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# NEWS AND EVENTS

*Beginnings '77* Special Issue  
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## A 'Beginning' for 3042

From their beginnings nearly 1,000 years ago, universities have held ceremonies celebrating the accomplishments of their graduating students. But in recent years the standard American university graduation has become a formal event characterized by lofty, lengthy addresses, the conferring of honorary degrees and, in the case of a graduating class of thousands, near-anonymity for all but the Ph.D recipients.

Not so at RIT, where in 1973 a committee of students, faculty and staff designed a series of commencement events that would not only be faithful to the spirit of the medieval ceremonies but also would recognize personally each of more than 2,000 graduates. The committee called the ceremonies, appropriately, *Beginnings '73*.

In *Beginnings '77* ceremonies Saturday, May 21, a record 3,042 students from nine colleges will each receive an RIT degree. It will be RIT's 92nd commencement, the fourth conducted on the Institute's 1,300-acre, \$123 million Henrietta campus.

"It's really the students' day and their parents' day, so we try to provide the personal touch missing in so many commencements," said Dr. Todd Bullard, Provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs. "We focus sharply on the student's accomplishment."

This is done, explained Commencement Coordinator and Dean of Administrative Services Donald Hoppe, by dividing *Beginnings '77* into six separate degree conferral events for the nine RIT colleges.

In ceremonies running continuously in the Frank Ritter Memorial Arena and the George H. Clark Memorial Gymnasium, deans or their designates will call each student up before the assembly to receive his or her degree. To make this possible in the two hours allotted each ceremony, there will be no keynote speeches delivered, no honorary degrees bestowed.

RIT President Paul A. Miller and J. Warren McClure, vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees, will preside over ceremonies in

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### COMMENCEMENT CYCLE

In earlier days at the Institute, classes graduating from individual colleges (top) were small enough that commencement was highly personalized. When the numbers swelled into the hundreds, ceremonies such as the 1963 commencement at the Rochester War Memorial (center) became more impersonal. Since 1973, the *Beginnings* ceremonies conducted on the Henrietta campus (bottom) emphasize the student's accomplishment. (Photos and commencement history data on p. 2 courtesy Gladys Taylor, archivist, RIT Archives and Special Collections, Wallace Memorial Library.)



## Commencement

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the gym. Board Chairman Richard H. Eisenhart and Dr. Bullard will officiate the arena ceremonies.

On instruments donated by Theodore J. Purchela, Clark Music Co., Syracuse, two local musicians will play organ preludes to the ceremonies. Theodore H. Hollenbach, organist and choirmaster of the Third Presbyterian Church, will perform in the gym, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Organist Clarence Warrington in the arena. The march of graduates to and from the ceremonies will be punctuated with fanfares by the Rush Henrietta Brass Ensemble.

Pennants, balloons and more than 30,000 yards of color-coordinated fabric fashioned into eight- and 12-foot medieval-style banners, will decorate the red brick faces of the ultra-modern, nine-year-old campus buildings.

Parents and invited guests of the graduates will be able to "get a feeling of what RIT's about," Dean Hoppe said, by visiting student art exhibits, observing laboratory demonstrations and participating in other special events planned for an "open house" period from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the individual colleges. During this period food and musical entertainment will be available outside entrances to the College of Fine and Applied Arts, the College of Graphic Arts and Photography, and the College of Engineering. A cafeteria-style lunch will be available in the College-Alumni Union.

Throughout the day two Regional Transit Service buses will operate on routes from the parking lots to event sites. The campus bus will shuttle medically disabled persons as necessary. Over 100 volunteer hosts and hostesses recruited from the campus community will assist visitors.

Rehearsals for the degree conferral ceremonies are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, May 20.

The 3,042 graduates include 100 receiving certificates, 139 diplomas, 1,246 associate's, 1,172 bachelor's and 385 master's degrees. An additional 408 members of the Class of 1977 are expected to receive their degrees in August.

According to the Department of Records and Institutional Research, the Class of 1977 is more than twice as large as the class that received RIT degrees a decade ago.

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### SHEEPSKIN FROM SCRATCH

Using a sheepskin mailed from her father's Virginia farm, Patricia Embrey, Printing '77, makes parchment from scratch. She plans to reproduce her RIT diploma on the finished parchment.

## Commencements 1886-1977

The end-of-year ceremonies honoring RIT graduates have had 92 years of colorful history. What follows is a thumbnail overview:

**NAMES OF CEREMONY:** "Closing Exercises" (1886); "Anniversary Exercises" (1892-1900); "Public Exercises" (1901-02); "Commencement" (1903-36); "Convocation" (1937-72); "Beginnings" (1973-present).

**LOCATION:** City Hall (1886-1891); Masonic Hall (1892, 1932); Manual Training Building (1895-96); YMCA Music Hall (1897); Central Presbyterian Church (1899-1900, 1905-07, 1916-22, 1941-42, 1947-48, 1955); Plymouth Congregational Church (1904); Eastman Building (1901-02); Convention Hall (1908-15); First

Presbyterian Church (1903, 1923-31, 1933-40, 1943-46); Eastman Theater (1949-54, 1956-58); Rochester War Memorial (1959-72); Henrietta campus (1973-present).

**CEREMONIAL DRESS:** In the earliest days of the Institute, graduates would dress in garb signifying their department: for example, Domestic Science graduates wore caps and aprons while Art School graduates wore smocks. After World War I and before 1955, graduates dressed in street clothes, the women usually wearing white. Caps and gowns were first worn in 1955. The faculty began to wear academic hoods in 1961.

**FIRST AWARDED:** certificate, 1892; diploma 1916; associate's degree, 1952; bachelor's degree, 1955; master's degree, 1960.

## Colleges plan celebrations

In connection with *Beginnings '77*, various RIT colleges and departments have special events planned for Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21.

**National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)** will hold open house for graduating students, their parents and invited guests Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Tours of the NTID facilities will be conducted and faculty and staff will be available for conversation. Dean William Castle and RIT Senior Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Robert Frisina will host a reception in the Building 60 inner courtyard Friday at 7:30 p.m. Group tours of the NTID buildings will begin at 10 and 11 a.m. in the Building 60 main lobby.

**College of Graphic Arts and Photography** will display student work throughout commencement in the galleries and main lobby of the Frank E. Gannett Memorial Building. (One exhibit, designed as an independent study project by students Jeffrey Schewe and David Eanes, features color prints of marine life and color slides rear-projected through a salt water aquarium.)

The School of Printing will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a reception for graduating students, parents and guests

in the lobby of the Gannett Building Friday at 7:30 p.m.

**College of Fine and Applied Arts** will display its outstanding student work in the Bevier Gallery. The exhibition will open Saturday and remain open throughout the summer. In addition, a slide-tape program entitled "Energy: The Way We Live," will be shown continuously during commencement in the Communication Design studio of the James E. Booth Memorial Building. Funded by Institute Forum, the program shows how energy availability affects American lifestyles.

**College of Continuing Education** will hold a reception for graduating students, their parents and invited guests in the College-Alumni Union Lobby after the 2:30 p.m. commencement Saturday.

**Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC)** will present a demonstration of rappelling (descent by means of a rope passed under the thigh, across the body, and over the opposite shoulder) at the south wall of Grace Watson Hall Friday at 11 a.m. The commissioning ceremony for 1977 ROTC graduates will be held in the Fireside Lounge of the College-Alumni Union Saturday at 12:30 p.m. A reception will follow.



# Guggenheim for Venezia

Marlene Venezia, assistant professor of art and design and chairperson of photo design in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Ms. Venezia will use the fellowship to pursue her art work which currently concentrates on lineal form.

The Guggenheim is given to scholars, scientists, and artists who present a level of outstanding achievement in their field and show "a strong promise for the future." The foundation was created by U.S. Senator and Mrs. Simon Guggenheim to "advance human achievement by aiding students to push forward the boundaries of understanding, and... enrich human life by aiding them in the cultivation of beauty and taste."

Ms. Venezia has been associated with RIT since 1969. A graduate of the State University of New York College at Buffalo and the University of Michigan, she has also attended the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, and Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Trained in painting, drawing and photography, Ms. Venezia broke with those modes a few years ago and began to work with tape on walls and eventually with metal tubing in a sculptural style. Her wall tapes were installed in a show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1974.

Ms. Venezia is among 313 persons chosen to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. The fellows were selected from 3,050 applicants. Grants totaled more than \$4.6 million for this 53rd year of the competition.

Ms. Venezia will be on leave from RIT during the next year to devote herself full-time to the study of the visual possibilities for lineal form.



**MARLENE VENEZIA**

Guggenheim Fellowship recipient and her "wall tape" at 1974 Museum of Modern Art exhibition.

## '¿Donde esta el Ritskeller?' (new committee has answer)

An Institute-wide committee has been formed to help meet the special needs of foreign students at RIT.

Composed of 30 faculty, staff and student volunteers, the Foreign Student Committee has been working since last fall to supplement regular administrative office assistance to the foreign student community.

According to Communication Sub-committee Chairperson Judy Wynekoop, Residence, a sub-committee on academics has established an informal network of foreign student advisors in the nine RIT colleges.

Another sub-committee has sponsored social events including an international dinner and fashion show.

The communication sub-committee plans to publish a newsletter for foreign students, Wynekoop said. To date, all funds for committee activities have been contributed by committee members, she said.

Anyone wishing to participate in Foreign Student Committee activities is invited to call Committee Chairperson Ann Areson, NTID Career Development Program, at 464-6316.

## Hundreds of hands create Beginnings '77

Someone had to order the 3,000 caps and gowns. Someone had to audition the Elizabethan brass ensemble. And someone had to be certain there would be fresh water in the pitchers on the speakers' podia.

In a steadily accelerating effort from last October through this very minute, hundreds of RIT people have been preparing the *Beginnings '77* celebration.

Some have had broad responsibilities. Donald Hoppe, for example, the dean of Administrative Services, has had overall responsibility as commencement coordinator.

"Having worked with the *Beginnings* format since 1973, we're able now to concentrate on refining the system," Mr. Hoppe said. "The major thing that has us really worried about this year is the ornery nature of

Rochester's weather."

Because of a school calendar change, this year's commencement falls on a date about three weeks earlier than last year's.

"Ed Steffens, our ceremonies co-chairperson, called the U.S. Weather Bureau and learned that for ten years, May 21 has not been a particularly pleasant day," Hoppe said. "With the wind chill factor, the temperature has averaged 48 degrees and there has consistently been some form of precipitation over part of the day."

Faced with these foreboding statistics, the three committees whose chairpersons report to Hoppe have had to plan contingency locations for their commencement day activities.

But even if good weather were guaranteed, the *Beginnings '77* committees would have

more than enough to worry about.

The committee co-chaired by Steffens and Carl Weber of the Office of Special Events, has been arranging all the academic ceremonial aspects of the 92nd Commencement, including the order of the nine major lines of march. Since each graduate's name will be announced individually as he or she walks up to receive a degree, the seating order is critical—and most changes cannot be accounted for until the day of the ceremonies.

The ceremonies committee also recruited and will conduct orientations for the 118 hosts and hostesses who will assist the more than 7,000 visitors expected to attend *Beginnings '77*.

The festivities committee, headed by RIT

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**Rochester Institute of Technology**

One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623



**DU PONT DONATION**

Robert Zapora (left), assistant manager of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company's Rochester plant, presents a \$6,000 check to Dr. Lothar K. Engelmann, dean of College of Graphic Arts and Photography. At right is Dr. Phillip J. Wingate, vice president and general manager, DuPont Photo Products.

**Trustee Board elects three**

The RIT Board of Trustees recently elected two new members and an honorary trustee and accepted the resignations of two long-time Board members.

The Board approved the nomination of new trustees James S. Gleason, secretary-treasurer of The Gleason Works, and Thomas H. Gosnell, president of the Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company.

Gleason was elected to succeed Trustee Howard F. Carver for a term expiring in 1978; Gosnell was elected to succeed Trustee C. Peter McColough for a term expiring in 1979. The Board accepted the resignations of both Carver and McColough.

In a historic move, the Board also named Arthur M. Lowenthal of 1400 East Avenue as an honorary trustee based on his "unusual

interest in the affairs of the Institute, leadership in the community...and high qualities of character and personal reputation." An individual ordinarily becomes an honorary trustee only after serving many years as a regular member of the Board of Trustees.

Carver, former chairman of the board of The Gleason Works, has been a trustee since 1961, and played a leadership role in RIT's planning for development of the Henrietta campus.

McColough, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Xerox Corp., also joined RIT's Board in 1961 and was heavily involved in the transition to the new Henrietta campus.

Both Carver and McColough were named to be honorary trustees.

**Hundreds of hands**

Program Services Manager Ron Powell, is largely responsible for the "modernized medieval" character of the decorations, the "feasting" and the musical entertainment that will add so much to everyone's enjoyment of commencement. May 21 for Powell will be a series of quick decisions, such as when and where the Elizabethan brass ensemble should play next.

Protective Services Director William Allen's facilities committee has overall responsibility for procuring the properties to be utilized in commencement, for readying the event sites,

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and for dealing with transportation, security and medical problems as they arise. Essential to the committee's planning has been a complex traffic flow map which began to take shape in October and receives daily updates now.

"Everyone in Campus Services and Protective Services is scheduled to work May 21," Allen said.

"It's hard to believe there's a person in the Institute who hasn't been involved in getting ready for this."

**NEWS & NEWSMAKERS**

**Robert H. Johnston**, dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts and director of the School for American Craftsmen, has been named recipient of a 1977 fellowship from the Rochester Museum and Science Center. He was honored at the museum's 38th annual convocation May 9 in Eisenhart Auditorium.

**Andrew Davidhazy**, chairperson of photography, College of Continuing Education, has been awarded a materials and equipment grant from the Polaroid Corporation to investigate streak photography applications of the Pronto and SX-70 cameras.

**Barry Culhane**, chairperson of the General Education Support Team at NTID, co-chaired the first Special Interest Group meeting, "Education of Deaf Persons," at the American Educational Research Association's annual conference in New York City. The purpose of the group is to stimulate research activities relative to teaching the deaf.

**CONTINUING EVENTS**

**Medical Technology Seminar**—"Development of a New National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel (NCAML P)," address by Sarah Marie Cicarelli, president, NCAML P. College of Science, rm. A-100, May 20, 8 p.m.

**Bevier Gallery**—Student Honors Show, May 21 through summer. Gallery hours Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 to 9 p.m.; Sat., 1 to 5 p.m.; Sun., 2 to 5 p.m.

**Public Affairs Gallery**—Graphic design by Randy Ross, through June 2; photography by Diedre Engle, June 3-16. Administration building, rm. 4000.

**Cary Graphic Arts Collection**—"American Institute of Graphic Arts: 50 Books of the Year," through June 7, School of Printing

**RIT Sports—**

**Golf**—NCAA Division III Championships, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, May 24-27.

**Track**—Brockport Invitational, May 21; NCAA Division III Championships, Calvin College, Calvin, MI, May 26-28.

Anyone wishing to play tennis at RIT this summer is asked to send his or her name and campus and home telephone numbers to Mario DiQuilio, College of Science, rm. 3252. A list of players will be posted next to the gym cage.