoelectronics is a vital part of electronics systems, and continues to expand," he says, adding that western New York and southern Ontario comprise a hotbed area known as the "golden horseshoe for optoelectronics," home to 220 companies specializing in the field.

Partners in the consortium include Corning Community College, George Brown College in Toronto and industry. Funding from RIT, industry and academic partners brings the project's total value to \$1.7 million.

The optoelectronics laboratory component of the consortium will become part of CEMA for teaching and *First-in-Class* applied research and training. ■

High-tech radio show to debut on Rochester airwaves

Irreverent. Funny. A little wacky. Oh, and educational, too.

Billed as a program for anyone interested in computers, gadgets, high-tech issues and science, *What the Tech?* is a new weekly radio show hosted by Stephen Jacobs, assistant professor of information technology. It debuts on WXXI-AM (1370), 1 to 2 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 14.

The show will feature Tech News Roundup of science and technology world events, "from a slightly skewed point of view"; Tech O' the Future reports on cutting-edge technological developments; Nerd Word of the Week explanations of technical terms and "nerd slang"; Technobabble, a question-and-answer segment; Gadget Boy Reviews of computing and consumer electronics products; and interviews with technology entrepreneurs.

"We're looking to entertain while increasing the audience's technical literacy," says Jacobs, who has written for

CNET.com, *Wired* and "Fast Forward" in *The Washington Post*, and been technical editor for three books on Web programming



Elouise Oyzon and Stephen Jacobs, information technology faculty members, host *What the Tech?*, Saturdays on WXXI-AM.

and Dreamweaver. "We're also looking to promote Rochester and western New York as a place of high-tech inventions and innovation."

Elouise Oyzon, RIT instructor of information technology, and Rick Scott, a local technology expert and RIT adjunct professor, are co-hosts.

Technology-related questions may be sent to whattthetech@wxxi.org. ■



A FOLD HERE AND A CREASE THERE... In what may turn out to be their only chance to throw paper airplanes in the presence of the dean and other professors, more than 500 first-year engineering majors did just that during Engineering Day 2002 on Sept. 3. Students first learned design secrets from Ken Blackburn, an engineer with Boeing Co. and author of *The World Record Paper Airplane Book*. Blackburn holds the record for the longest duration paper airplane flight, at 27.6 seconds.

At left, Joseph Ho, mechanical engineering major, releases his plane in the Student Life Center gymnasium. A team led by Jason Steimmuller came closest to the record—its plane soared for 13.3 seconds—earning students Campus Connections gift certificates, Kate Gleason College of Engineering golf shirts and autographed copies of Blackburn's book.

Opening day talks

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important," he said. "This importance, of course, is continually keeping abreast and ahead of advances in science and technology. But increasingly, it also means that we have to remember why we do what we do—our basic values, morals, ethics and principles that guide our everyday living. We need to graduate students who command an understanding of all of these concepts, philosophies and, especially, their interactions."

Academic Senate Chair Joyce Hertzson. Recent campus renovations served as the inspiration for Hertzson, professor and chair of foundations, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

"Each time we blink, we find a new, improved RIT that belies the image of the cold, brick-city of old," she mused.

Hertzson offered a light-hearted glimpse at the impact of construction on campus activities during the past summer. "A few mere weeks ago, traversing the campus required special maps to avoid the mine fields and identify building entry and exit points."

In some ways, those physical changes mirror the changing face of our campus population—which Hertzson acknowledged as becoming larger and more diverse. She says it's resulted in a lingering debate on several important issues, such as how to manage the growth of our campus and how to create a more inclusive environment.

But the debate over the changed expectations of faculty received heightened reflection during Hertzson's address. With more focus being placed on research, she questioned how that might impact the value of faculty members who chose to excel predominantly as teachers.

"I caution this university to tread carefully as we separate faculty," she said. "Each tier must be viewed as having a valued and valuable role so that the distinctions are not fissures in the foundation of what makes RIT great."

But like barricades that guide us around campus construction, Hertzson sees value in this debate, forcing the community to explore unfamiliar territory.

"If the goal is in our collective best interest and determined by consensus, we can go the distance and not get lost in those devilish details."

Staff Council Chair Dave Edborg. In his

speech, David Edborg, staff council chair and supervisor of Campus Safety's day shift, praised members of the RIT community for their commitment to making "RIT a place where students want to be—where students like to be."

"I'd like to encourage each and every one of you to keep up the great work you've been doing," Edborg said. "As George Tenet [CIA director] said to our graduates last spring, the secret to success is to serve someone other than yourself; something bigger than yourself. The success of RIT is a direct result of each and every one of us in this room doing just that."

Edborg praised the efforts of groups of people across campus working to make RIT a special place. Applying Tenet's secret to success, Edborg noted that the commitment to RIT and to the student experience lies in the commitment to serve others. He thanked Sue Provenzano's team for managing the intricate details of last spring's commencement and Marty Becker's team in Facilities Management Services for beautifying the campus with each new construction project.

"At today's RIT, it's not enough to be nice, to exchange pleasantries," Edborg said. "As important as that is, to solve a student's problem that was brought to you—that's what it's all about. Seize that opportunity. That's what we can do. Serve someone other than ourselves." **Commission for Promoting Pluralism Chair Alfreda Brown.** Alfreda Brown, chair of the Commission for Promoting Pluralism, considers the 2002-2003 academic year "a celebratory year for diversity," recognizing that RIT's enrollment and employment figures have grown, making RIT an even more diverse campus.

In her speech to the RIT community, Brown celebrated the accomplishments of faculty whose charge it is to search for diverse faculty members, and also the efforts of President Simone, Provost McKenzie, college deans and faculty search committee chairs who continue to recognize the importance of the diversity agenda.

Brown also referred to an impending climate study to examine issues of diversity on campus. The Commission hopes to get accurate information about the general sentiment of working, living and learning at RIT, what barriers prohibit the success of its students, and what hampers the growth and retention of RIT's underrepresented populations. To help answer these questions, RIT plans to work with the Center for Governmental Research to

Missing alumnus; family asks for community's help



Sharon Shechter

RIT alumnus Sharon Shechter, 35, has been missing from her hometown of Perinton since Dec. 9, 2001. Shechter was last seen in her 1992 maroon Dodge Caravan.

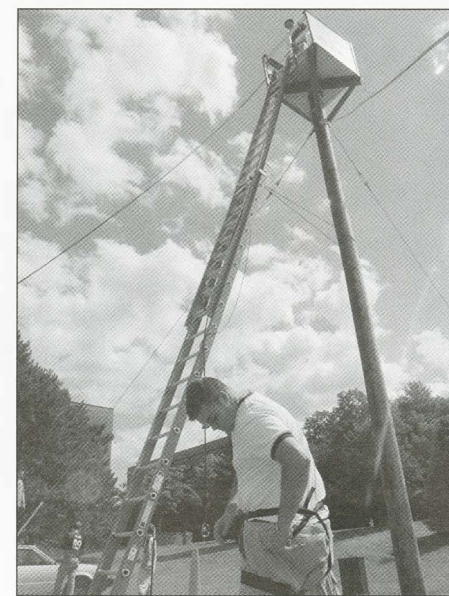
Shechter, mother of three, earned a bachelor's degree in diagnostic medical sonography from the College of Science in 1987.

On that December day, Shechter planned to shop with a friend. She never showed up, and three days later her car was found in the parking lot of the Days Inn on Chili Avenue.

Sandra Poole, Shechter's mother, says, "We've been putting up flyers and getting the media involved as much as we can." Poole has also submitted information about her daughter to *America's Most Wanted*, a television program profiling

missing persons.

The family is offering a reward for information leading to Shechter's recovery. Call the Monroe County Sheriff's Office at 428-5310 or Crimestoppers at 423-9300. ■



IN THE CLOUDS... Randy Schneiderman, a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, prepares to climb a 40-foot pole for Pole Sit 2002. The fraternity kicked off the school year with its eighth annual fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Sitting atop a utility pole for 84 hours was only one of the fundraising events which included a car smash, dunk tank, concert, fireworks and cookout.

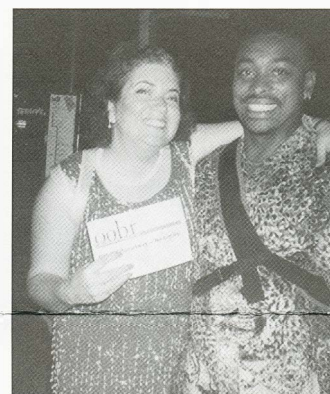
survey campus community members via focus groups and questionnaires.

"We don't have all the answers yet, but we are doing much to define and resolve challenges that hamper our success," Brown added. "We are unique in so many ways, and that alone makes us more receptive towards new ideas and new ways of doing business. I encourage you to do your part in helping RIT move to the next level in becoming a more welcoming university for all those who enter our academic institution." ■

The Emperor Jones wins off-off-Broadway award

NTID's production of Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones*, the first version of the play to feature deaf actors, was honored in New York City with an Off-Off-Broadway Review Award for overall excellence.

The NTID production received the award, which is presented by theater critics, following a two-week run in Manhattan this summer. Performed by the



Luane Davis with Troy Chapman, *The Emperor Jones'* lead actor

NTID Performing Arts Department and the Ebony Club through the Interborough Repertory Theater, the award-winning production used Del-Sign, a theatrical combination of American Sign Language and fluid motions created by 19th-century Frenchman Francois Delsarte, who studied how people use their bodies to communicate.

Luane Davis, NTID assistant professor of cultural and creative studies, directed the production. ■

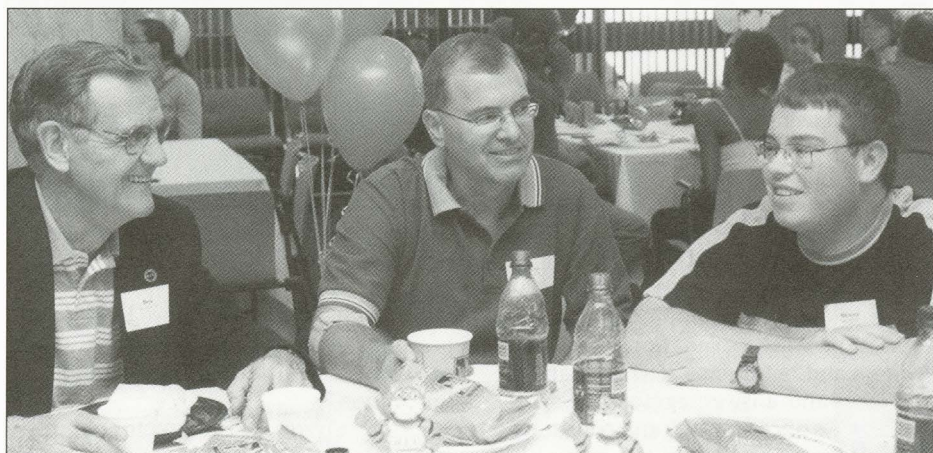
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Managing Editor: Laurie Maynard **Editor:** Vienna Carvalho-McGrain **Assistant Editor:** Michael Saffran
Layout: Laurel Masur **Contributing writers:** Silandara Bartlett, Pam Carmichael, Bob Finnerty, Jamie Joss, Laurie Maynard, Marcia Morphy, Susan Murphy, Michael Saffran, Paul Stella

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LUNCH BUNCH... More than 100 alumni and their children who began their studies at RIT this fall attended the "Legacy Lunch" organized by the Office of Alumni Relations during New Student Orientation. The event provided an opportunity for alumni and students to connect. Retired mechanical engineering professor Robert Synder '56 (left) had a chance to chat with Bruno Glavich '72 and '75 of Penfield and his son Michael, a first-year electrical engineering student.

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Rochester Institute of Technology
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