

# Saunders’ \$13 million names business college



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Philip Saunders meets with local media to discuss the impact of his gift on the newly named E. Philip Saunders College of Business.

Enhancing its reputation as a national leader in undergraduate, graduate and executive business education, RIT announced the formation of the E. Philip Saunders College of Business on July 11. Saunders, an entrepreneur and founder of TravelCenters of America Inc., announced his commitment of \$13 million to the university’s aca-

demic business programs during a news conference on campus. The gift is intended to finance scholarships, recruit and support quality faculty, improve existing facilities, and create an endowment for future initiatives. “Phil Saunders has made a spectacular impact during his career as an entrepreneur,” states Albert

Simone, RIT president. “His \$13 million investment in RIT will produce a similar impact by helping us reshape traditional business education and by paving the way for a new generation of entrepreneurs and visionary business leaders. It is in that spirit that we dedicate the E. Philip Saunders College of Business in his honor.” “Educational opportunities are the key to advancing America’s leadership in a global economy,” explains Saunders. “Under Dr. Simone’s leadership, RIT consistently showcases its ability to create a range of business solutions by fostering innovation. In making this gift, it is my goal to further energize RIT’s position as a center of excellence for entrepreneurship and innovation.” Saunders, a lifelong resident of Livingston County, has designated a portion of his gift to benefit students from that region. Each year, one graduate from Livonia, where Saunders attended high school, and another from Dansville, where he is currently living, will be awarded annual \$20,000 scholarships to pursue business studies at the

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## RIT Fulbrights head to Europe

Three RIT students will embark on European travels as the result of winning the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. This year marks the highest number of RIT students to receive Fulbright awards in any one year.



Jeffrey Cougler

Katherine Groves and Jeffrey Cougler, the first Fulbright scholars from NTID, won both of the two available awards for a special deaf-studies program in Italy, supported by the Mason Perkins Deafness Fund and the Roberto Wirth Fund. The third winner, Edward Dale, will work as a teaching assistant in Germany. Groves graduated from RIT in 2002 from the BS/MS biomedical photographic communication and secondary education of the deaf or hard-of-hearing program at NTID. She has been teaching deaf students for the past three years. In Italy, she plans to work in a bilingual school (with deaf and hearing students) and help teachers bridge information technology gaps in their classrooms. She will also compile a technology resource Web site for these teachers and will publish a professional paper on her work overseas. Upon returning to the United States, Groves is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology in education. Cougler has worked for several years as a successful designer with the Port Authority in New York City before he returned to RIT to begin

Fulbright, page 4

## Cauda named VP for development

Moments after the Board of Trustees learned that RIT had surpassed its \$300 million capital campaign goal, President Albert Simone had another big announcement: Lisa Cauda is RIT’s new vice president for development and alumni relations.



Lisa Cauda

In 2005, Cauda took charge of the division as the interim vice president. Simone praised Cauda for her tireless effort in reaching the final campaign mark of \$309 million. “Lisa worked morning, day and

night to make sure we successfully completed this endeavor. She has a passion for RIT,” says Simone. “We have established a culture of giving at RIT. Lisa’s leadership is paving the way for more great things to come.” Cauda joined the RIT team in 2000 as associate vice president for development. During her nine years at Stevens Institute of Technology, ultimately serving as assistant vice president of development and campaign director, Cauda led the development efforts of two successful campaigns, managing corporate and foundation relations, major gifts, research and the annual fund. n

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## Search for the RIT President Consultants will aid presidential search

A Boston-based consulting firm will aid RIT’s Presidential Search Committee in the search for RIT’s next president. Isaacson, Miller was unanimously selected by the committee after the 21-member group reviewed presentations and proposals from other firms. RIT President Albert Simone, the university’s eighth president, plans to retire in mid-2007. Isaacson, Miller undertakes nationwide searches for a wide variety of organizations, including leading universities, research institutes, academic medical centers, foundations, cultural institutions, economic development organizations, human service agencies and national advocacy groups. Isaacson, Miller is currently involved with executive searches for Columbia University, Harvard University and

New York University, among many others. “The role of the firm is to assist the search committee in networking and finding a pool of exceptional candidates,” says Donald Boyce, chair of the search committee. “Isaacson, Miller has a tremendous national reputation and higher education is its specialty.” Meanwhile, forums to discuss characteristics and qualities of the next president will be held with alumni in Rochester and various cities around the nation including Chicago, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The forums will be held in August and September. Forums with faculty, staff and students will be held in the fall. To stay up to date, visit [www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch](http://www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch). n

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# Campaign exceeds \$300 million goal

With \$309 million in gifts and commitments, RIT President Albert Simone announces the successful conclusion to “Powered by the Future: The Campaign for RIT,” the university’s eight-year comprehensive fundraising campaign. “This is an awe inspiring victory for RIT and the Rochester-area community,” states Simone. “Lifting our campaign past its \$300



As an alumnus of RIT, I believe the value of an RIT degree is rising as the university continues to prosper. —William Buckingham ’64, campaign chairperson



million goal took a Herculean effort on the part of dedicated members of the campus community, unprecedented generosity from a wide range of university partners, and an unwavering commitment as RIT evolves into what we have identified as a ‘Category of One’ university—a standard of comparison to which others aspire.” Gifts came from more than 33,000 donors throughout Rochester and around the world. “These donors really stepped up to make the campaign successful—right down to the last minute,” says Lisa Cauda, vice president of development and alumni relations.

“More than \$55 million in gifts were confirmed in the final week of the effort—a total exceeding the best full year of the campaign before now.” The Campaign for RIT was introduced in 1998 to strengthen the university’s ability to better prepare graduates entering a global economy that demands knowledge and innovation. Primary focus areas for the campaign included investing in students, reinvesting in the campus, recruiting and retaining top faculty, supporting applied research and learning, and creating a fund for the future.

Campaign, page 4

# There she is— RIT’s Miss Croatia

The 2006 Miss Universe Pageant will have an RIT presence. Bilijana Mancic, who is entering her third year at American College of Management & Technology in Croatia, won the Miss Universe Croatia title this spring and now has her sights set on capturing the global crown July 23 in Los Angeles. Despite having participated in previous beauty pageants, Mancic had never considered pursuing the Miss Universe Croatia competition until the idea was broached by one of her mother’s friends. “She thought I was the right person for it, considering the fact that Miss Universe Croatia wasn’t looking just for a beautiful face but also a charismatic, disciplined young girl with good personality, who will represent Croatia in the best possible way,” Mancic told *On the Spot*, the ACMT newsletter.

Mancic, 20, sees her success as a way to help achieve her professional objectives. “Considering that I’m an ACMT student, this title means that I am one step closer to achieving my business plans,” says Mancic, whose hero is American business mogul Donald Trump. “I hope to meet a lot of business people throughout this year and accomplish some of my plans for the future.” Mancic hopes that those networking opportunities, teamed with her ACMT studies, will propel her into



Bilijana Mancic

the business world. “I chose ACMT because it is the kind of college that will help me become a capable businessperson,” she says. “I like the fact that ACMT values practical experience as much as theoretical knowledge.” The crown has come with increased responsibilities, however. Mancic feels she’s up to the challenge. “I’m used to having lots of responsibilities and obligations so it isn’t as hard as it seems,” Mancic says. “The title of Miss Universe Croatia requires many extra efforts when it comes to school work but I believe I can cope with everything successfully.” n

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News briefs

**Part-time studies forum**  
RIT’s Offices of Part-time and Graduate Enrollment Services will host an information forum 5:30-7 p.m. July 26 for adults interested in starting or continuing their education on a part-time evening basis. The session will be held in RIT’s Bausch & Lomb Center. For information, call 475-2229.

**NTID \$25K donation**  
With its recent gift of \$25,000, Citigroup Foundation has donated \$100,000 to the Citigroup Endowed Scholarship Fund, which supports deaf and hard-of-hearing business students at NTID. Established in 1999, the scholarship helps about a dozen students with financial need each year. Citigroup has also supported NTID students through employment opportunities. To date, Citigroup has hired 134 students for summer internships and 22 graduates for business, computer, and human resources positions at its various sites nationwide.

*N&E* asks: What’s on your mind?

A publication the size of *News & Events*—usually four pages, aside from occasional larger special issues—cannot, unfortunately, accommodate the inclusion of letters to the editor. But that doesn’t mean editors and writers don’t want to hear from readers. To the contrary, the staff of *News & Events* would love to hear from more of you. (Surprisingly, letters are rare—due in part, no doubt, to none appearing within these pages. It’s kind of a “Catch-22.”) So, please feel welcome to contact *News & Events* staff about stories or other matters related to this publication. Writers’ e-mail addresses are printed at the end of most stories. You can also send comments to [news&events@mail.rit.edu](mailto:news&events@mail.rit.edu). Vienna Carvalho, managing editor, will periodically address readers’ thoughts in “Inside the Pages of *News & Events*,” on the University News Web log, The Tiger Beat, at <http://www.thetigerbeat.com>.

Color scientist sees the light

Digitally archiving and reproducing artwork as it would be seen in a museum is a mathematical conundrum of light and geometry.

RIT and color scientist Roy Berns have been awarded \$855,000 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop a practical approach museum photographers can use to eliminate subjective lighting decisions when imaging artwork.

Museum photographers try to capture the complex interplay between lighting, the painting and the observer in images of a museum’s collections. Reducing the experience of viewing artwork in real life to a flat image—a two-dimensional representation such as a poster or an image in a book or on a

Web site—relies on subjective and aesthetic decision making.

“Ultimately, there are decisions made in lighting and where you would stand. Realistic rendering is often limited by a lack of information about the object’s shape and how incidental light is absorbed and scattered at each position on the object,” says Berns, the Richard S. Hunter Professor of Color Science, Appearance and Technology in RIT’s Munsell Color Science Laboratory in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

The solution sought during this project will involve building an instrument to capture the geometric and spectral information of artwork.

*Color research, page 4*



A painting by Roy Berns is rendered into a virtual scene with both directional and diffuse lighting using the 3-dimensional software package, Maya. Berns’ study will consider the absorption and scattering of light on and around a painting.

Gallery exhibit features New York state artists



Michael Rogers, professor of glass in the School for American Crafts, is one of six artists whose work is showcased at the Rochester Biennial at the Memorial Art Gallery through Sept. 10. The event is an invitational and features artists who live and work in the upstate New York area. This piece is Portrait of Meitner. Rogers says, “The engraving of text on the glass surface of one of my sculptural works is primarily a visual decision. The engraved text adds evidence of an individual’s hand, articulation of the surface that enhances the form of the object and also creates an optical atmosphere through which the viewer sees the objects inside the bottles.”

Rochester-area minorities get biomedical studies introduction

Promoting minority participation in biomedical fields is the goal of the Rochester Biomedical Experience. Now in its second year, the collaboration between Monroe Community College and RIT seeks to build on its success.

The program’s second cohort of nine students received personalized white lab coats in a ceremony last month at MCC, symbolically marking the students’ passage from high school students to biomedical scholars. The event took place in MCC’s Warshof Conference Center with dignitaries from both colleges and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks in attendance. The keynote speaker was Tom Smith, professor of chemistry at RIT, who shared some of his personal experiences with the new scholars.

The Rochester Biomedical Experience is funded by a \$624,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health as part of the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program. Participants will complete their associate’s degree at MCC and then transfer to RIT to finish their bachelor’s degree in a biomedical field.

The program serves as a pipeline for talented students who otherwise may not have the opportunity to obtain a bachelor’s degree. RIT and MCC work together to recruit qualified high school seniors for the program and co-host a five-week summer program, Summer Exploration in Biomedical Sciences, for incoming biomedical scholars using the facilities of both campuses. The summer course includes classroom training, lab work and hands-on interaction with students and faculty. The white-coat ceremony marks the official start of the summer program.

Throughout their tenure at MCC, the biomedical scholars will receive guidance and instruction from RIT faculty and advisors and will participate in joint summer research projects with faculty from both campuses following their first and second years at MCC. Students will also receive a stipend through the program to help cover expenses.

Five of the students who started the program last year are currently conducting summer research projects with RIT professors. The success

of these students will influence future cohorts.

“For most of these young people it really is an uphill battle, yet a small, strong group of students completed the first year, and we’re proud of them and their accomplishments,” says Douglas Merrill, professor of biological sciences at RIT and director of the Center for Bioscience Education and Technology. “This summer we will spend more time concentrating on areas of college preparation to help the students overcome challenges and transition into their freshman year at MCC. Peer-on-peer mentoring also will be an important part of the program as it progresses and will help students adjust.”

Minority groups remain disproportionately underrepresented within the ranks of healthcare professionals. Studies suggest an increase in diversity among health professionals will lead to improved access to health care for minorities, greater patient choice and more focus on diseases that predominantly affect minorities.

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Girl Scouts ‘camp’ at RIT



Thirty junior Girl Scouts spent a week at RIT, June 26-30, for the first Everyday Engineering Summer Camp. Each day, the fourth-through-sixth-graders learned about different engineering applications related to the environment, sports, sound, transportation and the home. In one of the hands-on activities, shown above, Sarah Ballard, an industrial and systems engineering graduate student (standing), assists with the design of a “secret candy safe.” The camp was sponsored by WE@RIT, an RIT initiative supporting the recruitment and retention of female engineering students, and Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Inc.

ASL students put sign language to the test

“I’ve been using ASL for four years and I’m here to improve my signing skills and to have fun,” says Scott Bellingier, NTID’s assistant professor of automation technology.

Bellingier was one of the 25 people who recently participated in a series of various social events hosted by the NTID American sign language and interpreting education department, designed to help people improve their ASL skills in a way that is different from traditional classroom learning.



NTID staff member Wendy DiMatteo, far right, is among those who participated in a no-voices card game led by ASL Instructor Colleen Pouliot. A series of ASL-only activities were held to help develop sign skills.

social interactions with deaf and hard-of-hearing students and faculty,” says Lisa Markidis, staff assistant for NTID’s admissions office.

“The one-hour events offered a break from everyday routine as well as a chance to relax, enjoy and learn something at the same time,” Gustina explains.

The department offers a wide variety of classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced signers throughout the year, open to the RIT community.

For information, visit [www.ntid.rit.edu/aslie/programs/fsslep/index.cfm](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/aslie/programs/fsslep/index.cfm).

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A unique RIT field trip



Dan Gramlich, left, from RIT’s Printing Applications Laboratory, shows the Heidelberg Sheetfed Press to Charlie Meyer, center, high school graphic arts teacher at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, and Keith Rankin, graphic arts teacher at Edison Technical and Occupational Center. Both Meyer and Rankin spent a week at RIT in May learning about the latest print technologies to share with their students. The visit was part of the Teacher Workshop Scholarship program sponsored by the Printing Applications Lab and the School of Print Media. One of the goals of the program is to promote printing as a viable career path.



# Lab studies electronics breakthroughs

It defies traditional logic, really. Today’s consumer electronics become more powerful, even as they become smaller. Expertise within RIT’s electrical engineering department is playing a significant role in redefining that logic.

The RF/Analog/Mixed Signal Laboratory, or RAMLAB, conducts research in devices and design methodologies for the architecture of integrated RF (radio frequency) and digital circuitry with a particular emphasis on practical, industry-relevant solutions.

P.R. Mukund, Gleason Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and director of RAMLAB, says RIT is among only a half dozen universities specializing in this kind of research. Even as electronic devices become smaller, consumer demand requires that they include more power for communication, memory and processor power. The challenge becomes integrating these diverse and incompatible technologies within the same device. The higher the frequency, the more difficult it becomes to manage this integration.

“If you look at a typical chip today, like if you open up your cell phone or anything that is wireless, what you will find is many integrated circuit devices,” explains Mukund. “These digital circuits turn on and off as they are processing bits of information.”

And that often creates a lot of noise, mainly due to the incompatibility of the analog signals with the digital devices that send and receive them. So prior to building prototypes, researchers at RAMLAB create models that predict how such devices are going to work, taking into account factors such as noise, interference and power consumption.

This modeling package is only part of RAMLAB’s research portfolio. Another element includes methodologies to help manufacturers do the design work themselves. Mukund



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

P.R. Mukund, second from left, reviews the status of RAMLAB projects with students in the microsystems engineering Ph.D. program. The students, from left to right, are Sharmila Sridharan, Tejasvi Das, Mark Pude and Sri Priya Das.

points out that, under less than optimal circumstances, testing of RF circuitry requires that it be probed following installation. “The very act of probing can prevent the circuit from working. It’s that dicey, really. So we came up with the first-ever built-in self-test methodology where the chip tests itself. It lets the outside world know whether it’s okay or not.”

Much of RAMLAB’s work is done in collaboration with partners in industry and academia-relationships that are often facilitated through RIT’s IT Collaboratory. Started in 2001 with a \$14 million grant from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research, the IT Collaboratory is the RIT-led collaboration that focuses on projects related to microsystems, photonics, remote-sensing systems and nanomaterials. The center’s new facility officially opened on campus earlier this year.

“What we’re trying to do is leverage the things we are already good at and build on those things to both expand our research programs and expand our sponsor set,” says Mike Dwyer, director of operations for the

IT Collaboratory. “We work with partners inside and outside of RIT to help achieve these; we literally can’t do everything ourselves.”

Research conducted by Mukund and his team on built-in self testing of RF circuitry is among the IT Collaboratory’s earliest success stories. The program is in its fourth year of existence, the result of funding from Semiconductor Research Corp. and a matching grant provided by NYSTAR.

Corporate partners for other RAMLAB research projects include Analog Devices, LSI Logic Corp. and Kawasaki Micro.

Additionally, the IT Collaboratory and RAMLAB serve as a launching pad for the next generation of researchers. RIT’s Ph.D. program in microsystems engineering generated its first two graduates last year—one coming from RAMLAB. Four other Ph.D. candidates are currently working alongside Mukund—likely to play a critical role in redefining the next set of integrated RF and digital solutions in the ever-advancing field of wireless electronics. [n](#)

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## RIT Women’s Council head appointed

Donna Ehrhart has been named president of RIT’s Women’s Council and will hold a seat on RIT’s Board of Trustees. Ehrhart has been a computer information systems and business professor at Genesee Community College for the past 18 years.

She has also been an adjunct professor for the computer science department at State University of New York at Brockport for 10 years.

Ehrhart holds a master’s degree in business education from the State University College at Buffalo and a master’s degree in adult education from Syracuse University.

After 18 years as an educator, she was selected by her students, peers and administration to receive the New York State Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003.

In addition to her service on the Women’s Council Board, she has served on advisory boards at Genesee Community College, and as president of the Women’s Investment Network, president of the Batavia chapter of the American Association of University Women, and board member of the Association of Information Systems Professionals. [n](#)



Donna Ehrhart

### Going solo



Tom Lightfoot, associate professor in the School of Art, is making what he describes as political statements in Rochester this summer in an exhibition at Gallery r. Manipulated images, environmental sculptural structures, selective associated images and sound messages are featured that will introduce viewers to good guys, bad guys, their politics and promises. The show runs through Aug. 6.

## Tymann leads computer science

Paul Tymann, professor of computer science, has been appointed chair of RIT’s computer science department in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Tymann replaces Walter Wolf who stepped down after serving as chair for 12 years.

Tymann came to RIT in 1997. He has taught networking, parallel computing, bioinformatics and first-year programming courses.

“My heart is with teaching the



Paul Tymann

first-year programming classes because that’s when I get the ‘aha moments’ from the students,” says Tymann. “It’s wonderful to see.”

Tymann is a member of various professional computing organizations including the Association of Computing Machinery and the IEEE Computer Society.

He is enthusiastic about his new role at the helm of the computer science department. “I’m looking forward to leading the department and adjusting to this new world of scholarship. There are a lot of good things happening in the department and I’m going to work hard to promote our faculty and research.” [n](#)

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### Simone called a ‘friend of business’



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RochesterWorks!, Monroe County’s largest employment and training initiative, selected RIT President Albert Simone as the recipient of its 2006 “Friend of Business and Workforce Award.” Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, left, was on hand for the award. The award recognizes leaders who have been an advocate on workforce and economic development issues that are critical to the economic growth of Monroe County.

## RIT bioscientists can now call CBET home

A hub of bioscience-related activity will open this fall, providing students and community members with access to some of the most technologically advanced equipment and training available at the university level.

A formal dedication of the \$12-million, 35,000-square-foot building will take place this spring. A special open house with tours, remarks and a reception will be held during Brick City Homecoming from 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.

The Center for Bioscience Education and Technology will house RIT’s biotechnology and biomedical programs, as well as provide training

and community outreach programs. The state of New York provided \$8 million of the total funding through the Gen\*NY\*sis and RESTORE NY Programs.

The centerpiece of the new facility will be the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Center for Bioscience Exploration and Discovery, a collection of five rooms including laboratories and super “smart” classrooms. Excellus’ \$2 million gift, spaced over the next 10 years, will ensure the equipment housed in its designated rooms remain at the technological forefront. [n](#)

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The Center for Bioscience Education and Technology opens this fall.

### A sampling of New York’s finest food and drink



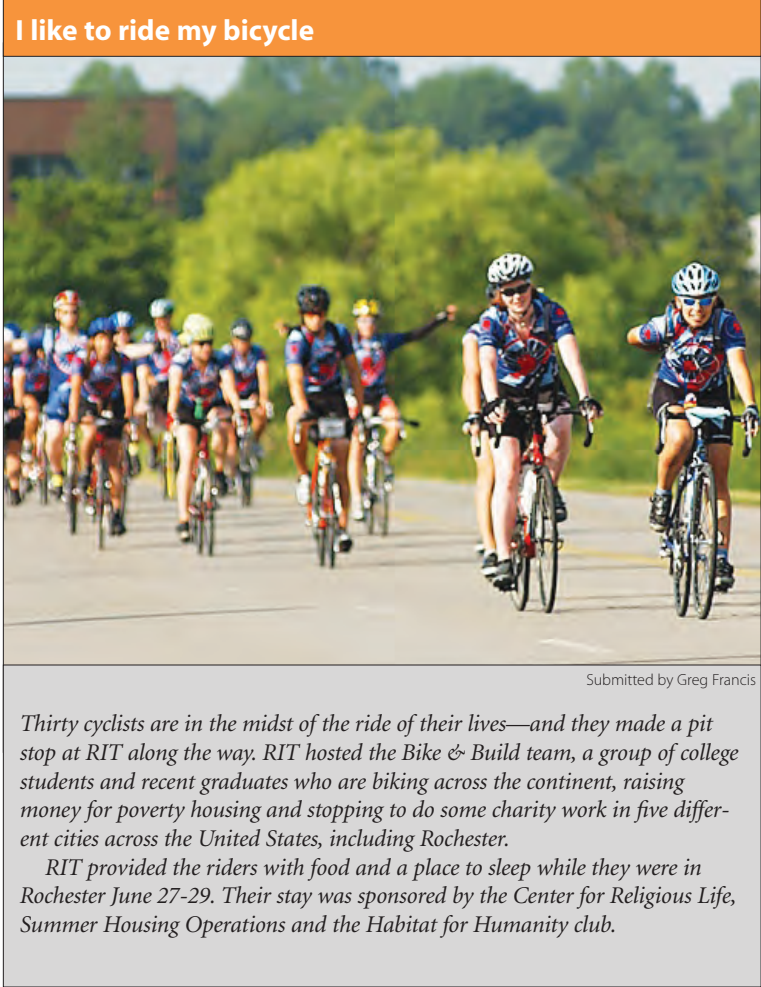
Submitted by Deanna Jacobs

Colgate-Palmolive representatives got more than a taste of RIT when they visited the Rochester area in June. As part of an executive leader cohort in packaging science, they got a taste of New York state.

The seven students, who hailed from six different countries, joined Deanna Jacobs, the packaging science department’s graduate program coordinator, for the inaugural class at the brand new New York Wine & Culinary Center.

The Colgate-Palmolive cohort was a first for the packaging science department. It was developed solely for Colgate-Palmolive employees at the request of the company. “This really gives RIT a face in the industry,” Jacobs says. “We have demonstrated the ability to be both flexible and creative to meet their needs.”





## Campaign from page 1

“The successful conclusion of this campaign shows that RIT is evolving a giving base that continues to expand. For example, we had more than 100,000 gifts and we had 52 gifts that exceeded \$1 million. We have developed stronger bonds with important constituencies who have a real, long-term stake in RIT: alumni, students, parents, corporations, trustees and friends,” says William Buckingham ’64, chair of the campaign. “As an alumnus of RIT, I believe the value of an RIT degree is rising as the university continues to prosper.”

Initiatives resulting from RIT’s campaign are already having a significant impact on the university’s growth and success. The campaign created 210 new scholarships and seven new endowed professorships. The campaign is also responsible for altering the university’s landscape—creating new programs and the facilities in which to house them. Among the more notable additions to campus physical facilities is the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. RIT’s eighth college, made possible in 2001 with a \$14 million gift from Thomas Golisano, Paychex Inc. founder and now an RIT trustee, has quickly

developed into the largest comprehensive college of computing in the nation. Golisano served as honorary chairman for the campaign. Along with Golisano College, two other colleges were named after generous gifts: \$20 million, from The Gleason Foundation, for the Kate Gleason College of Engineering (including separate gifts of \$12 million in 1998 and \$6 million in 2003) which included two building additions and \$13 million to support scholarships, facilities, faculty and programs in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business.

Other major initiatives resulting from the campaign include:

- The Gordon Field House and Activities Center—a 160,000 square foot and \$25 million facility named in recognition for a multi-million dollar contribution from Lucius “Bob” and Marie Gordon.
- Ernest J. DelMonte and the DelMonte Corp. gifted a hotel, valued at \$14 million, and now re-named the RIT Inn & Conference Center.
- Continued multi-million dollar support from Eastman Kodak Co., Xerox Corp. and Bausch and Lomb Inc.

“The successful conclusion of the campaign is great news for both RIT

## Saunders from page 1

Saunders College.

“Dansville is a pretty (economically) depressed community,” Saunders told the news conference audience, “but there are a lot of smart kids there. Hopefully these young scholars will come here, learn what they can and then become leaders in our state.”

The announcement of the new Saunders College was made in front of the Max Lowenthal Building, which has housed the college since 1982. RIT has invested in renovations to the facility. Work is underway to provide the building’s outdoor facade with a new look. Indoor renovations will reconfigure classrooms and computer labs to make better use of existing space.

“Improvements to this building will significantly enhance the community spirit within our business school by providing a physically attractive ambience where students can study and congregate,” says Wayne Morse, interim dean of the Saunders College. “Mr. Saunders’ generous gift will amplify our ability to maintain a state-of-the-art envi-

ronment that will attract and service top-tier students and faculty.”

Tiffany Duncan, an MBA student in the Saunders College, recognized the donation’s impact on enhancing faculty leadership. “We enjoy many outstanding faculty members today, and this gift will enable the college to bring in leaders from academia and the business world to share their knowledge and invaluable experience with us.”

Saunders’ many entrepreneurial successes are likely to inspire many students within the college bearing his name. TravelCenters of America, originally named Truckstops of America, became the genesis to his other companies including Econo-Car International and Travel Ports to ventures such as Griffith Energy, Sugar Creek Corp. and Richardson Foods Corp. During the past 10 years, Saunders has served on the board of Excellus Inc. He is currently chairman of Genesee Regional Bank and chairman of Griffith Energy, where he maintains an office on Brooks Avenue in Rochester.

## news&events

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## Newsmakers

**James Myers**, director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, College of Applied Science and Technology, led the panel discussion, “Business and Investment Promotion,” at a conference, Economic Cooperation and Investment Opportunities in South Eastern Europe, sponsored by RIT and the Center for Strategic & International Studies, April 24-25, in Washington, D.C.

**Pellegrino Nazzaro**, professor of history, has seen his textbook, *The European Union*, published by Thomson Custom Publishing, reach its eighth edition, with the addition of four new chapters. Nazzaro also wrote the forward to *Sicilian in East Harlem* (2005) by Salvatore Mondello, professor emeritus of history.

**Alan Nye**, professor of mechanical engineering and advisor to RIT’s Formula SAE race team, received a Faculty Advisor Award from SAE International at the SAE World Congress, April 3-6, in Detroit.

**Karen Proctor**, professor of packaging science, has been named vice president of education for the board of directors of the International Safe Transit Association.

## Fulbright from page 1

studies for his MFA in computer graphics design. He also earned a bachelor’s of fine arts degree in art and design. He intends to use his Fulbright



Edward Dale

Scholarship to further develop his thesis project: The ASL Finger Challenge. The aim of his project is to create an Italian version of this interactive fingerspelling learning software.

Cougler says, “Receiving the Fulbright is an excellent opportunity to study deaf culture in Italy, to expand my international connections and develop a computer program that will help improve people’s Italian fingerspelling reading skills.” After returning to the U.S., Cougler plans to adapt his computer program to the French fingerspelling language.

It may come as a surprise for some that Edward Dale, an RIT honors student and BS/MS candidate in computer science, elected to pursue a teaching assistantship position. But

as he explains: “The teaching philosophy that drives my Fulbright aspiration is to give foreign language a context. The social computing movement shows us that there are many tools at our disposal to put people across the world in contact with each other and I would like to see these put to use in a foreign language classroom.”

Following his Fulbright, he is planning to enroll in a Ph.D. program in German linguistics or film and pursue his teaching ambitions.

Two other RIT students, Jennifer Moon ’06 (photography, MFA) and Caitlin Kerker Mennen ’04 (photography) also represented RIT with distinction. They were each nominated by the Fulbright National Screening Committee for their Fulbright Full Grant proposals although their proposals didn’t qualify them for the international travel scholarships.

The U.S. Fulbright Student program is an annual competition for American graduating seniors or graduates who wish to study, conduct research and teach in other countries. ▫

## Color research from page 2

It requires reducing a painting to its most basic optical blueprint to bypass the subjective influences of light source and environment. Once the information is gathered, mathematical models used in computer graphics will create different viewing experiences of the artwork in a specific environment.

The five-year project has two phases. The first, supported by this award, will develop instrumentation that measures the spatial and geometrical properties of artistic materials as a function of lighting geom-

etry, creating an important database, Berns says. Three-dimensional mathematical models will be tested that best predict these properties. The anticipated second phase will simplify the process and equipment for museum photographers to use on site.

Capturing the optical information of important paintings in a collection will aid museums as guardians of cultural heritage and will benefit historians, scholars and conservators. ▫

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Obituaries

**Rosemary Finn**, faculty member, CIAS School of Art, July 1.

**Mary Menard**, visitor coordinator/receptionist, Office of Admissions, July 2.