

## Professor unlocks black hole mystery

Someday scientists will trace gravitational waves backward in time and space to their originating source—to the collisions of compact masses that created them and, perhaps, to the beginning of the universe.

While technology to detect and observe gravitational waves improves, scientists like RIT's Manuela Campanelli are realizing important advances that will make the field of gravitational wave astronomy a reality. In 2005, Campanelli and her colleagues, Carlos Lousto and Yosef Zlochower, were one of two groups of scientists credited with simulating the merger of two black holes on a supercomputer according to Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity for strong field gravity.

Campanelli's team solved the 10 interrelated equations for strong field gravity that comprise Einstein's famous theory explaining the connection between matter, space and time. The ability to detect gravity waves has hinged for years on solving the equations and simulating the environment—the merger of two black holes—that would lead to them.

Building on their breakthrough, Campanelli and her team, collaborating with RIT astrophysicist David Merritt, recently observed changes in the gravitational field when spinning black holes collide. Their papers, posted on arXiv.org, show spinning black holes wobbling like a top and confirm the spin-flip phenomenon that occurs when the



Manuela Campanelli

remaining black hole in a merger changes its orientation. Her research also verifies the occurrence of recoil or "kick" that moves or displaces a

black hole after merging with another of unequal size and different spin orientation.

Campanelli recently joined RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences from the University of Texas, Brownsville, to direct the new Center for Relativity and Gravitation, which focuses on computational gravitational physics and astrophysics research. Following her from the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy are Lousto, Zlochower and postdoctoral researcher Hiroyuki Nakano.

"To do this level of research and to stay ahead of the competition really depends on direct access to supercomputing facilities," Campanelli says. "It comes down to computer brainpower."

"It is a real coup for RIT to have attracted a world-class researcher of the caliber of Manuela Campanelli," says RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie. "She will further enhance our already formidable group of astro-sciences faculty and serve as a mentor and role model for faculty in our School of Mathematics." ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

### Introducing RIT's new president



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

William Destler, RIT's incoming president, shares reaction to his new job with the campus community during the formal announcement of his selection on March 5. "This is a proud moment for me," he says. "It's a proud moment for my family, and I hope that it's the beginning of a wonderful new relationship with the entire RIT family." Destler, who took part in the event via satellite, remained at the University of Maryland for the announcement while hosting members of a Middle States Accreditation team. Looking on from the audience is Michael Morley, chair of RIT's Board of Trustees.

## FIRST returns March 9-10

For the third consecutive year, RIT will host the Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, March 9-10. The three-day event, featuring more than 30 high school teams from across the Northeast United States and Canada, is expected to draw over 2,500 participants and spectators to RIT's Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

The FIRST High School Robotics Program challenges teams of high school students to design and build a robot that will compete in a game against other high school teams. This year's game, Rack 'N' Roll, requires the team's robot to pick up colored rings and place them on the arms of a circular rack, located at the center of the arena. Teams receive points based on where their rings are hung on the rack.

FIRST robotics, page 4



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Some of the robotic creations at last year's FIRST competition.



Submitted by Josh Lehrer

The RIT men's hockey team won the 2007 Atlantic Hockey Association regular season title.

## RIT men capture Atlantic hockey title

Back in September, RIT was picked to finish eighth in the Atlantic Hockey Association pre-season poll. The Tigers were the new kids on the block, having made the jump from Division III to Division I the season before.

However, the Tigers had one goal right from the start of the 2006-2007 season, and that was to win the AHA regular season title.

"Winning the title was beyond our expectations," states RIT head coach Wayne Wilson. "But, we thought it was within our reach and was a definite goal of ours."

Heading into the final weekend of the season, the Tigers needed one win in their final two games to win the Atlantic Hockey Association regular Hockey, page 4

## Frisina, two students earn Davis service award honors

The founding director of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and two students are the 2007 recipients of the Alfred L. Davis Public Service Awards. They will be honored at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

D. Robert Frisina, director of the International Center for Hearing and Speech Research and professor of communication services at NTID, will receive the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award, which commemorates the four RIT presidents that Davis has worked with in his 69-year association with RIT. The award recognizes a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated a commitment to public service.

Frisina has been a pioneer in the field of deafness and hearing loss



D. Robert Frisina

for more than 40 years. He joined NTID in 1967 as its first director. He now leads the nation's largest age-related hearing loss research initiative—the RIT/NTID-based International Center of Hearing and Speech Research.

Frisina remains an active board member for the Rochester School for the Deaf. He has served as an adviser and on the board of directors for many organizations in leadership roles, including Highland Hospital, Upstate Health System, St. Ann's Home, WXXI-TV and the George Eastman House.

"Bob has been a major force at RIT, with the creation and growth of NTID, and in the Greater Rochester community," says one nominator. "He has focused his impressive energies in three principal domains: education, healthcare and cultural



Kate Dyson



Marco Flagg

enrichment."

In addition to earning many RIT awards, such as the Presidential Medallion, the Principal Investigator Award and the RIT Diversity Trailblazer Award, he has earned the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Westminster College, the Bicentennial Medal of Excellence Award from the New York State Board of Regents, the Civic Award for Education from the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, the Lyon's Founder Award from the Rochester School for the Deaf and the Special Recognition Award from University of Buffalo.

Frisina will donate his \$2,500 gift from Davis to Rochester Rehabilitation Center, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center and the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Service awards, page 4

### In the community

Public market is graphic designers' study, page 2

### Hands-on learning

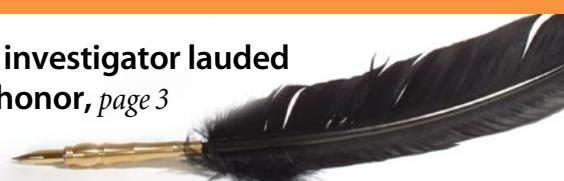
Students use chemistry to solve crime, page 2

### Scholarship and Research

RIT principal investigator lauded with special honor, page 3

### Viewpoints

Thoughts on shared governance, page 3



**Atwood readings**

A group reading of Canadian author Margaret Atwood's poetry and prose passages will be held at RIT in anticipation of a literary and musical event that will bring the author and composer Tania León to the RIT campus March 26. The poetry reading, also in honor of UNESCO World Poetry Day, will take place 4-6 p.m. March 21 in the Idea Factory in RIT's Wallace Library and features faculty, staff and student poets from RIT, University of Rochester and St. John Fisher College, as well as local poets. For more information, contact John Roche at [jroche@firstclass.rit.edu](mailto:jroche@firstclass.rit.edu). The Women's Center will also present the movie *The Handmaid's Tale* based on Atwood's novel, free of charge in the Fireside Lounge, Student Alumni Union, at 7 p.m. March 15.

**McAfee Day events**

George Kurtz, senior vice president at McAfee Inc. and co-author of the bestselling book, *Hacking Exposed: Network Security Secrets and Solutions*, will give a free lecture, *Threatscape 2007*, at 6 p.m. March 15 in the Golisano College auditorium. A reception will immediately follow. Kurtz will talk about the latest security threats and trends. His lecture is part of the annual McAfee Day events, which include a security competition between teams of RIT computing students and McAfee engineers. Student teams build and defend computer networks from a series of live internal and external attacks launched by McAfee engineers. The goal of the competition is to expose students to the types of threats faced by system and network administrators in real-life security scenarios. For more information, visit <http://netsys-lab.nssa.rit.edu/?page=mcafee>.

**Tee off for United Way**

RIT's 2007 United Way Campaign swings into action with its fifth annual Mini Golf tournament on March 19 in the Student Alumni Union lobby and Fireside Lounge. Join students, faculty, staff and retirees for 18 "weatherproof" holes of miniature golf on creative greens designed and sponsored by RIT student groups and departments.

Tee off begins at noon with tee times available every five minutes through 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for faculty and staff, \$2 for students. To register, visit [www.rit.edu/~940www/UnitedWay/?s=events](http://www.rit.edu/~940www/UnitedWay/?s=events). Sign-ups will also be available in the SAU lobby 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 15 and 16; walk-up registrations also available the day of the event.

**Part-time study session**

RIT's Office of Part-time and Graduate Enrollment Services will offer a graduate studies open house 2:30-4:30 p.m. March 15 in the Bausch & Lomb Center. The open house will provide information for students interested in pursuing a master's degree on a full-time basis. For more information, call 475-2229.



Vincent D'Onofrio, center, and Kathryn Erbe, far right, stars of *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, at an ice arena during the filming of its March 20 episode. RIT students and staff members will appear in the scene as extras.

## RIT students, staffers appear on NBC drama

A group of eight RIT community members will make guest appearances on the NBC drama *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* March 20.

The group, which includes five students from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, an NTID alumnus, NTID assistant professor Luane Davis Haggerty and Public Safety senior officer Idalia Vazquez, served as extras in the episode, which will deal with numerous deaf issues.

The opportunity arose when Davis Haggerty, a union actress who runs a theatre company in New York City, was contacted by an agent who said the show was seeking deaf actors who could sign. Davis Haggerty agreed to accept the opportunity and offered the services of her students, as well.

The group drove to New York City Feb. 15 and was on the set for nearly 14 hours. Davis Haggerty says the experience was more than worth it.

"It was a fabulous experience," she says. "We were treated very, very well and with great respect. I had warned the students that, although this was going to be cool and a great first experience, there was probably going to be a lot of waiting around and it might be a little boring. That was not the case."

Each member of the RIT group is expected to get camera time when the show airs at 9 p.m. on NBC (Channel 10 locally). Be on the lookout for them in the following scenes:

Troy Chapman and Ruthie Jordan participated in a protest scene; Jordan and Karrieh Norman were seated on bleachers at an ice rink, directly

behind two featured actors; Ayaz Ali, Norman and Karla Marrero were seated in the front row of a courtroom, directly behind the defendants; Davis Haggerty was invited to a deaf theatre show by the deaf featured actors as they came out of the courtroom; Vazquez can be seen as a protester, reacting to a statement in the courtroom and making a reaction as she observed a couple at an ice rink having a discussion; the entire group, including Martina Bell, served as detectives walking back-and-forth and talking on the phone in a squad room.

"This wonderful experience allowed me the opportunity to see what 'real' actors do—how much time and effort it takes to make a one-hour show," Vazquez says. "The lead actors were down to earth. They spoke and ate with us as if we were all on the same level."

There was an added benefit for the students, who are all aspiring actors, in addition to the experience and the professional paycheck. Every actor must work a minimum of three Screen Actors Guild certified jobs (one in which you get paid and treated like a professional) in order to join its union. This experience counted as one of those jobs for each of the students.

"Screen Actors Guild really helps their members do bigger work, so it's a big deal," Davis Haggerty says. "They may not become stars, but it helps them do regular extra work like this." ■

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

**A healthy balancing act**



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

While RIT faculty and staff members embark on the annual *Eat Well Live Well Challenge*, RIT students are maintaining their physical fitness in wellness classes offered at the Student Life Center. Due to increasing popularity, the Student Life Center offered a record number of course offerings during the winter quarter. The *Core Stability* class, pictured above, is one of the most popular classes offered. To view more photos of RIT wellness classes, visit [www.rit.edu/news](http://www.rit.edu/news) and click on "Photo Gallery."

## Designing a change for the public market

Students in RIT's Graduate Design Applications II course gave the Rochester Public Market a facelift—conceptually, anyway.

The students completed a non-commissioned project that studied the current condition of the environmental graphic design and large-scale graphic design elements of the market. They visited the market and each student developed a proposal based on the needs that they prioritized as the most pressing.

Seven projects were presented to a panel of community leaders and environmental graphic design educators and practitioners. Guests included Graphic Design Graduate Program Coordinator Deborah Beardsley; Sister Beth LeValley, a community outreach representative from Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's office; Eric VanDusen, director of Neighbor Works Rochester; Beverly McLean, assistant research professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Buffalo; and RIT industrial design professor Stan Rickel.

School of Design professor Alex Bitterman, who taught the class, says the presentations couldn't have gone better.

"In my 10 years of teaching, I've never had a presentation where the guests have been so wholeheartedly enthusiastic about the presentations that they were viewing," Bitterman says.

Bitterman hopes that the project



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

William Wells presents his proposal for an environmental graphic design facelift of the Rochester Public Market.

will capitalize on a long history of partnership with the community and will spur additional future partnerships between the Rochester community and RIT's graduate graphic design students, and will build upon RIT's long-history of academic/community collaboration.

"One of the purposes of this project was to highlight the talent and abilities of our talented graduate students and demonstrate how their skills can be applied to very real-world community-based issues," Bitterman says.

Beardslee agrees: "The public market project was an intriguing way to blend many different goals associated with community, research and implementation in design."

While the Rochester Public Market project was not commissioned, *Public market, page 4*

## Future chemists analyze crime scenes

After a full day on campus with NTID and RIT science students and faculty, the president of the American Chemical Society said the future scientists she met will easily transition into the workplace because they have the knowledge, skills and the other qualities needed for success.

Catherine Hunt, who won the society's presidency by the largest margin in the past 25 years, also serves as leader of technology partnerships and emerging technologies at Rohm and Haas, an \$8 billion specialty-materials company and a leading employer of chemical technicians.

She spent the morning at the College of Science talking about future careers in science and technology, and the importance of networking. She also stressed that collaboration among educators and industry professionals is critical to finding innovative solutions to tomorrow's challenges.

She then met with first-year students from the associate level laboratory science technology major at NTID for a round-table discussion.

Later, she spent time with second-year students participating in a mock trial. The staged crime? A house fire suspected to be arson.

After the ceremonious swearing in on the symbolic *CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics*, the trial began.

Nine students each took a turn presenting in meticulous detail their laboratory analysis based on their thorough, careful testing and retesting of vapors from wood samples taken from the "burned" house, in addition to vapors from potential accelerants (paint thinner, lamp oil and charcoal lighter fluid) taken from the suspect's nearby house. The students used gas chromatography with mass spectrometry instrumentation to obtain the data to support their side of the simulated trial.

"I was totally impressed with the sincerity, the preparedness and the sophistication of the students," Hunt says. Compared to other college programs, she sensed more enthusiasm and more intensity among RIT's deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

But does communicating with scientists with hearing loss have an impact?

"Yes. Actually, I find it centers me because I'm really listening," Hunt says. "General communication in the workplace many times can get haphazard. Working with people with hearing loss can bring clarity to a higher level." ■

Karen Black | [kebnmr@rit.edu](mailto:kebnmr@rit.edu)



Submitted by Mark Benjamin

Playing the role of judge, American Chemical Society president Katie Hunt, far right, listens intently to science student Kyle Edenzon as he makes final remarks about the evidence he and fellow students analyzed to determine if a house fire was arson. Student Marc Villaverde and assistant professor Todd Pagano, second from right, observe.

For decades, higher-education institutions have enjoyed the status, prestige, reverence and support that have helped them to become the fountains of knowledge in both the generation and the sharing of knowledge within the society.

Nowadays, higher-education institutions are confronted with external challenges such as accountability, global competitiveness, access, affordability, efficiency, outcomes and quality. Adding to the dilemma of the external challenges is the number of internal stresses and difficulties.

These stresses include, but are not limited to, budget deficits, downsizing, financial-aid demands, and decreases in federal and state funding. The combination of the external challenges and internal stresses do not only threaten the very nature of the enterprise but also provides a significant increase in the complexity related to decision-making in higher-education institutions. The increase in complexity of various tasks promotes inescapable interdependence among various institutional components (boards, administration, faculty, staff and students).

However, anytime institutional

decision-making or governance is raised, it invites discussion about who should govern and in what capacity. Consequently, debates arise and divisions and anonymity among various constituents are established. Many indicate that involving too many institutional constituents in the decision-making process limits the institution's agility and flexibility, creating obstructions and sluggishness and fostering permanence and stability. Others argue that increasing participation and involvement of various university constituents can act as a check-and-balance mechanism by which sources of power can be counter balanced or kept in check by the other source of power. In this way, better decisions are made.

Whatever signs of frustration regarding governance may appear from time to time, it is important to ask ourselves whether we want to make governance more efficient or we want to preserve academic institutions. If we want to preserve academic institutions, then shared governance becomes an essential precondition.

I believe as new patterns in the economy, demographics, govern-

ment spending policies, the use of technology, and the expectations of students and their families change, the need for quick decisions and effective shared governance are needed. Clearly, every faculty member, staff member, administrator and student has an important role to play in the development and ongoing success of the new decision-making paradigms. We can be active participants in shaping the common good. The more effectively we are involved in the decision-making process the more the institution will be able to respond to the present and future challenges and stresses.

I believe that the relationship that should exist among all university constituents should be based on collegiality, tolerance, trust and mutual respect. If we all put our personal agendas, interests and differences aside, work together collectively and unselfishly, and act in the best interest of the university, then we will ensure that shared governance becomes effective and fruitful.

I believe shared governance should be utilized to improve the effectiveness of the institution, enact decisions faster, ensure the accept-



ability of the decision and institutionalize change. It should not be a means to enforce and preserve the status quo.

*Ghazle is director of RIT's diagnostic medical sonography program.*

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



Introducing the newest feature on the University News Web site: the photo gallery.

Visit the photography area of the University News site, [www.rit.edu/news](http://www.rit.edu/news), and click "Photo Gallery" to view collections of images showcasing various campus activities and other sights—many providing glimpses into student life at RIT.

Currently, you can view a gallery of photos featuring RIT's president-designate, **William Destler**, during recent campus visits, and sneak a peek at some recent recreation and fitness classes offered by RIT's Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, including sessions in core stability, swing dancing and weight training. All photos were taken by **Sue Weisler**, manager of photography, University News.

"There's a wide range of RIT stories to tell through images, and our Web site is the perfect vehicle," says Weisler.

Next, watch for photos of the Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, which will be held March 9-10 in RIT's Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Have an idea for a future photo-gallery subject? Contact Weisler at [aswcmp@rit.edu](mailto:aswcmp@rit.edu).

#### Breaking news first on the Web

Once again, visitors to the University News Web site and our news blog, The Tiger Beat Blog ([www.thetigerbeat.com/blog](http://www.thetigerbeat.com/blog)), along with *Dateline: RIT* e-newsletter subscribers, were among the first people to read about RIT news. This time, it was the March 5 announcement that William Destler, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost of the University of Maryland at College Park, will succeed **Albert Simone** as RIT president this summer.

Stay informed about RIT news by bookmarking and regularly visiting the University News Web site and blog, and by signing up for a free subscription to the *Dateline: RIT* e-newsletter and listening to "Dateline: RIT – The Podcast."

See you on the blog, pod and Web!

## Schott honored for broad research achievements

Recognizing his broad impact in the advancement of funded research at RIT, John Schott, the Frederick and Anna Wiedman Professor in the Center for Imaging Science, is recipient of the university's Principal Investigator Presidential Award.

The honor was announced Feb. 22 at the annual PI reception, hosted by Sponsored Research Services. The purpose of the award is to highlight the outstanding achievements of an RIT researcher in three specific areas—impacting students, conducting interdisciplinary scholarship and forming inter-institutional collaborations.

In presenting the award, President Albert Simone acknowledged the scope of Schott's impact during his 27 years at RIT. "John has supervised hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students on their individual and team projects, and students all over America use his textbook," he says. "RIT is very fortunate to have a professor of John's caliber."

Simone praised Schott as the

founder of RIT's remote-sensing initiatives. The program has led to advances in understanding how the atmosphere affects remotely gathered data. Under Schott's guidance, RIT has developed and implemented MISI, the Modular Imaging Spectrometer Instrument. Scientists throughout the United States—as well as RIT faculty and students—use this airborne system to collect data across many color bands.

Schott has also led RIT in a variety of research collaborations with other laboratories, universities and federal agencies. He calls it an honor to have his efforts recognized with the PI Presidential Award.

"This award was particularly special for me because it comes from Dr. Simone, who has been a supporter of our activities for many years and a steadfast champion of RIT's research agenda," states Schott. "I also value it because it is not just about the research but about involving students in the enterprise, which



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

*John Schott, left, receives the PI Presidential Award from President Albert Simone during RIT's annual principal investigators reception.*

has always been a personal theme of mine."

In addition to a personalized plaque, Schott receives \$2,500 to be spent on a research initiative

of his choosing. President Simone has asked the Academic Senate to consider making the PI Presidential Award an annual tribute at RIT. ■

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

## Class stresses importance of quality writing skills

Lisa Hermsen has pried open the English department and the College of Liberal Arts to let the word out: Good writing skills are important to every field of study at RIT.

The assistant professor of English and director of the Institute Writing Committee understands the importance of writing across curricula—finding effective ways to insert writing instruction and practice into all degree programs.

"I think students are told they

have to know how to write, but it doesn't sink in," Hermsen says. "It's kind of like being told you have to eat your vegetables."

Reinforcing good writing skills in all majors provides students with the context for learning a skill many would rather ignore.

"In industry, students might be asked to research new technology and write a report on it," Hermsen says. "When they're writing in their discipline and someone says, 'I'm not

understanding what you are trying to say,' then it becomes real for them."

Stephen Zilora, assistant professor of information technology and a member of the Institute Writing Committee, knows that the quality of his students' writing ability may influence their career opportunities. New graduates entering the workforce can expect to write specifications, requests for proposals and status reports, for instance.

"Rarely does a day go by that you don't write or read a memo or report by someone," he says. "It's all about communication."

Hermsen spent last quarter coaching students in Zilora's Technology Transfer class on how to hone their writing skills. She and Zilora developed writing assignments with opportunities built in for revision and peer review. Hermsen visited the class several times throughout the quarter to follow the students' progress and noted an attitudinal change.

"They understood that this is about communication," she says.

"And that if they can't communicate their ideas effectively, that's a problem."

Adds Zilora: "To get out of the cubicle you need to demonstrate that you can do more than just write code. You may have something insightful or valuable to say, but if you can't get your point across, no one will ever know about it. You must be able to write so that people easily understand what you have to say."

Hermsen hopes to recruit a wider circle of faculty next year who are willing "to take the challenge to teach writing in a class like Technology Transfer." Part of this involves bolstering faculty members' confidence in their own ability to teach and critique student writing.

"One thing about writing across the curricula is that it has to come from the faculty," Hermsen says. "Faculty members like Steve are involved and willing, and even excited, dare I say?"

For more on the Institute Writing Committee, visit [iwc.rit.edu](http://iwc.rit.edu). ■

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



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

*Lisa Hermsen, director of the Institute Writing Committee, shows students enrolled in professor Stephen Zilora's Technology Transfer class how to hone their writing skills.*

#### News briefs

##### Upcoming tech lecture

John Dakers, professor of educational studies at the University of Glasgow, will present, "Technologists, Who, by Looking Back, Do Not Always See What Is Before Them," at noon March 21 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. His talk is part of the Ezra A. Hale Ethics Lecture Series in the College of Liberal Arts. For information, call 475-2057.

##### Research conference

Communication students from across New York state will converge at RIT March 22 for the fourth annual Conference for Undergraduate Research in Communication. Students from 11 colleges will present 30 papers and one poster at the conference, which begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Alumni Union. The conference is open to the public. Visit [www.rit.edu/curc](http://www.rit.edu/curc) for a complete schedule.



Teased hair, bright neon-colored clothing and free skates at the roller-skating rink were all the rage in the 1980s. Students from RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences recaptured the magic of that era for their production photography course's final project. Local volunteers laced up their skates and modeled the fashions for a complex photo shoot at Horizon Fun F/X in suburban Greece last month. Popular '80s songs from such artists as Blondie and Rick Springfield blared through the speakers to get the models in the groove.

## Meet RIT's 2007 United Way poster families

When you see the smiles on Brennan Coon and Angela Hauser's faces, you'd be hard pressed to realize the health challenges they face. Coon was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a baby; Hauser discovered she had



Brennan Coon

end-stage renal (kidney) failure at the age of 31.

It takes spirit and determination to deal with "walking funny" or dialysis treatments that leave you bone-tired. And yet these two RIT staff members—whose faces you'll be seeing on the posters around campus for RIT's 2007 United Way Campaign—have decided to share their personal experiences.

One of Coon's earliest memories was attending a United Way-funded cerebral palsy preschool program where he learned sign language and

formed friendships with kids with similar disabilities. "We were kids just like anyone else." After leg braces and two extensive surgeries, Coon gained greater mobility and later participated in the Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged and learned how to ski.

Not surprisingly, Coon works as intramurals assistant and club sports coordinator at RIT's Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation. He and his wife, Kristin, are also instructors and avid skiers in the Shared Ski Adventures program at Swain, funded through CP Rochester.

Meanwhile, Hauser's kidney failure diagnosis was made when a nagging cold sent her to a Miami physician for a quick checkup in 1999—one week before moving to Rochester with her husband, Peter Hauser.

"Lucky for me—the cold led to the discovery—because the toxins in my body were so high, it would have been fatal," says Angela, a staff sign-language interpreter at RIT's Golisano College. "I went on dialysis and then received a perfect live-donor transplant from Peter, who works as a professor in the research department at NTID. He is deaf and

Produced by University News Services, Building 86, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623 (585) 475-5064 / (585) 475-5097 (fax) news&events@mail.rit.edu, www.rit.edu/news  
**News & Events online** www.rit.edu/newsevents  
**Dateline RIT** www.rit.edu/news/dateline  
**Podcasts** www.rit.edu/news/rss/podcast.rss  
**The Tiger Beat Blog** www.thetigerbeat.com/blog

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

**Designer**  
 Peter Bella '03

**Contributing writers**  
 Karen Black, Brandon Borgna, Kelly Downs, Will Dube, John Follaco, Susan Gawlowicz, Steve Jaynes, Kathy Lindsley, Marcia Morphy, Joe Venniro

# R·I·T

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

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

### Newsmakers

**Scott Anson**, assistant professor of manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology, presented a paper, "Analysis of Lead Free Tin-Silver-Copper and Tin-Lead Solder Wetting Reactions," at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Congress and Exposition in November.

**Bob Chung**, Gravure Research Professor in the School of Print Media, served as a moderator on color at the Kodak Graphic Communication Group Journalist/Analyst Meeting, last August in Rochester. The panel discussion looked at the role of color from its creation to reproduction, its psychology, and the challenges in communicating color.

**Amelia Hugill-Fontanel**, production editor in the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press, published a scholarly article, "Arts et Métiers Graphiques: The Graphic Design Magazine of the Deberny et Peignot Type Foundry," in the No. 49 issue of *Printing History*. The article was based on Hugill-Fontanel's master's thesis research.

**Christine Licata**, NTID associate vice president for academic affairs, delivered the keynote address on "Post Tenure Review: What Do Early Results Show" at the 24th annual Academic Chairpersons Conference on Academic Leadership: Building Responsive and Responsible Communities in Orlando, Fla. in February.

### Public market from page 2

Bitterman and Beardslee are hopeful that the market will reach out to RIT and partner with the students to bring some of their ideas to fruition. Many of the students agreed that the market faces a substantial problem due to a lack of control over the mixing of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, which could potentially result in unsafe conditions. The students felt that environmental graphic design elements could be used to separate the two forms of traffic.

Therefore, Bitterman encouraged the students to be creative and

innovative—considering limited resources and existing constraints. Many of the students also adopted a phased plan, where pieces of their projects can be implanted over time, while addressing the most critical needs first.

"We want to say to nonprofit and government folks in the community that we have some great students here with fantastic skills and we can help you to identify design issues and develop realistic design solutions," Bitterman says. ■

John Follaco | jfollaco@rit.edu



Angela Hauser with her husband, Peter, and daughter, Nya

white, and I am hearing and black, and two years post-surgery, we went through fertility to have a beautiful daughter, Nya."

The United Way-funded National Kidney Foundation provided continuous support—from medication and dialysis, to donor testing and the transplant. "They were such a blessing," says Hauser. ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmun@rit.edu

### Hockey from page 1

season title. The Tigers shut out Bentley 3-0 in the first game of the two-game series, clinching the title.

"Winning the title was an accumulation of a lot of hard work beginning with Dr. Simone," says Wilson. "The support he has given, along with the vice presidents and our Athletic Director Lou Spiotti, enabled us to compete in Division I right away."

RIT was among the leaders in Division I in scoring, power play and penalty killing, and has captured the attention of fans in Rochester and throughout the hockey community. The Tigers averaged 1,500 fans at Ritter Arena this season.

"The response from our fans has been tremendous," says Wilson. "The success we've had this season has opened the doors to prospective student-athletes."

Wilson is very excited about the future. The Tigers return all but three players for 2007-2008, including the five leading scorers from this season. ■

Steve Jaynes | skjids@rit.edu

### Now that's an 'amusing' project



Two participants observe as an autonomous vehicle that they designed and built using LEGO Mindstorms traverses an obstacle course during Park and Ride: Amusement Park Ride Design, Feb. 10-11. They were among 55 sixth- and seventh-grade girls who participated in the annual pre-engineering program introducing them to engineering and programming concepts through hands-on activities that included designing and building an amusement-park-themed device. Participants also heard from Molly Kearns '04 (B.S./M.S. industrial engineering), who works as an industrial engineer for Walt Disney World. Thirty-two RIT students assisted with activities, organized by WE@RIT, an organization within the Kate Gleason College of Engineering that sponsors programs for young women interested in engineering studies and careers.

Submitted by Dan Brewer

### Service awards from page 1

Joining Frisina are two students, who will be presented the Bruce R. James '64 Distinguished Public Service Award. This student public service award commemorates the 40 years of distinguished public service of James, chairman emeritus of the RIT Board of Trustees and the U.S. Public Printer. The award recognizes a student for exemplary public service.

This year's winners are:  
 ■ Kate Dyson, a fourth-year biology student from Camp Hill, Pa. Dyson is a Bible study discussion group leader, a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a leader of a student missionary group

to Guyana, South America, and the historian and programming director of Student Government. Dyson will donate her \$1,000 gift from Davis to AIDS Rochester.

■ Marco Flagg, a fourth-year photojournalism major from Albany. Flagg is a student leadership core coordinator with the RIT/Northeast Neighborhood Association partnership, an assistant for Young Men's Rites of Passage, and a volunteer fundraiser for Rochester Fatherhood Resources Initiative. Flagg will donate his \$1,000 gift from Davis to the Rochester Fatherhood Resource Initiative Inc. ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

### FIRST robotics from page 1

FIRST will host 37 competitions during the 2007 season, with the championship event to be held at Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

FIRST was established in 1989 by

Dean Kamen, who holds over 150 U.S. patents, most notably the Segway Human Transporter. Kamen was also RIT's 2006 commencement speaker. ■

Brandon Borgna | bmb9935@rit.edu