

Clinton to address RIT graduates in May



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

President Clinton first visited RIT in 2005 at the invitation of trustee B. Thomas Golisano.

Seventeen months after his first visit to campus, President Bill Clinton will return to RIT to serve as keynote speaker for RIT's 122nd annual commencement. Clinton's address to graduates, their families and friends, and other members of the RIT community will take place during Academic Convocation at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 25, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

"President Clinton's lifelong com-

mitment to public service, including his tireless dedication to humanitarian and philanthropic activities since leaving the White House, offers inspiration to a new generation preparing to make its mark on a global society," states RIT President Albert Simone. "We're very honored to welcome the former president back to RIT, and we look forward to hearing his insights for our 2007 graduates."

Clinton's address to the RIT

community continues his friendship and partnership with B. Thomas Golisano, founder and chairman of Paychex Inc., owner of the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres and a member of RIT's Board of Trustees. The two men were acquainted in 2005 through the Clinton Global Initiative, an outgrowth of the William J. Clinton Foundation that brings global leaders together to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

An invitation from Golisano resulted in Clinton's first visit to RIT in December 2005. The former president made an informal presentation to students, faculty and staff following a tour of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. The college was created through a gift from Golisano to the university in 2001.

This year's RIT commencement marks a sentimental milestone for the university. It will be the last one presided over by President Simone, who will retire on June 30. Simone became RIT's eighth president in 1992.

"Al is such a dedicated and

Clinton, page 4

RIT helps youngsters connect with space

Emma E. Sherman Elementary School students reached for the stars on Jan. 8. And students from the RIT Amateur Radio Club helped make sure they reached them.

The club teamed with the Rochester Amateur Radio Association to set up amateur (ham) radios that were used to establish communication between eight of the school's fifth-graders and flight engineer Sunita Williams, who was soaring overhead at 17,500 miles per hour aboard the International Space Station.

"This is the most exciting thing

I've ever done with ham radio," says Adam Gutterman, a fifth-year electrical engineering student and the club's president. "As a kid, I used to dream of going into space, but I always kind of knew I would never get there. It's really a thrill knowing that we were able to contact the International Space Station."

Gutterman and electrical engineering students Rashmi Shah and Matt Antonio joined Jim Stefano, electrical engineering department system administrator and one of the

Chat with astronaut, page 4



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

A fifth-grade student from Emma E. Sherman Elementary School, in Henrietta, chats with astronaut Sunita Williams on Jan 8. She and her classmates made contact with the International Space Station, via amateur radio, with help from the RIT Amateur Radio Club.

RIT researcher aims to battle hearing loss

Inner-ear micropump will provide gene therapy

Permanent sensorineural hearing loss and deafness affect about 10 percent of the population in modern societies, with more than half of those age 65 and older impacted. Current research aims to address the biological basis for auditory dysfunction, providing opportunities to overcome limitations of cochlear implants and hearing aids.

"Pioneering studies in the areas of auditory gene therapy and chemotherapy have produced exciting results showing potential for protection and regeneration of sensory systems in the inner ear," explains David Borkholder, an assistant professor of electrical engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. "Complexity of the disease as well as the broad impact to numerous cell types suggest more elaborate treatments are needed to achieve full restoration of hearing in animal models and for translational results in human clinical trials."

Borkholder '92 (B.S. microelectronic engineering), the principal investigator on the project, is collaborating with the University of Rochester Medical Center to develop



David Borkholder '92

an implantable, refillable, variable-flow micropump platform for intracochlear drug delivery for deafness therapy research.

Initially, a device will be designed for and tested using mice.

"This micropump will enable chronic, calibrated delivery of multiple therapeutic agents that is not possible with existing pump technologies," explains Borkholder, an expert in biomedical engineering and microelectromechanical systems.

Research is supported by a five-year \$922,048 Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award from the National Institutes of Health—National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. The grant is the largest ever from NIH to RIT, outside NTID. The project is expected to provide a detailed understanding of accept-

Micropump research, page 4

Student Spotlight

With the wisdom beyond her years, the aptly named Grace Kennedy from Ohio doesn't take anything for granted. She was born premature with only 1/2 of a deformed kidney, is blind in one eye, and has a significant hearing loss.

Needing a kidney transplant at age 13, she became anemic and had to be home schooled. While many who need kidney transplants can wait for years for the right match, both of Kennedy's parents were positive matches. It was decided her father would give her a kidney, but surgery was cancelled three times because her mom was battling thyroid cancer.

She endured frustration in elementary school from children who teased her about her hearing aids, misunderstanding from teachers who wrongly assumed she had learning disabilities, and ridicule from fellow teens who couldn't understand how the "short, blind girl who couldn't hear" could be a member of the drum line.

Yet she takes it all in stride, saying, "God would not give me anything I can't handle."

When she started researching colleges to apply to, she found everything she wanted at RIT—dozens of technology programs to choose from, a large deaf and hard-of-hearing student, faculty and staff popula-

Science student feels at home at NTID



Mark Benjamin | photographer

Grace Kennedy, a laboratory science technology major, and her professor Todd Pagano, discuss a novel instrument for their research pertaining to energy transfer between molecules.

tion, an accessible campus and a strong disability services system in place.

"I literally cried when I got my acceptance letter from NTID," recalls the Morrow, Ohio, native. "I knew that this was the place where I would finally fit in and be accepted for who I am."

Today, she is consistently on the Dean's list studying DNA structure as part of her laboratory science technology major at NTID. She was recently awarded the 2006 Overcoming Challenges Award by the

American Chemical Society Women Chemists Committee. The award recognizes a woman undergraduate for overcoming hardship to achieve success in chemistry. She received a plaque, a small monetary award and a standing ovation from about 300 attendees after her award address in San Francisco.

"Every day she continues to impress me in new ways," says Todd Pagano, director of the laboratory

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Appointments

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Gannett lecture Feb. 7

David Buss will present “The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind is Designed to Kill,” the title of his latest book, at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. The talk is part of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project Speaker Series, “Consilience: The Cognitive Revolution.”

Buss is a professor of psychology at University of Texas–Austin, where he teaches courses in evolutionary psychology and the psychology of mating. His books include *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating*, *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of Mind* and *The Dangerous Passion: Why Jealousy is as Necessary as Love and Sex*.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 475-2057 or visit www.rit.edu/~cwg.

Cardiac therapy discussion

Justin Pearlman, M.D., will present “Advanced Imaging Applications to Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy,” at 4 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. Pearlman is a professor of medicine and radiology and the director of advanced cardiovascular imaging at Dartmouth College. His research includes the development of novel imaging technologies, as well as image processing and analysis tools and applications. The free talk is part of the center’s Seminar Series. For more information, call 475-5944 or visit www.cis.rit.edu/seminar.

Career satisfaction talk

Tips for landing a rewarding career will be shared by an RIT alumna in an upcoming talk.

Holly Hillberg ’92 (M.S. electrical engineering), chief technology officer and vice president, Kodak Health Group, Eastman Kodak Co., will share her experiences navigating the business and engineering worlds and offer tips to those starting their careers. The free talk, “How to Land in a Career That You Love,” will be 1-2 p.m. Feb. 1 in Xerox Auditorium in the James E. Gleason Building. Kodak recently announced the sale of its Health Group to Onex Corp.

Hillberg is active in the Women’s Forum of Kodak Employees and a founder and co-leader of the group’s mentoring program. In 2005, she received the Jane Lanphear Legacy Award recognizing women who exemplify Kodak values, provide exceptional mentoring to women and demonstrate balance between career and personal and community responsibilities. She has been a finalist for the Rochester Athena Award and the Kodak Network Northstar Leadership Award.

For information about the Kate Gleason College of Engineering Dean’s Alumni Speaker Series, contact Mary Jane Frind at 475-2146 or mjseen@rit.edu, or visit www.rit.edu/coe/news.

Student Affairs Division recognizes staff excellence

Five awards honor employees in a variety of disciplines

Five awards were presented at the annual Student Affairs Recognition Brunch, Dec. 21, recognizing exceptional contributions from staff and faculty that embody the mission and goals of RIT’s Division of Student Affairs. Below are selected excerpts from the nomination letters of the 2006 recipients:

Excellence in Service Award, Lex Sleeman, Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation

“It doesn’t take being around Lex very long to see that helping others is what he’s all about. He’s always involved, all over campus. You might see him teaching Wellness for Life, then out on the range setting up his afternoon archery class before heading in to get intramurals running for the night. Then it’s off to Ritter Ice Arena, where you can see him running the clock at the men’s hockey game. He’s always there, whenever needed.”

—Brennan Coon, Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation

Outstanding Support Service Award, Kathy Crouse, Disability Services

“Kathy is continually interested in better serving students. She truly values the concept of providing exceptional “customer service”; she is a highly effective communicator who provides students, parents, faculty and staff with thorough and accurate information in a timely, professional and courteous manner.”

—Susan Ackerman, Disability Services

New Staff Outstanding Service Award, Marguerite McCarty, Jennifer Petro and Aimee Solomon, Counseling Center

“These three individuals have not only made a fabulous addition to the Counseling Center but have demonstrated an impressive commitment to students while contributing richly to the mission and priorities of the Division of Student Affairs. Collectively, this team has repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to take on new challenges, assume new tasks and is always eager to seek out new professional opportunities, regardless of their challenge, time commitment or difficulty.”

—John Weas, Counseling Center

Faculty Award for Promoting Learning Outside of the Classroom, Glenn Kist, College of Liberal Arts

“Dr. Kist has served as the chairperson of the Institute Appeals Board for over 100 conduct cases. When asked to chair an appeal, Dr. Kist is quick to respond to requests, makes time available for hearings, and conducts these very tense and often emotional appeal hearings with grace, patience, diligence and professionalism.”

—Dawn Soufleris, assistant vice president for student affairs

Special Award: In Appreciation of Outstanding Work, Jim Papero, Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation

“This year we decided that an award should be given to a very special member of the RIT community. Jim Papero, who has been a member of the RIT community for 40 years, has spent the past 10 years as the volunteer chair of the Wellness Network—adding numerous campus-wide programs that have benefited the entire RIT community.”

—Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for student affairs



Lex Sleeman



Glenn Kist



Kathy Crouse



Jim Papero



A 2006 submission in the static images category from RIT alumna Erin Stine

Calling all ‘digital’ artists

Calling all artists! Whether you’re a photographer, animator, performer, Web designer or printmaker, RIT wants your work to be part of the Digital Arts Competition and Exhibition. RIT’s Honors Program and the Creativity and Invention Working Group are hosting the second annual event to promote artistic expression through digital media.

The competition is open to high school and college students as well as professional artists. The various categories for submissions are 3-D renderings, static images, moving images, interactive, 3-D installations, digital poetry and performances/virtual theater. Work can be submitted Feb. 2 through March 2. The entry fee is \$10 for three submissions. Submissions should be sent to <http://digitalarts.rit.edu>.

A panel of judges will award \$1,000 grand prizes for Best of Show

(one for the student bracket and one in the professional bracket) and a \$1,000 grand prize for the Most Innovative entry. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony and reception on Friday, May 11, in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences atrium.

As part of the effort to promote digital media, RIT faculty and students will host free interactive workshops about the various computing tools available in creating digital art. Workshops about Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Macromedia Flash, and Digital Poetry will be held on Saturdays in January and February in Building 70 on the RIT campus. For more details about the competition and workshops, visit <http://digitalarts.rit.edu> or e-mail RITDigitalArts@gmail.com.

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Marguerite McCarty, Jennifer Petro and Aimee Solomon

Cary publishes PAETEC exposé

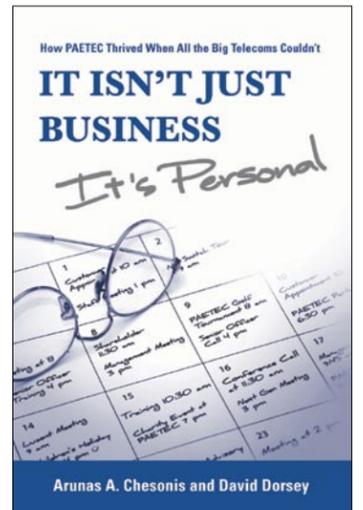
The barometer of “making it” in the business world today is to excel long enough to record your success. So it’s good timing for CEO of Rochester-based PAETEC Corp., Arunas Chesonis, who collaborated with writer David Dorsey to release a tell-all book—*It Isn’t Just Business, It’s Personal: How PAETEC Thrived When All the Big Telecoms Couldn’t*.

It Isn’t Just Business kicks off the First Person Corporate Profile Series for RIT’s Cary Graphic Arts Press.

The book’s foreword, written by RIT President Albert Simone, reflects on Chesonis as an entrepreneur, community leader and RIT trustee. Last April, RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business named Chesonis the recipient of the 2006 Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award.

“That balance between being part of the human race and serving and working with people, while at the same time maintaining loyalty to their own individuality so that originality and uniqueness can come to the fore, is a formula for success. It is the formula for PAETEC success,” Simone says.

With win-win principles on PAETEC philosophy, Chesonis’s book complements other bestsellers on the Amazon.com hit list: *L. L. Bean: The Making of an American Icon* with CEO Leon Gorman; and *Pour Your Heart Into It:*



How Starbuck’s Built a Company One Cup at a Time with CEO Howard Schultz.

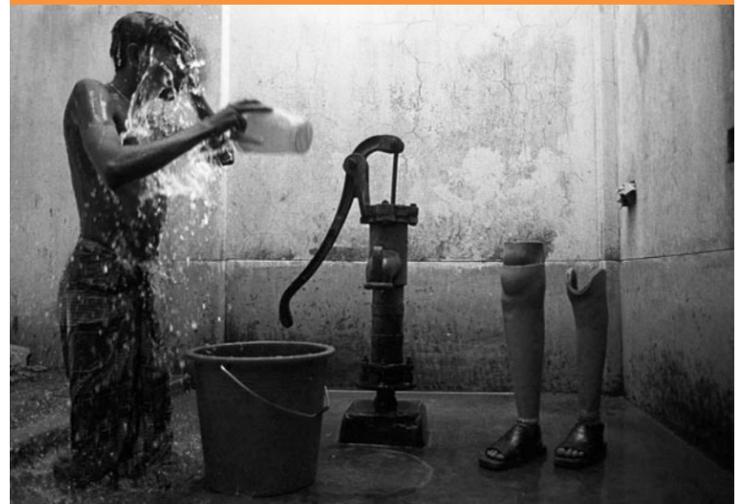
Chesonis believes his people-first philosophy is the key to his company’s success.

“One thing hasn’t changed since Day One,” says Chesonis. “We continue to value people before quick profit. Our mission is to be the most employee- and customer-oriented telecom in the industry.”

It Isn’t Just Business: It’s Personal is available through RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press. Call 475-6766 or visit http://wally.rit.edu/cary/CP_publications/CP_PAETEC.html.

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

Chronicling the victims of violence



Saiful Huq | photographer

Renowned documentary photographer Chris Rainier and self-proclaimed photo activist Saiful Huq will give a free lecture at RIT at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, in the Gosnell Building, room 1250. Huq, a native of Bangladesh, is one of National Geographic’s All Roads Film Project Photography Program 2006 award winners. The program recognizes talented indigenous and minority-culture storytellers from around the world who are documenting their culture through photography. The above photograph, taken by Huq in Bangladesh, is from his award-winning photo essay series *Stolen Dreams: The Story of the Abandoned Victims of Political Violence*. Rainier and Huq’s lecture is co-sponsored by RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences and Eastman Kodak Co.

Pushing the boundaries of knowledge and understanding. It's the fundamental reason why individuals engage in scholarship and research, and the benefits of their explorations can often extend far and wide.

In the university setting, research offers the opportunity to push the frontiers of knowledge—enriching the student experience, enhancing the curriculum, building faculty scholarship and providing a return to our partners in academia, industry and government.

This is why RIT adopted a scholarship policy to serve as an underlying foundation for the goals and objectives of the university's current strategic plan. Included as one of five strategic dimensions, it states: "The foremost activity of the RIT faculty is to facilitate, enable and support student learning. Scholarship is an essential ingredient of an effective learning environment." The strategy goes on to say, "There can be, by design, a flow of ideas, opportunities, resources, facilities, equipment and capabilities from the Ph.D. level into undergraduate activity." In other words, there's a role for everyone—

faculty, staff and students.

RIT is making great strides in tapping its research potential, and it is important for us to celebrate the initiatives that highlight our success. With the support of the leadership at University News, members of the campus community have more opportunities to explore the breadth of these activities at RIT through a regular feature on scholarship and research in *News & Events*. The purpose of this feature is to help readers know, understand and appreciate the impact on students, our academic quality and RIT's reputation.

Research leadership and reputation are key factors in the attracting and retaining the best students and faculty, which also provide the basis for further investment in our programs from various partners throughout society. Such partnerships become the fuel for growth in further research, infrastructure development and in career opportunities for graduates.

To help achieve these partnerships, RIT created the First in Class program in 1999 with a mission to be first in the class of universities that achieve real, effective and

meaningful partnerships with industry and government. This means providing positive return to our partners as well as the university. Those returns are measured in technology, innovations, solutions and, most importantly, graduates ready to contribute.

RIT's scholarship and research initiatives are diverse in nature and incorporate a wide range of expertise from across campus. Many have mainstream applications and offer great potential in improving overall quality of life. For that reason alone, I am confident that you will find the work of RIT's students, faculty and staff researchers—featured here in the pages of *News & Events*—makes for worthwhile reading.

Furthermore, I hope these stories encourage other members of the RIT community to consider their scholarship and research potential. The Office of the Vice President for Research is here to support that exploration. Resources like Sponsored Research Services, Research Computing, and the Research Relations Office provide the foundation through which all great ideas can take flight.



What can we do to help you succeed?

Donald Boyd is RIT's vice president for research.

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail newsevents@rit.edu.

Liberal Arts staff changes

Administrative changes continue to reshape the College of Liberal Arts with the recently announced departure of associate dean Laurence Winnie and the promotion of two faculty members to associate deans.

Earlier this month, Glenn Kist, interim dean and former deputy dean, announced Winnie's resignation, effective Jan. 31. Winnie has accepted the position of executive officer of the Harvard Academy Center for Area Studies.

"For the past six years Larry has been an essential part of the administrative structure of the College of Liberal Arts," Kist wrote in an e-mail to the College of Liberal Arts community. "Among his many tasks Larry has helped develop the honors program, overseen the student peer mentors program, led the college's efforts during the recent capital campaign as well as serving as co-chair of the institute-wide committee for the campaign."

Winnie's announcement has left two openings in the Liberal Arts dean's office, following the resignation of former dean Andrew Moore



Anne Coon



John Capps

Anne Coon and John Capps have agreed to accept the positions of senior associate dean and associate dean, respectively. Their appointments, which began Jan. 15, will run until June 30, 2008.

Coon, a professor of English, has served on the RIT faculty for 25 years. She held the position of assistant dean from 1996 to 1999. Coon will assume most of the duties Kist held as the former deputy dean.

Capps, an associate professor of philosophy who joined RIT in 2000, will take on most of the duties under Winnie's former purview. He will focus on student-related matters, such as student research and new student orientation, Kist says. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smgns@rit.edu

Endowed professorships filled

Patricia Albanese Pitkin and Charles Bigelow are new professors in the School of Print Media, but RIT is hardly new to them. Albanese returns to RIT as the Gannett Center for Integrated Publishing Sciences Distinguished Professor. Most on campus remember her as the former director of Wallace Library, a job she held from 1980 until she left in 2002 to become CIO and executive director of library, information and technology services at Mount Holyoke College.

Under Albanese's leadership, Wallace Library was one of the first academic libraries to use computing and information systems to provide network access to library resources. Albanese points to the introduction of wireless computing and the creation of the campus' first Web site among her top accomplishments. As co-founder of statewide organizations Pi2 and Connect NY, she facilitated online access to databases and collections, enhancing service and reducing costs. Albanese



Patricia Albanese

also recognized the need for more social interaction in the library and launched Java Wally's. This concept of libraries adding a café-like meeting place is now a trend across the country.

At Mount Holyoke College, she introduced a new open source courseware/eportfolio management system, a content management system for managing the Web site, and worked with four other universities in western Massachusetts to launch a shared fiber optic infrastructure. The American Library Association highlighted the technological collaboration between the five institutions.

Now back at RIT, Albanese will draw on her expertise in the delivery of digitized information.

"With so much information stimulation, I'm interested in how people and businesses will continue to adjust to it," says Albanese.

She hopes to make an impact in her new role as a professor and researcher. "I want to continue to build on the synergies among the colleges," she says. "Most important is drawing from multiple perspectives, disciplines and industries. It's an exciting time to be a librarian,

Endowed professors, page 4

Warfield heads pluralism office

RIT's Office of the Chief Diversity Officer has appointed Thomas Warfield as the new chairman of the Commission for Promoting Pluralism.

Warfield is an assistant professor in the Department of Cultural and Creative Studies at NTID as well as the director of the RIT/NTID Dance Company. Warfield is also the founder/artistic director of PeaceArt International—a global outreach not-for-profit organization. His work raising awareness about orphans around the world with HIV/AIDS has raised thousands of dollars.

"Thomas comes to this position with a breadth of knowledge, energy and passion for the work of



Thomas Warfield

diversity," says Alfreda Brown, chief diversity officer. "Having served on the commission over several years, he is knowledgeable in all facets of commission initiatives."

In addition, Warfield is also a performing artist and has performed from stage to television to film in more than 100 cities around the world as a singer, dancer, actor, model, composer, choreographer, director, producer, educator, activist and poet. He is a frequent guest speaker at conferences throughout the United States on issues of peace and justice, social activism and spiritual awareness. He has also worked as a facilitator/trainer for the National Coalition Building Institute, presenting workshops for schools and corporations in leadership training, welcoming diversity, prejudice reduction and non-violent conflict resolution. ■

Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

\$400K grant for RIT-Kosovo

RIT has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the United States Agency for International Development's Higher Education Collaborative Partnership Program to establish the Center for Energy and Natural Resource Development at the American University in Kosovo.

The center will assist Kosovo in building self-sufficiency in energy and natural resource economics and policy studies and energy and power systems engineering. The center, which will be guided by an international advisory board, will focus on workforce development, consulting and research and building off of the established degree programs and training facilities that are currently being administered by the partnership between the American University in Kosovo Foundation and RIT.

"This award will enable RIT and the American University in Kosovo to work together to conduct research and deliver education and training in energy and natural resource development," says Jim Myers, the director of RIT's Center for Multidisciplinary Studies and the principal investigator of the grant.

RIT will make enhancements to existing courses at the American University in Kosovo in addition to delivering new undergraduate and graduate programs. New course development will focus on further expansion of graduate education options in Kosovo by creating a new professional studies master's degree focusing on regional issues in energy and natural resource management and policy.

Targeted high-level training and workshops will also be provided at the center for the regulators, policy makers, managers and technicians who will assume leadership positions in Kosovo's newly deregulated energy and natural resource markets.

The grant includes funds to support undergraduate and graduate student research funding for RIT students who are interested in inter-



Jim Myers

A cappella concert Jan. 27

Encore, RIT's female a cappella group, will host BellaCappella, the group's second annual independent show, at 8 p.m. Jan. 27 in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building. Encore will compete at the International Championship of a Cappella Feb. 3 at Penn State University. Tickets for BellaCappella are \$4 at the door.

For more information, contact Ed Schell at 475-6087.

Also, RIT Gospel Ensemble will hold Gospel Fest at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

Performing Artists Series

Brilliant Strings will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 2 in Ingle Auditorium as part of the Performing Artists Concert Series featuring a program of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms.

Tickets are \$6 for students, \$14 for faculty, staff and alumni and \$20 for the public. Tickets may be purchased at the Student Alumni Union Candy Counter or at the door on concert night, if available. For Visa or Master Card phone orders, call the RIT Gordon Field House and Activities Center box office at 475-4121.

Cyberage friendships

The influence of electronic communication on the nature of friendship will be the subject of Tim Madigan's talk, "Aristotle's E-Mail: Friendship in the Cyberage," at 4 p.m. Feb. 1 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. Madigan is a professor of philosophy at St. John Fisher College. His talk is sponsored by RIT's Department of Philosophy.

Evan Selinger, RIT professor of philosophy, will present "Technology Transfer and Empowerment," at 4 p.m. Feb. 8. As part of the Ezra A. Hale Lecture in the College of Liberal Arts, Selinger will discuss the controversy surrounding the Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus' Village Phone program, which enables poor Bangladeshi women to become mobile phone vendors.

For the location of Selinger's talk, call Cassandra Shellman at 475-2057.

Part-time studies session

RIT's Offices of Part-time and Graduate Enrollment Services will sponsor an information forum for those interested in starting or continuing their education on a part-time evening basis. The session will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Bausch and Lomb Center. Call 475-2229 for information.

national energy and natural resource issues in the Balkans.

RIT will partner with the Regulatory Assistance Project, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Kosovo Ministry of Energy and Mining on the project.

The constitutional status of Kosovo, a province under U.N. administration, is expected to be determined in the coming months. ■

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Greg Francis | photographer

A crowd gathered for RIT's celebration of the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 16. Orlando Patterson, professor of sociology at Harvard University, above, delivered the keynote address and discussed what has been achieved in terms of African Americans' advancements and the state of race relations in America. RIT's Gospel Ensemble also entertained the crowd in Ingle Auditorium. This year marked RIT's 25th anniversary celebration of this event.

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Young artists showcase creativity

There's an abundance of young talent in America, and there's proof right here in our local communities. If you think *American Idol* has become TV's greatest music talent show ever, consider the 2007 Rochester-Finger Lakes Scholastic Art Awards as being the area's greatest artistic talent show ever.

A panel of esteemed judges sifted through 2,500 art entries from local middle- and high-school students Jan. 13 at Bevier Gallery. Out of a collage of 16 different categories—among them, drawing, painting, sculpting, ceramics, photography, textiles, printmaking, computer graphics and mixed media—jurors selected 492 winners: 151 Gold Keys, 176 Silver Keys, and 165 Honorable Mentions.

For the eighth consecutive year, RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences is hosting the Scholastic Art Awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 4, at RIT's Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Selected entries will be on view at RIT's Bevier Gallery, James E. Booth Building, Feb. 4-20.

As ambitious as they were eager to show off their artwork, 19 students, accompanied by teachers and parents braved the cold and rain to arrive at Bevier Gallery one recent morning as a precursor to the judging event. They agreed to preview their artwork on WHAM-TV's (Channel 13) morning news with anchor/reporter Holly Maynard.

Mandy Romano, a junior at



Coralis Dominguez, top photo, won a Gold Key for her mixed media portrait, *Pieces of Me*, bottom photo.

Canandaigua Academy, was one of the students interviewed on camera. She had a "background" story to tell.

"I was working on an intertwined coil vase with a rounded trunk and it got accidentally smashed," Mandy explains. "So I pressed the middle together and called it *Squeeze Me*."

Although Romano's ingenious piece didn't win an award, senior Matthew Smirolodo of Greece Athena High School won a Gold and Silver Key for his paintings, *Vietnam War Memorial Wall* and *Stressed Out*, and Silver Key for his drawing, *Shanghai Nightscape*.

But besides winning Scholastic Awards, Smirolodo is keeping his

fingers crossed because "RIT is my first choice for colleges," he says. As it turns out, his portfolio has already been accepted after being reviewed by Professor Don Arday and Associate Professor William Finewood, from the School of Art, during the college's open house.

Matthew's renderings also caught the collective eyes of three Scholastic fine art jurors: landscape painter Dick Kane, former fine arts professor Judd Williams, who taught at RIT for 33 years, and Franzie Weldgen, a fine arts instructor at Monroe Community College.

The judges spent nearly a full workday selecting winners for the Scholastic Awards because the students have put so much time and effort into their artwork," says Kane. "First they have to meet the criteria for their teacher's assignment, and from there, we look for originality and technical merit," he adds.

What's also essential is "individuality and an artist who develops a style of his or her own," says ceramics juror Margie LaTourette, owner of Mostly Clay in Schoen Place. "They shouldn't duplicate something that's been done before, and if they do, it's our job to gently guide them to the right path."

"This is what the Scholastic Art Awards is all about—it's a confidence boost and a prelude to a future career or just an appreciation for art that will last a lifetime." ■

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Endowed professors from page 3

technologist and faculty member."

Bigelow's name might not sound familiar, but there's a good chance you know his "type." Typeface,



Charles Bigelow

that is. Bigelow, a former professor of digital typography at Stanford University for 13 years, co-designed Lucida Bright and Lucida Console fonts for Microsoft Windows, and the Lucida Grande fonts for the Macintosh OS X. Bigelow holds the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Graphic Arts. What's ironic is Bigelow attended summer classes at RIT in 1979 and studied under Herman Zapf, the Cary Professor at the time and the creator of the fonts Palatino and Zapfino.

"I'm excited to be the Cary Professor a quarter of a century after studying with Zapf," says Bigelow. "My field is typography and so I'm interested in teaching students about readability and font choices used in books, newspapers, online and even for cell phones and PDAs. The

challenge for people making visual communication is how to keep up with all these changes in digital technology."

Bigelow has served as a typographic consultant for Apple, Microsoft, Adobe, IBM and other corporations. The original Lucida font was first seen in print in 1984. Bigelow and his design partner, Kris Holmes, began its design in 1982.

"People design typefaces in various ways," says Bigelow. "We designed Lucida Console specifically for computer programming on Microsoft systems. We based the design on the needs of the user, how clear it could be read on screen, making sure things like the zero and letter 'O' could be differentiated. Lucida Handwriting was inspired by Holmes' handwriting with a fiber-tip pen." ■

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Charles Bigelow, the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Distinguished Professor in Graphic Arts, co-designed these fonts:
Lucida Grande
Geneva
Monaco

Micropump research from page 1

able dose and timing profiles for intracochlear drug delivery in mice without detriment to cochlear function. The technology is scalable to use in humans and may be particularly useful in pediatrics.



Robert D. Frisina

Robert D. Frisina, a professor and associate chair of otolaryngology and professor of biomedical engineering and neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Rochester Medical Center, is serving as research mentor. Frisina is also Distinguished Researcher in Biological Sciences in RIT's College of Science and professor of communication sciences and associate director of the International Center for Hearing and Speech Research at NTID.

"Although some people are helped with hearing aids, the majority of those with hearing loss or hearing-related balance disorders—some 30 million people—go untreated," Frisina says. "Future biomedical interventions will be aimed at treating

the underlying biological problems that cause permanent sensorineural hearing loss rather than trying to amplify and filter incoming sounds with hearing aids.

"A critical step for implementing research aimed at repairing or restoring nerve cells that are damaged or missing in the inner ear is to develop more precise, calibrated micropumps for delivering chemotherapeutic, gene-therapy or stem-cell therapeutic agents, first for animal research, then for clinical trials. This project is a critical step forward in developing microfabricated pumps. Longer-term goals include developing and testing inner ear micropumps for clinical applications to treat human inner-ear hearing and balance problems."

Working with Borkholder and Frisina are XiaoXia Zhu, a UR postdoctoral research fellow; Dean Johnson, an RIT microsystems engineering doctoral student; and Sean O'Brien and Avery Sonnenburg, RIT engineering master's students. Lynn Fuller, RIT professor of microelectronic engineering, and Thomas Gennett, RIT professor of chemistry, are consultants on the project. ■

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Spotlight from page 1

science technology program. "Her knowledge, skills, attendance, punctuality, attention to detail and friendliness make her a model student. In my years of teaching, I have rarely seen a work ethic and comparable pleasant attitude to that of Grace."

Kennedy is involved with Alpha Sigma Theta, metal works club, and Kendo club, a style of Japanese sword fighting, and she works in the lab, where she cleans glassware, prepares solutions for experiments and organizes chemicals.

After she earns her associate degree, she plans to pursue an RIT bachelor's degree in biotechnology.

Kennedy does not see life's hardships as hindrances in life's journey; rather, she says, "They are necessary lessons learned and experiences gained that are needed to mold who we are." ■

Chat with astronaut from page 1

club's advisors, to set up a webcast of the event that was broadcast to students around the globe.

The Henrietta school initially applied to NASA's Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program more than three years ago. Math/science/technology resource teacher Andrea Catena, who organized the event, wasn't even at the school at the time. In late December, Catena received word that the communication was finally scheduled.

Contact was made at 9:38 a.m. and each student asked Williams two questions before losing contact with the space station eight minutes later. At its closest point, the space station was 433 miles away.

Topics ranged from the training astronauts endure to the food that is consumed in space. ■

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Web extra: To listen to a podcast of the Q&A session with NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, visit www.rit.edu/news and click on "Latest Podcasts."

Clinton from page 1

valuable part of our community, and President Clinton's presence at RIT's graduation ceremony this year is a great reflection of that," says Golisano. "Based on the very warm reception President Clinton received during his last visit to RIT, I am sure this event will be fantastic."

RIT has welcomed four former U.S. presidents to campus. The others are Presidents Ford, Carter and George H.W. Bush. ■

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