



July 28-August 31, 1975

# Manual Communication

## The worth of the program lies in "greater sensitivity"

Penny Passaro is a shining example of a manual communication graduate. After only a 10-week course in deaf communications, Penny finds she's using sign language "a lot" on her job in Central Placement and has become closer to a deaf friend in the city because they can communicate better.

She's enthusiastic about the opportunity she had to learn "a challenging second language."

"I really enjoyed the classes and the chance to learn something new," she says.

Penny's facility with sign language is unusual, but her appreciation for the manual communication classes is shared by other people who have taken NTID's Introductory Course in Manual Communication.

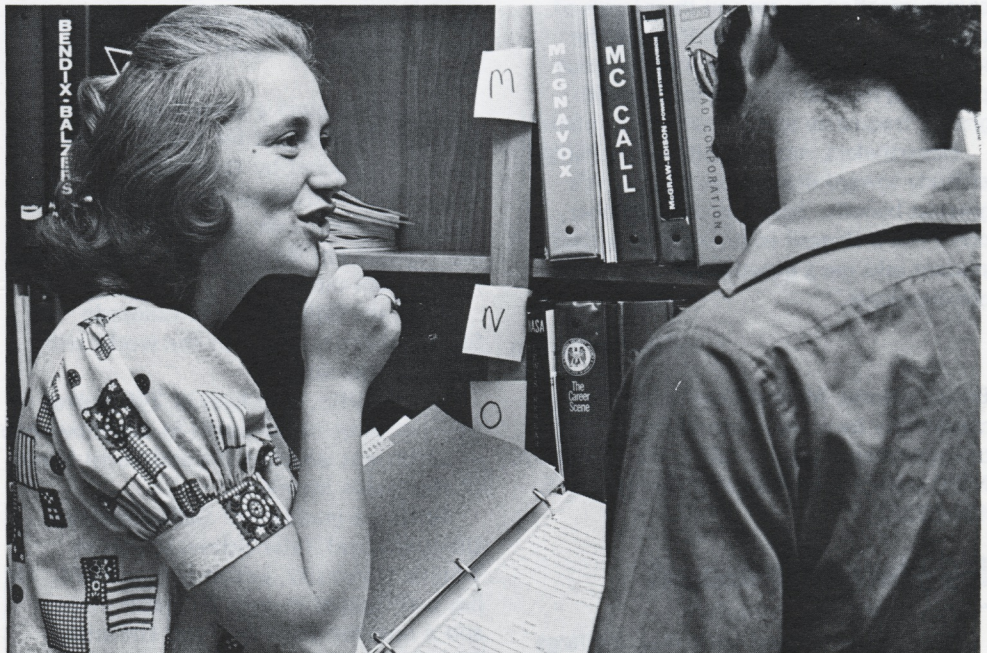
"The worth of the program lies in a greater sensitivity to deaf people, not in proficiency in signing," comments Rosemarie Toscano, secretary in the Communications office. Rosemarie and Penny were among a group of 17 people from Public Affairs and Central Placement who took the manual communication course last winter and early this spring.

The class met three times a week for one and a half hour sessions. The press of work assignments forced three people to drop out along the way, but the ones who were able to stick through to the end highly recommend the program.

"I really value learning more about the origins of deafness and becoming more aware of some of the problems deaf people cope with in learning," says Susan Dwyer, a member of the Communications staff.

Like several other members of the introductory classes, Susan had already had some acquaintance with deafness.

"My aunt was a housemother in a school for the deaf, so this class gave me an opportunity to expand what I already



knew," she explains.

There are 13 million deaf and hearing impaired people in the United States, and the Rochester community is projected to have one of the highest per capita deaf populations of any city in the world by 1980.

Penny thinks that is another good reason to take a manual communication course. "We'll all be meeting more deaf people socially, rather than just at the Institute," she predicts.

The classes began with memorization of the fingerspelling alphabet. Literally overnight everyone knew the alphabet and, although there continued to be occasional mix ups between some similar letters, the alphabet gave the group a sense of security in deaf communication.

"If I don't remember the sign for

something, I know I can always fingerspell it," says Rosemarie.

Rosemarie admits she isn't a fast or fluid signer, but she knows she can communicate with deaf students.

"These aren't long conversations, but we can understand each other," she explains.

Fingerspelling is a technique that relies on letter formations; signing is a hand motion that conveys an entire word.

The manual communication course encourages people to use all forms of communication to talk with deaf people including fingerspelling, signing, body language, facial expression, and speech.

"I began to understand why deaf people use facial expression and body movement to convey thoughts," says Susan, "It really helps to make a point."

## Communication

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People in the class gained insights into what it's like to be deaf by experiencing the difficulty of learning to communicate visually. Rosemarie, who majored in language in college, believes that learning any language introduces a person to new mental processes and ways of living. She sees parallels in learning the language of the deaf.

"People who finish this course know a little bit more about what it's like to be deaf," she believes.

The retention level for particular signs isn't notably high for most people unless they use the signs regularly, but fingerspelling is something that remains. Much depends on how often the person uses manual communication.

Staff and faculty at NTID are offered an intensive five-day a week, 8-week manual communication course and their levels of proficiency are higher than those in the introductory course. They also continue practicing manual communication with greater frequency so their retention is better.

Nevertheless, most people rate a changed attitude toward deafness as the course's greatest benefit. Said one class member, "I don't feel awkward anymore when a deaf student asks me a question, I know I can communicate."

—Carolyn Rankin

Editor's Note: Manual Communication classes may be arranged on an individual or department basis by calling Kathy Warren, NTID Office of Professional Development, 464-6237.

## Registrar named

"I'm basically very simple."

John Whitely eased back into the large chair and smiled.

At 29, RIT's new Registrar made some very candid observations about the nature of his office.

"It's not an easy thing to do . . . it's complicated.

"We're here to serve the students and the Institute, and that we will do."

Whitely has seen the job from both sides of the fence. Between 1963 and 1967 he was a student at RIT, earning an Associate's Degree in Business and a B.S. in Printing Management.

After a three-year stint in the military as a radar specialist, he was back at RIT as assistant to the Registrar. One year

later he was promoted to Assistant Registrar.

In 1974 he joined Rochester-based DeRidder-Thurston as Production Manager.

Returning to RIT last month, Whitely has set his highest priority as "responding to Institute community needs."

Getting out the grades are only part of these needs.

A dearth of paperwork must be processed by the Registrar's office, including state and federal reports, and enrollment figures necessary for the operation of RIT's many departments.

"Fortunately," Whitely confided, "when I went through RIT, I didn't have any problems with the Registrar. And that's the way it should be."

## Faculty in show

Gary S. Griffin and William Keyser, faculty in the School for American Craftsmen, have been selected for inclusion in "Contemporary Crafts of the Americas: 1975."

Funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the show is sponsored by Colorado State University. Exhibition jurors chose only 343 works from over 10,000 entries. Craftsmen from North, South, and Central America are represented.

After the initial show at Colorado State University, some of the works will tour the Americas.

Gary Griffin, who lives at 246 Culver Rd., has three metal works in the show, one of which was awarded the additional honor of Honorable Mention.

Griffin, a graduate of California State University and Tyler School of Art at Temple University, joined RIT in 1974. He has participated in over 25 group shows and a one-man show at Tyler Galleries, Philadelphia.

William Keyser, 6543 Rush-Lima Rd., Rush, is represented by his "Triptych Cabinets" of ramin wood and his "Box with 2 Compartments," a combination of five woods.

A graduate of RIT and member of the faculty since 1962, Keyser's work can be seen locally in the interfaith chapels of RIT, University of Rochester, and SUNY at Geneseo. His work has been commissioned by several banks and businesses. In 1969 he was represented in the "Objects U.S.A.," Johnson Wax Collection and has participated in many other exhibitions.

## Computer M.S. approved

The Department of Computer Science and Technology at RIT has received approval by the New York State Education Department to offer a Master of Science degree in computer science.

This joins the already existing M.S. degree program in computer system management begun last fall.

Currently, there are over 100 students registered in the M.S. degree program in computer system management as part-time or full-time students.

Both programs offer day and evening courses.



Lane

## Alumni aide named

Deborah D. Lane of 106 Kingsboro Road, Rochester, has been appointed assistant director of Alumni Programs at RIT.

Ms. Lane, a 1973 graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, will have responsibilities for regional alumni groups, alumni participation in admissions, and other aspects of alumni work, according to Chris Belle-Isle, director of Alumni Programs.

She was regional admissions representative for Cazenovia College earlier this year. Previous to that she spent a year and a half as a Cazenovia admissions counselor, and was chosen "most successful" counselor by the college admissions committee.

Ms. Lane grew up in Elmira, NY, and graduated from Elmira Free Academy in 1969. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lane, now live at 414 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis, Md.

Her husband, Anthony J. Russo, is RIT's lacrosse coach and a biology teacher at Greece Arcadia High School.

## Translation needed

Six Rochester Institute of Technology electrical engineering students are trying to find someone to decipher astronaut Tom Stafford's "Poor Russian" on a tape they made monitoring the Apollo-Soyuz mission.

"From all the time we monitored, we only heard something once. That was Tom Stafford speaking in poor Russian," said Marc Viggiano. "We're looking for someone to decipher it."

The students used a surplus receiver and an antenna they designed, built and installed on the roof of the FIT engineering building in their attempt to monitor voice communication from the joint space mission.

The students, all members of the RIT student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, are Viggiano, Frank Lambrecht, Bob Powell, Jim Meade, Fred Wilson, and George Schoek. Their faculty advisor is Dr. Roger Heintz, assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering Department.

People from R.F. Communications, who provided the students with the exact times the link-up passed over this area, were impressed that the students had monitored a voice and invited them for a visit Monday afternoon.

## Student accepted

Linda Scheffler, a student in RIT's Department of Computer Science and Technology, has recently been accepted for graduate study in computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

MIT has also awarded her a \$7,000 per year assistantship to work in the MULTICS area.

Ms. Scheffler enrolled at RIT in September 1973 with an A.A.S. degree from Hudson Valley Community College where she maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She was awarded a full tuition scholarship for her work at RIT under the Outstanding Transfer Scholarship Award Competition.

While attending RIT, Ms. Scheffler has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and has recently been nominated to Phi Beta Kappa.

## News and newsmakers

**Robert Sheley**, assistant manager of the RIT Bookstore has announced he will be leaving RIT at the end of July. Bob is entering business in Adams, NY after 6 years at the RIT Bookstore.

**Julie Bitzer** of Dover, Pa., a marketing

student in the College of Business at RIT has been chosen Marketing Student of the Year by the Rochester Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

On June 8 **Dr. Richard Marchand** of the Counseling Center presented a program entitled "Couples Communication Night." The meeting was held at the Scottsville Village Hall and was sponsored by the Wheatland Mental Health Committee.

**Mr. Richard Zimmer** has been appointed to the position of Assistant Coordinator of Audio-Visual Services effective July 1, 1975. Mr. Zimmer has been with A-V Services since 1970 in the position of Slide Curator. He has a B.A. degree from SUNY at Geneseo and an MFA degree from RIT.

**Gail Sce**, formerly of Campus Services, has recently joined the Office of Development staff as secretary in the Major Gifts Division of the 150th Anniversary Campaign. She replaces **Marion Klem** who has retired after 11 years with the Institute.

## Continuing events

Anyone interested in showing off their musical talent with Dr. Roy Czernikowski, Elizabeth Moore and others at Faculty Orientation, Sept. 16, please contact Dr. Zakia's office ext. 2240.

Free Films - Highland Park Bowl - 9 p.m.  
August 8,9--Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid  
August 15,16--North by Northwest (Alfred Hitchcock)

August 22,23--Duck Soup (Marx Brothers)  
August 29,30--Lost Horizons (1939 version)  
Sept. 5,6--My Little Chickadee (W.C. Fields)

Second Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale.  
August 9 (Raindate 16th). Aldersgate United Methodist Church Lawn, 4115 Dewey Ave. Greece, NY Handmade items, food stand, baked goods.

Livonia Art Festival - August 10. Raindate-  
August 17. 1-8p.m. Security Trust Grounds,  
Commercial and Church Streets, Livonia NY.

Southtown Plaza's August Fun Festival - August  
18-23, 10a.m.-9p.m. weekdays, till 6 p.m. Sat.  
All media. Concurrent events: store sidewalk  
sales, hots and pop sale, Charity groups fund  
raising.

Clothesline Art Show and Sale - Sept. 13&14  
Raindates 20&21. 11a.m.-7p.m. All media.  
Memorial Art Gallery grounds, 490 University Ave.  
Concurrent events; Children's paint pen,  
prize-drawing, gourmet deli.

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**"News and Events" is published every Monday during the academic year by Rochester Institute of Technology and distributed free of charge to the Institute community.**

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## Positions available

Listed below are the current openings at RIT as of 6/28/75. For further information please check the current job list in your college or administrative department.

### Full-Time General Staff Positions

Exec Sec, Level 8: President's Office  
Exec Sec, Director: NTID Admin.  
Sec., Registrar's Office  
Records Spec. I: Level 3  
Sec, Level 3: Campus Services  
Sec., : General Studies  
Admis. Spec. II, Level 5  
Sr. Sec, Level 5: Grants and Contracts  
Sec, Level 2: College of Science/Physics  
Sr. Sec., Level 5: Chaplains Office

### Part-Time Permanent General Staff Positions

Sec. Recep. :NTID Dev. Ed.  
Sec, Recep: Reporter Magazine  
Recep/Proofreader: NTID  
Sec, Devi. of Integrated Ed. : NTID Div.  
Sec., Learning Environments & Media Adaptation  
Sec, Business Support Team-NTID  
Sec: Office of Prof. Dev.-NTID

### Full-Time Hourly Staff Positions

Technician/Repairman: CCE  
Sec. Officer, Level C (2): Campus Services  
Stat. Eng. III, Level E: Campus Services  
Truck Driver/Dock Worker, Level E:  
Campus Services

### Full-Time Admin. Staff Positions

Supplies Buyer: Bookstore  
Director of Purchasing: Business Services  
Editor: Graphic Arts Res. Ctr.  
Coord. of Infor. Services: CCE  
Admin. Asst: Div. of Integrated Ed. Prog.  
Prof. Interpreter: Div. of Integrated E. Prog.-  
Interpreting Services  
Applications Prog/Analyst: NTID  
Eng. CO-OP Coordinator: Central Placement  
Audio-Visual Technician: A.V. Services  
Head of Monographic Div.: Wallace Library

### Full-Time Faculty Positions

Div. of Curric. Dev. & Eval.: Curric. Dev. Spec.  
Faculty: Bus. Tech-NTID  
Chairperson: College of Bus.-NTID  
Dept. Chairperson: Computer Applica.-Div.  
of CD&E-NTID  
Instructor: Indust. Dftg. Prog - NTID  
Manual Comm. Instructor: NTID  
Faculty: Arch. Tech-NTID  
Coordinator of Training in Teacher Supervision:  
Curric. Dev.- NTID  
Faculty: English Spec.-Div. Comm. Progs.-  
NTID  
Coordinator of Audiology Serv. Section: Comm.  
Ctr.-NTID  
Assoc. Ed. Spec. for Pre-Prof. Prog. in Engineering  
and Computer Sci.-NTID  
Assoc. Ed. Spec.:College of Fine & Appl. Arts-NTID  
Coordinator of Career Dev.: NTID  
Instructor-School of Printing

### Part-Time Faculty Positions

Lecturer/CD: College of Fine and Appl. Arts  
Manual Comm. Instructors (2): NTID

### Part-Time Admin. Staff Positions

Photo Asst.-: Curric. Dev. & Eval.-NTID

## Joanne Higgins: "Find out what you're happiest doing and then the heck with tradition"

Joanne Higgins puts to rest any myth that engineering is a man's field.

The 23-year-old Ms. Higgins, daughter of Mrs. Irene Wieczorek of 165 Lemoine Ave., Cheektawaga, is graduating in mechanical engineering from RIT this June with a near-perfect grade point average. She's one of only 10 young people across the country to receive a 1975-76 graduate fellowship from Tau Peta Pi Association, the national engineering honor society.

"In the course of 20 years of teaching perhaps 2,000 students, I can recall a half dozen students I would regard as truly outstanding. Joanne is one of those," said Dr. Richard A. Kenyon, dean of RIT's College of Engineering.

Ms. Higgins will enter Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall for graduate study in fluid mechanics. She wants a career in teaching and research.

Few high school students are aware of opportunities in engineering, or even of what an engineer does. Female students especially have not been exposed to the field.

In her typical way, Ms. Higgins found out about engineering through her own efforts when she was a student at John F. Kennedy High School in Cheektawaga.

She read about career possibilities that would draw upon her interest in science and mathematics and discovered engineering.

That few women pursued engineering careers didn't set her back.

"Find out what you're happiest doing and then the heck with tradition," she says.

When Ms. Higgins entered RIT in 1970, she was one of only five females in the freshman mechanical engineering class. Since then there have been more women entering; Ms. Higgins couldn't be more pleased.

"There's no lack of opportunities for women in engineering today," she feels. "Government is pressuring industry, and companies are really looking."

She's been spreading that message as



she helps recruit female high school students to engineering. Two years ago she planned an engineering day for high school students from six counties.

Among her fondest memories of college is being one of the designers of a device for Rochester's AI Sigl Center for use

by three to six year olds who have difficulty walking and crawling.

She has also been interpreter for students of NTID, and a resident advisor in the freshman dormitory.

—Mariann Teuber