

# RIT STAFF COUNCIL

Winter 1996

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 2

## RIT Ambulance Corps – Students Providing a Valuable Service

by Sandi Tomassetti

If you need emergency medical assistance on campus, who do you call? The first thing you should do is call Campus Safety. They will page the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) on duty and dispatch the RIT Ambulance. Within a few minutes, a “first responder” will arrive to assess the situation and begin administering whatever medical assistance he/she can provide. The RIT Ambulance will soon arrive with two EMTs and Campus Safety will arrive to assist if needed. The RIT Ambulance is driven by an EMT who can assist the primary EMT if needed. If Advanced Life Support (ALS) is needed, a call is made to the Henrietta Volunteer Ambulance and they arrive within minutes.

The EMT in charge determines whether a transport to a medical facility (hospital) is needed. Patients are usually transported to Strong Memorial Hospital. The patient can refuse transport by signing a waiver, or they can request another hospital. The RIT Ambulance will try to honor their request if there is time and the availability of services at the other hospital. The EMT files a PCR (Pre-Hospital Care Report) before leaving the hospital and it becomes part of the patient’s hospital record. A copy of it goes to the RIT Student Health Center.

RIT has had an emergency medical unit for 25 years and an ambulance for 10 years. It is a 24 hour ambulance service which is available seven days a week except during the quarter breaks. There is no charge for this service but there may be a charge if the RIT Ambulance cannot respond.

The RIT Ambulance Corps is staffed entirely by RIT students trained and certified as Emergency Medical Technicians or having higher medical skills. Many corps

members have ALS training but cannot be certified because the corps or unit is not ALS certified. The members of the corps numbers seventy at this time. It is one of a few university-certified ambulance corps in the country. Many towns in New York State do not have a New York State certified ambulance corps.

To become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), you must successfully complete 130+ hours of classroom and hospital training, as well as pass two state exams. EMTs need to be re-certified every three years. A basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a person trained in life-sustaining methods - not invasive methods. That means they cannot enter into the living body by incision or insertion of an instrument. A person certified in Advanced Life Support (ALS) can use invasive methods of administering medication, administering airway management and performing manual cardiac defibrillation. Defibrillation means uncoordinated rhythm of the heart which stops blood circulation in the body and can lead to death. A defibrillator is a machine designed for cardiac emergencies, and the RIT Ambulance has one. The EMTs on the RIT Ambulance have that training.

RIT has an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Consultant and his name is Jim Sheehan. He reports to the director of the Student Health Center, Cassandra Jordan. Jim is a student in RIT’s Physician’s Assistant program. He deals with the medical procedures needed for the operation of the RIT Ambulance. Jennifer Randolph, staff assistant to Cassandra Jordan, coordinates and supports the corps. Since the RIT Ambulance Corps is staffed entirely by students who are normally in class, there needs to be a person who is available throughout the day for the day-to-day, hour-to-hour operations and support.

The Student Health Center handles the budget for the Ambulance Corps. There is an annual review of their budget for supplies. Any capital requests for equipment go to Student Affairs and Dr. Linda Kuk. The ambulance is leased because the institute prefers an annual budgeted amount. There are two vehicles. Vehicle #6359 is used for patient transport and Vehicle #6M93 is the command-post unit, or backup unit. The backup unit has extra medical supplies and extra equipment like radios, a computer and a cellular phone. They can coordinate an emergency response for the campus or the community from that vehicle. The vehicles are housed in the August building of the Student Life Center.

The RIT Ambulance Corps is New York State certified and has been for 10 years. New York State requires that there

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## RIT Ambulance Corps

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be one ambulance and crew per 5,000 people. At graduation time when there are 10,000 people on campus, extra EMT's are placed around the campus to stand by. The Henrietta Ambulance is an added resource if needed, especially if Advanced Life Support is needed. Some of our RIT Ambulance crew are volunteers in Henrietta's Ambulance Corps.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the RIT Ambulance, can pick up an application in the Student Health Center. You must meet the following requirements to obtain probationary membership in the RIT Ambulance Corps: be 18 years of age or older; be an RIT student, faculty/staff member, or invited alumnus; and hold current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. There is also an interview required as part of the process.

Emergency care begins and includes treating both the sick and injured at the emergency scene and during the transport, with the providers of this care being trained to consider the physical and emotional need of the patient. Molly Diem, of RIT's Financial Aid Office, suffered a heart attack in the Ice Rink parking lot a few years ago and experienced first hand the emergency medical service that the RIT Ambulance provides. She was very impressed with how they handled the situation. "They were calm and kept me calm. They kept me informed of what they were doing, and that gave me a level of comfort." She recovered and returned to work after a few months. She also wrote a letter of appreciation to the RIT Ambulance Corps.

The students who serve as volunteers on the RIT Ambulance Corps provide a valuable service to the RIT community. Many of the volunteers are pursuing their degrees in the Physician's Assistant program so our EMT's have a higher caliber of medical skill and knowledge. By becoming EMTs, these students are professional providers of emergency care. The term "professional" does not imply payment for services. It refers to training, dedication, desire to perform to the best of one's ability and willingness to continue with formal training.

Dr. Linda Kuk is quoted as saying, "The RIT Ambulance Corps is one of the groups that has worked very hard to model what it truly means to be a volunteer student service organization. They provide a service that is critical for the health and well being of this community. I know I sleep more soundly at night knowing that they are there."

President Simone said, "We are most proud of our students who balance their academics to find the time and volunteer to be a part of the RIT Ambulance Corps. The personal and unselfish care they demonstrate for others is much appreciated by those they help and, certainly, by RIT."

Cassandra Jordan takes pride in the RIT Ambulance Corps and says, "Student volunteers with emergency medical training fulfill a critical need for continuing health-care coverage for all within the RIT community. Having the RIT Ambulance Corps available to respond to the emergency medical needs of students, faculty, and staff and visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week, provides not only a valuable service but reassurance that emergency medical assistance (when needed) is truly a phone call away." ❖

## United Way Update

The RIT United Way Campaign is in full swing under the leadership of Joe Nairn, Chair of the 1996 Campaign Steering Committee. The campaign got off to a great start with nearly 100 staff and faculty volunteers attending one of two training sessions designed to introduce them to United Way's new "Investment for Results" strategy.

The annual TASTE OF RIT kicked off this annual Institute fundraising campaign by bringing together more than 1100 faculty, staff, and students for what has become a tasty tradition at RIT. Thanks to the Catering and Food Service staffs, the Physical Plant staff, and to all the staff volunteers who contributed to this successful event which raised over \$6,700.

To date, the campaign has raised \$156,040, or 83% of our goal. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, send it now to be included in the grand prize drawing for TWO AIRLINE TICKETS, compliments of DiMaria Travel. Help Write a Success Story!

## Attention Readers



The Staff Council Newsletter will no longer contain the minutes from the Staff Council meetings. If you are interested in reading the minutes you can access them via the vax through the Notes conference (Staff\_Council) or by contacting your Staff Council representative.

## Election time is near!



A call for nominations in voting Block 2 (Enrollment Management), Block 4 (Student Affairs), and Block 6 (all colleges, except NTID) was completed by the Elections committee in early March.

Official ballots will be mailed on March 29th. When you receive your ballot, please cast your vote and return.

Election winners will be notified on April 18th.

## Did You Know?

In March 1995, there was an announcement from RIT Personnel Department that there would be a change in medical benefits for those who retire after July 1, 1996. "For employees who retire after July 1, 1996, the cost of health insurance will change as the employee ages." This basically affects those employees who are now in the 50-55 age category. For more information, contact Joanne Cochi in the RIT Personnel Office at ext. 2604.

## SC Working for You

Staff Council has been involved in ongoing discussions with the administration regarding the possible impacts of Administrative and Academic Program Reviews. We have prepared a proposal to assist displaced employees and presented it to President Simone, William Dempsey, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Kathy Bello, Director of Personnel. Staff Council has received a preliminary response from the president indicating that he has reviewed the proposal and will give it further consideration as circumstances require.

## \$\$ Money Sense \$\$

Staff Council operates on a very modest budget and the response to the 1995-96 Financial Support appeal did not meet our needs. We must therefore appeal to you again.

The Institute supports Staff Council by paying the salary and benefits for the council's part-time secretary, and also supplies the office space. Staff Council is responsible for the operation of the office. This includes monthly telephone charges, office supplies, and mailing/copying expenses. Other annual expenses include the costs for co-sponsored events and set-up charges for staff informational meetings. There was also a special one-time expense associated with the installation of a fax terminal for general staff use, the purchase of a used computer and printer, and the purchase of software for the computer. The council's budget of \$4700 is used to meet these basic expenses.

The RIT Staff Council exists to address issues and matters of general concern to staff and to represent staff in the governance system of the institute. The council has been very active working for the interests of the entire community. In the past year it has charged several task forces to address issues which effect everyone on campus. These special committees incur costs that are paid from the council budget. In the past year the Staff Council Child Care Task Force Report had a significant impact on the decision to provide improved child care facilities on campus. The information for the child care report was obtained from a distribution of 10,000 surveys to faculty, staff, and students. The cost of the survey was over \$600. Faculty Council graciously contributed \$200, while Staff Council paid the balance.

Staff Council needs your encouragement, your ideas, and your financial help. Please do your part. Clip the coupon below and send it along with your check to Barbara Warth, 4316 City Center.

Staff Council Contribution 1995-96

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to RIT Staff Council  
Send to: Barbara Warth - City Center, 4316



## Policy on Letters to the Editor

Submitted by RIT Staff Council Communications Committee. Approved by RIT Staff Council

1. A letter to the editor(s) must be of an opinion on RIT issues affecting RIT staff members.
2. The length of the letter must not exceed 250 words.
3. All letters must be signed and the author's name will be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.
4. In a letter to the editor(s), the name, department, office address, and telephone number of the author must be given. It will be used to confirm that the author has written the letter. Only the author's name will be published.
5. The editor(s) will use their discretion in publishing of all letters.
6. The editor(s) reserve the right to edit letters.

## Staff Council Ad Hoc Newsletter Committee

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*Yesterday is history,  
 Tomorrow is a mystery,  
 Today is a gift.  
 That's why we call it "the Present."*

*- A greeting card message*

### Staff Council

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**Special thanks to Hilliary  
 Dunn and staff (Mail and  
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 of this newsletter.**

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