

# news & events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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## RIT salutes 2006 grads

Innovator to deliver convocation address

Dean Kamen—inventor, entrepreneur and an advocate for science and technology—will be keynote speaker at RIT’s 2006 Academic Convocation, part of the university’s 121st Commencement.

Kamen, who holds more than 150 U.S. and foreign patents, invented the first wearable infusion pump while still in college. In 1976, he founded AutoSyringe Inc. to manufacture and market the pumps. At age 30, he sold that company and founded DEKA Research & Development Corp. Kamen may be best known for inventing the Segway Human Transporter.

He also is the creator of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a technology competition that teams professional engineers with high school students from across the country. RIT has hosted a regional FIRST championship for the past two years. Thirty teams of high school students from across the Northeast United States and Canada participated in the three-day event in March.

Kamen has received The Kilby Award, which celebrates those who make extraordinary contributions to society, and the National Medal of Technology, awarded by President Clinton in 2000.

Kamen will receive an honorary degree of science during the convocation ceremony, which takes place at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 26, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.



Graduation schedule

**Friday, May 26**  
**Academic Convocation**, 4 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center  
**College of Science**, 7:30 p.m., Ritter Ice Arena  
**College of Imaging Arts and Sciences**, 8 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center

**Saturday, May 27**  
**B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences**, 8:30 a.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center  
**National Technical Institute for the Deaf**, 9 a.m., Ritter Ice Arena  
**College of Business**, noon, Ritter Ice Arena  
**Kate Gleason College of Engineering**, 12:30 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center  
**College of Liberal Arts**, 3:30 p.m., Ritter Ice Arena  
**College of Applied Science and Technology**, 4:30 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center

See Page 2 for parking and shuttle details. Additional information is available at [www.rit.edu/commencement](http://www.rit.edu/commencement).

The cycle of higher learning is racing toward another climax as RIT prepares to celebrate its 121st annual commencement. Graduating students, their family and friends, and the entire campus community will converge for a weekend of pomp and circumstance May 26-27.

“This promises to be an exciting time as we celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates from our eight colleges,” says RIT President Albert Simone. “It’s an opportunity to spotlight RIT tradition, university pride and community spirit.”

Activities kick off with Academic Convocation at 4 p.m. Friday, May 26, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. President Simone will confer degrees on more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students during the convocation event, and world-renowned inventor Dean Kamen will provide the keynote address (see related story).

Also during Academic Convocation, RIT recognizes the excellence of its graduating honors students, as well as faculty members who won outstanding teaching awards. In addition, each college, including the American College of Management and Technology and the American University in Kosovo, has chosen an undergraduate student to serve as col-



Kayla Zerby, a 2005 graduate, celebrates at last year's ceremony.

A. Sue Weisler

lege delegate. These delegates represent their colleges on stage during the official conferral of degrees by President Simone.

“Students are what the university is all about,” states Simone. “Our celebration honors our graduates and offers a culminating experience for them, their families and friends; a capstone of their time at RIT and a fitting finale to years of hard work and sacrifice.”

Each RIT college celebrates commencement with individual ceremonies and receptions (see accompanying schedule). During these ceremonies, graduating students are recognized individually, and respective delegates address those in attendance.

“Graduation is the highlight event of the university community,” states Stanley McKenzie, RIT provost. “It is time for the faculty and staff to take

Class of 2006, page 12

## Simone to retire Search committee forming

President Albert Simone, RIT’s eighth president, will retire in mid-2007. Simone’s career in higher education has spanned nearly 50 years, during which time he served as an economics professor, a business school dean and president of two universities. He joined RIT in 1992 after leading the University of Hawaii.

“It has been a pleasure to serve RIT in what has been an extraordinarily rewarding experience,” says Simone. “Together, the accomplishments of the students, faculty, staff and alumni have taken RIT to new levels of excellence.”

Simone is responsible for one of the nation’s leading career-oriented universities with 15,200 students from all 50 states and more than 90 foreign countries, 2,800 faculty and staff, an annual operating budget of more than \$492 million, and an endowment of more than \$570 million. The university has one of the oldest and largest cooperative-education programs in the country.

“It simply amazes me as I walk around campus to see how much RIT has grown on so many levels,” says Simone. “RIT is unquestionably a university with tremendous momentum. I am very proud of the impact that RIT alumni, faculty, staff and students are making locally, nationally and globally.”

Michael Morley ’69 (business administration), chairman of the

board of trustees, announced that RIT will immediately begin to appoint a Presidential Search Committee.

Trustee Donald Boyce ’67 (business administration) will chair the committee, which will include representatives of all RIT constituencies in the spirit of an inclusive process. A timetable for the presidential search is being developed.

“On behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Simone on his upcoming retirement,” says Morley. “Dr. Simone’s legacy is firmly established, as RIT has prospered under his steadfast leadership. He has positioned RIT as one of the leading national universities in professional and career-oriented education.”

Morley continues: “President Simone has con-

sistently placed the success of students at the top of his priority list. We thank Dr. Simone for his 15 years of service to RIT and wish the Simone family all the best when he leaves office in 2007.”

Simone is very active in a wide range of community organizations and has been a significant presence in Rochester. He will continue to remain active in the Rochester community, he says, and plans to write several books related to leadership in higher education. ■

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A. Sue Weisler

At a May 17 news conference, Albert Simone, RIT’s eighth president, announced his intention to retire in mid-2007.

## RIT students develop deep-sea explorer

It’s designed to explore the depths of large bodies of water—and one recent weekend, that’s exactly where it was found: searching the depths of the deep end of Judson Pool in RIT’s Gordon Field House and Activities Center. (As the adage goes, every journey begins with a single step.)

The explorer, an underwater remote-operated vehicle, or ROV, is the senior-design project of a team of RIT engineering majors—and it has been described as one of the most ambitious and challenging student projects ever at RIT. This spring and summer, the device will be used to explore century-old shipwrecks resting on the bottom of Lake Ontario and the Atlantic Ocean and give human explorers their first glimpses of some all-but-forgotten vessels lost to the seas.

The RIT team is led by Dan Scoville ’05 (B.S. electrical engineering) who, partnering with Jim Kennard, has located and explored three “virgin” (previously undiscovered) shipwrecks in Lake Ontario in the past five years. The duo now has its sights set on two undisclosed Lake Ontario shipwrecks (the names and precise locations of the vessels won’t



Greg Francis

Dan Scoville ’05, left, and Matt Paluch, a fifth-year electrical engineering major, lower an underwater remote-operated vehicle into Judson Pool in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center for testing. The device, designed and built for a senior design project, will be used to explore Lake Ontario shipwrecks this summer.

be revealed until this fall) and, working with the Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut, the steamship *Portland*, which sank off the coast of Gloucester, Mass., in 1898.

One of the sunken crafts in Lake Ontario is an 1800s-era schooner. Scoville, who personally backed the ROV project financially, says locating and documenting shipwrecks is

important due to their connection to the Rochester area’s maritime history. Lake Ontario, he adds, is a huge but vastly underused resource for learning about watercraft from a bygone era and the technology used to find them and preserve their histories.

Some of the fewer than a thousand ships lost in Lake Ontario have been discovered and salvaged, while others are in water too deep to explore,

Scoville says. That leaves a small number—perhaps a dozen—in the 100-to-400-foot-depth range in the area from the Niagara River to Oswego accessible to explorers such as Scoville and Kennard. But they’re not easily found, Scoville adds. Even after they’re located they can’t be salvaged because those between the shores of New York and the international line are considered state property.

“We do it because we love doing it,” says Scoville, an electrical engineer with Eastman Kodak Co. and a scuba diver for about 10 years. “When you find one, it’s neat. It’s a really cool experience.”

**Little device makes a big splash**

The small, 60-pound, battery-powered ROV, designed and built over two academic quarters, is equipped with up to four removable video cameras, four high-intensity lamps (serving, in essence, as headlights), a navigational compass, a timer, and sensors to measure depth, pressure and temperature. Four variable-speed motors enable vertical, forward and reverse movement and turning maneuverability. RIT students custom-built most circuit

Underwater explorer, page 12

# 2006 College Delegates

Student delegates are selected for personal achievements that demonstrate the ideals of RIT including, but not limited to, academic excellence. They will speak at their respective college commencement ceremonies.



Jody Podpora

**College of Applied Science and Technology**

From Cheektowaga, N.Y., Jody Podpora will graduate from the B.S./M.S. dual degree program in computer engineering technology and computer science. He is the recipient of many scholarships and awards, including Nathaniel Rochester Society, RIT Presidential and New State Leaders of Tomorrow scholarships. Podpora served as Student Government senator for his college, a student justice on the Institute Appeals Board and as a laboratory/teaching assistant. He completed co-ops with Boeing Co. and the U.S. Department of Defense. Podpora has accepted a position with Raytheon Intelligence and Information Systems in their rotational leadership development program.



Dessislav Ivanov

**College of Liberal Arts**

Dessislav Ivanov, originally from Bulgaria, will graduate with a B.S. in criminal justice. Before coming to RIT, Ivanov served as a platoon sergeant in the Bulgarian Navy and studied at Monroe Community College in Rochester. He is a Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholar and has performed research for a prison release program and for the Town of Brighton, N.Y., Police Department to evaluate the department’s relationship with its elderly population. He acknowledges his parents, Milko Ivanov and Boryana Ivanova, who were not able to travel to RIT to attend graduation. Ivanov plans to pursue a master’s degree in public policy at RIT.



Joel Azariah

**College of Business**

From Mumbai, India, Joel Azariah is an international business and finance major. A member of Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Society and the RIT Honors Program, Azariah is a recipient of Beta Gamma Sigma, Nathaniel Rochester Society, Joseph A. and Helen A. Blatecky, Madeline and Richard Rosette, and Eyer Memorial Fund scholarships and RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award. He completed a co-op with Compass Development India Private Ltd. and was a student manager at RIT’s Student Alumni Union cafeteria. Azariah was vice president of The Collegiate Entrepreneurs Society of RIT, a student justice on the RIT Appeals Board, past vice president of Students in Free Enterprise and the only student member of the COB Dean’s Search Committee. He plans to work for a financial services company in New York City.



Rebecca Lebowitz

**College of Science**

From Stormville, N.Y., Rebecca Lebowitz graduated last November with a B.S. in biotechnology and a minor in psychology. Lebowitz is a recipient of RIT Presidential and M. Richard and Clarice R. Rose Nathaniel Rochester Society scholarships and the RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award. She is a member of the RIT Honors Program, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Delta Alpha chapter, Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society and RIT’s Leadership Institute. Her research work includes a co-op at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute and projects in RIT’s Human Genetics Laboratory and the International Center for Hearing and Speech Research. Lebowitz plans to seek employment in the biotechnology industry with a focus on genetic research.



Michael Jones

Michael Jones, the COB graduate delegate, will receive his MBA with concentrations in marketing and sales management. He earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Clarkson University and has worked at SPX Corp., Lightnin Operation and Ashland Specialty Chemical Co. Jones served as chair of Atlas Program, Graduate Management Association, a student justice on the Institute Appeals Board and member of the COB Dean’s Conduct Committee. Options after graduation include application to a Ph.D. program, sales or marketing management employment or engagement in entrepreneurial activities. Jones also plans to increase his involvement within the Rochester community through active participation in charitable activities.



Dana Reiter

**National Technical Institute for the Deaf**

Dana Reiter is from Fremont, Ohio, and will earn her A.A.S. in applied computer technology. She was a peer tutor in her department, a member and past treasurer of the NTID Computer Club and a member of Alpha Sigma Theta Sorority, where she held various leadership positions. She is also involved in community activities such as Relay for Life through the American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity. Reiter plans to pursue a B.S. in accounting and management and would like to travel.



Erhardt Graeff

**B.Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences**

From Grantville, Pa., Erhardt Graeff will graduate with a B.S. in information technology and a minor in writing studies. He is a recipient of RIT Presidential and Nathaniel Rochester Society scholarships, and the RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award. He is a member of the RIT Honors Program and Golden Key International Honour Society. Graeff was a summer research intern through the 2004 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He was editor-in-chief of *Reporter* magazine and a member of the Information Technology Student Organization and the Social Computing Club. After graduation, Graeff plans to study and volunteer in Russia, complete a second B.S. in international studies with a minor in imaging science and then pursue graduate studies with the goal of earning a J.D. in international law and a Ph.D. in cognitive science.



Lucijana Lucić

**American College of Management and Technology**

Lucijana Lucić, from Horvaticevi Jarki in Croatia, will earn her B.S. in hospitality and service management. She is a recipient of an RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award and ACMT Scholarship. She was a member of the winning team at a competition organized by the National Organization of Small Family Hotels in Croatia and her latest co-op was with a five-star boutique hotel in Croatia. Lucić plans to pursue a master’s degree in environmental management.



Andrew Streett

**Kate Gleason College of Engineering**

Andrew Streett, from Clifton Park, N.Y., will graduate with a B.S./M.S. in mechanical engineering. Recipient of RIT Presidential, Nathaniel Rochester Society, and Boeing scholarships and the RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award, Streett is also a member of Pi Tau Sigma and American Society of Mechanical Engineers, vice president of RIT MAV-Manufacturing Engineering team and past co-president of the moonbuggy team. He worked co-ops with Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, Boeing Satellite Systems and Impact Technologies LLC. Streett plans to travel to Europe for a month after graduation and then begin full-time employment with the Boeing Satellite Development Center in El Segundo, Calif.



Rona Nishliu

**American University in Kosovo**

Rona Nishliu was born in Mitrovica and attended high school in Pristina, both in Kosovo. In the top 1 percent of the student body at the American University in Kosovo, Nishliu is also a well-known singer in the Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia regions and was one of five finalists among seven thousand participants in an Albanian *Pop Idol* show. She is the host of a daily radio show for one of Kosovo’s most popular radio stations, Bluesky Radio. She participates in various volunteer activities, including initiating and organizing Kosovo Remembers, a concert to support the Bush-Clinton Hurricane Katrina Fund. She also works with movie and documentary companies and collaborates with international artists visiting Kosovo.



Pari Dukovic

**College of Imaging Arts and Sciences**

Pari Dukovic, originally from Istanbul, Turkey, came to RIT to pursue a bachelor’s of fine arts degree in professional photographic illustration with a minor in art history. Dukovic was the recipient of the 2002 European Council of International Schools Award and the Honors Award for Greek-Turkish Friendship from the Turkish government, a Kodak Scholarship, Hellenic Times Scholarship, and various international student awards and scholarships. He has worked on campus as a studio photographer, in the photo department of RIT’s Campus Connections Bookstore and as an orientation assistant and a resident advisor. Dukovic’s goal is to be a celebrity portrait photographer.

## Arriving at the RIT campus

To enter campus, use the entrances on Jefferson Road. RIT Campus Safety personnel will direct you to parking areas. Shuttle service will be available both Friday and Saturday to reach the Academic Convocation and the Commencement ceremony locations. Friday, May 26, shuttle service will be available from 12:30-10 p.m.; on Saturday, May 27, shuttle service will be available beginning at 7 a.m. On both days, shuttles will make continuous loops throughout all the parking lots and the ceremony locations and will return guests to the parking lots after the ceremonies.

## Shuttle service and parking information

**“People Movers”**

Senior citizens and individuals with special needs are invited to use special carts operated by RIT staff. Carts are available at one of the many people-mover stations across campus.

**Seating/special needs**

Both the Gordon Field House and Activities

Center and the Ritter Ice Arena have bleacher seating, which have steps. If you or any member of your family uses a wheelchair, contact the Parking and Transportation Office by calling (585) 475-2074 (V/TTY) or visiting <http://finweb.rit.edu/campussafety/forms/parkingandseatingrequest> for accessibility arrangements. Both locations will have staff on hand

to assist you with special needs; however, prior arrangements must be made. RIT does not have wheelchairs available on campus. If you would like to rent a wheelchair, you may contact Monroe Wheelchair at (585) 546-8595 or [www.monroewheelchair.com](http://www.monroewheelchair.com), or Fonte Surgical Supply at (585) 338-1000 or (800) 836-2130.

**Special parking and transportation needs**

If you need special parking or mobility van transportation, please contact the Parking and Transportation Office at <http://finweb.rit.edu/campussafety/forms/parkingandseatingrequest> or by calling (585) 475-2074 (V/TTY) even if your vehicle already has a disabled parking permit.

# Graduating to a commitment of service

by Phyllis Walker

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. We hope “Viewpoints” inspires discussion among the RIT community. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail [newsevents@rit.edu](mailto:newsevents@rit.edu).

As our graduates prepare to embark on the next stage of their lives in Rochester and beyond, community service plays an important role. This campus has Greek organizations and student clubs that survive at the institute and thrive through community service. We are confident that students involved in the Community Service Center leave this campus with an appetite for civic engagement.

For example, the second annual AltRoc, the Community Service Center’s alternative approach to Spring Break, had twice as many students participating this year than the one before. AltRoc provided these civic-minded students the opportunity to more effectively connect with their community outside the classroom and participate in meaningful service projects alongside their peers. This intensive week of hands-on service projects in diverse neighborhoods throughout Rochester consisted of daily service

projects for non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, citizen groups and government agencies.

Some of the graduates also joined together to help our own. With 20 RIT students affected by Hurricane Katrina, the Rochester Leadership Institute and Community Service Center at RIT worked diligently to help students and families who were relocated to Rochester. The entire campus responded through several of the Community Service Center’s Katrina Relief events. Students donated toiletries over Brick City Weekend, raised more than \$200 through donation cans placed at registers in dining halls on campus and raised \$150 through water sales at concerts throughout September.

Greeks and clubs also stepped up to the plate to raise money in their own special way. The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity had a “tent out” at the Eastman Kodak Quad that lasted one week in early September, raising

over \$2,000 for relocated students.

The support did not end there. While the rest of the county thought about dozing off in front of the TV while watching football after a hearty Thanksgiving meal, RIT students, faculty and staff made sure that the relocated victims of Katrina had a fulfilling Thanksgiving feast.

Members of Student Government, Off-Campus Apartment Student Association, the Center for Campus Life and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority donated Thanksgiving baskets to nine families in Rochester. These baskets came complete with a turkey dinner, place settings and a Wegmans gift card. This also marks the eighth consecutive year that RIT’s Team Tigers was named the top fundraising team in the education category by the American Heart Association. Over 100 students walked in the annual Heart Walk on April 29 in downtown Rochester. Members of RIT Team Tigers have

# Viewpoints



raised over \$30,000 in the past seven years.

Though it is bittersweet to say goodbye to graduates, many of them have raised the bar on community service at RIT. They have set an example of civic engagement that is already rubbing off on their peers, underclassmen, faculty and staff. We have no doubt that the spirit of volunteerism will stay with them for years to come, and that they will actively enrich their new environments through community service.

*Phyllis Walker is coordinator of the RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center.*

# SG president makes history

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Sorkin, a film/video and animation major, was elected as 2006-2007 Student Government



Elizabeth Sorkin

president, making her the first deaf student government president at a U.S. college comprised of mostly hearing students.

“One of RIT’s many assets is that as a community, we embrace diversity, not just talk about it,” says Sorkin, who prefers to use American Sign Language and will generally use interpreters to communicate with those who don’t know sign language.

Sorkin, of Elk Grove, Calif., is finishing her term as NTID Student Congress president, where she led the effort to hold regular pep rallies, and followed outgoing SG President James Macchiano’s lead to encourage Spirit Fridays, social gatherings and more to create a new sense of community within NTID.

“James really encouraged me to run for SG president,” says Sorkin, who took 80 percent of the 1,600 votes.

“I want to work closely with the cabinet to ignite pride and honor, as well as loyalty for everyone who studies or works here,” Sorkin says. “RIT already has a good spirit community emerging; I want to continue that momentum at full speed.”

Born hearing to deaf parents, Sorkin became deaf at a very young age for reasons unknown, and she attended mainstream schools her whole life. She chose RIT because, she says, of the mainstream environment as well as exemplary support services offered.

“My dad, who graduated from RIT, encouraged me to attend the Explore Your Future career exploration summer program, where I met other peers who I could relate with,” Sorkin explains. “I lacked that kind of social stimulation growing up.

“I didn’t know what I was going to study at first,” Sorkin says, “but eventually I found my passion—film.”

Sorkin earned a Davis Scholar Award, an academic achievement and service award, and has made Dean’s List several times. She also won awards from several film festivals. ■

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# New software assists Web site developers

Marc Baumbach, Matt Kent and Kyle Shank, all software engineering undergraduate students, are on the fast track: the creation of their open-source software project RadRails has led to accolades, awards and 10 job offers. The final job offer was one they couldn’t refuse. It came from Erich Gamma, IBM Distinguished Engineer and noted author, based in Zurich. In fact, a book written by Gamma, *Design Patterns*, is part of RIT’s software engineering curriculum.

The three men met Gamma while presenting their RadRails project at Eclipse Con, a software engineering conference held this past March in Santa Clara, Calif. Not only did they win the award for Best Open Source Developer Tool, but they also won over Gamma, who was sitting in the audience.

“He came up afterwards and pointed out some of the great things we were doing,” says Shank, a fourth-year student. “And then he left. We were on cloud nine that he liked our project.”

Shank clearly remembers his con-



A. Sue Weisler

*Software engineering students, from left to right, Marc Baumbach, Kyle Shank and Matt Kent created RadRails. Visit [www.radrails.org](http://www.radrails.org).*

versation with Baumbach and Kent on their way back to the hotel that night. “I said, all the job offers have been great, but the only one I would really take is if we got an opportunity to work with Erich Gamma.” A couple of hours later, Gamma showed up at a networking event and offered each of them a job.

RadRails is a piece of software that helps software developers create powerful Web sites. It combines Ruby, a programming language and Rails, a Web application framework. Because RadRails is open source, the code is free and open to anyone who would like to fix it or experiment with it.

“Every piece of the code is volun-

teer work, so it’s driven by passion and excitement. What’s neat is we can experiment and make decisions and innovate without anyone telling us what to do,” says Shank.

The students work on RadRails in between classes and homework. “It’s driven solely by us and our desire,” says Kent, a fourth-year student. “Our philosophy the whole way has been think bigger than possible. It’s how we’ve gotten where we are.”

Shank and Kent are off to Zurich in July to begin working with Gamma for five months. Baumbach had already committed to another job before he received Gamma’s offer.

“I’m working with my brother here in Rochester,” says Baumbach, a third-year student. “He’s got his own company. He’s a designer, but he can’t do programming. And I can do the Web development with RadRails on my own from here. I might go to Zurich next summer.” Shank jokes to Baumbach, “Yeah, we’ll put in a good word for you.” ■

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# TAGA book cracks the code

A secret society of printers lives within RIT’s School of Print Media, and in their book, *TAGA*, they unravel the mysteries of emerging graphic arts technology. With themes similar to *The Da Vinci Code*, this group of ambitious RIT students produced an award-winning page-turner that’s receiving critical acclaim.

For the sixth consecutive year, RIT’s TAGA (Technical Association of the Graphic Arts) student chapter, marking its 20th anniversary, won the best overall publication award at the annual TAGA Conference, an international competition held in Vancouver. RIT students bested other universities from the United States and France, winning a total of five awards.

“We chose an ancient secret printing society theme because we wanted a book that gave a feeling of something that would be passed down to the next generation of print students,” says Tom Thayer, president of RIT’s TAGA student chapter.

The size of the book is 9-by-12, the largest book ever produced by RIT’s student chapter. The cover is embossed with the RIT logo and the title is an ambigram, meaning it reads the same way right side up as

upside down.

The content of the book is a series of graduate and undergraduate research papers about current and emerging technologies of the graphic arts field. RIT won the award for overall quality of technical writing, marking the first time the chapter has won in this category.

“It was very rewarding to win the technical award,” says Thayer. “The content of the publication is a testament to the caliber of the students’ writing.”

TAGA includes a look back at its 20-year history. The words are encrypted, though, and require a special bookmark to decode the message. “Our technical advisor, professor Michael Riordan, helped us put our



*One of the photographs inside the award-winning TAGA publication.*

ideas for the decoder into motion,” says Thayer.

Photographs, burned at the edges to give them an ancient look, are peppered throughout the book. The students rented monk robes and photographed themselves in the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Collection working with old printing presses. Because of the book’s size, students spent a weekend cutting 8,000 sheets of linen paper into 16,000 pieces.

TAGA, an international organization of technologists and scientists in the printing industry, paid tribute at this year’s conference to RIT TAGA mentor and advisor Robert Chung, Gravure Research Professor in the School of Print Media. Chung received the Michael H. Bruno Award for his accomplishments and dedication to the graphic arts education over the past 34 years.

The generosity of individuals and Rochester area corporations made it possible to print the casebound book, with more than \$40,000 in donations and press time.

“RIT always pushes the limits of the graphic arts industry, and we certainly did with this book,” says Thayer. ■

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## Closing the achievement gap



Greg Francis

*Roland Fryer Jr., assistant professor of economics at Harvard University, discussed race and inequality during RIT’s Presidential Colloquium on May 1. His lecture, “Towards a Unified Theory of Black America: The Racial Achievement Gap and What to do About It,” described economic reasoning intended to dispel misconceptions in the affirmative action debate. Fryer’s appearance coincided with RIT’s annual Expressions of Diversity Conference.*

# Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching honorees

## Lynn Fuller, Kate Gleason College of Engineering

Lynn Fuller was born around the time of the invention of the transistor in December 1947. Both have proven staying power.

For Fuller—the Motorola Professor of Microelectronic Engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering—his longevity translates into a more than four-decade affiliation with RIT, starting as an undergraduate in 1965 at the institute’s former downtown campus. The RIT Athletics Hall of Fame member has worked or studied under four university presidents.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from RIT, Fuller joined the RIT faculty in 1970 as an assistant professor and department chair of electromechanical technology. He later earned a master’s degree from RIT and a Ph.D. from SUNY at Buffalo, both in electrical engineering. His teaching began even earlier, though, as a co-op student in RIT engineering labs.

Fuller rose to assistant professor of electrical engineering and, following a one-year stint as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he helped launch RIT’s first-in-the nation program in microelectronics engineering in 1982. He served as director and department head until 2000.

Over the years, he has taught—and created—dozens of courses at all levels, from freshman through Ph.D. He takes special pride in continuing to instruct lab courses rather than delegating them to teaching assistants (a practice common at other universities).

Fuller says high-tech industries currently employ about a thousand former RIT micro-e students. He’s especially gratified by the success of three of them: current RIT engineering faculty members Karl Hirschman and Rob Pearson, associate professors of microelectronic engineering, and David Borkholder, assistant professor of electrical engineering.

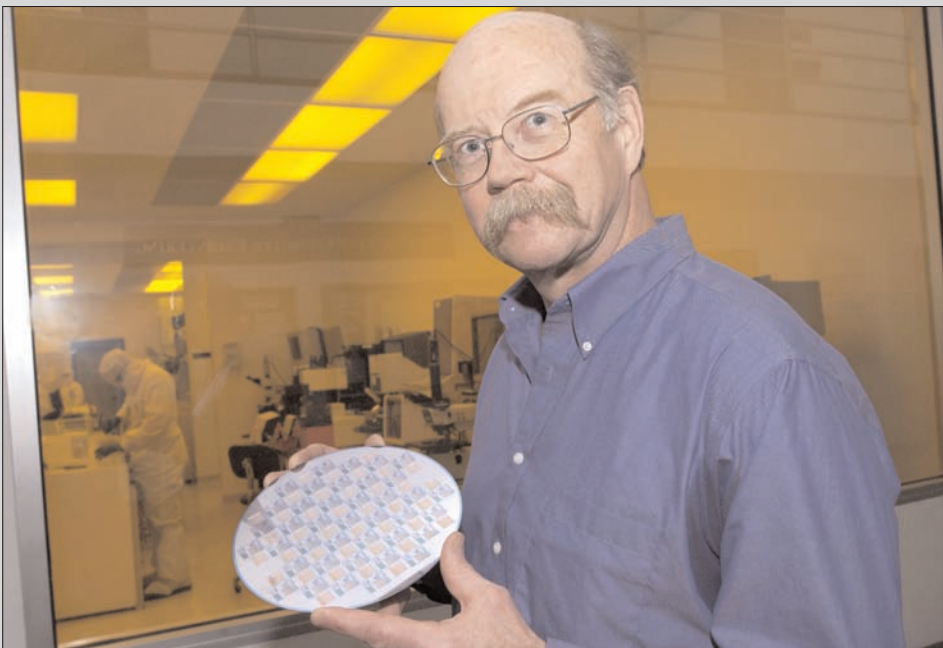
“They’re the best. RIT is fortunate to have them,” Fuller says of his former star pupils. **Doing what he always wanted to do inside the classroom . . .**

Fuller considers himself fortunate to be in a career doing what he long desired to do.

“I’ve always wanted to teach in the area of microelectronics and microchips,” he says. “In order to do what I wanted to do, from a teaching point of view, I had to create the micro-electronic engineering program, the lab, the building, the connections with industry, the graduate programs. All of that was part of my lifelong plan to teach in this area.”

And teaching comes naturally. “I knew it was the right career for me,” says Fuller, whose research focuses on biomedical microelectromechanical systems. “I like students who are interested and want to learn. I still make my students work hard, and they can still get a ‘C’ and like me. It’s not a popularity contest ever—it’s how much they learn that’s what counts.

“The students are why I’m here. Everything I do is for them. There are some really good students, and that’s what keeps me going.”



Fuller '70, '73: Father of RIT microelectronics engineering

A. Sue Weisler

### . . . and outside the classroom

A four-sport athlete as an undergraduate (in track and field, ice hockey, football and wrestling), Fuller was RIT’s first All-American in track and field in 1970. He captained his track and field and football teams and, in 1981, was inducted into the RIT Athletics Hall of Fame. He was named an RIT Distinguished Alumnus in 1990.

Today, Fuller regularly participates in triathlons and, as coach of the Canandaigua Master’s Swim Club, he and a group of about

40 regulars annually complete the 1 1/2-mile, 45-minute swim across Canandaigua Lake.

Staying active helps him look forward to adding more years to his 40-plus year affiliation with RIT (he plans to keep teaching for at least another decade). And the first-ever Eisenhart Award recipient from microelectronics engineering predicts there will be additional winners from micro-e in coming years.

“I hired them—so I know they’re all good,” he says. “More to come.” ■

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## Edith Hemaspaandra, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

The art of effective teaching usually involves a great deal more than just one’s performance inside the classroom. For Edith Hemaspaandra, a passion for research drives her to success in all aspects of her vocation.

Winning an Eisenhart Award helps to validate that approach.

“I do think it’s vindication that effective people can do research and teach, and they can do them both well,” says Hemaspaandra, an associate professor of computer science in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. “I think a lot of people are kind of afraid that the push by RIT to be more research focused will mean that people will become worse teachers, but I don’t think that has to be the case.”

Using her computing expertise, Hemaspaandra focuses her research on foundational systems and problems to better understand why they behave in certain ways. More recently she has examined the computational aspects of voting systems. Since there are no perfect systems, there are instances where the outcome of an election is manipu-

lated in some way. Preventing that is impossible, but the goal, she says, is to make it prohibitively costly.

“We look to see which of the things are difficult to do and which are easy to do,” she explains. “So maybe it’s always possible to manipulate an election, and you can not avoid that, but you can try to make it infeasible for people to do that.”

A native of Holland, Hemaspaandra came to the United States in 1992. After teaching assignments at the State University of New York at Buffalo and Le Moyne College, she joined the faculty at RIT in 1998. Since then, she’s witnessed a large increase in student enrollments and the size of the computing faculty, as well as the creation of the Golisano College in 2001. Most of the courses she is currently teaching can be described as “theoretical,” which can be challenging for new students.

“A large part of my time is spent convincing students that, if they do put in the time, they can actually do this and even like it.”

To promote student success, the computer science department set up a tutoring center

where students who need assistance can work with high-achieving students in a supportive environment. Hemaspaandra says it’s rewarding to watch the student tutors at work, particularly in regards to the rapport that develops between students during these sessions together. The tutoring sessions, she believes, are valuable in helping students master important concepts prior to the start of their careers.

“I think it’s particularly important for applied people and those who work in industry to have a solid theoretical background, and I think if I can teach them that, then that’s what really matters.”

In the years ahead, Hemaspaandra looks forward to serving as a student advisor to the Golisano College’s new Ph.D. program in computing, which kicks off this fall. She also hopes to build additional international research collaborations. That is, after all, the passion that’s driving her success.

“I like to classify things, and I like to classify many things, ideally an infinite number of things—whether it involves political science or something else. It’s all fun!” ■

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A. Sue Weisler

Hemaspaandra: Driven by her passion for research

## Paula Grcevic, National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Paula Grcevic—one of the few to win the coveted Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching twice—never wanted to be a teacher.

She had been quite content designing and airbrushing patterns on men’s ties, women’s clothing and other fabrics in Manhattan’s renowned Chelsea district after she earned her bachelor’s in fine arts (communication design and drawing) and her master’s in fine arts (printmaking and stained glass), both from Pratt Institute.

But it was a visit to Rochester and NTID, which, for the first time exposed her to deaf and hearing people studying, working and socializing together in a mainstream environment, that inspired her to teach.

“I was fascinated, and I wanted to learn more about the students’ educational backgrounds, deaf culture experiences and American Sign Language,” says Grcevic, who was born deaf in Youngstown, Ohio, but was strongly influenced by many of her childhood years learning alongside hearing foreign students in Europe. She was the only deaf student in her high school and college classes, and being “in a world of different cultures is where I felt I belonged.”

She began teaching in 1979, and today

Grcevic looks to nature to inspire both her award-winning art and her students.

Her artwork, which has won national awards and has been purchased by local and national galleries, is made from handmade paper using abacca, cotton pulp, pieces of silk, dried plants collected from her garden or found on nature walks and other assorted textural elements. Dye is added for a desired tonal color effect.

Grcevic provides unusual class activities as a catalyst to inspire and energize her students’ thinking. For example, Grcevic will bring in familiar and unfamiliar scented objects and blindfold her students so that they can smell the essence and express, in drawing, their experience or memory related to that scent.

“I foster a creative environment where critical thinking and communication can be enhanced,” she says. She encourages her students to draw with confidence, regardless of the level of their skills or feats. “As students develop their artwork, they learn the purpose of all projects by making connections with the assignments.”

The process moves them beyond the barriers of the English language, limited self-esteem and the frustrations of a heavy workload,



Grcevic: Moving students beyond barriers

A. Sue Weisler

Grcevic adds.

“Their creative expression pushes them beyond the critical judgment they experience from others and themselves, and as they grow from these artistic experiences, the process moves them beyond the barriers of their environment.”

When Grcevic is not teaching or creating,

she is a consultant for the Deaf Artists Web that she co-founded, and is also actively involved in the Rochester Deaf Film Festival as artistic design director and co-director. She will also serve as curator for the Fall 2006 Art Exhibition at the Dyer Arts Center. ■

Karen Black | kebnmr@rit.edu

# Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

## Neil Hair, College of Business

Neil Hair is probably one of the most colorful professors on the RIT campus, although he wears “black and nothing but black—particularly when teaching.”

“What I wear makes a statement about who I am, and I’m remembered for it,” explains the assistant professor of marketing in the College of Business.

Hair says it’s the result of what he calls “personal branding”—just part of his research, which also looks into how and why people form bonds and relationships in electronic communities, measures of brand equity and students’ positive learning experiences.

“Students need to learn how to market themselves,” Hair says. “I tell them they must develop a consistent image where they can be instantly recognized both physically and virtually because this is one of the most important ways to differentiate themselves from their competitors.”

It certainly works for Hair, who for some time now has been “Hair apparent” to receive one of RIT’s teaching awards. He was nominated (but ineligible because he was a visiting professor) six times, from 1999 to 2005. “I received nominations even after leaving RIT to return home to the United Kingdom to earn my doctorate degree in management from Cranfield University. That was very special to me, showed I hadn’t been forgotten.”

Hair says: “I burst into tears when I opened the letter from the provost congratulating me on winning the award. I was over the moon, bloody delighted. It’s a huge compliment.”

Hair immediately called his fiancée, Rose

Talbot, in the UK, where they will be married on June 6. “She was screaming over the phone because she knows how passionate I am about my teaching career,” he recalls.

“Ever since I was very young, I was convinced I was put on this Earth to teach,” Hair says. “Although most academic environments place a heavy emphasis on research and publication, my heart belongs firmly in the classroom and I hope this enthusiasm comes across to my students at RIT.”

Hair literally has the world spread out in his office and students enjoy stopping in to take a look while getting feedback about their pro-bono consultancy work with local companies or help with their research papers.

On one wall is a map littered with thumb-tacks indicating places Hair has explored—from the Canary Islands, Cairo and Slovenia (ex-Yugoslavia), to Venice, Berlin and Prague. Draping another wall is the United States flag he received as a parting gift in 2001—filled with signatures and messages from RIT students and faculty. Across the room is an around-the-world assortment of empty, natural spring water bottles he has collected to support his Principles of Marketing class.

And near his computer is a very special trophy where Rose has attached a cryptic note—“Idle.”

“I won this year’s COB *American Idol* contest and I can’t sing,” says Hair with a laugh. “Imagine someone from Britain singing *New York, New York* with bright orange shoes.”

Hair certainly has a keen sense of humor. On his Web site, neilhair.com, he offers “The



Hair: ‘Colorful’ prof believes in self-branding

A. Sue Weisler

Musings of a Professor of Marketing.” Not only does he have photos of himself and Rose, a streaming video called “My Girl,” where he tries to get his cat Spooky (black in color, of course!) to say hello, but also descriptive commentary linked to latest technological trends or topics in the news, details of his academic research and streaming lectures for students.

On a personal note, he offers a number of “useless facts” including “I hold a professional bartender’s certificate for the state of New York, have met the Queen’s husband, have been slapped by a French teacher for being insubordinate, pulled a man from a wrecked

car, introduced Sir Winston Churchill (in person) to three Americans, and placed a union jack on the dearly departed woolly mammoth in the COB, which stayed there for three whole months after I left in 2001.”

But number 37 is probably one of Hair’s more significant musings: “(I) get a kick out of seeing a student move from a D to an A in less than three weeks.”

“The greatest pleasure,” Hair says, “is to see a struggling student come back and perform. Knowing I’ve made a difference makes me want to celebrate, a little Bombay Sapphire and tonic with lime, at home of course.” ■

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## Trustees Scholarship and Provost's winners

This year’s recipients of the Trustees Scholarship Awards are a testament to the fact that solid classroom instruction can be combined with a strong interest and success in the research field. The awardees are: **Satish Kandlikar**,



Satish Kandlikar

Gleason Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Kandlikar joined RIT in 1980 and has made his mark on the institute since then. His fields of expertise include flow boiling heat transfer, critical heat flux, coiling of electronic components and microchannels and minichannels, among others.

He established the Thermal Analysis and Microfluidic Laboratory at RIT, has published 48 peer-reviewed journal articles and 94 conference papers, and chaired three international conferences co-hosted by RIT.

**Harry Lang**, professor of research and teacher education, National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Lang joined RIT in 1970, and currently conducts research in science education and learning theory. He has created and disseminated scholarly work through six books and four monographs, and he has given 30 keynote or plenary addresses and 63 professional presentations delivered both nationally and internationally.



Harry Lang

Additionally, he has received several National Science Foundation grants including Classroom of the Sea, Access to English and Science Outreach Project and the Clearinghouse on Mathematics, Engineering, Technology

and Sciences.

**Ryne Raffaele**, professor of microsystems engineering and physics and director of NanoPower Research Labs in the College of Science, joined RIT in 1999. He has research expertise in the areas of photovoltaics, solar cells, nanotechnology and quantum dots.



Ryne Raffaele

He has received more than \$6 million in grants over the past four years and has written more than 100 journal articles, conference proceedings and books. In addition, he has delivered numerous plenary addresses at national conferences and keynote addresses.

The 2006-2007 Provost’s Learning and Innovations Grant Program awards encourages faculty-initiated projects that directly target learning outcomes and student success. The committee, whose membership includes a representative from each college, reviewed 45 initial proposals before finalizing the award winners.

Award recipients are: **Richard Doolittle**, medical science; **Paul Craig**, chemistry; **Andrew Phelps**, information technology; **Irene Evans** and **Jessa Jones**, biological science; **Chance Glenn**, telecommunications engineering technology; **Vinnie Gupta** and **P. Venkataraman**, mechanical engineering; **Anthony Harkin**, **Carl Lutzer** and **Tamas Wiandt**, mathematics and statistics; **Bruce Hartpence**, networking, security, and systems administration; **James Heliotis** and **Rajendra Raj**, computer science; **Uli Linke** and **Danielle Smith**, sociology and anthropology; **Marla Schweppe**, design; **Paul Stiebitz**, industrial and systems engineering; and **Amos Scully** and **Roberly Bell**, foundations. To view proposals, visit [www.rit.edu/~613www/grant/awards.html](http://www.rit.edu/~613www/grant/awards.html). ■

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## Scientist aims to protect forest

For environmental scientist John Waud, a lot depends on the southeastern most part of Mexico along the border of Guatemala where a cloud forest and a mangrove swamp hang disconnected in delicate balance.

Waud, professor and director of environmental science in RIT’s College of Science, has made frequent visits to Chiapas, Mexico, since 2000, spending last year there on sabbatical with his wife, Dorris. He first became involved with environmental and societal issues in Chiapas when, as chair of the board of trustees of The Nature Conservancy of Central and Western New York, he worked with other trustees to expand the organization’s efforts. The group selected Chiapas after contacting counterparts at the Mexican chapter of the low-profile conservancy and reading their strategic plan.

Among the top priorities identified in the report were development of a water quality monitoring system, using data from bird banding to determine the function of the riparian zone and continuing efforts toward crocodile and jaguar conservation.

The overarching goal of the individual projects is to re-establish the riparian forest connecting the cloud forest at 7,000 feet in the Sierra Madras de Chiapas coastal mountain range and the mangrove swamp estuary system, La Encrucijada. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated the two areas, comprising 14 rivers and 2 million acres, as biosphere reserves and critical ecosystems.

The riparian zone—the area immediately adjacent to a river or stream—once fully forested from the mountains to the Pacific Ocean, was clear cut years ago, making the coastal area vulnerable to flooding and erosion, and pushing the jaguar, and other animals, into isolated pockets.

The Mexican government has scaled back funding for both the crocodile and jaguar programs, forcing Waud and Mexican conservation biologist Omar Gordillo to concen-



Dorris Waud

*Environmental science professor John Waud, right, and colleague Omar Gordilla band a large oriole in Chiapas, Mexico, as part of a larger effort to monitor the forest and restore the watershed.*

trate their efforts on water quality monitoring and bird banding.

So far, the conservationists have collected three seasons of samples from the Coapa watershed, one of 14 rivers in the estuary system. Biological and chemical measurements taken from the water provide snapshots of the river’s health. Likewise, analysis of small insects that live in the water will provide a bigger picture of the water quality. The conservationists will teach the Chiapas community how to use this information to monitor their watershed.

The bird-banding project also measures the region’s sustainability by documenting the presence of species that use the riparian forest.

Waud and Gordillo have identified four species that weren’t supposed to be there, birds that Waud says were “well out of the range currently found in reference texts.”

Waud and Gordillo record the birds’ measurements, age and sex, and establish the presence of a functioning riparian zone by documenting the species’ richness, index of biodiversity and the way birds use every aspect of the riparian zone from air and water to soil, bushes and trees, to eating insects, nectar and fish. All that taken

together mirrors the health and viability of the ecosystem and is a useful way to monitor the biosphere reserve.

Last October, Hurricane Stan flooded the coastal community of Chaipas with 10 feet of water, sweeping away highways and some of Waud’s research, but claiming few lives. Waud expects to return to Chiapas several times this year to re-establish the water quality and bird-banding projects.

“Chiapas is in my heart and my wife’s heart,” Waud says. “Being part of a different culture for a year was life changing. We count many people as friends who live in the coastal area. They brought us fruit to eat and invited us to their houses for dinner even though they had very little.”

Multiple funding sources have made possible Waud’s work in Chiapas. RIT supported his sabbatical and provided materials. The Nature Conservancy and Mexican government funded both the water quality and banding projects. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory in Rochester provided technical support long distance and Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California provided a grant for work to continue this year. ■

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News briefs

**Stroll through SPAS**  
The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences presents Walkthrough, an exhibition of photographs, installations and videos created by first-year graduate students. The artists will be showcasing their work during a daylong venue 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on May 23, in the fourth floor studios of the Frank E. Gannett Building. Walkthrough is open to the public. Call 475-2616 for information.

**SOFA Honors Show May 28**  
Feast on some buttered popcorn and a box of milk duds at Rochester’s Little Theatre while enjoying a “visual feast” of the best RIT graduate and undergraduate student films. The annual School of Film and Animation Honors Show will be held 1-3 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. May 28.  
The Honors Show offers productions ranging from short fiction and documentaries to experimental and computer animation in black-and-white and color. The 20 or so pieces represent the best work from the past academic year.  
The public is invited to attend the show. Admission is \$5. Students with identification will be admitted for free.

**Art exhibit at SPAS Gallery**  
A rite of spring, the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences “Student Honor Exhibition” is the culmination of an academic year at RIT. The 2005-2006 honors show runs through Aug. 25 at SPAS Gallery, third floor, Frank E. Gannett Building.  
SPAS faculty evaluated submissions for originality, creativity, skill and aesthetic significance. Student work of the highest caliber receives special honors and purchase awards, provided by the School and RIT Wallace Library, and is featured in SPAS events at Photo Plus East in New York City and Photo Marketing Association shows in Orlando, Fla.  
The SPAS Gallery is open to the public 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 475-2616.



Michelle Clark of Alfred University presents her research on CBS News’ coverage of the Tet Offensive at the third annual Conference for Undergraduate Research, April 19, hosted by RIT’s Department of Communication. Nearly 45 student presenters from 10 colleges throughout New York shared their research on topics ranging from freedom of speech to video games. Despite being in just its third year, the conference has become one of the largest undergraduate communication conferences in the Northeast United States.

# Formula team hits the racing circuit

For members of RIT’s Formula racing team, all-nighters are the norm rather than the exception each spring as they prepare for upcoming competitions.  
“We’ll be ready,” promises project manager Anthony Capobianco, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major, acknowledging recent sleepless nights. Only a few weeks before the first race of the season, the white board behind him in the Formula team office was crammed with a daunting list of reminders. Not far away was the metal frame of this year’s model—the skeletal beginnings of a future racecar.  
Outside, the Formula team machine shop was bustling with activity as teammates readied for the first competition of the year—culminating this weekend as RIT competes among 140 teams in the Formula SAE, through May 20, at the Ford Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich.  
The team benefited this year from a new diagnostic tool developed by a group of engineering majors. Fernando Fiore, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major and one of the team’s drivers, led six students in the design of an engine dynamometer test stand used to examine and tune the racer’s engine. Created as a senior design project, the device will also be used in mechanical engineering labs.  
“This is a very important project for the future of the Formula SAE team and the mechanical engineering department’s laboratory facilities, especially considering the growing automotive option,” says Fiore, the team’s chief engineer. The project was supported by Siemens Automation, which donated a custom German-built motor, valued at more than \$25,000.  
“We are very thankful for Siemens generous contribution,” says Matthew Mudge, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major, who arranged the gift. “To show our appreciation, this year the Siemens logo is proudly displayed on the racecar.”  
Also new this year: For a change, graduating seniors on the team will be able to attend their own graduation. In years past, the date of the annual competition often coincided with RIT commencement ceremonies.  
Fiore is one of two team members graduating this year.  
“I’m definitely glad to be here for it and be part of that experience,” he says.  
But the change means students will face final exams immediately upon their return from Michigan. So, when



Members of RIT’s Formula racing team work on this year’s newly designed racecar on May 3 in preparation for their first competition, the Formula SAE, this week in Romeo, Mich.

they’re not on the racetrack, the 20 students making the trip will be studying for finals, Capobianco says.  
Later this spring, the team competes in the inaugural Formula SAE West, June 14-17, at California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. Even though the racecar goes from zero to 60 miles per hour in 3.8 seconds and can reach a top speed of 80 mph, it won’t be driven to the Golden State. Instead, Store to Door, a Rochester-based mobile self-storage company, and Speed Transportation, have agreed to ship it.  
“It’s a small way for us to repay the continued confidence both the school and the students—who trust us to store their stuff over the summer—show us every year,” says Rick Taylor, general manager of Store to Door.  
And it sure beats pulling an all-nighter behind the wheel. ■  
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## Fulbright winner to study in Croatia

Environmental issues in the United States have always been part of professor Karl Korfmacher’s life and education, but now he’s taking that interest abroad.  
He was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to further pursue his environmental interests at RIT’s ‘sister school,’ American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia.  
“ACMT is in the process of starting an environmental science program similar to the RIT environmental science program, so I will be helping with that initiative,” says Korfmacher. “I will also be teaching courses, in geographic information systems and an introductory environmental science course that ties in with existing courses offered at ACMT. Additionally, I will be helping students start coastal research projects and doing research of my own, mapping aquatic habitats and looking at the spread of Caulerpa taxifolia, an extremely invasive seaweed.”  
“Since coming to RIT, I’ve been able to blend my teaching and research interests within a problem solving format, which allows our students to work on real problems with advanced technology and analysis,” says Korfmacher about the RIT learning environment, which he hopes to incorporate at ACMT. “I believe this approach better prepares students for the complexity of helping to solve environmental issues.”  
He attributes this approach to learning as one of the main reasons why he was granted the Fulbright award.  
The time spent in Croatia, says Korfmacher, will not only be an opportunity to learn firsthand about Croatian students’ views on environmental issues, given their culture and history, but also an opportunity to promote student exchanges between RIT and ACMT. ■  
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Karl Korfmacher

**Not just a day at the beach**  
RIT’s concrete canoe, center, paddled by Jennifer Hill, front, and Jasmine Vasquez, civil engineering technology majors, pulls ahead of the University of Buffalo, foreground, and Clarkson University in a women’s race during the Upstate New York Regional Concrete Canoe Competition hosted by RIT on April 29 in Mendon Ponds Park. RIT earned first place in the men’s, women’s and co-ed sprint events and third place in the men’s endurance contest. Clarkson University captured first place overall to advance to the national competition next month. In a companion event, also hosted by RIT, SUNY Canton took first place in a regional steel-bridge design contest. More than 200 students from a dozen colleges in New York state and Canada participated in the two competitions.

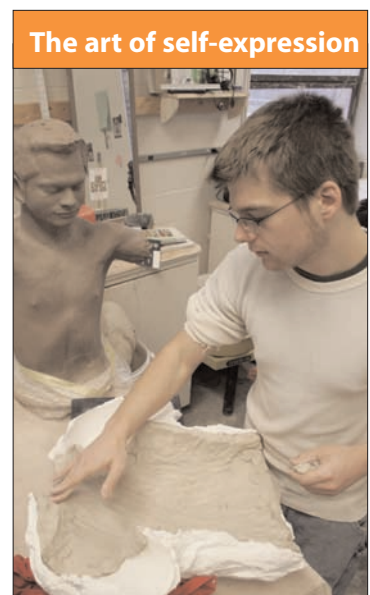


Greg Francis

**Federal grants encourage math, science study**  
U.S. Rep. Thomas Reynolds visited RIT May 6 to promote new federal grants that he said will bolster American competitiveness in math and science. The grants were created as part of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005, and will reward Pell Grant-eligible college students who major in mathematics, science, technology, engineering and critical foreign languages. James Miller, right, senior vice president for enrollment management and career services, said the legislation is significant and that nearly 900 current RIT students would qualify for the grants. Additional information about the new programs can be found at [www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/ac-smart.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/ac-smart.html).



Meredith Cobb, first-year fine arts studio major, designed “crowd waders” for the annual show, 3D Extravaganza. This year’s theme, Safe: Design over Fear, was modeled after a recent exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. Students were required to design and construct a wearable or portable costume addressing a personal fear. Cobb, who has a fear of crowds, used oak, steel, PVC pipe, dowels, springs and fabric to create her towering design. More than 150 students in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences participated in the sixth annual event.



Andrew Boswell, third-year ceramics student in the School for American Crafts, creates a self-portrait. Boswell’s work will be among hundreds of one-of-a-kind pieces on display at the school’s annual “Walkthrough” open house from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, May 22, in the James E. Booth Building. The one-day event showcases undergraduate and graduate work in all four programs. There will also be demonstrations in the school’s metals, wood, ceramics and glass studios. Anyone is welcome to view the pieces and tour the school.

# The RIT experience: A Journey in self-discovery

by Adam Peck

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. We hope “Viewpoints” inspires discussion among the RIT community. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail [newsevents@rit.edu](mailto:newsevents@rit.edu).

## Viewpoints

Five kids burst into the room with uncontrollable energy—running in circles, performing their favorite rap songs and stealing each other’s shoes. Immediately, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I nervously took a seat at a computer next to one of the youngsters. After introducing myself to Tyrell, I began to explain the project at hand.

As part of Community Darkroom, our group of RIT student volunteers hoped to teach students from James Madison Middle School how to publish their very own book. After a few

simple instructions, Tyrell started scanning photographs and transforming his writing into typographical art.

Over the next several weeks, I worked with a number of students and watched in amazement as each child’s uncontrollable energy transformed into impressive creativity. After a great deal of collaboration and hard work, a bound book replaced the simple photocopied handout they compiled the previous year. The smiles of these proud middle school students proved that our Community Darkroom project was

a success.

Just a few months earlier, I joined the RIT community as a first-year student. Despite not being much of a rapper or into swiping shoes, I did find myself running in circles as I unpacked my bags with the enthusiasm of the James Madison students. By the second week of classes, I was introduced to the School of Print Media student group, named PUB. Expecting merely some free pizza and general information, I walked into the first club meeting and discovered a chance to get involved with some impressive publishing projects. The upperclassmen in the group had an intimidating wealth of knowledge, but I soon started learning from them as I joined in on projects, committees and events.

My involvement with PUB activities, like working at Community Darkroom, led to a leadership position as Student Government representative for PUB. I ate even more free pizza at monthly SG meetings, completed quarterly reports and worked with other executive board members to develop a club budget.

One year later, I became a candidate for PUB president. The results brought back feelings of apprehension I remembered from that first

day of teaching at Community Darkroom—I won! Again, I wondered what I’d gotten myself into.

As PUB president, I became accountable for the group’s successes and failures. Organizing meetings, overseeing projects, scheduling speakers and managing industry relationships did not leave much time to volunteer with Community Darkroom. Instead, I spent my time trying to motivate overworked students during the grayest days of the Rochester winter.

A few perks accompanied my role as president, from half-priced coffee to polo shirts and travel mugs. But these perks proved trivial when compared to the opportunities that came my way. I met dozens of new people, both in the RIT community and the printing and publishing industry. These relationships developed into friendships and important networking affiliations. PUB alumni contacted me about employment possibilities, and my peers began to see me as a leader and looked to me for advice.



Serving as PUB president brought some challenges as well, such as unproductive meetings, disagreements among members and missed project deadlines. But I learned from each experience. I learned the importance of strong communication skills and dedicated leadership. I learned from the knowledge of my peers, the experience of industry professionals, and the enthusiasm of James Madison students.

Four years after stumbling into my first PUB meeting, I’ll soon be attending my last. Of all the lessons learned at RIT, I can thank PUB for teaching me how to combine youthful energy with professional discipline to overcome challenges and produce my best work.

Adam Peck is a graduating graphic media student from Helena, Mont.



A. Sue Weisler

Adam Peck working with students at Community Darkroom in 2003

## Book documents 2,730-mile run

The RIT cross-country team had a mission: run a 2,730-mile continuous relay from the Pacific Ocean to the coast of the Atlantic in less than two weeks. Mission accomplished in 12 days, 3 hours and 48 minutes.

The team’s amazing feat is now documented in a new book: *Coast to Coast: The Story of the 2004 Transcontinental Relay Run*. Ryan Pancoast, a 2005 illustration graduate is the book’s author. His 17 teammates also contributed passages to the book. The book details how the athletes survived on energy bars, went days without showers, avoided encounters with the police and made quite a few wrong turns, all the while keeping the baton moving and learning to band together as a team through the darkest hours of the grueling run.

“The team knew it was essential to put the events of the run onto paper before our memories faded,” says Pancoast, of Stratford, Conn. “I was elected to head the project, but soon after I began compiling the runners’ stories, collecting photographs and writing a day-by-day account, I realized that creating a book like this was, at times, more daunting than running across the country. However, with input from the entire team, I



think *Coast to Coast* has become an entertaining and inspiring read for runners and non-runners alike.”

The book is available for \$14.94 (soft cover) or \$25.42 (hardcover) at the following:

- www.lulu.com/coasttocoast
- www.lulu.com/OpenbookRIT
- RIT’s Campus Connections bookstore, <http://bookstore.rit.edu>.

Jim Castor, assistant sports editor of the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, and Marianne Buehler, head of publishing and scholarship support services at RIT’s Wallace

Library, served as editors for the *Coast to Coast* project.

The continuous relay began in November 2004 on a beach near San Diego. Each runner—a member of the RIT men’s and women’s cross country team—completed a two-mile interval, then rested for approximately 3.5 hours before joining the relay again. The cross-country trek continued through 13 states and all four time zones.

The run helped commemorate RIT’s 175th anniversary and paid tribute to a 1979 coast-to-coast run that celebrated the university’s 150th anniversary. The 1979 team completed its run in 14 days, 4 hours, and 8 minutes, which at the time was listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

“I am very excited for Ryan that he is publishing his first book,” says RIT President Albert Simone. “The coast-to-coast run was an extension of the RIT experience for these runners. RIT students pride themselves on stretching beyond the classroom. For 12 incredible days, the great expanse of the United States served as the team’s classroom. The run and now the book are both tremendous accomplishments.” ■

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A. Sue Weisler

Ben Savory, owner of Savory Blends and an entrepreneurship student in the College of Business, shows off his juice bar in the Student Life Center.

## Savvy student takes the helm of Savory Blends

Whether you’re searching for a protein-packed shake to aide in recovery after a tough workout, or just in the mood for a healthy, refreshing treat and a nice place to relax, look no further than Savory Blends, located in RIT’s Student Life Center.

The student owned and operated juice bar and lounge began as an offshoot of a business plan by Ben Savory, an entrepreneurship student in the College of Business. In addition to Savory Blends, he looks to open a Cold Stone Creamery ice cream shop in RIT’s proposed College Town development. Savory also owns residential property and real estate, all under the company name Savory-Turner Inc.

Though it has only been open a short period of time, Savory Blends presence on campus is already growing, but Savory feels that the student-run store can make an even greater impact by increasing student involvement. “I want to work with the resources we have on campus to get more students directly involved, whether it’s allowing business stu-

dents to use Savory Blends for future business plans, having engineers design a mobile kiosk or displaying the work of fine arts students,” says Savory. “I want students to have a place where they can interact, somewhere they can be proud of.”

While he looks to increase the number of Savory Blends venues on RIT’s campus, Savory also hopes that his current store will act as a steppingstone for the future, allowing students at other local-area colleges to open and run Savory Blends stores on their campuses. “I believe that the stores have a very good market potential because they would be student owned and operated—the prices are very reasonable too.”

Reflecting back on the learning experiences associated with starting a business, Savory attributes his in the ‘real world’ to his in-class experiences. “The business classes that I’ve taken truly helped to establish a business sense,” says Savory. “They were all very relevant and made it much easier to begin from the ground up.” ■

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### Volunteers ‘paint on’ light at art gallery



The Memorial Art Gallery was the subject of RIT’s 22nd “Big Shot” photo project. Led by professors from RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences and NTID, close to 800 volunteers armed with flashlights, helped make this nighttime photograph on May 1. Volunteers were strategically placed around the gallery grounds to illuminate aspects of the edifice while RIT photographers took an extended exposure.

Fuji presents annual scholarships

Brandon Remler, left, sales manager for Fuji Photo Film U.S.A. Inc., views the winning portfolios from this year's Fuji Scholarships Competition. Nicholas Duers, center, and Katie Koch were each awarded \$1,000. Both students are third-year advertising majors in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Judging for the scholarships is based on visual quality, craft, presentation and creativity.

Outstanding communication scholars

Nine students from the Department of Communication recently were inducted into Xi Upsilon, RIT's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association. Pictured, from left, are Jennifer Scheffler, Chui Sze Li (Ronnie), Steve Ong, faculty advisor Susan Barnes, Katherine Robert and Jessica Drake. Currently, there are 27 members of Lambda Pi Eta.

Student researchers are in focus

Four RIT undergraduate researchers were featured on the cover of the March edition of Focus, the newsletter of the Mathematical Association of America. Shown from left are Rachell Ashley, Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue, Carol Callesano and Frances Cabrera, who won a coveted MAA poster prize at the Undergraduate Poster Session held during the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Texas, in January. The students participated in an MAA National Research Experience for Undergraduates Program at RIT last summer under the guidance of professor Darren Narayan.

Kearse awards recognize student scholarship

The College of Liberal Arts' annual Kearse Student Honors Awards recognize students from across the university for their excellence in liberal arts coursework. The winning scholars are shown here at the award ceremony in April with Dean Andrew Moore. This year's recipients are Morgan Bida, Michael Bovard, Sarah Coppola, Lauren Ford, Luiz Freitas, Kara Howard, Sarah Kay, Anastasia Margolina, Adam Merah, Patrick Meyer, Stephanie Neill, Rebecca Nicodemus, Caitlin O'Donnell, Rachel Pikus, Katherine Robert, Jason Rogers, Nicholas Snodgrass and Polixeni Theodorou.

McGowan honors

The College of Business has named Inga Grote as the 2006 winner of the prestigious McGowan Scholarship. Grote, a third-year international business student, will receive a full scholarship for the 2006-2007 academic year, made possible by a grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. Grote has received other notable achievements—the Blacktecky Memorial Endowed Scholarship, International Student Merit Scholarship and the Outstanding International Student Service Award presented by RIT's Student Government for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Celebrating our international student scholars

This year, 41 students from countries around the world were honored by RIT's International Student Scholarship program. The scholars are Aisosa Ayela-Uiwangue, Tiago Tosda dos Santos, Chia-Ching Chiang, Bhavesh Shah, Terry Ching, Linh Trinh, Neha Chopra, Ankur Vaid, Queen E Ekoh, Priyanka Gandhi, Jorge Y Daccarett Garcia, Kapil Grover, Kevin Ho, Divakar R Khanna, Yaniv Koter, Benny Kurniawan, Kyeongseo Hwang, Kiran Lad, Elizabeta Liubkina, Yi Lu, Nitin Malhotra, Marcos V Mota, Jimmy B. Patel, Dhammika Pathirana, Shawn Persaud, Mauricio Pommier, Marco Romero-Lay, Hans-Christian Rotmann, Mansi Sanap, Rohan Dang, Francis G Lugemwa, Dennis D Deveau, Pooja Nanda, Pari Dukovic, Sreenivas Patil, Rekha Kapania, Arjun Sachdeva, Hee Jung Lee, Swapan Shah, Aparna Uday Limaye and Rashmi Shah.

# Alpha Sigma Lambda honors RIT students and mentors

Academic achievement is the most frequent indicator of student success, but Jennifer Richter realized early on that her ability to achieve greatness extended beyond the classroom.

Prior to enrolling in RIT's College of Business, Richter took part in an open house that included students from the Lowenthal Group, COB's service and leadership organization. "I was very impressed by their knowledge and the way they provided prospective students, like me, some real insights as to what college is all about," she says.

So shortly after arriving at RIT, Richter joined Lowenthal, which eventually led to opportunities as the club's co-leader and treasurer. That

experience is one reason why she joins a select group of graduating RIT students inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda. Each year, since 1964, the society recognizes students who excel in scholarship, participate in activities and practice responsible leadership.

"These students epitomize what college life should be all about," states Dawn Soufleris, assistant vice president of student affairs and chair of the ASL committee. "Each one has a gift of intellect, leadership, balance, integrity and values." A special part of the ASL program, new inductees salute a mentor who has been particularly influential in the student's RIT success. For Richter, that person is

Marty Burris, director of family giving in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations and a former Lowenthal Group advisor.

"Everyone loved Marty and looked up to her for advice and encouragement," explains Richter. "She has always been someone I've admired and is by far one of the nicest people I've ever met."

"Being named as a mentor is the 'gold star' of being here at RIT for the success of our students," says Burris, "and I am proud to have been chosen by Jen."

Mentors were formally acknowledged on April 26 during an awards dinner at Liberty Hill. ■

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This year's inductees to Alpha Sigma Lambda include Joel Azariah, Erica Binotto, Lindsey Brady, Jessica Campbell, Bethany Choate, Dean Ganskop, Kathleen Geibel, Erhardt Graeff, Cory Hoffman, Timothy Johnson, James Macchiano, Adam Mattina, Adam Peck, Jody Podpora, Daniela Ribinski, Jennifer Richter, Julie Romans, Greg Smith and Melissa Zacek.

# Student Government presents annual awards

RIT’s Student Government presented its end-of-the-year awards at the eighth annual awards banquet in April. The awards recognize both students and student organizations for their individual achievements and contributions to the RIT community. They included:

- Best of Clubs Showcase—Asian Culture Society
- RHA Member of the Year—John Connelly
- OCASA Director of the Year—Nidhi Verma
- NSC Dr. Frisina’s Past President Award—Elizabeth Sorkin
- SG Outstanding Club Advisor—Maureen Valentine
- Outstanding Greek Advisor—Bob Craig
- SG Extra Mile Award—Jim Watters and RIT Finance and Administration
- Global Union Club of the Year—Organization of Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent
- Outstanding International Student—Inga Grote, Pooja Nanda, Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue
- BACC Organization/Club of the Year—Emerging Black Artists
- BAAC Faculty/Staff of the Year—Susan Fuentes
- Greek Council Outstanding Man—Mario Cisneros
- Greek Council Outstanding Woman—Abenaa Addei
- PERDA Outstanding Student Award—Blair Brown
- Isaac L. Jordan Scholarship for Diversity—Allison Crane, Christine Marie Ong



- The Cheryl Bulls, Lanette Moore and Susan Willoughby Memorial Scholarship—Faviana Campbell
  - Frederick Douglass Scholarship—Eric Bellandi, Evelyn Adams, Torry Butler, Courtnee Hill, Crisson Jno-Charles, Adonis Lockett
- Kathleen Keyes Memorial Scholarship—Elizabeth Sorkin
- SG Senator of the Year—Lori Duprey
- SG Member of the Year—Kate Dyson
- President’s Award—Howard Ward
- President’s Cup for Outstanding Greek Chapter—Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity Inc.
- SG Community Service Club—Habitat for Humanity
- SG Programming Club—Formula SAE
- Eric Scott Senna Spirit Award—James Macchiano ■

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## Davis Scholars



Erick Littleford

The annual Davis Scholarship Awards luncheon gives special recognition to student leaders who significantly contribute to campus life. The Davis Scholarship was established in 1977 by a generous gift of \$150,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Brackett H. Clark. Clark was a Rochester businessman and served as an RIT trustee from 1933 until his death in 1987. Mrs. Ruth Clark shared her husband’s interest in RIT and was one of the founders and first president of the RIT Women’s Council.

During his years as RIT vice president in the 1960s and 1970s, Alfred Davis played a key role by helping to raise the funds to build RIT’s new Henrietta campus. In recognition of RIT’s historical roots and to demonstrate appreciation to RIT friends, Davis was instrumental in founding the Nathaniel Rochester Society in 1967. To recognize his service and commitment to NRS,

in 1988, Davis was presented the Nathaniel Rochester Society Award. He is also a charter member of RIT’s Mark and Marcia Ellingson Society, which was formed to recognize individuals who have made a planned gift to RIT.

In 1977, RIT board member Brackett Clark and his wife, Ruth, established the Alfred L. and Ruby C. Davis endowed scholarship.

“This scholarship in honor of student leaders assists us from the worry of a paid position,” says Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue, a fourth-year electrical engineering student. “I know that when I graduate, I would like to contribute in this same manner to further assist in the development of student leaders here at RIT.”

Shown above are: front row, from left to right: Alfred Davis, Mary Birx, Mary Lu Clark and Betsy Clark; second row, from left to right, Nancy Burke, Hye Yon yi, Jessica Gmeinder; third row, Amethyst Rule, Jaclyn Russo, Amy Jerrett, Naqi Haider; fourth row, Blair Brown, Rashmi Shah, Mehlam Kalverts, Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue; back row, Erhardt Graeff, Jonathan Romanowski and Seth Terkhorn. Not pictured: Amy Hopkins, Katie Koch, Heidi Schille, Lizzie Sorkin.

## Honoring outstanding writers



The institute writing committee recognized the winners of this year’s Student Writing Contest at a luncheon last month. In the front row are Bruce Bufford and Lisa Hermesen, director of the institute writing committee. Shown from left to right in the back row are Patrick Dobson, Erin Snyder, Andrew Moore, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Katie Duane and Sandra McCormack. Snyder and Duane were the grand prize winners.

A. Sue Weisler

# Online Learning excellence saluted

Online Learning and RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie celebrated winners of the 2006 Online Learning Awards on April 27. Recipients were Linda Tolan, associate dean, College of Applied Science and Technology, who was awarded the Exemplary Teaching Award for Distance Learning; Peter Hauser, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Psychology, who was given the Exemplary myCourses Teaching Award; and Katherine Clark (M.S. print media), who received the Distance Learning Student Scholarship Award.

“This is the sixth year we have sponsored the Online Learning Awards,” says Joeann Humbert, director of Online Learning. “It’s a great opportunity to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of faculty using technology in unique ways in their teaching.”

According to Humbert, Online Learning’s educational objective at RIT is to “broaden our services from distance courses to support faculty using technology in campus courses,” she explains.

“We hope this event will create awareness for those talented faculty and motivate others to take advantage of our services.” ■

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## The best of RIT’s undergraduate students



A. Sue Weisler



A. Sue Weisler

RIT honored students as Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars in a ceremony and reception held in April. Joined by RIT Provost Stanley Mckenzie, the scholars are Julie Adameck, Christopher Adams, Elizabeth Angell, Lisa Aronson, Joel Azariah, Raina Bahns, Heather Benton, Marigold Bethany, Julia Bethel, Boris Bodrozic, Amar Boghani, Heather Brazeau, Eric Brelsford, Amy Breunissen, Aaron Brown, Jessica-Lee Campbell, Sean Carmody, Matthew Chaudhuri, Patricia Chin, Myung Choi, Michele Cicero, Paola Crevatini, Nate Deering, James Demetri, James Durkin, Jason Enslin, Anthony Esposito, Jr., James Farrelly, Christopher Fisher, Dean Ganskop, Andrew Gianfagna, Jodi Goldenberg, Erhardt Graeff, Zeljka Hadija (the first recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars award from the American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to be present at the ceremony), Shannon Haringx, Andrea Hartford, David Hawkey, Russell Hayes, Christopher Henry, Michael Herb, Kara Howard, Nathaniel Hubbell, Caitlin Jones, Sarah Kay, Julie Kramer, Ryan Larcom, Rebecca Lebowitz, Brittney Lee, Lucijana Lucic, Justin Madigan, John McIntyre, Kate McQuail, Kimberly Miner, Marcos Mota, Raymond Mulato, Nikhil Nampalli, Tran Nguyen, Richard Nichols, Elaine Owens, Miklos Pataky, Adam Peck, Aaron Pfeifer, Rachel Porter, Mallika Ramaswamy, Katherine Recard, Gabrijela Rendulic, Daniela Ribinski, William Robinson, Devin Rosenbauer, Kevin Sawicki, Russell Scott, Andrew Siegel, Brian Sipos, Gregory Smith, Pamella Stomel, Andrew Streett, Tina Sviric, Rebecca Szatkowski, Michael Tresidder, Christopher Urban, Samir Vitlic, Ryan Walvoord, Erin Wells, Sarah Willbergh, Heather Wold, Renle Xia and Yana Yegiazarova.



RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie presented awards to Online Learning recipients Linda Tolan and Peter Hauser.

# Professor stresses active learning

The jackpot isn't money, but knowledge. Keith Whittington isn't a Las Vegas card dealer, but an instructor dealing out playing cards to his students. The cards are a learning tool Whittington utilizes in his Java programming courses, and the odds are in Whittington's favor.

The National Science Foundation put its money on Whittington, awarding him \$60,000 to test his active-learning techniques. In the first year, Whittington cut the dropout rate by two-thirds compared to the retention rate in traditionally taught Java programming courses. All information technology majors at RIT are required to take a three-sequence course in Java programming. The second course in the series posed challenges for many students, so Whittington broke it up into a double-length course. "This course was initially designed for struggling students, but some students opt to take it because of the extra time it allows them to absorb the material," says Whittington, assistant professor of information technology in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. "The idea was to slow the course down and deliver the materials at half speed. I have more time to go deeper into the topics."

One of the active-learning techniques Whittington has implemented in all his courses is called "think, pair, share." Students must think about the question first, then turn to another student to discuss the problem. Then, together, the students decide on an answer.

"Every student has a playing card and that's how I randomly choose a student to call on, but by that point they've talked to other students around them, so the answer is not necessarily their opinion," says Whittington.

Other in-class exercises include group activities, cooperative learning, classroom assessment techniques,



Keith Whittington, assistant professor of information technology, works with Rohit Kale, second-year applied computer technology and information technology student.

paired programming and acting out how a program runs.

Whittington did some research several years ago and discovered active learning is a common practice in the teaching of English and history, but not programming. In 2003, Whittington shared his idea of active-learning teaching to Steve Cunningham, then director of the National Science Foundation.

Whittington says: "His eyes bugged out. Cunningham said to me, 'We need to talk. I've been waiting for someone to do active learning in programming courses for 20 years.'"

Dean Ganskop, a fifth-year information technology major, took all four Java programming courses with Whittington. "Professor Whittington ensures the students understand the concepts common to all object-oriented programming so that they can not only write efficient programs, but so that they can adapt their knowledge to new programming languages," says Ganskop. "One huge benefit is that the students who understand the material end up helping the students who are not as sure of what they're doing." Whittington says, "Ultimately with this idea, I'm trying to give a voice to every student in the classroom, lower the intimidation level and increase the students' self-confidence."

All the data will be compiled at the end of the spring quarter and the findings presented to the National Science Foundation.

Ganskop adds: "These techniques deepen students' understanding and provide valuable team-building experiences. Not to mention, they also help make the classes enjoyable." ■

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# Photo students capture historic birthday at Genesee Country Museum

A 30th birthday celebration requires a great deal of planning, down to the littlest detail. With the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfordsville, N.Y., commemorating its 30th birthday this year, curators invited RIT student photographers to capture details of its historic homes and shops for all visitors to enjoy.

Fourteen students from the Imaging Photographic Technology course photographed various historic buildings in the 19th century country village including the MacKay House, the Wagonmaker and Wheelright Shop, and the Foster-Tufts House.

Reminiscent of the bulky equipment and view cameras hauled around by photographers of the 1800s, RIT students used 4-by-5 cameras or large-format cameras

partially covered in black cloths.

"I told the students to be prepared for any type of weather conditions, says Steve Diehl, RIT associate professor of imaging and photographic technology. "We had no control over the lighting conditions, but we lucked out because we had good weather the two mornings we were there. The fronts of some of the buildings were in deep shadow, but through scanning and Photoshop the students were able to maintain the detail of the buildings."

The students' lenses also focused on the various architectural gems in the village like doorknockers, hitching posts and wheel wagons. "We plan to use these images to test visitors observation skills," says Patricia Tice, curator of the John L. Wehle Art

Gallery at the Genesee Country Village and Museum. "In the gallery exhibit under the photograph of each particular building, we'll have a handout with various photographs of these architectural fragments and see if visitors can match the right detail with the right building."

A total of 30 images are part of the interactive exhibit currently on display in the John L. Wehle Art Gallery. The exhibit runs through December, 2007.

"It's a lovely collaboration," says Tice. "The students were very inventive and I think the public will have a great time viewing the images."

"I look forward to a continued relationship with the museum," says Diehl. ■

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Steve Diehl, RIT associate professor of imaging and photographic technology, and Jessica Scott



MacKay House at Genesee Country Village and Museum

# RIT campus campaign beats goal

As the Campaign for RIT heads toward the finish line, the generosity of the campus community in supporting this effort has sprinted well beyond initial expectations.

The Office of Development reports that nearly 1,750 faculty and staff members have committed more than \$4.2 million to the campaign, surpassing the original goal of \$2 million. The largest contribution comes from Provost Stanley McKenzie. Beyond his \$1.4 million commitment, the campus campaign is still well ahead of its goal.

One reason for this achievement is the increasing participation rate in the campaign by RIT faculty and staff, which now stands at just over 60 percent. In 2002, prior to the formation of a campus campaign committee,



participation among this group was only 20 percent.

"Growing response to the Campaign

for RIT among the members of our campus community would not have been possible without the dedication of dozens of loyal volunteers," says Lisa Cauda, interim vice president of development and alumni relations. "As campus campaign committee co-chairs, Kathy Carcaci and Larry Winnie deserve particular praise for driving this effort to remarkable heights."

Among RIT's eight colleges, the College of Business leads the way with participation of over 97 percent. Participation by the university's non-academic divisions is highest within Development and Alumni Relations, Enrollment Management and Career Services, and the Office of the President.

Most RIT employee gifts have been directed to the "Investing in Students" priority area. In the final phase of the campaign, gifts to scholarships and faculty endowments will remain areas of primary focus.

The \$300 million Campaign for RIT concludes this year. For more information or to make a contribution, visit <http://campaign.rit.edu>. ■

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# Former mayor at home in the classroom

Bill Johnson Jr. has a new perspective these days. Instead of stewarding a city, he's leading a classroom, introducing RIT students to public policy.

Johnson, the former mayor of Rochester, joined RIT in January as a distinguished professor of public policy in the College of Liberal Arts, after serving three terms and 12 years in office. He began teaching in the spring quarter.

"Being around young people is a rejuvenating process," Johnson says. "Just this early immersion has been stimulating for me."

A civic leader with national stature in areas relating to urban issues, regionalism and education, Johnson uses real-life policy issues of education, health care, public safety and criminal justice to make textbook concepts real for his students. He strives to heighten their awareness of the impact of public policy on their life.

In the fall, Johnson will assume a joint professorship, having one foot in the public policy department and the other in the new urban studies program, which is slated for approval. Johnson will look at issues of policy that impact urban areas. The belea-



Bill Johnson Jr., above, teaches a class on Introduction to Public Policy.

guered Gulf Coast will provide an unfolding example for a class he is developing about rebuilding communities.

In addition, Johnson is currently seeking funding to support a project that will create a training institute for leadership of communities in transition. This will involve the analysis of

successful programs he implemented in Rochester and the potential for their replication in other communities.

"I've always been susceptible to new ideas and approaches, and out of that have come numerous projects that have worked in Rochester," he says.

Such initiatives included hiring a clinical psychologist to develop the emotionally disturbed person's response team and a program about youth violence for the police department. Johnson is also responsible for City Hall On the Road, a program that created neighborhood-based offices to deal with enforcement issues and designated a clean-up crew to remove graffiti quickly.

Prior to his election as mayor, Johnson was president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Rochester for 21 years. In 1993, he held the Frederick H. Minett Professorship at RIT and taught a course on urban issues. Johnson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Howard University, and taught for four years at Mott Community College in Flint, Mich. ■

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Alumna connects science, lit and media

RIT alumna N. Katherine Hayles, professor of literature and media art at University of California, visited RIT May 4 to present her talk, "Literature as a Computational Practice." She met with faculty during an informal reception earlier in the day. Hayles is considered a central figure in establishing connections among literature, media and science. She is the author of several books, including My Mother was a Computer: Digital Subjects and Literary Texts and How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature and Informatics, which won the Rene Wellek Prize for the best book in literary theory for 1998-1999. Hayles earned her B.S. in chemistry from RIT. She holds advanced degrees in chemistry from California Institute of Technology and literature from Michigan State University.

# Grad earns degree after 50 years

Roger Haich always finishes what he starts—even if it takes 50 years.

The new RIT graduate began his RIT experience fresh out of high school, in 1950, at the downtown Rochester campus. It culminates this month in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Haich, who studied under three different university presidents, recalls campus life when there were fewer than 5,000 students enrolled. Today there are over 15,000.

After earning his associate’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1953, Haich entered the Navy Reserve. “It wasn’t that I wasn’t interested in a bachelor’s degree,” he says. “RIT just wasn’t offering one yet.”

While taking classes in the Navy, he fell in love with electrical engineering. RIT began offering a B.S. in electrical engineering while Haich was in the reserves. Upon his return, he began taking night classes—and continued for 13 years.

“Over the years, I had many different kinds of jobs,” Haich says. “So I would take one or two classes a quarter while I worked full time.”

The classes Haich completed served him well. He found that he was able to succeed in many fields and at several companies—including LVD (a Kodak company), Harris



A. Sue Weisler

Roger Haich '53, '05: A long overdue achievement

Corp. and his own successful housing development. “I realized how much I had learned in those courses at RIT,” he says. “And I became much more grateful.”

One morning in 2004, Haich, now retired, asked his wife: “I wonder how close I really was to getting my degree? I’ve told companies for decades that I had credits equivalent to a B.S. degree. Let’s go down to RIT and see how the numbers work out.”

Learning that he needed three classes to graduate, he took music

and business at the Athenaeum. Haich graduated with a bachelor’s degree in applied arts and science last fall. This month, he will participate in RIT’s 2006 commencement ceremonies—two weeks after witnessing one of his eight grandchildren graduate from college (he also has two great grandchildren).

“I couldn’t have graduated without the aid of student advisors,” Haich says. “I have a high admiration for RIT.” ■

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# RIT ‘people mover’ earns MBA

Rain or shine, this is Melissa Answeeney’s favorite time of the school year. Since 1998, she has served among other faithful RIT staff members in assisting with annual commencement activities. Perhaps you’ve seen her, escorting proud families to and from various campus venues—rain or shine.

“Most years we’re dressed in our rain gear,” she reflects. “It looks like we’re ready to go through Niagara Falls, and all we’re doing is driving around in golf carts.”

Regardless of the weather, Answeeney will dress differently this year. While she’ll still be helping move people around campus, the financial coordinator for RIT’s Educational Technology Center and Online Learning will do it in cap and gown. Then, before noon on Saturday, Answeeney will park the golf cart and participate as a graduate in the College of Business ceremony. After five years of part-time study, she will cross the stage in Ritter Ice



A. Sue Weisler

Melissa Answeeney is receiving her MBA from the College of Business, but that won’t keep her from spending the rest of commencement weekend escorting guests around campus.

Arena to accept her MBA.

“Now I get to celebrate what I’ve accomplished,” she says. “It took a lot of effort—working full time and going to school part time. A lot of people realize that’s a huge commitment.”

Answeeney looks forward to sharing her graduation with friends and family. But after years of volunteering her services at commencement, she couldn’t pass up the chance to spend

Answeeney, page 12

# Lowenthal to undergo renovations

It will be a course in Home Improvement 101 as the College of Business undergoes an architectural facelift this summer. The Max Lowenthal Building will be virtually off-limits to RIT students, staff and visitors from May 28 through Aug. 24, while skilled contractors perform cosmetic surgery to the main entrance of the building as well as complete significant interior renovations.

While the summer makeover is taking place, College of Business students will still be doing “business as usual” in locations across campus. Student Services will relocate to room 2590 in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. “Mail folders, along with all student records, will be relocated to the Student Services Office,” says Julie Kurdziel, student services manager in the College of Business. “Department chairs and program staff assistants will relocate to the Golisano College as well.”

According to James Yarrington,

director of campus planning and design services at RIT, the outdoor facade of the building will have a new look, and indoor renovations will reconfigure classrooms and computer labs to make better use of existing space. Plans also include a large lecture theater space on the main floor, new student study areas, lounges and vending machines, and a conference room with adjacent breakout area and kitchenette.

“We hope to leverage a relatively modest budget amount of \$2.5 million to create a major positive impact on this 30-year old facility,” Yarrington explains. “The design calls for more transparency across the facade, with glass bay windows across the east and north sides of the building and a new two-story main entrance with a canopy.

“Aesthetically we are trying to let the life and excitement within the building become noticeable to people walking by, complementing the recent changes on the RIT landscape,” Yarrington says. “Basically

Lowenthal has good ‘bones,’ but always appeared to be hermetically sealed—sort of opaque and forbidding. Now its appearance will be airy, welcoming and inviting.”

Jerry Curnutt, assistant dean for administration in the College of Business, says the improvements will place the college in a more competitive position with other business schools with updated facilities.

“We know this is a disruption, but a necessary one, and people throughout the RIT campus have been very cooperative about making space available for our students this summer,” Curnutt says. “We feel the improvements to Lowenthal will significantly enhance the community spirit within our business school by providing a physically attractive ambience where students can study and congregate.”

For more information regarding the temporary move, contact Kurdziel at 475-7063 or jkurdziel@cob.rit.edu. ■

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## Food for thought



A. Sue Weisler

More than 800 people attended the Taste of RIT fundraising luncheon, sponsored by RIT Food Service on April 28, to sample 200 food items from 17 vendors. The event added more than \$15,000 to RIT’s United Way campaign. Fundraising efforts have reached 99 percent of RIT’s goal of \$350,000.

# Sepos retires from Athenaeum; new director appointed



Marcia Morphy

On April 12, 1971, Rosie Sepos started working at RIT. Thirty-five years later, she decided to retire on exactly the same date “so I could always remember when I came in and when I came out,” she says with a laugh. Sepos has been RIT’s Athenaeum program director for the past 12 years.

RIT’s Athenaeum welcomes Julie Blowers as the organization’s new program director. Blowers assumes the role from Rosie Sepos, who retired from RIT after 35 years of service.

For the past 14 years, Blowers served as senior conference manager in the Office of Conferences and Special Events at the University of Rochester. She is a 2002 graduate of the School of Hospitality and Service Management.

“I am delighted to welcome Julie back to RIT as Athenaeum program director,” says Deborah Stendardi, RIT vice president of Government and Community Relations. “Her experience, organizational talents and professional networking abilities will serve the program and its members

well, and enable her to further enhance the visibility of the Athenaeum both within and outside the RIT campus community.”

Bonnie Salem, Athenaeum council chair, is looking forward to working closely with Blowers in the coming year. “She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm that will be a huge asset to the Athenaeum as we focus our efforts on growing our membership and make plans to celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2006-2007.” ■

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Julie Blowers '02

## Kern conference examined the creative mind



A. Sue Weisler

The recent William A. Kern Conference, Visual Communication: Rhetorics and Technology, provided a forum for discussion related to communication and the creative mind, film, design, documentary photography and future directions in visual rhetoric. The keynote address, “Moving Pictures: American Art and Early Film,” was given by scholar and author Nancy Mowll Mathews, the Eugenie Prendergast Senior Curator of 19th and 20th century Art and Lecturer in Art at the Williams College Museum of Art. She based her talk on her book and exhibition, Moving Pictures. The event was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts’ William A. Kern Professor in Communications Diane Hope.

Animal or mineral?



A. Sue Weisler

Rebecca Stade, 9, carefully examines an artifact in an archeology class during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, April 27. Stade was accompanied by her mother, Mary Beth Russo-Stade, who works at the Hub.

Nearly 130 youngsters came to campus for the annual event, which featured activities such as facility tours, bookmaking in Wallace Library, toy design, swimming and film and animation projects, among others. The day was hosted by RIT’s Women’s Center.

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Clinton supports RIT research

During a visit to campus on May 5, U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton made it clear that support of RIT research is a sound investment for the Rochester region and the entire country.

In the face of rapidly rising energy costs, Clinton formally presented \$4 million to the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies. The funding will support research related to alternative fuel sources and issues related to life-cycle engineering.

Along with Sen. Chuck Schumer, Clinton sponsored the funding as part of last year’s Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, which authorizes funding for transportation programs through the 2009 federal fiscal year.

“This represents an important opportunity to create jobs and bring significant resources to the Rochester area,” says Clinton. “I am



Ken Huth

Nabil Nasr, assistant provost and CIMS director, and RIT President Albert Simone join Sen. Clinton for a ceremonial check presentation.

especially pleased to support RIT’s alternative fuels research, which may lead to reduced fuel costs and a cleaner environment. The dividends of this investment will pay off for years.”

Also during her visit, the senator announced that the U.S. Armed Services Committee recently authorized \$8 million for next fiscal year to support the center’s Defense Systems Modernization and Sustainment program. This cost-saving initiative, which focuses on extending the life and improving the performance of



Ken Huth

Mike Haselkorn, CIMS senior staff engineer, discusses life-cycle engineering work on the A-6 Intruder fighter jet.

numerous military platforms, has earned \$24 million in previous federal funding since 1998. Clinton is a member of the Armed Services Committee and requested the new funding for RIT. ■

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Class of 2006 from page 1

pride in our students’ accomplishments and congratulate them on a job well done.”

Adds Kit Mayberry, vice president for academic affairs: “Each graduate is a living embodiment of a successful academic career, possessing the knowledge and skills to begin the next phase of his or her career. We, the faculty and staff, appreciate the opportunity to celebrate with them and the people important to them.”

Academic Convocation and all ceremonies will be sign-language interpreted and real-time captioned. Tickets are not necessary, and ample seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Information booths will be located around campus and volunteer ushers will be present at the convocation and each college ceremony. ■

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Underwater explorer from page 1

boards, wrote the software and created the graphical user interface used to control the device. All components are housed in water-tight canisters; and a lightweight aluminum frame is rugged and modified.

The explorer is controlled by a joystick attached to a laptop computer that communicates with a micro-processor (the ROV’s “command center”) via a 680-foot-long fiber-optic cable. A human at the controls sees what the ROV “sees” through live video streaming and sensor readings.

The device is capable of diving at about two feet per second to a depth of 400 feet—about twice as deep as a skilled scuba diver can descend. A foam top helps achieve neutral buoyancy, enabling the ROV to remain level while underwater. A 100-minute battery life allows it to stay underwater longer than human divers. Future enhancements may include the addi-



Dan Scoville

The steering wheel of the Etta Belle, which sank in Lake Ontario in 1873. The vessel was discovered two years ago by a team including Dan Scoville ’05. Scoville will return to the lake this summer with an underwater remote-operated vehicle—built by a team of RIT engineering majors—in search of other shipwrecks.

tion of a mechanical arm and extended diving capability—perhaps enabling the explorer to reach Lake Ontario’s maximum depth of about 800 feet.

Building the ROV cost the RIT team about \$15,000, including \$10,000 from sponsors. An equivalent commercially produced underwater ROV would cost \$20,000 to \$50,000, Scoville says. He describes the members of his team as not merely students, but skilled, practicing engineers.

“I lucked out with a really good team,” he says. “We were told it couldn’t be done.” ■

Michael Saffran | mjsuns@rit.edu

Answeeney from page 11

part of the weekend doing what she enjoys most—sharing the experience with the families of other graduates.

“My favorites are the grandparents, especially those of first-generation college students. They simply couldn’t be more proud, and they’re so much fun to talk to. They really want to hear another person’s perspective on what their family member experienced. Those conversations are always the best part.”

This becomes Answeeney’s second time as an RIT graduate, having earned a bachelor’s degree in finance in 1997. Whether or not she’s gradu-

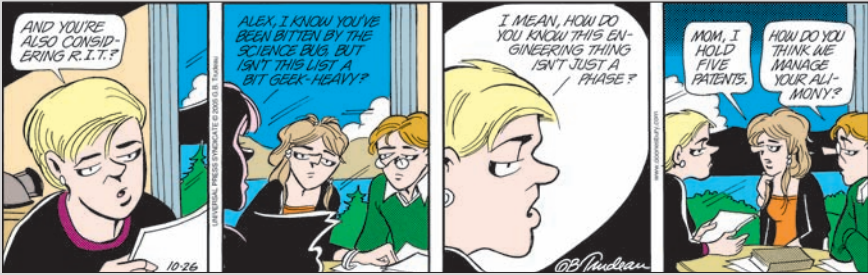
ating, each year’s commencement holds a special place in her heart, reminding her of the reasons that she loves RIT.

“It’s the campus at its best that day,” she explains.

Rain or shine. ■

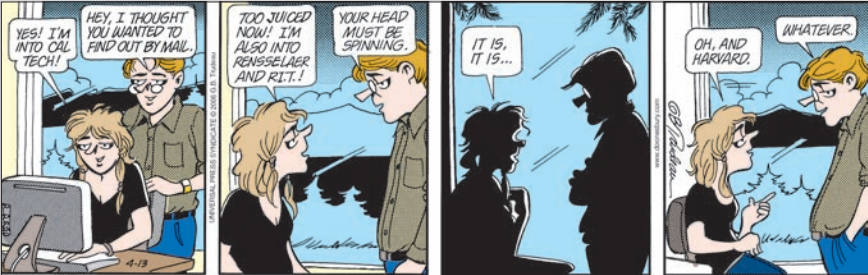
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Doonesbury comic strip features RIT



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RIT has been featured three times since October in newspapers across the nation in the comic strip Doonesbury. Alex Doonesbury is narrowing her list of top colleges down to a select few. In the first two comic strips, shown here, she considers and was accepted by RIT, as well as Cal Tech, Cornell, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, MIT and Harvard. Alex is a technology whiz and the daughter of the comic strip’s title character. RIT would be an excellent choice for Alex, who received a perfect score on her SAT exams, holds five patents and is planning a career in engineering. Doonesbury creator Garry Trudeau has said he is using RIT in the comic strip “because it’s one of the premier institutes of technology.”



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Obituary

Susan Lewis, staff assistant, College of Business student services, April 30.