

RIT News & Events

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RIT earns high marks and praise in annual college search books

They're talking about RIT again: Fall's annual college guides are out and the Institute looks good.

As *News and Events* reported earlier this season, *U. S. News & World Report: America's Best Colleges*, one of the leading

"The very prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology is a demanding arts and technology school."

guide books for prospective college students, ranked RIT as one of the nation's leading universities, second for academic reputation and ninth among northern

regional schools for best value. RIT also achieved high marks for its student/faculty ratio, selectivity, SAT scores and financial resources

But the cheerful chatter doesn't stop (or start) there. *The Princeton Review* applauds RIT in its *The Best 311 Colleges*. "The very prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology is a demanding arts and technology school . . . [with] modern classrooms, exceptional laboratories, and state of the art equipment . . . facilities for the hearing impaired are arguably the best in the country." Campus food, ethnic diversity, and the ways that students interact with each other are all "hot" items at RIT, says the *Review*.

It seems that RIT students are a self-assured group, according to *The Insider's Guide to the Colleges 1999*, compiled by the staff of the *Yale Daily News*. "RIT students tend to be a pretty secure bunch of

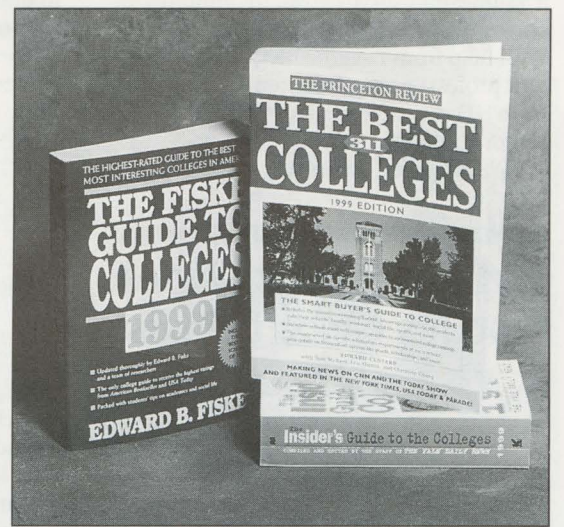
people, confident about the jobs they will find after college. Before they secure their place in the real world, however, they can enjoy themselves at a campus that allows them to follow their interests and gain valuable experience."

RIT programs and facilities receive kudos in the 1999 edition of *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*, a selective review of 300 four-year colleges and universities. "The institute specializes in carving out niches for itself with unusual programs . . . A major \$8 million addition to the College of Science opened this year, providing new laboratory facilities and classrooms fully equipped with the latest technology for multimedia-based instruction. Construction has also begun on a \$50 million renovation of residence halls."

RIT also ranks tops among academic institutions on the Internet. This past spring, the Institute was ranked among the nation's most wired universities, by *Yahoo Internet Life*. This ranking considered the number of students with access to the Internet and the various ways in which the school uses the Internet.

Don't forget: RIT's graduate programs

are also among the country's best, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual guidebook on the nation's best graduate schools, released in the spring. The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences ranks number one in its field; in the overall Master of Fine Arts category, the guidebook placed RIT at 19; and the master's degree program in film was recognized among the top 14 in the nation.



RIT made the rankings in key 1998-99 college search publications.

UNCOMMON COMMONS . . . RIT officials unveiled the new University Commons at Riverknoll on Oct. 16. Capstone Development Corp. recently completed the project that adds eight apartment buildings and 256 bed spaces to campus. Shown here from left to right: Daniel Kuhn, student; Michael Mouron, Capstone Development Corp.; Dancy Duffus, RIT Board of Trustees; James Watters, vice president, Finance and Administration; Linda Kuk, vice president, Student Affairs; and Albert Simone, RIT president.



Get out your wing tips—"swing" comes to RIT Oct. 30

From Gap commercials to "Zoot Suit Riots," it's evident that swing is in. RIT brings one of the most popular swing bands to campus at the end of the month. Dem Brooklyn Bums, a loud "in your face" swing band, appears on campus at 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, in Clark Gymnasium.

Dem Brooklyn Bums, dressed like small-time hoods complete with New York

accents, deliver a brand of jump swing uniquely their own. "We're brass knuckles swing," says Luigi Scordia, the band's manager. "We're the alternative to alternative. We got swing with a hip-hop attitude. My band doesn't dress like they come from the '40s, they dress like they came out of the *Donnie Brasco* movie."

Songs on their debut CD, *There Goes the Neighborhood*, include

Boozin' and a Cruzin', On the Waterfront and *Baseball Bat Boogie*. Other singles include *They Call Him Mr. Zoot Suit* and *One Good Reason*.

"The bums are a high energy band; we are the New York version of swing," says Rob Cittadino, lead singer. "We've blown up so fast; we've come from out of the woodwork in Brooklyn and gone national. Swing is definitely happening."

Tickets—\$5 for RIT students, \$6 for faculty/staff and \$7 for the general public—are available in RIT's game room. For more information, call -7058.



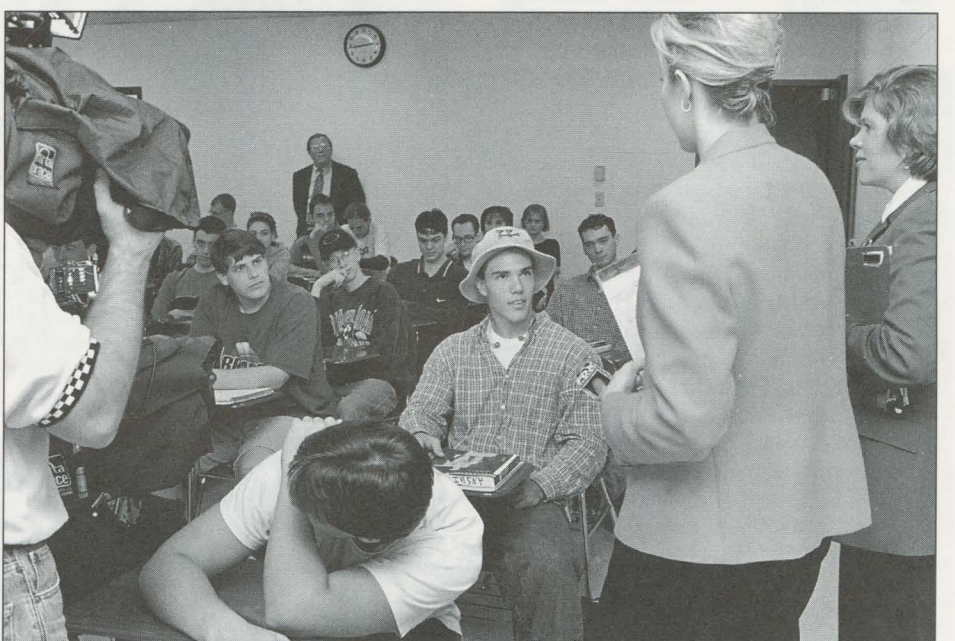
Dem Brooklyn Bums bring the sound of swing to RIT Oct. 30.

USA Today seeks 1998 All-USA College Academic Team; nominations due Nov. 30

Any RIT dean, director, department chair or faculty member looking to boast about any talented full-time undergraduates should have their pencils at the ready: *USA Today* is looking for "the nation's best college students" to become members of the 1998 All-USA College Academic Team. To be chosen by a national panel of educators for their excellence in scholarship and their creative leadership roles, 20 "first team" members will receive \$2,500, a trophy and a three-day weekend in Washington, D.C. A total of 60 winners will appear in a special section of the national newspaper.

RIT students have earned recognition in

past All-USA searches, with illustration major Ethan Sinnott winning an honorable mention in 1996. Entry forms with instructions for completion are available in deans' and directors' offices. The nominated student must personally describe his or her "original academic or intellectual product." The nominating faculty member then must write an explanation of why the student and project rank among the nation's best. Projects can take the form of scholarly research, community service, public affairs, art or literature. The complete nomination entry with an official transcript must be postmarked by Monday, Nov. 30.



"AND WHAT DO YOU THINK?" . . . Local television stations sent reporters to Professor John Murley's political science class this month to find out student opinion on the investigation of President Clinton. "It's important for students to understand about both political and constitutional aspects of the Congressional investigation into possible articles of impeachment," says Murley.

Professors complete benchmark RIT student survey on alcohol use

In the fall of 1997, RIT instituted a policy that bans all alcohol use in RIT residence halls including Greek houses, and allows only drinking-age students in RIT apartments to possess alcohol, limited to non-bulk containers. President Albert Simone initiated the policy following repeated behavior problems by students who had been drinking, and following recent alcohol-related deaths at other universities.

The policy raised some debate among the RIT community, parents and news media. One of the outcomes: two RIT criminal justice professors proposed a student survey to measure drinking, drug use and problem behaviors on campus, to serve as a base for subsequent annual surveys.

Assistant professors Paul Stretesky and Jonathan Odo designed and implemented a 33-question survey given in randomly chosen RIT classrooms this past spring. With help from Laverne McQuiller, assistant professor, they gathered information from 303 cross-curricular freshman-to-senior students.

"We proposed this survey primarily

because we were concerned about the student alcohol policy and its impact on students—how they would react to it," says Stretesky. "We wanted to give students input into that policy by surveying their experiences; which can help RIT address the issue," adds Odo.

"We were also interested in how RIT matched up with the rest of the country in terms of drinking and drug patterns and behaviors on campuses," explains Stretesky.

"One of our big questions we hoped to answer was 'Does drinking actually correlate to undesirable behaviors?'"

"One of our big questions we hoped to answer was 'Does drinking actually correlate to undesirable behaviors?' i.e. cheating, unprotected sex, vandalism and violence.

The answer? "Yes, we found that RIT students who drink more often are more likely to act inappropriately," states Stretesky. Significant survey findings from the RIT project include the following:

- Binge drinking—46.5 percent of students surveyed drank five or more drinks in a day at least once during the past month (nationally, it's 44 percent);
- Frequent binge drinking (three or more binges in past month)—27 percent of students surveyed fit this (nationally, it's 22 percent);
- A clear correlation to past drinking habits and current drinking practices—being at RIT doesn't seem to have an effect;
- A majority (72.3 percent) of students drank alcohol during the 1997-98 school year;

- The largest percentage (35 percent) of students drink weekly;
- Most drinking occurs in on-campus apartments (51.2 percent), off-campus bars and restaurants come in second at 49.5 percent;
- Drinking on the road—14.5 percent of students drink alcohol in a vehicle;
- Students consume far more alcohol than illegal drugs, the most frequent being marijuana used by 28.7 percent of

students last year, though mostly only occasionally;

- A large (42.8) percent of daily drinkers cheated one or more times in the last academic year versus only 15 percent of those who abstain;
- Nearly half (40 percent) of students who drink daily missed over 10 classes last year compared to only 9.5 percent of students who never drink;
- Campus Safety has approached 60 percent of students who are daily drinkers "at least one time because of their behavior";
- Of daily drinkers, 13.4 percent had unwanted sex three or more times last year; of weekly drinkers, 17.5 percent had unwanted sex one or more times;
- Half of daily drinkers engaged in unprotected sex one or more times.

The survey revealed one thing that the professors did not expect. "We weren't looking for this at all, and it would appear

to be a significant issue. It turns out that 25 percent of the women had unwanted sexual advances made towards them," says Stretesky. But only 6 percent of the men admit having made unwanted advances.

In terms of the survey's overall results, "we found that RIT is very similar to other universities," explains Odo, noting they based that finding on the national survey published in the May 8 *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Though some schools have taken "preemptive measures" to prevent substance abuse-related tragedies, any college that receives money from the federal government has some sort of policy in place, adds Odo.

"We hope to continue the survey every year to look at changes in behavior on campus, which would help RIT evaluate its policies," notes Stretesky. "It's hard to determine if changes are due to policy or not—we need more data over time." The criminal justice department intends to continue the survey project as a collaborative effort.

To find the entire survey results, complete with graphs and summations, go to the Web at <http://www.rit.edu/~pbsgcj> and select Student Survey.

Performing Artist Series features concert pianist



Concert pianist Armenta Adams Hummings performs at RIT Nov. 4.

The second installment of RIT's 1998-99 Performing Artist Series features world-renowned concert pianist Armenta Adams Hummings at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

Performance selections include Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Mozart's Sonata in D Major K.576, and several works by Scott Joplin.

Hummings began her musical studies at age four at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She received her formal education at the Girls Latin School and, upon graduating, won a full scholarship to the Juilliard School, studying with pianist Sascha Gorodnitski.

After earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Juilliard, Hummings was awarded the Martha Baird Rockefeller Aid to Music Grant to give concerts in Europe. As a result, she performed in London, Vienna, Brussels, Amsterdam, Geneva and Stockholm. She has also played in Africa, South America, India, and Pakistan under the auspices of the State Department.

Her New York debut at Town Hall to critical acclaim lead to performances at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall. Hummings has been a soloist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and has performed with the Miami Pops Orchestra, the New World Symphony and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

Hummings serves as the Eastman School of Music's Distinguished Community Mentor and director of the Gateways Music Festival.

Tickets for Armenta Hummings—\$3 for RIT students, \$8 for faculty, staff and alumni and \$12 for the general public—can be purchased at RIT's candy counter and game room. Mastercard and Visa accepted. For more information, call -2239.

Scientist and women's studies leader to speak on female-friendly science



Sue Rosser

Sue Rosser will speak on "Re-Engineering Female Friendly Science" at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, in the auditorium of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

The Director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida, Rosser has written a number of books including *Women's Studies and Women Scientists*, *Re-Engineering Female Friendly Science*, and *Women's Health: Missing from U.S. Medicine*. (Campus

Connections will carry the last two for purchase and possible booksigning.) She was the senior program officer of women's studies for the National Science Foundation before becoming head of the center. She holds degrees in zoology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

"A topic like this, presented by a woman scientist who has chosen to focus on women's studies, has bearing on the lives of broad groups of people," says Janet Zandy, associate professor and editor of *Women's Studies Quarterly* housed at RIT. From the medical and science communities to educators to researchers, all are invited to attend the free talk sponsored by the language and literature department in RIT's College of Liberal Arts.



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND LOTS OF LAUGHS, TOO . . . RIT was a flurry of activity, Oct. 9-11, as it hosted Brick City Festival, a celebration of 30 years on the Henrietta campus. Highlights of the weekend that drew students, parents and alumni to campus included a moving performance by RIT's Gospel Ensemble and a sold-out comedy show featuring Kevin Nealon, formerly of Saturday Night Live.



Wanted: Student designs for program logo

Put on your creative-thinking hat: RIT's Faculty in Residence program has begun a logo-design contest, open to all RIT students. The logo should reflect positive interaction among faculty, staff and students; should be easily reproduced as a line drawing in black and white or color; and should include a written description. A \$100 prize goes to students with the best original design. Contact Hamad Ghazle via e-mail, hghscl@rit.edu.

Past/present photos

The 11th Annual Emeritus Show by emeritus faculty of RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences takes over display cases in the second floor corridor, Frank E. Gannett Building, Nov. 2-13. Daily, visitors can explore the divergent works by 12 emeritus faculty. Previous shows have featured portraits, fine art, documentary, nature prints and experimental photography. Pieces may be from years past or yesterday.

Each participant has two display cases to fill with their work. The exhibit will include photography by Charles Arnold, Dick Zakia, Robert Kayser, Edgar Cohen, David Engdahl, Ira Current, John Trauger, Neil Croom, Bradley Hindson, Lothar Engelmann, Les Stroebe and Doug Lyttle.

Novemberfest, Nov. 6

RIT's German Club invites the community to the second annual Novemberfest, a celebration of German culture, 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 6, Ritskeller, Student Alumni Union. A German buffet dinner, complete with all the fixin's, precedes an alphorn demonstration by Glenn Call and German folk dancing with the Bayern Verein Alpengrün. Tickets, \$11 for club members and \$13.50 for non-members, are available in advance through Oct. 30 from any German Club members or Wilma Wierenga, College of Liberal Arts, at -6829 or www.gsl@rit.edu. For more information, e-mail to deutsch@rit.edu.

Breakfast dates switch

Two Liberty Hill Breakfast Series presenters have switched dates: Dennis Buchan, Key Bank district president, will speak on Wednesday, Nov. 18, on "Politics and Cynicism in the Nineties"; Edward Lincoln, executive director, Alumni Relations, will present "Alumni Relations in the 21st Century" on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Adult student forum

An Information Forum for adults considering attending college on a part-time basis for undergraduate or graduate studies, is set for 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, in the CIMS building. Representatives from RIT programs that can be completed on a part-time evening basis will give overviews and address concerns. Contact the Office of Part-time and Graduate Enrollment Services, -2229, for more information or to make a reservation.

RIT's Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery receives \$1 million

Thanks to the efforts of Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, RIT's National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery will receive an additional \$1 million to support its research activities.

The funds are included in the 1998-99 Defense Appropriations bill, which awaits President Clinton's signature.

"I am gratified that the Congress decided to recognize the expertise and accomplishments of RIT's remanufacturing program," says Slaughter. "These projects save taxpayers and consumers money by helping to avoid the substantial costs of developing and building new systems."

"The work of the center is great for New York, which has one of the largest concentrations of remanufacturing businesses in the United States," says D'Amato. "It creates jobs, saves energy and ensures that New York's manufacturers remain among the most efficient and competitive in the world."

The new funding follows \$2 million in

the 1997 federal budget for the center, which is housed in RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies.

"Remanufacturing is a critical area of emphasis for CIMS, and we are very pleased to receive these additional funds," says CIMS Director William Sheeran. "We are very grateful to Senator D'Amato and Congresswoman Slaughter for their efforts in helping us to obtain these funds, which will enable us to continue this important work for the Department of Defense."

The center is conducting a study for the Office of Naval Research for converting outmoded vessels to new uses for various Navy applications or commercial enterprises.

"There are a lot of benefits to this project," says Nabil Nasr, director of the center. "For the Navy, there's the potential of saving millions of dollars by being able to remanufacture these ships instead of scrapping them. For us, this becomes a pilot project, to show what we can do."

Nasr expects to have a staff of 15 to 20 working on this project, which will take

more than a year to complete. They will inspect the ships and develop an engineering analysis and redesign that represents "a marriage of two technologies, old and new." The work began over the summer, when Nasr traveled to Virginia and Hawaii to take a look at the ships. The new federal funding could be used to continue and expand this project, or for other work, Nasr says.

The National Center for Remanufacturing and Resource Recovery was established in 1997 and since then has been awarded more than \$1.2 million in state funding in addition to the federal money. Industry

and trade groups also support the center with contracts for specific projects as well as grants.

"We're always looking for durable products that are usually discarded, products that are good candidates for remanufacturing," says Nasr, explaining the four Maytag coin-operated washing machines now sitting in the center's work bay, alongside assorted construction equipment and automotive parts.

"The smallest company is as important to us as the Navy. We're here to help everyone."

Nathaniel Rochester Society honors Chester F. Carlson with annual award

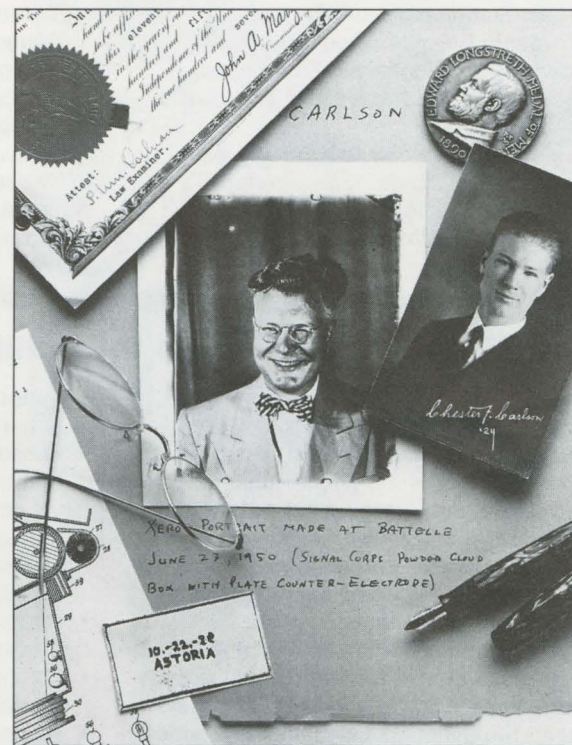
It seems most appropriate that as the RIT community celebrates its 30th anniversary in Henrietta, Chester F. Carlson, who played a major role in helping the current campus take shape so many years ago, be honored with the 1998 Nathaniel Rochester Society Award. The society's highest honor, given annually, recognizes individuals who have contributed to the advancement of RIT in an outstanding and significant manner.

This year's award was presented to Catherine Carlson on Chester Carlson's behalf during an Oct. 17 ceremony. Carlson died in 1968.

As a young physicist and lawyer living in Queens in the 1930s, Carlson was often frustrated by the costly and time-consuming methods then in existence for copying documents. He decided to invent a better way. From 1935, when he began experimenting with photoconductivity in his apartment kitchen, until 1950, when Haloid Corp. (now known as Xerox Corp.) unveiled the world's first office copier, Carlson demonstrated a single-minded vision and intense drive to succeed.

Carlson's spirit of adventure and commitment to enterprises in which he saw potential helped build not only an industry, but also RIT. To a significant degree, Carlson's contributions and those of his family enabled the new campus to become a reality. Built on a strong foundation, the campus has flourished and continues to offer students state-of-the-art facilities in which to put their own minds to the test and take risks.

Carlson made his initial gift to RIT in 1964: \$250,000 cash and 2,200 shares of Xerox stock, equal at the time to \$250,000. His intention was to support the creation of a new campus, a brave undertaking on the part of the RIT Board of Trustees. But Carlson shared the vision of board members. Often during the construction, Carlson



Chester F. Carlson memorabilia poster

and then-President Mark Ellingson would drive around the campus to view the work. Sadly, Carlson passed away before he ever had the opportunity to see the project completed.

Carlson included RIT among six colleges and universities nationwide that would benefit from his legacy of generosity. His bequest to the Institute amounted to more than \$2 million. Donations toward scholarships, lab facilities, the Center for Imaging Science as well as the 150th Campaign have also been made by the Carlson family over the years.

Both Chester Carlson and his wife, Dorris, were Honorary Life Members of the Nathaniel Rochester Society.

As humble and unassuming as Carlson was, he probably would have shunned this recent recognition. He had always emphatically insisted that his gifts be made anonymously. Yet, today RIT acknowledges with great pride the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

A MEDAL WEEKEND...

Mother Nature cooperated with a perfect fall day for the 1998 Stonehurst Capital Invitational Regatta, part of RIT's Brick City Festival. More than 6,000 spectators came to watch RIT's heavyweight men's eight come away with a bronze medal in the collegiate division. Yale again won the George Angle Cup for the men's heavyweight eights, with Northeastern winning the Elaine Wilson Cup for the women's heavyweight eights. RIT came in sixth in the women's heavyweight fours. The RIT alumni boat beat three alumni crews from the University of Rochester and in a special exhibition, the U.S. National team edged the Canadian National Crew by 54 seconds. And, between races, nearly 1,000 visitors stopped by RIT's hospitality tent throughout the afternoon.



New scholarship named for Donald Zrebiec to help small nonprofit agencies' EMBA enrollment at RIT

RIT's College of Business has established the Donald A. Zrebiec EMBA Scholarship Fund, in response to overwhelming enthusiasm from students and alumni of the Executive M.B.A. program. Zrebiec retired this year as program director.

"When Don announced his retirement from RIT, representatives from the fourth EMBA class initiated the move to recognize their mentor and friend in a special way," says Mary Kay Bishop, development officer, College of Business. "A project that has been near and dear to Don's heart has been the establishment of a scholarship that would help representatives from small and mid-size nonprofit agencies participate in the EMBA program."

The endowed scholarship, established in September, has reached a total of \$125,000, with 56 percent participation from alumni and students of the first five EMBA classes. The goal is to continue to raise funds to ensure that the nonprofit

candidate, selected by Zrebiec, will receive a full scholarship.

Prior to joining RIT in 1991, Zrebiec spent 29 years at Xerox Corp., where he worked as an entry-level recruiter and advanced to vice president of management and resources, with responsibilities for succession planning, executive development, education and training, organization planning and managing diversity. In January 1988 he was named an officer of the corporation.

"Under Don's leadership, more than 100 business professionals have advanced their education and their careers," adds Bishop. "This scholarship is the perfect way to improve management capabilities of nonprofit agencies while strengthening their roles in the community."

To find out more about the scholarship or to make a pledge, contact Judy Pratt, EMBA program coordinator, -7435.

ESPN vice president to speak in COB alumni series



Sean Bratches

RIT's College of Business welcomes Sean Bratches, vice president of affiliate sales and marketing for ESPN, the 24-hour sports network, as keynote speaker for the Alumni Executive Breakfast Briefing Series, 7:30 a.m., Oct. 29, Oak Hill Country Club.

Bratches' presentation, "Building a Global Brand," focuses on the rise of ESPN as a world-wide entity and uses the ESPN corporate model to help others develop their organizations globally by implementing effective marketing strategies.

At ESPN, Bratches heads up affiliate sales and marketing strategies, negotiates affiliate agreements and oversees all

aspects of the sales and marketing efforts throughout the United States.

A 1984 graduate of RIT's College of Business, Bratches joined ESPN in 1988 as an account executive and was promoted to senior account executive the following year. In 1992, he became director for the northeast region, before being promoted to vice president for the eastern division in 1995.

Tickets for the presentation are \$12.95, which includes a breakfast buffet, and can be purchased in the College of Business. For more information, contact Donna Slavin, -2199.

RIT's Office of Alumni Relations also sponsors "ESPN: An Insider's View," hosted by Bratches at noon on Oct. 29 in Lowenthal Building, room 3215. To attend this session, call -2586. Interpreters will be available upon request.

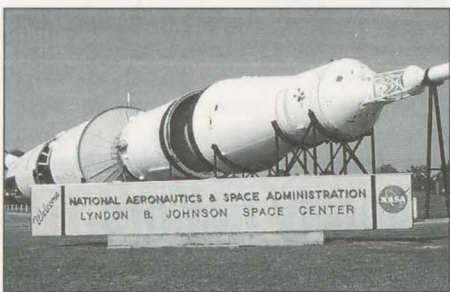


A HEARTY WELCOME... RIT welcomed dozens of new faculty at a reception in Fireside Lounge Oct. 1. Among them, Professor Charles Haines and new faculty member Josue Njocklibii—both in mechanical engineering—enjoyed chatting between welcomes by deans and department heads.

RIT professors develop public school science programs for NASA

John Glenn rides the shuttle into space in a few days. RIT's Thomas Zigon rode the elevator with him this past summer.

That sort of close encounter was one of the perks of Zigon's summer job at NASA. Zigon, assistant professor, biomedical photographic communications, and Clinton Wallington, professor, instructional technology, spent 10 weeks working as Summer Faculty Fellows assigned to the International



Space Station project at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Their mission: to develop educational programs for teaching science that NASA can offer to public schools.

"I designed an overall outreach plan," explains Wallington. "Tom developed a prototype lesson, which could be delivered on CD-ROM, through a satellite

downlink or over the Internet."

"NASA has a lot of material," says Zigon. "We tried to make a more organized use of what's available."

NASA, the nation's schools and millions of children ultimately could benefit from Zigon and Wallington's work. The schools will be able to obtain teaching materials, distance-learning technology and "electronic field trips" to make science more exciting and relevant to students. NASA—and specifically the International Space Station project—gains great exposure, which keeps the space program in the public eye in meaningful ways.

"A lot of people don't realize that NASA is in the education business," says Donn Sickorez, university affairs officer for the Johnson Space Center, "but we have a mandate from Congress not just to discover new knowledge, but to disseminate that knowledge to the widest possible audience. Both Clint and Tom did an outstanding job helping us to fulfill that mandate—and were formally recognized by the space station program's chief of staff for doing so. We look forward to seeing them here next summer."

One key to the ultimate success of the program, says Wallington, is tying the new lessons to curriculum requirements, so

teachers can obtain an educational program that fulfills the science mandates for their particular grade level. "It's got to be more than a trip to the zoo," says Zigon. "What we developed is a package of instruction."

Despite record temperatures that kept Houston toasting at 100 degrees or hotter for weeks at a time, Wallington and Zigon found the summer immensely rewarding. Wallington, who describes himself as a sci-fi "believer," remembers well the excitement of the first ventures into space. Zigon is of a generation that has grown up with the reality of space flight. For both, working in the same building where scientists are preparing for such projects as a space station was very heady stuff. Construction of the International Space Station will take place in space over



Summer wasn't all work, says Tom Zigon, right. NASA fun: "Who wears the pants around here?"

a three-year period that begins this year with the first launches of supplies.

A highlight of the professors' summer: They saw a screening of the movie *Apollo 13* in the mission control center where the dramatic events of that 1970 moon mission took place. Says Wallington, "It was awesome."

RIT marks \$114 million for planned improvements

As the university celebrates 30 years on the Henrietta campus, it's evident that RIT's physique has begun to show signs of wear and tear, a natural phenomenon for structures three decades old. As part of the Institute Strategic Plan, significant resources within the operating budget have been realigned to support physical assets of RIT's campus.

"The administration has certainly recognized that we are fast approaching the end of the life cycle of major building systems throughout the campus," says James Watters, vice president, Finance and Administration. "Additionally, we recognize that space built and conceived in the 1960s needs to be adapted and renovated to support the curriculum and technology that goes hand-in-hand with a first class university with leading edge programs."

In response, the university is executing a capital budget in excess of \$114 million of planned improvements across the entire spectrum. To meet the challenges of this recently developed capital budgeting process, Roy Dement, director, Physical Plant, has reorganized two major departments and promoted two key individuals responsible for implementing and supporting many of the planned projects.

Martin Becker, promoted to director of design and construction, will manage this newly reorganized unit which includes facilities planning, architectural services, construction management and project cost analysis.

"The integration of space planning and the addition of staff architectural services should produce efficiencies and cost savings to the university and our customers," explains Watters.

Headed by L. David Harris, plant engineering directly supports the development of new mechanical infrastructures across the university. This department operates and maintains the heating and cooling equipment and systems, handles all elevator calls and is the first line response both night and day for all major service interruptions. Harris also works closely with Design and Construction Services on mechanical and electrical design issues for their projects and the development of those infrastructures at RIT.

"Students, faculty and staff have already started to benefit from these efforts to improve their learning, living and working environments," says Becker. "This summer there were over 75 renovations in process affecting over 200,000 square feet of Institute space and costing in excess of \$12 million. Next summer looks to be even busier."

Projects Physical Plant oversee include:

- A \$60 million RIT/NTID residence hall renovation project, including additions to the east side of the RIT towers, a central post office, more retail space and two multi-purpose classrooms;

- Running track and soccer field rehabilitation worth an estimated \$900,000;
- Construction of the 252-bed University Commons at Riverknoll continuing into the next year; fully-furnished apartments managed by Capstone Development will eventually replace 900 bed spaces at Riverknoll and Racquet Club;
- Design of a new boathouse to support the expanding RIT crew program;
- Colony Manor and Perkins apartments renovation projects worth \$6 million;
- Water distribution project, \$1.6 million;
- Renovation of a number of academic units, including Information Systems and Computing, printing school and computer science department, \$2 million;
- Convocation site restructuring, over \$900,000, for parking for 500 vehicles;
- Replacement of ice rink mechanical equipment valued at \$450,000;
- Bausch and Lomb Building ground floor renovation project valued at \$750,000;
- Gleason College of Engineering renovations estimated at \$10 million.

First-ever Benefits Fair

Looking for an easy way to check out your RIT benefit options? Then plan on attending the first-ever Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 3 and 4, Fireside Lounge. Judy DeCoursey, RIT benefits manager, Human Resources, says employees can find valuable information and free souvenirs, as well as enter raffles and enjoy refreshments.

Representatives will offer information from RIT's medical, dental, life and disability insurance carriers, Fidelity, TIAA-CREF, Health Association (RIT's EAP provider), RIT Credit Union, Margaret's House, Student Life Center, Food Service and the Rochester Credit Bureau. The fair will also have free screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, health risk assessment, body fat composition analysis and the chance to try out a chair massage.

"A number of exciting new benefit choices are available for 1999, including additional benefits and lower employee contributions for many of the existing benefits," says DeCoursey. RIT employees will be able to make benefit selections during the open enrollment period from Oct. 21 through Nov. 13. Open enrollment information will be sent interoffice to employees. Details will be available on RIT's Web site in a new benefits page, which will soon cover all benefits. Another new way to access benefits info: e-mail questions to the Electronic Receptionist at benefits@rit.edu. Responses should come through within 24 hours.



CALLING ALL GHOSTS AND GHOULS... RIT's Division of Student Affairs will again host its annual Halloween party, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30, Student Alumni Union. The party is free and all are welcome. Photos of last year's festivities, shown here, captured the high "spirits" of RIT faculty, staff, students and administrators. (Can you find Vice President Linda Kuk?) The Bursar's Office also invites the RIT community to walk through its haunted house, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 30, George Eastman Building.

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