

Golisano college launches three master’s programs

The B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences is offering three new specialized masters of science degrees in its efforts to meet the demands of the evolving computing industry. New York state recently approved degree programs in game design and development; and networking, security and systems administration. A master’s degree program in software engineering is pending state approval.

Launching this fall, the game design and development master’s degree will accept up to 30 students a year.

“What sets this master’s degree apart



Andrew Phelps

from other gaming programs offered is it focuses on the development and process of games in addition to their design,” says Andrew Phelps, director of game design and development in the Golisano College.

Applicants will be required to submit a portfolio. Matriculated students will take a series of core courses in such areas as business, law, electronic entertainment and history of games. Majors will be offered in game engine development and artificial intelligence for games. Students will also declare a minor in either art, design or an area of computing that relates to gaming.

For the past several years, the Golisano College has offered a gaming concentration at the undergraduate and graduate levels for information technology, computer science and soft-

ware engineering students. The master’s degree will allow RIT undergraduates to take courses at the upper level and offer graduate students a more in-depth experience.

“We wanted to take a student’s undergraduate skills and integrate them into building games,” says Phelps. “Some of our alumni already work at the top-tier developers within the commercial gaming industry including Electronic Arts, Microsoft Game Studios, Sony Computer Entertainment of America and Linden Labs. This degree program will allow them and other game developers to further their education.”

A master’s degree in networking and systems administration will also launch this fall. Students can pursue

Master’s programs, page 4

Opening talks set tone for Simone’s final year

President Simone has set the tone for his final year in office. And Provost Stan McKenzie anticipates the campus will be as busy as ever. “The president’s agenda this year is as ambitious as any other year,” McKenzie told faculty and staff who gathered in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center to hear Simone’s final opening day address.

Entering his 15th and final year as president, Simone reflected on the past year’s accomplishments and laid out the university’s objectives for the 2006-2007 academic year. Key initiatives include the adoption of an honor code, the creation of a campus-wide ombudsperson and the



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Albert Simone delivers his final opening day address as RIT president.

establishment of a chief diversity officer (See related stories, Page 3). Simone said a strong climate on campus will solidify RIT’s momentum.

“To effect significant change in order to reach goals, a positive climate is a necessary,” he said. “I believe the climate now is a most positive one across the campus. What would make me happy is to leave for my successor the strongest possible campus climate.”

Other speakers at the community address included Kristen Waterstram-Rich, chair of Academic Senate; Kurt Ingerick, chair of Staff Council; and Alfreda Brown, interim chief diversity officer.

Simone began by welcoming back 2,803 faculty and staff, including 261 recent hires. He thanked the RIT community for its successful support of the \$309 million capital campaign. New gifts and pledges over the past year totaled \$78.5 million, the largest fundraising year in RIT’s history. Simone noted that Alumni Relations will continue to be a focal point in the coming year

with six new chapters being developed across the nation. Twenty-two chapters exist today as RIT approaches 100,000 alumni.

The president gave a snapshot of enrollment trends, which includes welcoming 3,275 new freshmen and transfer students this fall. The incoming freshmen class of 2,435 students

Opening day talks, page 4

Athenaeum renamed Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The name has changed but the mission remains the same—to offer a diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating classes for individuals 50 and over.

RIT’s Athenaeum has been awarded a grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation and will be renamed The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT.

“This is another exciting milestone for our organization,” says RIT Vice President for Government and Community Relations Deborah Stendardi. “The news couldn’t come at a better time since The Athenaeum, now OLLI at RIT, commemorates its 20th birthday in the 2006-2007 calendar year. We will have much to celebrate.”

OLLI at RIT, located at 150 Research Blvd., joins a network that includes more than 90 Osher institutes in 39 states and is one of two in New York state. The grant of \$100,000 will help expand the organization, which now boasts 375 members.



“We appreciate the Osher Foundation’s confidence in RIT and their invitation to a roster of lifelong learning programs on prestigious campuses such as Tufts, Rutgers, Northwestern and Carnegie Mellon,” says RIT President Albert Simone. “In New York state, the foundation has awarded grants to only two higher education institutions—New York University and RIT.”

Osher grants have been awarded to universities with existing lifelong learning programs and those in start-up programs as well. Bonnie Salem, OLLI at RIT council chair, explains, “We’re ahead of the game because we’ve been doing this for 20 years, so we have a history, we have pride, and we have members who have remained committed.”

OLLI at RIT offers a fall, winter and spring series of classes, which are developed and conducted by members in a

OLLI, page 4

Embracing a new era



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Emotional scenes of pride and affection were repeated across campus on Aug. 28 as first-year students said goodbye to family to begin their RIT journey. More images highlighting a week of new-student orientation activities appear on page 2.

Student spotlight

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute student brings life experience to the classroom

This student spotlight is a monthly feature highlighting student success stories at RIT.

Peter Luce is not your typical RIT student because he can attend classes simply for knowledge and enjoyment. Each semester he can register for courses in history, religion, music, science, languages, math, computers, literature, the arts or government, and not be concerned about purchasing books, taking notes during class, homework, co-op programs or his GPA. Yet, he can even lunch with his classmates at Crossroads or do research projects at Wallace Library.

Luce is a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT (formerly The Athenaeum). The organization’s catchphrase “Of, for and by the members” perfectly segues into Luce’s philosophy on education.

“If you want to learn more about something, you teach it,” says Luce,

who joined The Athenaeum in 2001. After taking several classes on everything from current events and Poetic Visions to Reading *The New Yorker*, Luce decided to teach his first course on West Coast Jazz of the 1950s. Since then, he has presented seven additional courses in jazz history and appreciation.

“Teaching takes a lot of prep time but it is a wonderful opportunity because I have to read more deeply about the evolution of jazz, listen more critically to the artists and their contributions and enhance all the information so I can engage and interest an audience.”

Teaching about jazz legends like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington is a far cry from Luce’s lifetime occupations. He worked as a health care and planning administrator for 20

years, then followed his dream of owning a small bookstore. He called it Park Avenue Books and Espresso and it lasted four years.

By 1997—similar to the storyline in *You’ve Got Mail* with Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks—his little shop around the corner was forced to compete with Borders and Barnes & Noble bookstore chains.

“So I closed the store and ran Books Express from my home,” Luce explains. “It was a book ordering service catering to high schools and individuals with free delivery in Monroe County. There were no employees, just me.”

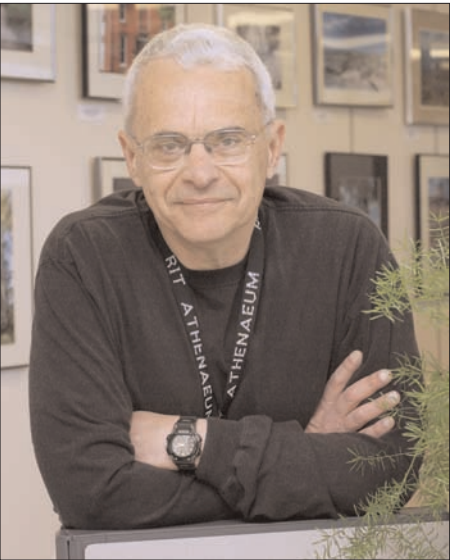
When Luce finally decided to retire, he discovered a wide range of interests, both personally and within the Rochester community. He is a volunteer at the Rundel Library Foundation

where he prices and lists used and rare books for online sale and an usher for Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. He helps the RPO with its archive project. He also enjoys travel, hiking, biking and art-drawing and collage.

“So you can probably guess where that led me,” says Luce with a laugh. “I’m now the coordinator of OLLI’s miniGallery—and I also have a solo show here once a year.”

“An organization like OLLI at RIT can bring out the best talents in people and the other way around. Learning is like saying to yourself, ‘I can do this.’” ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Peter Luce

UW golf tournament
Tee-off the 2007 United Way Campaign of Greater Rochester by registering to play in the 19th Annual Rick Pettinger Memorial Golf Tournament, Sept. 12, at Shadow Lake Golf Club in Penfield. The registration deadline is Sept. 8, and the cost of \$90 per person includes greens fees and cart for 18 holes, lunch, awards and dinner buffet. Call 475-7408 or 475-6011.

Campaign reception
The campus community is invited to a presentation and celebration marking the close to Powered by the Future: The Campaign for RIT. The event takes place at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, in Ingle Auditorium, followed by a reception in Fireside Lounge. The campaign surpassed its goal this summer, concluding at more than \$309 million. Lisa Cauda, vice president of development and alumni relations; Bill Buckingham, campaign chair; and RIT President Albert Simone will share details of this successful initiative.

U.S. poster collection now on display

The first American poster Mark Resnick ever bought was by renowned designer Dorothy Waugh, created in 1934 to promote the national parks system. Now, 15 years later, Resnick and his wife, Maura, have assembled what may be the largest collection of American posters, spanning from 1890 to the present, outside of the Smithsonian Institution. The posters cover numerous themes, such as election campaigns, the nation's war efforts, entertainment, travel and consumer products.

RIT's Bevier Gallery opens its 2006-2007 season with the debut of an exhibition that mirrors American history for the past 110 years. "The American Image: U.S. Posters from the 19th to the 21st Century" opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, and the show runs through Oct. 11.

The exhibition is accompanied by a companion book—the first "compact history" of the American poster-produced by RIT's Cary Graphic Arts Press. The book features full-color reproductions of the 78 posters from the Resnick private collection, which are included in the exhibition.



Although Resnick has extensive background in the visual arts, poster collecting is a far cry from his "real" job as a business executive at Twentieth Century Fox. "I could not have found a better home for this dual project (exhibition and book) than RIT," says Resnick from Los Angeles. "Not only is the School of Design one of the nation's best, it is unsurpassed

in its emphasis on preservation, history, theory and criticism. Plus RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences provides a first-rate exhibition space in the Bevier Gallery."

In addition to the Cary Graphic Arts Press, RIT's School of Design, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, and the Printing Applications Laboratory collaborated on the book's production.

"RIT's Cary Graphic Arts Press has done a fantastic job on this project," says Resnick. "Their books are both handcrafted and technically masterful. Through university-wide collaborations, they bring to bear a unique combination of resources—design, photography, printing and editorial. The Press is a real gem within RIT and the entire academic community at large."

"Mark's passion grew and grew and the collection now numbers in the hundreds—possibly the largest private collection of American posters spanning 1890 to today. This rare survey exhibition would do the Smithsonian proud," says R. Roger Remington; RIT Vignelli



Distinguished Professor of Design.

The American Image can be purchased for \$50 online through the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press Web site at <http://library.rit.edu/carypress>. ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

A snapshot of RIT New Student Orientation week, Aug. 27-Sept. 3



PUMPIN' UP THE CROWD . . . National Technical Institute for the Deaf students, from left, Josh Clegg, Terry Mackin and Lisa Velez perform The Tiger Song during Convocation for New Students and Families Aug. 28.



VOICES IN UNISON . . . Members of Surround Sound, one of RIT's a cappella groups, perform at the convocation ceremony.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

A FIELD TRIP ALREADY? . . . The College of Liberal Arts took its first-year students to visit Rochester's George Eastman House.

RIT's Ritchie The Tiger—revealed

Mike Klein has had ice cream smeared on him. Robbie Horgan has been punched in the face. And, as hard as it is to believe, they've each had a blast through it all.

Klein and Horgan aren't just RIT students. They are two of the most popular guys on campus—well, as long as they're in costume.

For the past year, the two have had alter egos. They aren't just Mike and Robbie. They are Ritchie The Tiger, RIT's mascot.

Both are orientation assistants and volunteered to serve as the mascot during last year's orientation week. Klein had been the mascot once before. It was new for Horgan. But by the time the week concluded, they were each hooked.

"We just had so much fun with it," says Horgan, a third-year information technology student in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. "Especially during the Tiger Walk and the Red Wings game. We asked if we could do it all year."

It didn't take long for either to realize that life was different inside the suit.

"It's amazing how much power you have just wearing a tiger suit," says Klein, a fifth-year biotech major in the College of Science who is set to graduate in November. "Just by raising your hands, you can get the crowd to go nuts. If someone tried to do that without the suit on, people would say, 'Who is this guy?'"



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Mike Klein and Robbie Horgan bear their stripes as Ritchie The Tiger.

That's not the only perk that comes with donning the tiger stripes.

"The cool thing about being Ritchie is that you always, always get to go to the front of the line for stuff, no matter what, because Ritchie is cool," Horgan says. "Last year, I was at the student picnic and there was a dunking booth. Ten or 15 people missed and then they brought me up to the front of the line. I dunked the guy and everybody went crazy."

There are some drawbacks, however. Mascots often are prime targets for those who like to take the fun a little too far.

Klein's ice cream incident occurred at the end of a Ben & Jerry's ice cream eating competition. He

thought he had put on a good show and people in the crowd were patting him on the back. He was partially right. They were patting him on the back, but with ice cream in their hands.

It was one of Horgan's friends who decked him during a hockey game. His friend didn't think it would hurt. He was wrong.

But even those moments have turned into great stories, they say.

"It'll be fun to think back and tell people that I was the mascot at my school," says Horgan.

Klein agrees:

"It has been one of the most fun things I've done since I've been in college, I'm going to miss it." ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu



LIGHTING THE WAY . . . Several hundred of RIT's women gathered Aug. 31 for the first Lighting The Way ceremony. The ceremony, designed to welcome first-year women to campus, included speeches and a lantern-lit procession down the Quarter Mile.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer



PUTTING PAWS TO THE PAVEMENT . . . First-year students and their families were greeted by a RIT tradition Monday, Aug. 28: the Tiger Walk. Faculty and staff lined the entrances to the Gordon Field House and Activities Center, dressed in RIT garb and equipped with noisemakers, to give students a boisterous welcome as they processed into the convocation ceremony.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Threats to public health often become challenges for college health professionals. Outbreaks of intestinal illness or seasonal flu can spread rapidly through groups of students living in close quarters such as residence halls. Students suffer temporary misery but rarely hospitalization or long-term ill effect. On occasion, cases of contagious disease, such as mumps or measles, seriously disrupt campus activity as public health officials institute measures to contain the spread of infection. Just this past spring, several campuses in the Midwest dealt with the largest outbreak of mumps in recent history. Most of us in college health today, however, have never faced a threat similar to that of pandemic flu. Avian influenza (subtype H5N1), also known as “bird flu” has been a hot topic in the media recently. While currently confined to bird populations, isolated cases of human illness have demonstrated the virulent and life-threatening nature of the disease. Despite the fact that millions of

birds, both domestic and wild, have been culled, the H5N1 virus persists in these bird populations. Most of the laboratory confirmed cases in humans have resulted from direct contact with infected animals with only a few believed caused by human to human spread.

Public health experts and government officials have expressed concern that mutation of the H5N1 virus—making human to human transmission easier—could spark a pandemic, a worldwide outbreak of infection. The World Health Organization and other federal agencies are making preparations in the event of a pandemic and have urged all other communities to do so as well. The Student Health Center staff devoted time and energy over the summer preparing an emergency medical response plan for RIT students, should a pandemic occur. Utilizing resources from the WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services and in collaboration

with other essential campus services, SHC has developed a framework for response. We are working to ensure that on-campus health care providers and first responders are prepared to respond by providing ongoing education about avian influenza, identifying critical resources for a variety of scenarios, rehearsing emergency drills, and having medical supplies and equipment readily available. The Student Health Center is also prepared to serve as a resource for the campus community and non-student constituency.

Close coordination with the community partners such as the Monroe County Health Department is also vital to planning successful management of such an emergency. A broad range of local officials “walked” through a simulated pandemic emergency in Rochester during a tabletop exercise sponsored by the MCHD and the Office of Emergency Preparedness. A representative from RIT attended as an observer and gained valuable

understanding of the impact this widespread disease would have on the entire region.

Considering the scope of impact should pandemic flu affect our campus and the limited resources to provide appropriate care to large numbers of very ill students, temporary campus closure is a real possibility. The recommendation for campus closure could be made by the SHC after consultation with public health experts. Such a decision by the RIT administration would involve careful consideration of the health and safety of students and staff as well as the implications of disruption to the academic environment.

The SHC is following the latest developments by monitoring the WHO and CDC Web sites. We are staying abreast of all recommendations made by our national organization, the American College Health Association, as well as benchmarking the activities of other colleges and universities.

We realize that many in the RIT



community may have questions about pandemic flu. To help answer some of those questions, the SHC Web site, www.rit.edu/studenthealth, features a section on frequently asked questions and links to several pertinent federal agencies. It is our fervent hope that pandemic flu does not visit our campus or community; however, the SHC, in cooperation with other campus units, will be prepared to respond if it becomes necessary to do so. *Durland is RIT medical director.*

Ombuds Office opens

In an effort to enhance a productive environment for the campus community at large, RIT has formally established an Ombuds Office, providing services to students, faculty, staff and administration.



Lee Twyman

The role of ombudsperson is to assist any member of the RIT community in dispute resolution. In particular, the ombudsperson may facilitate clarification of issues before they reach the stage of dispute. This individual will also identify recurring problems and patterns and communicate that information to personnel who are appropriate to remedy the problem.

“The Ombuds Office represents an expansion of the existing services provided by RIT’s student ombudsperson since 1989,” explains President Albert Simone. “Inter-actions with the ombudsperson are confidential, impartial and independent.”

A nationwide search for a new

ombudsperson will be conducted. Lee Twyman, the university’s student ombudsperson, has assumed the role of interim ombudsperson and will direct services until June 30, 2007. The nationally determined ombudsperson is expected to commence duties sometime in the 2007-2008 academic year. At the end of the ensuing three-year period, a decision will be made as to whether the Ombuds Office should be continued on a permanent basis.

Successful implementation of the Ombuds Office will enhance a sense of trust and confidence in the governance and decision-making processes across the RIT campus, states Simone.

“The comfort provided by this trust and confidence will enable the campus to be even more supportive of and productive in delivering quality education and establishing a university of excellence,” he says. “People who are comfortable with and trusting of their work environment look forward to coming to work, and this can only work to the benefit of our students.” ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

Brown named RIT’s interim diversity chief

Alfreda Brown has been appointed interim chief diversity officer for RIT, a position that will report directly to RIT



Alfreda Brown

President Albert Simone. Brown assumes the interim role for two years; a national search for a permanent chief diversity officer will be conducted at the end of this two-year period.

In this new role, Brown will provide an assessment of diversity over the entire campus for the benefit of the president, and other constituents across campus. The diversity officer is also responsible for influencing the design, development, delivery and measurement of initiatives, strategies and processes as they relate to diversity and inclusion.

In addition to several other

duties, the diversity officer will lead a process to develop a strategic diversity plan for RIT and present each year a status report on the implementation of that plan.

Brown has worked at RIT as the chairperson for the Commission for Promoting Pluralism for the past 12 years.

“You have heard me say numerous times that I believe diversity is the key to the quality growth and enhancement of RIT as we move ahead,” says Simone. “Because of this experience at RIT, I believe Alfreda Brown is uniquely positioned to take RIT forward in the establishment of the diversity officer position. I know she always will be open to your suggestions and counsel as to how we can solidify and continue to enhance the already significant achievements the campus as a whole has obtained in the diversity area in recent years.” ■

Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

Gannett project all-encompassing

Traditionally housed in the College of Liberal Arts, the Caroline Werner Gannett Chair has taken on a new dimension this year. Sixteen faculty and community members of the Gannett Advisory Board have launched an intercollegiate effort focusing on new intersections of science, social science, technology and the humanities.

In its first stage of activity, the Gannett Project will host a high-profile lecture series entitled “Consilience: The Cognitive Revolution,” which will encourage conversation about the ways in which natural selection has shaped our bodies and our minds. The series will explore the connections between the social sciences, psychology and science through topics as diverse as family dynamics, the psychological differences between the sexes, the origins of the aesthetic sense and the adaptive functions of jealousy and depression.

Eugenie Scott will present the first talk, “Making Sense of Biology,” at 8 p.m. on Sept. 20, in Ingle Auditorium in the Student Alumni Union. Scott, the executive director of the National Center for Science Education, has been a researcher and an activist in the creationism/evolution controversy for more than 20 years.

Other lectures in the series include “Why Did Natural Selection Leave Us So Vulnerable to Disease,” by Randolph Nesse; “The Truth About Cinderella: Discriminative Mistreatment of Stepchildren,” by Martin Daly and Margo Wilson; “Evolutionary Social Constructivism,” by David Sloan Wilson; and “The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind is Designed to Kill,” by David Buss.

“Because each of the speakers works on the edge of several different disciplines, their talks should suggest exciting new modes of cooperation between science and the humanities and engender a broader understanding about the role of evolution in unifying the branches of knowledge,” says Mary Lynn Broe, Caroline Werner Gannett Professor.

Later stages of the Gannett Project will draw upon community resources, and will include new course offerings and related activities involving faculty and students across the university.

Visit www.rit.edu/~cwg/ or call 475-2057. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Science kicks off year with new structure

The College of Science has redefined itself with a new organizational structure. A collection of schools will augment the departmental structure, creating a sense of semi-autonomy and becoming the public face of the college. RIT President Albert Simone and Dean Ian Gatley announced the news during the university’s opening day events.



Stan McKenzie

The recent growth in the college strained the old departmental paradigm and slowed the flow of new ideas and initiatives. The idea for adopting a new structure has been in the works for several years. The College of Imaging Arts and Sciences also is organized in schools.

“The school structure is much more appropriate to the dual role played by the College of Science in providing foundational general edu-

cation courses for students throughout RIT as well as delivering extremely high quality degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate degree levels,” says Stan McKenzie, RIT Provost. “The school structure also better facilitates the increasing role the College of Science plays in research and scholarship by faculty and students alike.”

The department of mathematics and statistics has become the School of Mathematical Sciences with Sophia Maggelakis as the head; the separate departments of biological sciences and medical sciences have created the School of Life Sciences under Richard Doolittle. Faculty from physics and chemistry are still determining the logistics of their union and will form the School of Physical Sciences later in the year.

The Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science and the General Science Exploration for Undecided Science Majors will remain unchanged. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

United Way campaign update

To the RIT Community:

The generosity and giving spirit of the RIT community never ceases to amaze me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the campus community for its support of the 2006 United Way campaign, which raised nearly \$370,000 (over 105 percent of goal), and earned an Award of Excellence for the 12th consecutive year. RIT was also recognized as a member of the United Way’s new Cornerstone Society that includes organizations that raise in excess of \$100,000. I’m proud to say that RIT is considered to be a model campaign, not just within the colleges and universities division, but for the community as a whole.



Albert Simone

The success of this year’s campaign is attributable to a number of highlights:

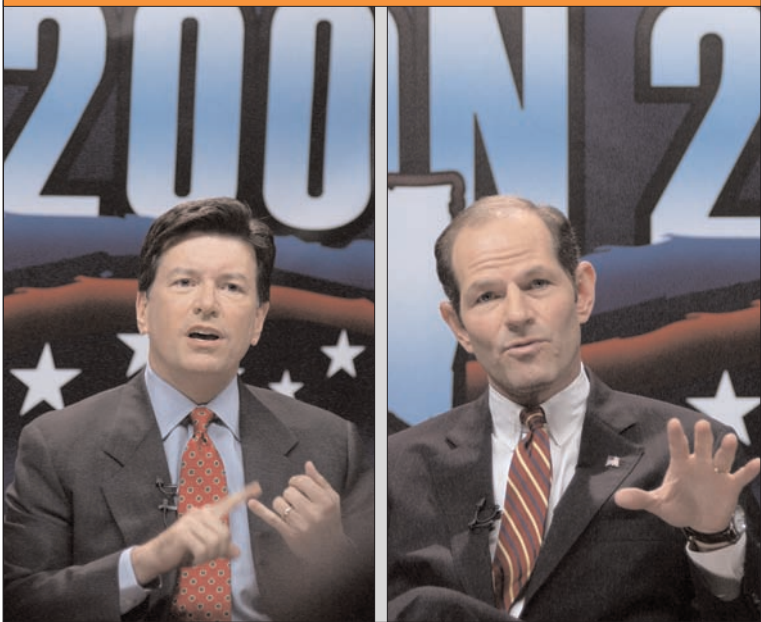
- The average gift from those participating increased by over 5 percent;
- Our pacesetter campaign raised nearly 1/3 of the total amount from 231 campus leaders, and the RIT Leaders’ Circle (donors of \$350 or more) grew to 288 members;
- The generous support and participation of RIT retirees, members of the RIT Athenaeum (now called Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and the staff of the RIT Inn & Conference Center also played key roles in the campaign’s success.
- Special events—a signature of the RIT United Way campaign—raised more dollars and created opportunities for campus spirit and camaraderie.

Special thanks to the Campus Steering Committee, chaired by Roch Whitman of Enrollment Management & Career Services, and Campaign Coordinator Lynn Rowth, of the Office of Government and Community Relations. The dedication and commitment of this group earned a well-deserved “Shining Star Award” from the United Way of Greater Rochester.

Congratulations and thank you for another RIT success story!

Albert J. Simone

Candidates' night at RIT



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Two of three candidates for New York governor appeared at the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science on Aug. 30 during a town hall-style forum, sponsored by R News and Time Warner Cable. Republican John Faso, left, and Democrat Eliot Spitzer appealed to voters inside the Carlson Center auditorium and those watching as part of a statewide telecast. The other Democratic candidate, Tom Suozzi, took part in the forum from Pace University in New York City. Spitzer and Suozzi face off in the Sept. 12 primary.

Master's programs from page 1

the degree online, on campus, part-time or full-time.

"It's very specialized and targets people who want to study the organizational and technological issues involved in enterprise scale networks such as emerging network technologies, network design and performance and network processing," says Luther Troell, chair of the networking, security and systems administration department in the Golisano College.

The master's degree was developed primarily for RIT undergraduates who have earned degrees in networking, security and systems administration. The program will also accommodate graduates from other disciplines, providing them with a sequence of bridge courses. All upper-level students will take a series of core courses, including ones in project management and organizational behavior from the E. Philip Saunders College of Business.



Luther Troell

"In any corporation, networking system administrators work closely with employees in business management, so it's vital that our graduates understand how businesses operate," says Troell. "With this advanced degree, they will be prepared to take on technological leadership roles in any organization dealing with emerging network technologies."

Starting in fall 2007, RIT will roll out a master's degree in software engineering. RIT was the first university in the country to offer an undergraduate program in software engineering.

"Team projects are a key part of the undergraduate curriculum," says Fernando Naveda, chair of the software engineering department in the Golisano College. "We've designed the master's program to also be project centric. Few universities in the nation offer project-centric experience at the software engineering master's level."

Typically, students will take courses where they will learn theory, or register in a practicum course, where they will join a team-based ongoing software development project. The master's can-

news&events

September 7, 2006 | Volume 39 | Number 1

News & Events is produced by University News Services. Send comments to Building 86, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623 / news&events@mail.rit.edu / 585-475-5064 / 585-475-5097 (fax)

Bob Finnerty, Paul Stella '03
Executive Editors
Vienna Carvalho-McGrain
Managing Editor
Michael Saffran
Deputy Managing Editor
A. Sue Weisler
Manager of Photography

Karen Black, Kelly Downs, Will Dube, John Follaco, Susan Gawlowicz, Steve Jaynes, Kathy Lindsley, Marcia Morphy
Contributing writers
Peter Bella '03
Designer
www.rit.edu/news
www.rit.edu/newsevents
News & Events online

R·I·T

Rochester Institute of Technology

One Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5603

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, N.Y.
Permit 626

Groundbreaking, Sept. 19

Some of RIT's engineering technology programs are about to move a step closer toward getting a new home.

Ground will officially be broken on the College of Applied Science and Technology Engineering Technology Building during an 11 a.m. Sept. 19 ceremony in the B. Thomas Golisano College Auditorium. The entire campus is welcomed to attend.

The \$8.5 million, 33,600-square-foot building, which will be constructed to the north of the B. Thomas Golisano College, will bring together engineering technology faculty and laboratories from:

- Electrical, Computer, Telecommunications Engineering Technology
- Civil Engineering Technology/Environmental Management and Safety
- Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology/Packaging Science
- "The CAST Engineering

Technology Building will provide our students and faculty with a state-of-the-art facility in which to conduct collaborative teaching, learning and scholarship," says Wiley McKinzie, dean of RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology.

Two features made possible by a \$2 million grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund will be highlighted within the building: the McGowan Student Commons, a gathering space for students and special events, and the William G. McGowan Center for Telecommunications.

The telecommunications center will house the REDCOM Telecommunications System Laboratory, featuring advanced equipment to support future curricula and innovation; the Laboratory for Advanced Communications Technology and the optoelectronics laboratory. ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

Opening talks from page 1

is the largest in RIT history. This occurred after freshmen and graduate applications achieved record highs, with 10 percent and 26 percent increases, respectively. New graduate students will exceed last year's class by 12 percent. Highlights of the freshmen class include:

- Women increase by 8 percent, comprising 29 percent of the class.
- African American, Latino American and Native American enrollment grow by 8 percent, comprising 10 percent of the class.
- 50 percent are from outside New York.
- 5 percent are international students.

OLLI from page 1

variety of fields—from arts, literature and sciences, to history and government.

"Our members can teach, learn and remain active in their retirement years," says Julie Blowers, OLLI at RIT program director. "Since Osher began in 2001, they have set a goal with each of the higher education institutions that have received grants—challenging us to increase our membership size to 500. We have no doubt we'll meet their challenge at RIT."

For information, call 292-8989. ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

RIT's co-op placements increased 9 percent to an all-time high of 5,094, with earnings by students exceeding \$30 million for the first time. Career Fair employer participation reached a record 297 companies and overall campus interviews soared to a record 2,478.

Student retention remains a high priority on campus. Simone noted the success of "learning communities," a cohort of 20 to 30 students who stay together for about half of their courses in their freshman year. This year's freshman retention rate for learning communities is expected to be 92.5 percent, which could lead to an 80 percent graduation rate in a few years. Simone also noted a national survey of students' perceptions of their experience at RIT, where 16 "strategic strength" categories were identified.

In Academic Affairs, Simone noted six new programs: computing and information science Ph.D.; game design and development M.S.; networking, security and systems administration M.S.; biomedical sciences B.S.; digital cinema B.S.; urban and community studies B.S. RIT has three new programs pending with New York state: color science Ph.D.; software engineering M.S.; facilities management M.S.

The president also emphasized that scholarship is integral to the teaching process and to the quality preparation

didates will be required to complete three of these practicums. Based on their experience, academic background and career objectives, students will play a different role each time they register in a practicum course.

Students will be able to tailor their master's degree, choosing to pursue either a track in software quality or software design. They will also take three elective courses outside of the software engineering field, selecting an area of interest that will best suit their career goals.

"A master's program that hits on software quality and design is prime for the job environment," says Naveda. "We know there is a market for this degree because we've received numerous inquiries from people in industry. With so many corporations downsizing, skilled workers are looking to retrain themselves in other areas." ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu



Fernando Naveda

of RIT students. He said RIT must "continue to define and refine the essence of scholarship, teaching/learning, practice and professional service as they relate to and complement on another."

"Continuing our momentum means persistently developing the area of innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization of creative ideas that come from our faculty, staff, students and alumni," Simone added. "This will be a way to further distinguish RIT as a career-focused university, which utilizes scholarship to implement its educational goals."

Looking to the future, Simone said he will counsel the Presidential Search Committee in the coming year and serve as a "super salesman and honest broker with the finalists."

The president concluded: "I would like to thank the entire RIT community, as well as the surrounding Rochester community, for giving Carolie and me the opportunity to contribute and to be part of such a wonderfully vibrant and genuine institution at a most exciting time in its history. It has been quite a ride. This year we shall finish one book—which took 15 years to write—and start another." ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

■ To read the full text of President Simone's opening day address, visit www.rit.edu/president, and search under the "speeches" tab.

Opening Day remarks

- Visit www.rit.edu/newsevents to view the full text of the following speeches:

Kristen Waterstram-Rich, chair of Academic Senate

As faculty we have become used to the expectations in regard to scholarship, teaching, service and practice, and even have inventive ideas regarding the pursuit of activities in these areas.

However, many are still confused about how these expectations are to be met.

We recognize that this represents a formula for success for students and faculty alike . . . But to achieve success the formula needs to be adjustable so that a balance can be maintained. . . As a community we strive to show equity with respect to diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, social background and transgender, yet, we seem to be slow to show equity among the diverse professional needs of faculty.



Waterstram-Rich

Kurt Ingerick, chair of Staff Council

Today, as chair of Staff Council, I would like to express to you how important it is to become involved at RIT. This will be an exciting year and one of transition as we

assist in the search for the new president as well as the formation of the Ombud's Office, the implementation of the RIT Honor code and several other new initiatives. Many opportunities lie ahead for you to have a voice in shared decision making at RIT.



Kurt Ingerick

Alfreda Brown, interim Chief Diversity Officer

President Simone's achievements in diversity have created a positive change in the culture and climate of RIT. Several years ago, I remember when he placed diversity in his number one box and he has continued since that time to bring diversity to the forefront of importance at RIT. An outstanding outcome directly due to President Simone's diligence is the fact that over the last four years, RIT has been highly successful in recruiting AALANA faculty—a consistent average of approximately 30 percent of new hires each year have been AALANA faculty. Not many technical universities can boast that fact.



Alfreda Brown