



R·I·T

news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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NASA astronaut speaks at RIT April 8

NASA astronaut and Rochester native Col. Pamela Melroy is the next scheduled speaker for the Women in Leadership series, April 8. Her presentation, Human

Space Flight—Shuttle Space Station and Beyond, is at 3:30 p.m. in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. The talk is open to the RIT community. A reception immediately follows in Fireside Lounge.

Melroy was commissioned through



Col. Pamela Melroy

the Air Force ROTC program in 1983. After earning her master's degree in earth and planetary sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she attended undergraduate pilot training and graduated in 1985. She flew for six years as a co-pilot, aircraft commander and instructor pilot. She is a veteran of military operations Just Cause and Desert Shield/Desert Storm, with over 200 combat and combat support hours. Upon her graduation from Air Force Test Pilot School, she served as a test pilot until her selection for the astronaut program.

In 1994, she was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA and is qualified for flight assignment as a shuttle pilot. She has already logged more than 562 hours in space and was

a crew-member on the shuttle Discovery in 2000 and Atlantis in 2002.

Prior to her presentation at RIT, Melroy plans to meet with College of Science female honors students and ROTC students. She will also tour the Center for Imaging Science.

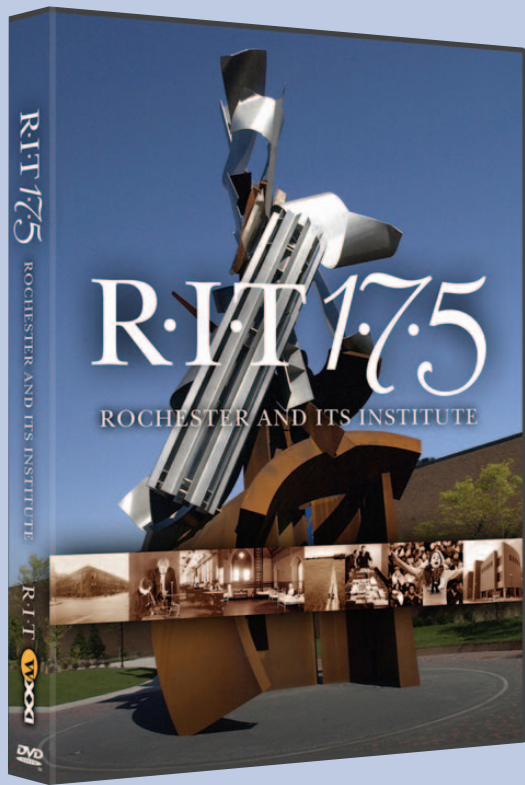
As part of RIT's 175th anniversary celebration, the Women in Leadership series features some of the nation's most influential women in business, government, technology and the arts, sharing their insights and experience in their respective fields.

A series goal is to inspire students, and RIT's women students in particular, to excel in their professions and to set high career aspirations for themselves.

For more information about the series, call 475-5173. ■

Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

RIT's historical DVD available at Campus Connections



The documentary film, RIT 175: Rochester and its Institute, is now available on DVD. The film, co-produced by RIT and WXXI public television, is one of the highlights of the 175th Anniversary. The documentary is dedicated to RIT faculty and staff, past and present.

Film and animation professor Malcolm Spaul and David Cronister, director of RIT's Educational Technology Center, produced and directed the 55-minute film. Students in the School of Film and Animation assisted in the project. Along with the film, another 30 minutes of content has been added to the DVD, including extended interviews and student-produced mini-films.

The DVD is available in the RIT bookstore, Campus Connections, for \$18.95. For more information, call 475-2504 or visit <http://bookstore.rit.edu>.

WXXI-TV Channel 21 (cable 11) will broadcast the documentary in its entirety at 9 p.m. on Monday, March 28.

RIT tuition, fee changes

RIT has announced its new undergraduate tuition and other charges for the 2005-06 academic year. Tuition for returning students who matriculated and enrolled prior to fall of 2003 will increase 5.4 percent to \$22,605. Tuition for entering freshmen, transfer students and other undergraduate students who matriculated and enrolled fall of 2003 or after will be \$23,247, also a 5.4 percent increase.

RIT began a two-tiered tuition program in 2003 to minimize the impact of tuition increases on returning students and their families who face difficulties in responding to changing costs.

"The staff, faculty and administration of RIT have worked collaboratively to identify many cost saving opportunities during this past year," says James Watters, vice president of finance and administration. "Yet additional revenues must be generated to meet the demands of increasing the quality of our programs through the new strategic plan. It should also come as no surprise that RIT is facing a dramatic increase in the cost of utilities, principally natural gas and electric charges. These charges alone will be \$1.6 million higher next year. This is coupled with increases in labor, health care and insurance costs."

Full-time graduate tuition is going up 5.4 percent to \$25,392. Specialty programs, such as the Executive MBA and Executive Leadership Program, have different rates.

A complete schedule of costs, fees and related charges can be found at www.rit.edu/tuitionfees.

"When compared with many of our peer institutions, our overall costs remain lower," says Watters. "We strive to balance cost and value while constantly increasing the prestige associated with an RIT degree. We believe we have developed a strong plan for next year, which will maintain this commitment." ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

Minett Professor focuses on promoting Rochester

Michael Finney is Rochester's most influential cheer-leader.

His high-profile job as president and chief executive officer of Greater Rochester Enterprise is

to professionally market and grow businesses in the Rochester metropolitan area as well as promote the city's image as a wonderful place to live—rich in the arts, sports and culture.

"Rochester has gone through economic difficulties but its core assets made for a pretty powerful potential for rebound," says Finney, RIT's Frederick H. Minett Professor at the College of Business for the 2004-2005 academic year.

RIT alumni, staff and students



Michael Finney

braved a mid-February snowstorm to listen to his talk on "Promoting Rochester's Business is Everybody's Business" during the College of Business' Alumni Breakfast Briefing series at Oak Hill Country Club.

Citing the inclement weather as an example, Finney explained how, "We need to shift our culture!"

"Instead of complaining about snow, think of how beautiful it is to see trees frosted in white or how winter makes you appreciate all the seasons," affirms Finney, who enjoys skiing at Bristol Mountain with his wife, Gina, and their three sons, Michael Jr., 16, Marcus, 12, and Austin, 6.

Since last November, Finney has been involved with several campus divisions—the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies and the Commission for Promoting Pluralism—as well as a project involving a submitted business proposal by five students from the Executive MBA program.

"I'm obviously pleased that GRE has the opportunity to make a stronger connection to universities such as RIT," says Finney, whose goal is to "keep some of these graduates in Rochester as working professionals and future business entrepreneurs."

Finney leads a multi-tasked role to promote Rochester's assets at GRE, which was established two years ago as a public-private partnership with an initial \$14 million, five-year investment budget.

While constantly working to develop relationships with private and public sector leaders, Finney also elicits community involvement and feedback by delivering more than 250 presentations on GRE goals.

"With my schedule, it's a bit of a challenge to find time for rest and relaxation, but it's impossible for me not to spread the positive aspects of living in Rochester," Finney explains. "We're not looking for temporary quick fixes but staying power."

Perhaps Finney's use of the word

'impossible' can be linked to Rochester's famous suffragette, Susan B. Anthony, whose motto was, "Failure is impossible." Circumstances aside, Finney had to overcome growing up in a difficult inner-city environment in Michigan, the middle child of seven.

"My parents stayed focused, and I always had the attitude that if I stayed positive, I would succeed," says Finney, who graduated with a business degree from Saginaw Valley State University and a master of arts from Central Michigan University. "My philosophy was that life can be far worse, but life can also be far better."

Consequently, Finney's belief in "Rochester's business is everybody's business" emulates his personal life-long goals. "Growing a business can be likened to personal growth. We have to constantly search for what we are best in, what would put us on the map." ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

Celebrating 175

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf celebrates RIT's 175th anniversary throughout April. Events include:

Ebony Club's 20th Anniversary Banquet, 6 p.m. April 2, Louise M. Slaughter Building
Employment Issues, 5-7 p.m. April 6, Hettie L. Shumway Commons

NTID National Advisory Group special presentation, 9:45 a.m.-noon April 7, Panara Theatre, Lyndon Baines Johnson Building
NTID students host Gallaudet University students, April 9-10; See Brick Fest schedule for details
Age-Related Hearing Loss: Research Update, 12-1:30 p.m. April 11, LBJ, room 2590

Community celebration featuring groundbreaking for Student Development Center and Invitational Art Exhibit of NTID Alumni, 4:45 p.m. April 14; Dyer Arts Center, LBJ

Facilitating Student Learning: Pronunciation as a Teaching Strategy, part I—10:30 a.m.-noon April 15, LBJ, room 3237; part II—10:30 a.m.-noon April 29, LBJ, room 2590

NTID bowling tournament, 1-4 p.m. April 16

An Evening of One-Acts, 7:30 p.m. April 14-17, NTID Performing Arts Presents "1510 Lab Theatre"; free and open to the public

Perspectives on Deaf Culture—1940-70, 12-1:30 p.m. April 22, LBJ, room 2590

Asian Deaf Club Celebration Week, 6 p.m.-midnight April 30, Louise M. Slaughter Building
NTID History timeline display, outside Dyer Arts Center through April

A Midsummer Night's Dream, 7:30 p.m. May 5-8, Panara Theatre

News briefs

COE partners honored

The Kate Gleason College of Engineering honored industry partners for outstanding contributions during a corporate recognition awards ceremony and reception on March 11. Gleason Corp., IBM Corp. and Xerox Corp. were chosen by engineering faculty for Corporate Citizenship awards. Upper-level engineering majors with co-op experience selected Cummins Inc., General Mills Inc., Honda R&D Americas Inc., Texas Instruments Inc. and the marketing division of Xerox Corp. for Student Choice awards.

Public speaking contest

All RIT students are invited to compete in the 16th annual Institute Public Speaking Contest sponsored by the communication department and the College of Liberal Arts. Preliminary rounds will be held the week of April 11. The final round will be held 10-11:30 a.m. April 22 in the Skalny Room, Interfaith Center. For more information, contact Grant Cos at 475-6646 or gccgpt@rit.edu.

Reflections on Abe

Scholars from around the country will meet at RIT April 1-2 to discuss different aspects of President Abraham Lincoln's statesmanship. Opening talks will begin at 7 p.m. in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building, with an introduction by RIT professor Joseph Fornieri. In addition to morning and afternoon talks and exhibits, the conference includes a family event 1:30-3:30 p.m. April 2, featuring fife-and-drum music, Lincoln and Civil War artifacts, a Lincoln re-enactment and a performance of Aaron Copeland's *A Lincoln Portrait* conducted by Jonathan Kruger, RIT assistant professor of music, and performed by the RIT Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble. The conference is hosted by Fornieri and RIT's political science department. All talks and events are free and open to the public. For information, call Cassandra Shellman at 475-2057, or visit www.rit.edu/~lincoln.

Tsunami perspectives

Scientist Barbara Tewksbury, professor of geology at Hamilton College, will present her free lecture, "When the Sea Rises Up: A Geologist's Perspective on Tsunami," at 8 p.m. April 8 in the Fireside Lounge in the Student Alumni Union. Dinner with Tewksbury before the lecture costs \$22 per person. To register for the dinner, contact the Rochester Academy of Science at 461-1272 by March 25.

Annual RITz fund-raiser

"Glitz at the RITz" is the theme of the annual Puttin' on the RITz dinner-dance—marking its 20th anniversary this year—hosted by RIT School of Hospitality and Service Management students. Carin DeMilo '93 (food management), owner of CDM Event Productions, is honorary chairperson for the black-tie event at 6:30 p.m. April 2 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The gala is organized by students to benefit the hospital-ity education fund for student awards, educational travel, equipment and scholarships. Contact Diane Sommers at 475-2608 or visit www.rit.edu/~ritzwww.

Talk centers on militant Islam

Daniel Pipes, direc-tor of the Middle East Forum, will give his talk, "Militant Islam and the War on Terror," at 7:30 p.m. April 14 in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building. His talk is part of the Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture series sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts. Pipes earned his doctorate in early Islamic history at Harvard University and is the author of 12 books, includ-ing *Militant Islam Reaches America*. In 1983, he was a member of the policy-planning staff at the U.S. State Department and, later, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute. In 1994, he founded Middle East Forum, where he is publisher of *Middle East Quarterly*. He is also director of the federally funded U.S. Institute of



Daniel Pipes

Peace. "In his book *Militant Islam Reaches America*, Daniel Pipes raises an alarm and points to a struggle between an Islam of peace practiced by an over-whelming majority of Muslims who are interested in integrating them-selves within the American social fab-ric, and a minority who reject American values and seek change through militant action," says Paul Grebinger, Gannett lecturer and coor-dinator of Senior Seminar at RIT. "Although Pipes has long been engaged in this effort, his ideas have gained greater credence with a wider audience since the events of Sept. 11, 2001. His appearance in the Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Series gives us an opportunity for him to speak personally and for us to question him directly." Pipes' lecture follows Ali Mazrui's talk about relations between Islam and the West on March 24. For more information call 475-2057 or visit www.rit.edu/gan-nettseries, where the lecture will be available online. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Photojournalism lecture March 31

RIT's student chapter of the National Press Photographers Association is sponsoring a lec-ture by Aristide Economopoulos '94 (photojournal-ism) at 7 p.m. March 31 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science audito-rium.

Economopoulos is a staff photogra-pher at *The Star-Ledger* in New Jersey. He has cov-ered such major world events as the Sept. 11 attacks at the World Trade Center, the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He has won numerous awards in *World Press Photo*, *Pictures of the Year International* and the

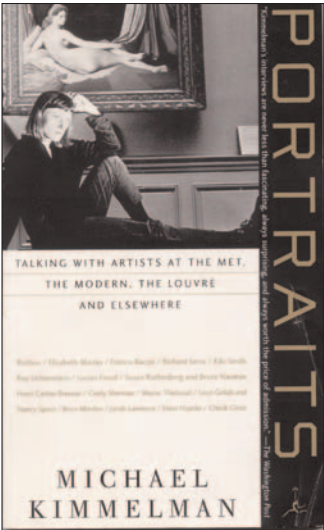


Photograph taken by Aristide Economopoulos '94. Economopoulos captured this bride and groom on their wedding day in November 2004 in Cuba.

NPPA Best of Photojournalism. Economopoulos and his colleagues at *The Star-Ledger* were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for their photographs of Sept. 11 in New York City. ■

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Critic gives free lecture



What type of art captures the atten-tion of a world famous painter or photographer? *The New York Times* chief art critic Michael Kimmelman knows firsthand—he visited London's National Gallery with Lucien Freud and the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Elizabeth Murray. Kimmelman shares his conversations with them and other world famous artists in his book, *Portraits: Talking with Artists in the Met, the Modern, the Louvre and Elsewhere*.

Kimmelman will give a free lecture at 1:30 p.m. March 31 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. He will take questions from the audience and hold an infor-mal discussion with Alan Singer, RIT professor of art, about the work of the critic in the community.

"Kimmelman's presence will stim-ulate a dialogue about the visual arts—this from an authority who travels the world to see exhibitions and speak with the artists who make our world richer through their cre-ative activity," says Singer.

Kimmelman will also give an illus-trated lecture about his book at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at the Memorial Art Gallery. RIT's School of Art is one of the sponsors of the lecture. Call the Memorial Art Gallery at 473-7720, Ext. 3034 for ticket information.

Kimmelman has been the chief art critic at *The New York Times* since 1990. He is also a contributor to *The New York Review of Books*. ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

RIT students enjoy 'alternative' vacations

Spring Break 2005—it was an eye-opener.

Six RIT students took a detour from traditional spring break destina-tions—either somewhere warm or back home—and found themselves in downtown Rochester.

There they spent the week learning about and performing community service with area non-profit organiza-tions. "I learned a lot about the city of Rochester, from its history, industry, economic growth and administration to its schooling system," says Amruta Sudhalkar, a third-year environmen-tal management and technology stu-dent.

Organized by the RIT student vol-unteer office and RochesterCares, the alternative spring break program immersed students in a purposeful service experience designed to connect them with the city of Rochester and its community service agencies and needs.

Amir Figueroa, a third-year biotechnology student, signed up for the program "to learn more about Rochester and give back to the com-munity, which has given me so much."

From volunteering at local organi-zations throughout the day to engag-ing with neighborhood and commu-nity leaders in lively discussions and meals, students got to experience what volunteering in Rochester is all about.

"It was basically a good chance to



RIT students Mehla Kalverts and Renee Reeves volun-teeer at Cameron Community Ministries clothing house project. Six RIT students took part in the university's first local alternative spring break program, Feb. 26 to March 4.

get out and experience the commu-nity while learning more about it as well," says Victoria Fontaine, a first-year new media design and imaging student. "We did a lot of helping out, more than I thought we would, but I enjoyed all of the work. Even though it was tiring, seeing the out-come of your hard work and know-

big eye openers." All in all, the week was a worth-while endeavor. "I definitely learned that there is a brighter side to Rochester and people do care," Figueroa says. "I feel a lot closer to Rochester and the community, more than ever." ■

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News briefs

Beat poetry reading

Beat poet Janine Pommy Vega will give a free reading 4-6 p.m. March 29 in the Liberal Arts Building, room A205. Vega is a veteran of the Lower East Side poetry scene in the 1960s. She has published 18 books of poetry and non-fiction writing, including *Mad Dogs of Trieste: New and Selected Poems* and *Tracking the Serpent: Journeys to Four Continents*. Her latest book, *The Green Piano*, will be available for purchase and signing after the reading. This event was funded in part by Poets & Writers Inc., through a grant from the New York state Council on the Arts, and by RIT's language and literature department, *Signatures* magazine and an interactive learning grant from RIT's Office of the Provost. For information, contact John Roche at jfrgla@rit.edu.

Bookstore sidewalk sale

Campus Connections invites the RIT community to its 25th annual Sidewalk Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 6-8. Discounts will range from 20 to 80 percent in clothing, gifts, art supplies, books, computer and photogra-phy merchandise.

ITS software offerings

Information and Technology Services announces a licensing agreement to provide Windows Operating System upgrades for RIT students at low prices at Campus Connections bookstore. The agreement with Microsoft and Dell Corp. extends MS-Campus licensing program to students and applies to all Microsoft Windows upgrades. Students can upgrade from any version of Windows to Windows XP Professional for less than \$5. Student CDs for Windows XP Professional are available at the bookstore. The Microsoft Campus Agreement also applies to RIT-institute owned machines, and allows faculty and staff to purchase Windows and Office for work-at-home use. To schedule an upgrade, contact your systems administrator or the ITS helpDesk at 475-4357

Leadership conference

Students—on your marks, get set, connect and lead.

A leadership and mentoring advancement conference, Connec-tology, will be held April 8-9.

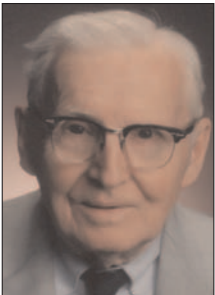
Three leadership tracks will be offered: current leadership—running an effective meeting, leading an organization and dealing with con-flict; general leadership—exploring basic leadership skills; and mentoring and ethics—becoming a successful mentor, successful communication and the stages of mentoring. Within these sessions, the themes of connect-ing to yourself, others, and the pres-ent and future will be explored.

Troy McClain from *The Apprentice* will deliver the keynote address at 3:15 p.m. on April 9 in Webb Auditorium. He will speak on the challenges that have led him to success.

The conference is free and open to RIT students. It is sponsored by the RIT Leadership Institute, North Star Center for Academic Success and Cultural Affairs, Cooperative Education and Career Services, Alumni Relations and the Women's Center. To register, contact lead@rit.edu or visit <http://campuslife.rit.edu/leadership/coference/index.php>. ■

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Much has changed in the 75 years since John Hill '30 (electrical engineering) was a student at the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute.



John Hill '30

The university, now called RIT, relocated to a new suburban campus, Hill married and raised three children. He and his wife of 57 years, Catherine, have five grandchildren. And today Hill can openly describe a classified project he worked on in the 1940s and 1950s: the “1101,” one of the earliest high-speed computers used for cryptanalysis.

Hill and colleagues at Engineering Research Associates (a firm known as ERA) in St. Paul, Minn.—cryptologists, engineers, mathematicians and physicists—used classified research into electronic data processing that was originally conducted for the U.S. Navy during World War II to break German and Japanese secret codes. Pioneers in digital computing, they weren’t allowed to discuss it back then.

“I put [the 1101] into its ‘mechanical clothes,’” says Hill, who was a senior engineer with ERA. “What we were

doing—about which I could say nothing to anyone—was building digitally expressed information processing devices. We didn’t know it was going to be called a ‘computer.’ We were, in fact, the only organization that produced a digital computer outside of a university laboratory.”

The computer was disassembled, transported to Washington and re-assembled—a feat at the time. ERA is also credited with developing a practical non-volatile digital data storage mechanism, a magnetic drum used in the next two generations of computers, and one of the first digital stored-program computers.

Hill, now 95 and residing in North St. Paul, Minn., worked for ERA for a decade, until 1956.

Rochester ties lead to Mechanics Institute

Born Dec. 14, 1909, in Québec, Hill came to Rochester in 1927 at the behest of an aunt and uncle (a physician) who resided here and paid for his college education. After graduating from Mechanics Institute, where he was secretary of the electrical engineering student association, he worked briefly for General Railway Signal Co. in Rochester. “Two nice old gentlemen [Joseph Willing and Oscar Field] took me under their wing and explained to me ‘how you’ll be an engineer,’” Hill recalls.

Lacking employment during the

Depression, Hill enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he cleared land and planted trees, before landing a position with 3M Co. in St. Paul in 1934. In 1941, the United States entered World War II.

“In 1942, I transferred to Northwest Airlines in an attempt to evade the draft,” Hill says. “It didn’t work.” Drafted by the Army, he spent the next three years in the service, rising to master sergeant on detached service with the Air Force stationed in Panama.

After the war, a pair of U.S. Navy veterans formed ERA in 1946. Hill joined the company after answering a newspaper ad for engineers. Ten years later, in 1956, he moved to Ramsey Engineering Co.—a firm created and owned by former ERA colleagues—as director of engineering. “I was employee number five,” Hill says.

Hill’s original investment in Ramsey was made with money intended for a dining room set—a luxury that would have to wait. When he and 13 associates sold the firm in 1974, it was worth \$9 million. Hill and his wife created two trust funds—one for RIT that established a scholarship fund in 1991 and, in 1998, the John L. and Catherine J. Hill Scholarships. Honored as an RIT Distinguished Alumnus in 1993, the Hills have given \$300,000 to RIT (and can, no doubt, comfortably afford a new dining room set).

Active retirement leads back to RIT

An Ellingson Society member and one of RIT’s oldest living alums, Hill visited RIT for the first time in nearly 50 years on March 18 as part of the inaugural class inducted to the Kate Gleason College of Engineering’s Wall of Fame.

In retirement, Hill consulted and was active with SCORE (the Service Corps of Retired Executives), counseling prospective business owners. “I joined the day after I retired,” he says. For more than 20 years, until 2002, he volunteered for the Minnesota State Services for the Blind, recording 800 weekly radio broadcasts, and he was an amateur radio operator.

An American citizen since 1937, Hill has no plans to leave the Twin Cities region. “I have never escaped the Minnesota winters—I enjoy them as a matter of fact,” he says, adding that after his stint in Panama with the military, “I was very pleased to shovel snow.”

Hill is grateful for good fortune and foresight. “The secret to success in life and occupations is to be at the right place at the right time and recognize it—recognizing it is perhaps more important.” As for his longevity, Hill credits a pressure cooker he gave to his new bride in 1948.

“I think that pressure cooker is responsible for my being alive today,” he jokes, adding, “Nobody can prove it.” ■

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Hickey named UW loaned exec

Daniel Hickey is taking a tour of active duty this spring quarter for United Way of Greater Rochester.



Daniel Hickey '91, '98

Hickey—who is an instructor and performance coach for First-Year Enrichment in student affairs at RIT—has been selected to serve as this year’s faculty/staff loaned executive.

RIT is a proud sponsor of the loaned executive program, which has been the heart and soul of the annual campaign since the program’s inception in 1973. As this year’s designee, Hickey will have the opportunity to enhance his professional development, sharpen leadership skills and develop a broader understanding of our community and its human service needs.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to spend the next 10 weeks working with United Way because it’s the best place to become involved in a community-based effort,” says Hickey, who will be working with the organization through May 19.

An alumnus of RIT, Hickey earned a bachelor’s degree in graphic design ’91 and a master’s degree in career and human resource development ’98.

The 2005 RIT United Way Campaign kicked off March 17 with the Taste of RIT and runs through April 15. This year’s goal is \$370,000 and besides campus pledges, other United Way fund-raising events include a bowling tournament on April 7, and Mini Golf on Campus on April 13.

For more information or to volunteer for the United Way Day of Caring on Friday, April 29, visit www.rit.edu/~940www/UnitedWay/index.html. ■

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Coming together: ImageMovementSound 2005



Area artists are collaborating on 12 multi-media live performances for ImageMovementSound 2005 Festival. Above, a collage of images from Selves, combines music, dance and animation. Students and faculty members from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Eastman School of Music and State University of New York at Brockport’s Department of Dance are participating. The festival debuts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, at SUNY Brockport’s Hartwell Theatre. An encore featuring cinematic versions will be at noon on Saturday, April 9, at the Little Theatre.

Newly installed webcams keep watchful eye on campus

Is there a line at Ben & Jerry’s? Is the Student Alumni Union outdoor café open? Will you need your boots for your cross-campus hike?

Find out now from the comfort of your office with RIT’s new multi-functional webcams.

The University Web Services team in Information and Technology Services installed two new webcams on the east and west sides of the Eastman Building in February. One looks out over the Eastman Kodak Quad with views from the Bausch and Lomb building, past the library and College of Liberal Arts to parking lot U. The other webcam views *The Sentinel* sculpture, quarter mile and front of the Student Alumni Union.

Made by Canon, they have pan, tilt

and zoom capabilities—they can pan 340 degrees, tilt 120 degrees, and have a 26-times optical zoom lens and 12-times digital zoom. Each webcam can be controlled by one user at a time for up to one minute to catch real-time video.

Housed in a cold climate dome that features a thermostatically controlled de-icing/defrosting circuit, the cameras are kept from freezing when the temperature drops below 20

degrees Fahrenheit.

In their debut week, the webcams received more than 7,500 visits, with the Eastman Kodak Quad cam being slightly more popular with almost 4,000 users taking the helm and controlling the camera’s view.

To view the webcams, visit www.rit.edu/~webcam/. They can also be accessed through the myRIT portal. ■

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News briefs

Davis service awards

Bill Larsen, associate professor of civil engineering technology, and Sheila Sarrotore, president of Student Government, are the 2005 recipients of the Alfred L. Davis Public Service Awards. The two will be honored at a 4 p.m. ceremony, March 24, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. Larsen will receive the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award. Sarrotore will be presented with the first Bruce R. James ’64 Distinguished Public Service Award.

Engineering speaker

“Enhanced Mobility CMOS” will be the topic of a lecture by Judy Hoyt, a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1-1:50 p.m. March 31 in Xerox Auditorium in the James E. Gleason Building. The lecture, free and open to the public, is part of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering’s Distinguished Speaker Series. For information, call Mary Jane Frind at 475-2146.

Fast ferry presentation

Jeffrey Carlson, deputy mayor, city of Rochester, will be “Championing the Fast Ferry” at RIT’s New Product Development Forum on April 5. Carlson is one of seven distinguished speakers who will discuss strategy sessions on “We are the Champions: New Product and Service Advocates.”

The sessions, sponsored by RIT’s Technology Management Center, will run 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason Building. John Ettlie, Madelon and Richard Rosett Chair in RIT’s College of Business, will serve as moderator. Registration is required and the cost per person is \$100. Visit www.cob.rit.edu/, or contact Molly Weimer at 475-7431 for more information.

Athenaeum sessions

RIT’s innovative, educational organization for adults over 50, The Athenaeum, welcomes new and returning members to a preview session of spring courses 2-3:30 p.m. March 30. The Athenaeum is also offering a weeklong spring open house with sampler sessions scheduled 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 4-7. For more information or for a complete spring catalog, call 292-8989 or visit www.rit.edu/athenaeum.

Fraternity dance April 2

The 13th annual Mi Tierra dance, sponsored by Lambda Alpha Upsilon fraternity, is 9 p.m.-2 a.m. April 2 in Clark Gymnasium. Tickets are \$10 for RIT students, \$15 for other students with ID and \$20 general admission. For information about the event, contact lau@rit.edu.

Gosnell lecture April 7

The last Gosnell lecture for this academic year will be held April 7 and will feature economics scholar Daniel Bromley. Bromley will present “Why Economists Have No Theory of Public Policy: The Triumph of Analysis over Explanation,” 2-3 p.m. in the Chester F. Carlson auditorium. A reception will follow. The lecture series is sponsored by Amit Batabyal, Arthur J. Gosnell Professor of Economics in the College of Liberal Arts. For more information about the lecture series, call 475-2057.

Spring into fine art at Gallery r



This creative piece by Danny Robbins will be included in a showcase of drawings, paintings and prints by RIT Bachelor of Fine Arts candidates. The “Senior Fine Arts Studio Exhibition” opens at Gallery r on March 24 and runs through April 23, with an opening reception scheduled from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 1. For information, call 242-9470 or visit www.galleryr.org.

news&events

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NTID launches new Center of Excellence
Nationwide experts will gather to study sign-language interpretation

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf has established the Center of Excellence for the Study of Sign Language Interpreting.

Experts from around the United States will work together through the center to better understand how interpreting affects learning and to determine what factors related to interpreting influence comprehension, learning and access.

“People learn different ways, have different background knowledge, and thrive in different settings,” says Marc Marschark, director of the center and NTID research professor. “Through better understanding of these differences, we can modify instruction to match the strengths and needs of diverse learners and/or bring learners with special needs to a point where they can optimally benefit from mainstream education.”

In collaboration with faculty at NTID and other colleges of RIT, the center will study teaching and learn-

ing via interpreting and alternative methods in a variety of content areas and settings. At present, center projects are focusing on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in postsecondary settings via two grants from the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$1.5 million.

A Shannon Award from the National Institutes of Health is being used to explore the dynamics of signed and spoken communication among deaf students in classroom discussions.

“We will build on what we already know from previous research projects at RIT and elsewhere. Collaboration among researchers, instructors, students and interpreters is critical to this initiative,” Marschark adds. “Collaborations already are in progress with several colleges at RIT and at the Hogeschool van Utrecht in the Netherlands, where all interpreters in that country are trained.

As we gain a clearer picture, many other groups can benefit from our findings, such as K-12 settings, students who have special learning needs and those with English as a second language.”

“We’re looking forward to serving as a key source for those seeking information and partnership in bridging research and practice,” says T. Alan Hurwitz, vice president for RIT and CEO/dean of NTID.

NTID established the world’s first American Sign Language–English interpreter education program in 1969. Today, NTID also has the leading interpreting services program at both the associate’s and bachelor’s level, and employs more than 100 interpreters who support the 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students on the RIT/NTID campus in and out of the classroom.

More information can be found at www.ntid.rit.edu/InterpretingResearch. ■

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‘Father’ of Xerox copier discusses invention



Horace Becker, above, led the team that designed and developed the Xerox 914—the world’s first plain-paper copier. During a lecture on March 10 at RIT, the former vice president of engineering for Xerox Corp. discussed the “birth” of the machine, describing it as a product nobody wanted, built with money Haloid Co. (Xerox’s forerunner) did not have, and using technology that was a laboratory novelty. Despite the long odds, the copier became “one of the most profitable machines ever to be produced,” according to *Fortune* magazine. Becker’s lecture was part of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering’s Distinguished Speaker Series.

Innovative projects to be unveiled
Open house to reveal cutting-edge computer-based research

Imagine computers hooked up to video monitors to alert authorities about something as mundane as an improperly parked cargo truck. Post Sept. 11, we’ve learned to never be too cautious or feel too secure.

Utilizing computers to assist with potential homeland security threats is just one of the cutting-edge research projects underway in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences new Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure.

RIT faculty members from several colleges are conducting research in 15 different laboratories within the center. The research is diverse, but the common thread is the use of state-of-the-art computing to create innovations in engineering and science.

The center is holding its first community open house April 6. Two keynote speakers and each of the labs’ directors will give presentations throughout the day on their research projects.

Some of the research projects are:

- Lab for Technological Literacy—dedicated to developing projects that expanded the public’s understanding of science and technology. The lab’s ongoing project is the *What the Tech!* radio show airing weekly on WXXI-AM (1370). The lab is also collaborat-

ing with the International Museum of Photography and Film at the George Eastman House about the roots of present-day human and computer animated projects.

- Lab for Wireless Networks and Security—Faculty and students are looking at how to maintain a wireless connection on a PDA or a laptop when moving from one building to another. RIT faculty are also serving as technical advisors on projects to make Rochester a wireless community.
- Lab for Computer-Human Interaction and Performance Support—uses eye-tracking equipment to assess how people interact with computers. Measurements provide information on the effectiveness of Web sites and online learning.

Thomas Prudhomme, senior associate director at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, will give a keynote address about cybercommunities at 10 a.m. Mark Ardis, professor at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, will discuss the benefits of software product lines at 1 p.m. Both presentations will be held in the Golisano College auditorium.

Visit www.casci.rit.edu. To register, call Tracy Clark at 475-7157 or tracy@cs.rit.edu. ■

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Trivia competition benefits United Way



RIT was the host site for the 2005 Susan Bee Challenge, a fund-raising competition that was part of the Women United effort for the 2005 United Way Community Campaign. Eight colleges and universities in the greater Rochester region, along with 10 corporate teams, answered questions related to women’s history and women leaders in government, law, education, industry and other professional fields. Contest winners were Monroe Community College in the collegiate category and The Pike Co. in the corporate category.

The event, held March 10, is named for Susan B. Anthony, the suffragette and champion of women’s rights who called Rochester home.

Spiotti to be honored April 7

Lou Spiotti, director of the Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, will be inducted into the Section V Football Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the RIT Inn & Conference Center April 7.

Spiotti played football at The Aquinas Institute. In his senior season, he earned the team’s Outstanding Player award.

He was a member of the All-City team and earned high school All-American honors.

Spiotti went on to star at Ithaca College, starting for three years as a defensive back.

He played on the college’s first undefeated season in 1965. He was an All-East selection.

Spiotti also coached the former RIT football team. Last year, Spiotti’s name was placed on the Frontier Field Walk of Fame. ■

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Lou Spiotti