

Search for the **RIT President**

## Candidates meet RIT community

Two candidates to become RIT's ninth president met with the university community this past week. The Board of Trustees expects to name a new president in March.

The finalists for the position are William Destler, who is currently senior vice president, academic affairs, and provost at the University of Maryland – College Park, and James Watters, RIT's senior vice president for finance and administration and RIT treasurer.



William Destler



James Watters

as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. Destler is a member of a number of professional societies, has participated in numerous conferences and seminars, and has had a number of books, journals articles and papers published.

Watters received his bachelor's degree and his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. At the University of Pittsburgh, Watters held positions where he was responsible for budgets, safety, real estate management, plan-

ning, debt issuance, student housing and other financial and administrative areas. Watters joined RIT in 1994 as director of university budgets. He has served as senior vice president for finance and administration and treasurer since 1997. He has taught courses as an adjunct instructor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as in RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology and the E. Philip Saunders College of Business. He has served in a number of community service posts in the Rochester area and has been involved in such endeavors as university diversity champion, executive producer of the *RIT SportsZone* television program and officer of RIT-related entities.

A questionnaire is now available on the Web at [www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch](http://www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch) to receive feedback from the RIT community. Boyce says the Search Committee will consider the feedback and then give its recommendations to the Board of Trustees, which will make the final decision as to who will succeed Albert Simone as the next president of RIT. ■

Bob Finnerty | [refuns@rit.edu](mailto:refuns@rit.edu)

## Record-breaking year for sponsored research

Faculty and staff members representing a range of academic disciplines have further energized RIT's commitment to scholarship and research. Together, they have tallied another record performance in the amount of sponsored funding received by RIT in a single year.

In 2006, \$39.7 million in grants were awarded to RIT, according to Sponsored Research Services. That total is nearly \$7 million higher than



Marjorie Zack

the sum achieved in 2005.

The announcement comes as part of the university's annual salute to its principal investigators, taking place in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences auditorium and atrium. The event pays tribute to each member of the RIT community who submitted a grant proposal in 2006, regardless of whether or not the project received funding.

"Last year, we submitted projects valued at more than \$121 million," says Marjorie Zack, director of Sponsored Research Services. "These

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## New programs in sustainability

RIT is building on its expertise to become a world leader in education and research that will transform waste and pollution-producing global enterprises into efficient, clean and near zero waste operations. This

is the vision of the newly created Sustainability Institute that will be led by Nabil Nasr, assistant provost and director of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, and a world-renowned expert in the field

of sustainability and environmental issues.

The Sustainability Institute will undertake comprehensive, interdisciplinary initiatives in education, research and technology transfer that build upon a set of RIT's strongest academic programs and the internationally respected research of CIMS. A major element of the new Sustainability Institute will be comprehensive interdisciplinary Ph.D. and master's of science programs in sustainable production. Graduate programs and related research will be defined and delivered by collaborating faculty and staff across RIT, along with new tenure-track and research faculty. In 2006, RIT was awarded a \$465,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for the development of the Ph.D. program, which will be one of the first of its kind in the world.

The Sustainability Institute will ultimately be located in a state-of-the-art "green" building housed on the RIT campus. The new facility will include laboratory and classroom space to support academic work as well as applied research efforts. Funding development and design for the new facility are now in the planning stages.

The ultimate goal of the Sustainability Institute will be to produce our next generation of engineers, scientists and policy makers with groundbreaking research experi-

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### My frosty valentine



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

*An RIT student trudges across campus Feb. 14 with flowers in tow for his valentine despite the frigid temperatures and wintry conditions. Rochester—as well as most of the region—faced its first significant snowfall for the season that day.*

### Student Spotlight

Amethyst "Amy" Rule knows how to mastermind her own business. One of her first ventures as a little girl in Boise, Idaho, was selling homemade fudge and her old and used toys to neighborhood kids. She even sold her favorite yellow boat for 10 cents, "then suffered from a bout of seller's remorse."

Long past simple buying and selling, the management major in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business has spent the past four years putting her keen business and artistic skills to work in the classroom as well as fundraising, event planning and community outreach.

"My parents moved to Oswego during my junior year of high school and I had a wonderful art teacher who just loved RIT," Rule recalls. "So I applied for early decision because I knew it would be the kind of university where I could feel connected and make lots of friends."

Besides building lasting friendships, most of Rule's RIT experience has centered on involvement and accolades—from serving as an RIT resident advisor, Saunders College of Business student senator and Lowenthal Community Service Group member, to induction into

### Saunders College student tallies eventful track record



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

*Amy Rule has set her goals high and has put her keen business sense to good use in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business.*

the RIT Honors Program, Beta Gamma Sigma (National Honor Society in Business Management), and Davis Scholarship Award winner for "student leaders who significantly contribute to campus life."

Last October, she was also one of three recipients (from western, central and southern tier areas of New York state) awarded the prestigious Turnaround Management Association Upstate New York Chapter Scholarship.

"Amy is really a 'go to' person

when the need exists for creative ideas, for event planning, and for follow-through before, during and after an event," says Jerry Curnutt, assistant dean in the Saunders College of Business.

Proof of her talents was evident last spring when Rule helped organize an Easter egg hunt community service activity on RIT's Kodak Quad. "We squirreled away 1,000 eggs in the bushes and more than 125 kids came to find them," Rule

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### Viewpoints

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### Scholarship and Research

**NTID's Peter Hauser explores visual learning, page 4**



### Photography

**A unique look at snowflakes, page 4**



Telecom donation

Allworx, a small business voice over Internet protocol company, has donated more than \$28,000 of equipment to the telecommunications engineering technology program in the College of Applied Science and Technology. The donation includes multiple Allworx systems and corresponding phones.

Golisano dean's lecture

Paul Maglio, senior manager of Service Systems Research at the IBM Almaden Research Center, will be the featured guest in the next Golisano College Dean's Lecture Series talk.

Maglio will present "Steps Toward Service Science" at 1 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Golisano College auditorium. The free, public event will be followed by a reception. Maglio believes innovation in the service sector is not approached as systematically as innovation in agriculture and manufacturing. He will discuss how IBM and others have proposed developing a science of service, which aims to provide theory and practice.

Entrepreneurship talk

The 2007 Rochester Entrepreneurship Conference, sponsored by RIT, University of Rochester, High Tech Rochester and Greater Rochester Enterprise, will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. March 9 at the Simon Graduate School of Business, UR River Campus.

The conference will focus on "Improving Your Chances of Success: A Process Perspective," with keynote speakers B. Thomas Golisano, Paychex founder and benefactor of RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, and Ray Smilor, University of California at San Diego.

A schedule and registration information are available at [www.htr.rg/2007entconf.asp](http://www.htr.rg/2007entconf.asp).

Program helps satisfy need for creative outlet

Creativity at RIT comes in many flavors, from the sharply apparent to the subtly distinctive: take, for instance, *Signatures* magazine, an annual collection of student art and literature, or the concrete canoe, a perennial project in the College of Applied Science and Technology that challenges students to wrestle with an oxymoron and win.

The desire to explore and nurture the creative climate at RIT motivated a small group of professors from across campus to form the Creativity and Invention Working Group last spring. The idea for the initiative grew indirectly from a creative writing class Anne Coon taught last winter and the frustration her students voiced about the lack of creative opportunities at RIT. Coon knew other professors were doing exciting things on campus and quietly set about starting a dialogue, talking to colleagues interested in the broader context of creativity and research linking it to critical thinking and leadership skills.

"We started with the questions: What is creativity at RIT? What is invention at RIT? And what could it become?" says Coon, professor of English and College of Liberal Arts senior associate dean.

The Creativity and Invention Working Group seeks answers to those questions through interdisciplinary collaboration. RIT is an ideal place, Coon says, to take advantage of a "convergence of technology, arts, science and humanities. We have potential here that other universities just don't have."

Glimpses of that potential can be



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Margaret Bailey, associate professor in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, talks to a modern poetry class about electricity as part of the *Unlikely Partners* series.

seen in the *Unlikely Partners* project, an activity of the Creativity and Invention group suggested by Jeff Wagner, assistant professor of economics. This series of single lectures offered within existing classes pairs professors from different disciplines together to explore a topic from an unexpected perspective.

The first talk in the series featured Coon and Margaret Bailey, associate professor of mechanical engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, in a talk about "Electrification and the Language of Poetry" for Coon's modern poetry class. The individual lectures and class discussion explored the impact electricity has had on people's lives and how poetry has captured everything from

the awe of the first street lamp to the devastating effects of coal mining on the environment.

Wagner and Jon Schull, associate professor of information technology, offer the second *Unlikely Partners* talk—"The Technology and Economics of Digital Goods and Digital Rights Management"—from 10 to 11:50 a.m. Feb. 22, in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, room 2400. Additional talks are being planned for the spring quarter.

"One of the most exciting outcomes of the Working Group is collaboration between and among faculty from very different disciplines," says Katherine Mayberry, RIT vice president for academic

Prof shares new-found law expertise with class

Bill Johnson

spent the past three years in a new role.

The telecommunications engineering technology professor became the student—not the teacher.

Johnson has just returned from a sabbatical in which he completed his law degree at the University at Buffalo. And now he's poised to share his new knowledge with his



Bill Johnson

RIT students.

Johnson is teaching a new course, Patents and Trade Secrets, which he hopes is the first in a series of new classes he will be instructing on technology and the law.

"I'm hoping to provide our students with what I wish I knew, that I didn't know, coming out of engineering school," Johnson says. "These courses aren't for lawyers. They are for students across the board. You'll still have to consult a lawyer in a lot of instances, but it'll save you a lot of money if you have an understanding of the law, and it won't take you three hours

to explain a situation that could be explained in 15 minutes."

The course is being offered out of the College of Applied Science and Technology, but Johnson hopes to attract students from across the university. Anyone who may face a situation in which they want to file for a patent could benefit from the course, Johnson says.

"We come across case studies all the time where people do something that seems pretty reasonable, and they end up losing their patents because of it," he says.

Johnson cites one case study where an individual distributed his

invention to friends and colleagues to test his device. Doing so resulted in him losing his patent.

"You can't get a patent if the product was in use by the general public. If you don't maintain tight control and get nondisclosure forms or a confidentiality agreement, then it is no longer experimentation," Johnson says. "You just gave away your invention. Not everything you think is a great idea is legally supportable. You have to know where the boundaries are."

The course is scheduled to be offered again in the spring quarter.

For information about the group, e-mail [accgll@rit.edu](mailto:accgll@rit.edu). ■

Susan Gawlowicz | [smguns@rit.edu](mailto:smguns@rit.edu)

News brief

Musical performances

The RIT Concert Band and Jazz Ensembles will present a winter concert at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Ingle Auditorium in the Student Alumni Union. In addition, student recitals will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 23 and 2 p.m. March 3 in the SAU Music Room. For more information, contact Ed Schell at 475-6087.

John Follaco | [jjpfuns@rit.edu](mailto:jjpfuns@rit.edu)

Report studies RIT's first-year students

A group of individuals gathered recently to discuss RIT's first-year class. The conversation was spurred by the publication of a white paper, *The State of the First-Year Class at Rochester Institute of Technology*, which was authored by the instructors of the First Year Enrichment program. The white paper contained data obtained from RIT's 2005-2006 first-year class.

"We tend to do so much assessment of the first-year class, and we wanted to be able to share it with the rest of the institute," says First Year Enrichment director Latty Goodwin. "We thought that this information could be very helpful to anyone who is working with first-year students."

After the document was published, First-Year Enrichment distributed an e-mail message inviting the RIT community to a roundtable discussion. Goodwin says she was pleasantly surprised by the turnout.

"We really got a nice representation from a number of different groups on campus—a number we couldn't have anticipated," Goodwin says. "It's great that so many people



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

First-year students march across campus during the traditional Tiger Walk.

were interested in the discussion. We so rarely get to have discussions like this on campus."

The discussion broke into four subgroups. The most popular group focused on socialization and civil engagement.

Goodwin says that the first-year students reported feeling that a much greater emphasis was placed on academics as opposed to civil engagement.

First-Year Enrichment plans to produce another white paper next year, armed with content suggestions from the roundtable discussion.

"There are clearly many people on campus who are interested in our first-year students," Goodwin says. "Now we have even more of an understanding of what the campus would really like to know about them." ■

John Follaco | [jjpfuns@rit.edu](mailto:jjpfuns@rit.edu)

The countdown to Commencement



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Graduating students are getting an early start at planning for this year's celebration. RIT held its first-ever Commencement Fair on Feb. 13, exactly 100 days prior to the culmination of the academic year. Organizers hope the event prevents many students from encountering the last-minute scramble that often comes with finalizing commencement details. Participants included representatives from all eight RIT colleges and various other campus services. Also, the Greater Rochester Visitors Bureau was on hand to suggest lodging and entertainment options for students hosting family and friends from out of town.



We have finished nearly two weeks of the eight-week Eat Well Live Well Challenge. So far, more than one-third of our employees are participating, but, it is not too late to start.



No one is penalized for starting after the challenge has begun. So, don't delay, join today by contacting your team leader. Team leaders can be found <http://finweb.rit.edu/humanresources/benefits/eatwell>.

For those who don't know about the Eat Well Live Well Challenge, it is a friendly eight-week competition among 16 different teams, each one representing one of RIT's colleges/divisions (finance and administration and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf each have two teams).

The Challenge began Feb. 11 and it will conclude April 7. The goal is simple: encourage employees to be more active and increase their intake of fruits and vegetables. Participants receive a free pedometer to count their steps each day and also keep

track of the cups of fruits and vegetables consumed daily. Both are recorded in the Eat Well Live Well online tracking system.

Last year's challenge, the first time RIT has participated, was extremely successful. More than one-third of RIT employees completed the challenge, with the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences winning the steps (10,881 steps) and the E. Philip Saunders College of Business winning the consumed cups of fruits and vegetables (4,464 cups).

The challenge is a fun way to focus on improving your health; you will become more aware of your activity level and eating habits. Last year, many participants found that they weren't doing as well as they thought they were. Changes you make today, even small ones, can certainly give you a better future and improve your long-term health—and, you can have fun at the same time.

Not sure how to achieve these positive results and successfully participate in the challenge? How about coordinating a lunch time or mid-afternoon walk with co-workers? Even during this cold weather, you can still be active inside—RIT has plenty of

indoor walking places (the ice rink, the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and even inside various RIT buildings). When celebrating birthdays in the office, bring in healthy treats. Share recipes or take the stairs instead of the elevator (you never know who you will meet in the stairwell!). It's easy and fun to make small changes.

I am excited to announce that for 2007, the challenge has expanded to other employers in the greater Rochester area. Wegmans first introduced the program to its employees several years ago and offered it to RIT and a few other large employers in 2006 as a pilot project. It was so successful that the pilot companies have been working with the Rochester Business Alliance to roll out this program to the rest of the business community.

The interest has been very high. To date, there are about 80 employers representing nearly 90,000 employees who have signed up to participate in 2007. So, when you are working in the garden this spring, you may find your neighbor out there working on accumulating their steps, too!

I hope to see you at a new event this year: the Mid-Challenge Walk,



noon-1 p.m. March 14 in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Join us for fun and raffle prizes!

Judy DeCoursey is RIT's senior benefits specialist.

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

# Changes ahead for RIT Campus Safety

RIT Campus Safety is entering a new era by welcoming its next director and by changing its name.



Chris Denninger

Chris Denninger has been promoted to the top post of the newly renamed Public Safety department, effective immediately. Denninger served as interim director since last July and previously as associate director since 1996.

"We are pleased that Chris has accepted this important leadership post," says Candice Fischbach, RIT's assistant vice president of global risk management services. "He has already made significant strides in enhancing the protection on campus by restructuring patrol operations to bring quicker response to community concerns and by utilizing technology to improve crime analysis and trends. His ongoing commitment to improve the safety and security of our institute is driven by the values stated in the department's PRIDE (Proud, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Empowerment) initiative. He demonstrates these values daily."

Denninger began his 26-year career at RIT in patrol, and he became an alumnus of the university in 2003, earning a master's degree in human

resources management.

"The RIT community has played a significant role in my personal and professional development," he says, "so I'm honored to serve it in this new capacity."

As for the change to Public Safety, Denninger says it reflects a broader image of the department's service delivery on campus.

"Many more visitors, external groups, clubs and teams come to RIT compared to 10 years ago, and attendance has grown considerably at events, like the Chase Corporate Challenge, and big-name concerts at the Gordon Field House," he says. "The Public Safety staff is proud of the name change because it's a better fit for our profession in today's world."

Emergency dispatching, investigations, crime prevention and general safety services remain the department's core focus, along with facility security systems. Last summer, Parking and Transportation and Environmental Health and Safety were realigned within Global Risk Management Services, outside of Public Safety's scope of responsibility.

Contacting Public Safety remains the same. Callers may dial 475-3333 (v/tty) to report emergencies and 475-2853 (v/tty) for all other service requests. ■

Paul Stella | [pbscom@rit.edu](mailto:pbscom@rit.edu)



Submitted by Laura W. Nelson

Hongxiang Cui of Tianjin University of Technology presents information on his remanufacturing research during RIT's Sustainability Forum, held earlier this month at CIMS.

## Chinese economy is study in sustainability

The development of sustainable business processes and technologies that take into account both economic productivity and environmental quality is now acknowledged as a primary step in protecting our global economy and environment. Nowhere does this message hit home stronger than in the world's fastest growing economy, China.

China not only has the world's largest population of over one billion people but its massive economy is now beginning to reach Western-sized proportions in terms of industrial production and consumption, and it is getting bigger. Its middle class, generally a nation's largest consumer group and already over 100 million people, is expected to double in size over the next five years and some experts predict that Chinese consumption could out pace all other countries combined by the next decade.

This situation is causing major issues in terms of pollution, waste production and environmental management and is now a key concern of both the Chinese government and international environmental planners.

The current Chinese environmental situation and the use of sustainable technologies to assist in dealing with the problem was the topic of a forum held at the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies earlier this month. The Sustainability Forum: Remanufacturing and Recycling Projects at Tianjin University of Technology discussed efforts by the university and the city of Tianjin to implement sustainable processes and reuse policies in regional industries.

The forum was part of a two-week government sponsored visit by professors from Tianjin University to study RIT's research in sustainable design and remanufacturing. Jian Li, Hongxiang Cui and Qiang Gao will next be visiting Yale University before returning to China. CIMS is also setting up follow-up meetings in China to further research collaboration.

"We are very happy to be able to share knowledge with the scientists and engineers here at RIT and look forward to enhancing efforts in sustainability and remanufacturing in the future," says Cui, a professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering. "China's sustainable management activities can only be improved through partnerships with experts from around the world, helping to continue economic growth with the fewest negative environmental impacts as possible."

"China is the perfect example of a society that is experiencing all of the positive and negative facets of massive industrial growth," adds Paul Stiebitz, of RIT's Sustainability Institute, which sponsored the event, and an RIT associate professor of industrial and systems engineering. "Through the proper study and implementation of sustainable technologies the Chinese environment can be better protected without slowing their economy, which will in turn benefit the entire world."

The Sustainability Forum is the first in a series of discussions sponsored by the institute on sustainable research topics. Visit [sustainability.rit.edu](http://sustainability.rit.edu). ■

Will Dube | [wjduns@rit.edu](mailto:wjduns@rit.edu)

### Internet and design

Roger Black, an editorial designer in New York City, will give a free lecture at noon Feb. 23 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. Black will discuss the Internet's impact on information consumption and how designers might shape the way people read in the future. Black has been an independent consultant since 1989, leading several firms devoted to what he calls "content design" in the U.S., Europe and Latin America. He was chief art director of *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone* and *Newsweek*. In the early 1990s Black's teams created some of the first big content sites, such as The Discovery Channel, MSNBC and *USA Today*. His presentation is sponsored by RIT's School of Design.

### Image Permanence grant

RIT's Image Permanence Institute and the New York Public Library have received \$315,200 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will fund a two-year study to define the best practices for monitoring, evaluating and optimizing artifact storage conditions from an environmental perspective. In a recent nationally conducted survey on the state of America's artifact collections, 53 percent of the institutions surveyed reported damage to their collections from environmental conditions. Given this need to understand and improve environmental issues related to the preservation of U.S. collections, a main focus of the partnership between RIT and the New York Public Library will be to develop user-centered tools for communicating and managing environmental problems.

## Daley leads RIT continuity department

Lynn Daley has been named director of the Office of Business Continuity. Daley comes to RIT from Preferred Care where she was manager of disaster contingency plans.



Lynn Daley

The Business Continuity Office is responsible for pre-incident planning, emergency response, crisis management and operational recovery by enabling RIT to respond to incidents quickly and return to normal operations as soon as possible with the least amount of impact to the campus community.

"Our vision is to have a comprehensive plan that is sufficiently resilient to address any critical incident RIT may face," says Daley. "We will achieve this by using a team approach to plan with representatives from all divisions of the institute." ■

### Back to business



Submitted by Marcia Morphy

Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy '76 (M.S. criminal justice), far left, was the guest speaker at the E. Philip Saunders College of Business Alumni Executive Breakfast Briefing Series on Feb. 6. Duffy joined Toshiba Business Solutions President Steven Sauer, Saunders College of Business Dean Ashok Rao, and RIT President Albert Simone in discussions with more than 120 RIT executive alumni on the economic challenges of the city and RIT's supporting role in its future.



Magnifying Mother Nature’s beauty



Submitted by Carolyn Moss

Biomedical photographic communications students loved the plentiful snowfall on Valentine’s Day. Classmates braved the elements to photograph snowflakes for their Photography Through the Microscope course. This snowflake photograph was taken by Carolyn Moss with a purple filter. The photomicrographs were shot using a 2x and 4x magnifying objective lens on a microscope equipped with a digital camera. To view all the students’ images, visit [www.rit.edu/~mrppph/SNOWFLAKES](http://www.rit.edu/~mrppph/SNOWFLAKES).

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Submitted by Laura W. Nelson

RIT professor Raymond Grosshans and student Zachary Mott demonstrate a CIMS sustainability research project to Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks during a recent tour.

ence in sustainable technologies and systems, including pollution prevention, closed-loop supply-chain management, sustainable design and government policies for promoting sustainability.

“Nabil Nasr has demonstrated an exemplary ability to develop successful partnerships with leading industries and government organizations, and is widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable people in the nation and the world in the field of sustainability,” says RIT President Albert Simone. “He has chaired and participated in worldwide conferences on the subject, testified before congressional committees and led other forums that have included a broad range of industry and university experts. I have every confidence that his leadership will enable this initiative to become a signature program for RIT and a premier example of what it means to be a ‘category-of-one’ university.”

“Through this new effort we hope to create a truly interdisciplinary core faculty team devoted to developing a tightly integrated interdisciplinary curriculum and attendant applied research program,” adds Nasr. “The core team will work closely and continually with leading industrial organizations, government agencies, educational institutions and other stakeholders to create programs that will meet our twin aims of enhanced economic development and improved environmental quality.”

The Ph.D. will consist of six program tracks: sustainable product design and realization, environmental studies, industrial ecology, technology and policy, sustainable

business enterprise and renewable energy. Faculty within the Sustainability Institute, in collaboration with faculty across RIT, will also develop graduate certificate programs in various facets of sustainability that meet continuing education needs of business and industry partners.

The research agenda for the Sustainability Institute will be a natural outgrowth of strong applied research programs and infrastructure at CIMS, which conducts several million dollars of applied research and

*The ultimate goal of the Sustainability Institute will be to produce our next generation of engineers, scientists and policy makers with groundbreaking research experience in sustainable technologies and systems.*

technology transfer annually in the sustainability domain. Over the past 10 years, CIMS has completed hundreds of projects with both domestic and international companies ranging from the small to the *Fortune* 100, as well as government agencies ranging from local to federal to international. These efforts will be enhanced by additional research programs in academic units throughout RIT including the Nanopower Research Laboratories, the Department of Science Technology and Society/Public Policy, and the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, among others. ■

Will Dube | [wjduns@rit.edu](mailto:wjduns@rit.edu)

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**Contributing writers**  
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R·I·T

**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
One Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603

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grants were written by 286 people across campus. A lot of people did a lot of grant writing last year.”

Zack says individual grant requests last year ranged from \$17 million down to \$148. The largest award to RIT during that period was \$2.7 million from the Office of Naval Research to continue the Defense Systems Modernization and Sustainment Initiative in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies.

Special recognition is being offered to individuals who received external funding last year for his or her first request as a principal investigator. Fourteen RIT researchers earned The Battering 1,000 Award, including Jim Myers, director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. Myers led a team representing the Advanced Food and Beverage Manufacturing Institute of Upstate New York that received a \$1.2 million award from the U.S. Department of Labor. The project will help to improve workforce skills in an industry that is critical to the regional economy.

That funding, along with a \$400,000 award from the United States Agency for International



Jim Myers

Development’s Higher Education Collaborative Partnership Program to advance energy and natural resource policies in Kosovo, also earns Myers induction into the Million Dollar Principal Investigators Club, which recognizes RIT researchers who have received funding since 2000 that totals \$1 million or more.

“RIT is so fortunate to be at a point in its evolution where these things are truly celebrated and recognized,” says Myers. “I appreciate that, and I absolutely respect how important it is to communicate the value of doing this kind of work to the broader campus community.”

Joining Myers this year in the Million Dollar PI Club are Stefi Baum, director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science; Karl Hirschman, associate professor of microelectronic engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering; John Klofas, professor of criminal justice in the College of Liberal Arts; Carl Salvaggio, associate professor of imaging science in the College of Science; and Paula Brown, associate professor of communication studies and service at NTID. The group, who is being honored during an awards dinner at Liberty Hill, joins 28 other RIT researchers previously inducted into the club. ■

Paul Stella | [pbscom@rit.edu](mailto:pbscom@rit.edu)

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says. “It was so much fun because I could remember when my parents used to take me to an Easter egg hunt at the University of Alabama when I was little. Every child gets a prize; there’s no crying.”

Some of her inspired creativity comes from following the footsteps of America’s reigning domestic-life-style entrepreneur.

“I just love Martha Stewart,” she adds, “and I have a collection of her best-selling cookbooks and how-to magazines on crafts, interior design and gardening. My idea of a perfect job after graduation would be to work for her because I’m innovative and very good at problem-solving and optimizing positive results.”

But as Curnutt explains, Rule leaves RIT with a purpose-filled legacy. “She has been extremely generous in offering counsel and help to students who have succeeded her in various leadership roles in the college.”

Her offer also extends to Ashok Rao, the new dean of Saunders College of Business, whom she took on a mini tour of RIT during a campus visit.

“I made sure we went to the dorms because it’s very important for him to see what RIT student life is all about,” Rule says. ■

Marcia Morphy | [mpmun@rit.edu](mailto:mpmun@rit.edu)

NTID professor researches visual learning

Peter Hauser, of the research and teacher education department at NTID, received a five-year, \$482,947 grant from the National Science Foundation to study how visual and gestural languages facilitate how people learn written English.

Hauser will be part of an international team of researchers who will investigate three strands of inquiry: language and the brain, co-led by Hauser; language structure and the visual modality; and developmental and sociocultural processes of visual learning. Other partners in the effort include Georgetown University, Rutgers University and the Center for American Sign Language-English Bilingual Education and Research, a federally funded network of schools for the deaf and teacher-training



Peter Hauser

centers.

The goal of the project is to conduct scientific studies to help understand how humans learn through the visual modality. More than 20 schools for the deaf will assist with transforming the science to teaching strategies in order to improve the language and literacy development of all deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Much of the research for the project will be led by deaf scientists. Deaf scholars also will participate as researchers and teachers through fellowships and assistantships. Hauser will work with deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing undergraduate students from NTID and three of RIT’s other colleges to develop ASL, cognitive and academic assessment tests for deaf children and adults; analyze the psychometric properties of these tests; and create video publishing techniques to disseminate the center’s research results and technical reports in ASL. These tests will help

researchers and educational diagnosticians appropriately evaluate deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals’ skills. His team also will coordinate brain and language studies on visual learning and visual language conducted at Georgetown University, San Diego State University and the University of California-Davis.

These studies will show how the brain develops different neural networks to help deaf individuals navigate through the world when relying on vision more than hearing individuals. In collaboration with other center projects, they will explore how to best teach deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals based on the unique strengths these individuals naturally develop by placing a greater reliance on vision.

Hauser’s grant is part of a larger NSF Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning award recently given to Gallaudet University. ■

Kathleen Smith | [kss8117@rit.edu](mailto:kss8117@rit.edu)