Special Commencement Edition

R·I·T news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

May 18, 2007

RIT celebrates Class of 2007

RIT is ready for a memorable conclusion to the academic year with its celebration of the 122nd annual Commencement. Graduating students, their family and friends, and the entire campus community will converge for a weekend of pride and excitement May 25-26.

Activities kick off with Academic Convocation, 10 a.m. Friday, May 25, in U Lot. Tickets are required for admission to this ceremony.

During Academic Convocation, RIT President Albert Simone confers degrees on more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, the university welcomes President Bill Clinton as the event's keynote speaker (see related story).

"President Clinton's lifelong commitment 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 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."

Yohei Sasakawa

Clinton and Yohei Sasakawa, chair of The Nippon Foundation of Japan, will each receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters during the ceremony. Sasakawa is acknowledged as the primary advocate for the foundation's funding of the Postsecondary Education Network International, commonly called PEN-International, at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Other highlights of Academic Convocation include recognition for graduating honors students, as well as faculty members who won outstanding teaching awards. Each RIT college, including the American College of Management and Technology in Croatia and the American University in Kosovo, has chosen an undergraduate student to serve as college delegate. These delegates represent their colleges on stage during the official conferral of degrees

Class of 2007, page 12

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

These graduates, from RIT's Class of 2006, join an alumni population that, this year, grows to more than 100,000.

Graduation schedule

Friday, May 25

Academic Convocation, 10 a.m.,
U Lot (tickets required)

College of Liberal Arts, 1:30 p.m.,
Ritter Arena

College of Applied Science and Technology, 2 p.m.,
Gordon Field House and Activities Center

National Technical Institute for the Deaf, 4 p.m.,
Ritter Arena

Kate Gleason College of Engineering, 5 p.m.,
Gordon Field House and Activities Center

College of Science, 6:30 p.m.,
Ritter Arena

Saturday, May 26

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, 9 a.m.,
Gordon Field House and Activities Center

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, noon,
Gordon Field House and Activities Center

E. Philip Saunders College of Business, 3 p.m.,
Gordon Field House and Activities Center

See page 2 for parking and shuttle details. Additional information is available at www.rit.edu/commencement.

Clinton to address graduates

Honorary doctorate will be bestowed

William Jefferson Clinton will be the keynote speaker at RIT's 2007 Academic Convocation, part of the university's 122nd Commencement.

A graduate of Georgetown University, he won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University in 1968. He received a law degree from Yale University in 1973 and, shortly thereafter, entered politics in Arkansas where he served as state attorney general and, later, two terms as governor. Clinton was elected president of the United States in 1992 and again in 1996. His accomplishments as president include increasing investment in education, providing tax relief for working families, helping millions of Americans move from welfare to work, expanding access to technology, encouraging investment in underserved communities, protecting the environment, countering the threat of terrorism and promoting peace and strengthening democracy around the world.

After leaving the White House, Clinton established the William J. Clinton Foundation with the mission to strengthen the capacity of people in the United States and throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence. To achieve this, the Clinton Foundation is focused on four critical areas: health security, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS; economic empowerment; leadership development and citizen service; and racial, ethnic and religious reconciliation.

President Bill Clinton will be the speaker at this year's Academic Convocation.

Following Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Clinton and President George H.W. Bush established the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund to assist survivors in the rebuilding effort. Clinton also served as United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery.

Clinton will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters during Academic Convocation, which takes place at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 25, in U Lot. ■

Senior project sheds new light on the RIT campus

It's a green light, but it doesn't signal "go." That's because it's "green" environmentally, not in hue.

To most passersby, the wind-powered walkway light—the only one of its kind on campus—and its telltale "flutter-effect" sound have gone largely unnoticed, guesses Jessie Gmeinder, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and member of a team of RIT students that designed and, last month, installed the illuminator as part of a senior-design project.

But being in the limelight wasn't the students' aim. Rather, their project—one of seven in a new sustainable design and product-development track for multidisciplinary senior design—focused on exploring the capabilities and limitations of sustainable technologies on the RIT campus and determining their feasibility for widespread use.

Air supply

Gmeinder, the chief engineer on the 10-person team of mechanical engineering and industrial and systems engineering students, and Jeff Hoover, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major, recently showed off the walkway light on an atypically balmy April afternoon. As if on cue, a gusty wind kicked up, causing the carbon-fiber-composite-reinforced blades of an AIR-X wind turbine atop a lamppost to rotate into a blur. The resulting flutter—no louder than the engines of most passing automobiles on Cross Campus Drive—was barely discernible.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Jeff Hoover, left, Jessie Gmeinder and Chris Chaput, fifth-year mechanical engineering majors in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, are part of a 10-person team that designed a wind-turbine-powered walkway light as a multidisciplinary senior-design project. The light, turbine and control box were permanently installed near F Lot and Cross Campus Drive last month.

Pedestrians using a pathway adjacent to F Lot probably notice the large control box mounted near the bottom of the post more so than the whir of the 46-inch diameter rotors mounted 17 feet above their heads. Behind the padlocked door of the control box are an ammeter, analog and digital voltmeters, and two 12-volt deep-cycle batteries that are connected "in parallel"—both accepting power generated by the wind turbine and supplying power to the 20-watt light-emitting diode (commonly termed LED) lamp. Or, as Gmeinder explains, "The turbine talks to the batteries and the batteries talk to the light." (The enthusiastic Gmeinder is as comfortable talking 'tech' as she is at explaining what it means in layman's terms.)

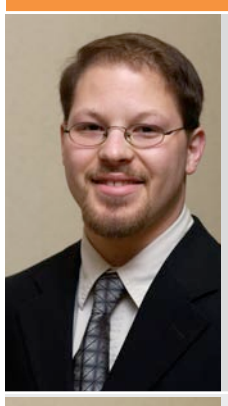
The 13-pound, 400-watt-output wind turbine—made of aircraft-quality aluminum alloy castings—can generate power from as little as a breeze of seven miles per hour or from wind gusts of up to 30 mph. (At speeds higher than 30 mph, an electric brake stops the blades to prevent overcharging the battery and over-revving that could damage the blades and bearings, and to keep electrical components safe from a current spike.) A photocell—a device that detects daylight—turns on the light after dark (just like most streetlights).

None of it would be possible without a sturdy lamppost and concrete base—both provided, at no cost to students, by RIT Facilities Management Services, which assumes guardianship of the light after students graduate this month. Additionally, James Watters, RIT senior vice president for finance and administration, approved project funding of $3,500. (The project is currently under budget, Gmeinder notes with a sense of satisfaction.)

RIT is looking at numerous ways

Wind-powered light, page 12

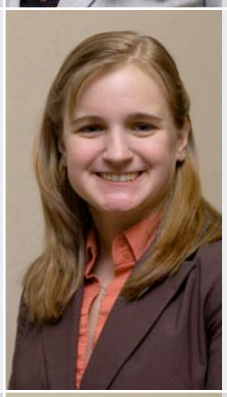
2007 College Delegates



College of Applied Science and Technology
David Peretz , from Wynnewood, Pa., will graduate with a B.S. in mechanical engineering technology. A member of the RIT Honors Program and recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship Award, Peretz completed several co-ops, including one with EMPA in Dubendorf, Switzerland, and served as a senior member of the aero-design team. He has extensive engineering project experience in bioengineering, robotics, mechanical and materials testing, and failure analysis. After graduation, he will pursue his passion to design, develop and invent in his field of mechanical engineering.

College of Liberal Arts
Ruth Simmons, from Rochester, is completing her B.S. in urban and community studies with a concentration in Spanish language and culture and a minor in culture and communication. The recipient of many awards and scholarships, Simmons completed a co-op position at the University of Rochester's Urban Fellows Program. Through this program, she worked for the City of Rochester conducting research for Councilman Dana Miller and attending seminars to learn about history, politics and inequalities in urban areas. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology to research inequalities in the urban education system.

E. Philip Saunders College of Business
Benjamin Harris, from Castleton, N.Y., will graduate with a B.S. in marketing with a concentration in communications. Harris worked as a resident advisor and served as president of the Management Information Systems Student Team. He completed co-ops at The Arthritis Foundation/Rochester Marathon in event planning and sponsorship development and at ESPN Inc. as a special events marketing intern. He plans to work in advertising, coordinating marketing campaigns as an online media planner, and to attend graduate school to pursue an MBA.



College of Science
Sarah Denial, from Erie, Pa., is completing a B.S. in biochemistry. She has been immersed in undergraduate research throughout her tenure at RIT with complete financial support from an NIH fellowship, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, and Daniel J. Pasto Fellowship for undergraduate researchers. A recipient of many scholarships and awards, Denial received the chemistry department's award for Outstanding Second Year Student and Outstanding Undergraduate in Biochemistry as well as the RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship Award. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology at Cornell University.

E. Philip Saunders College of Business
Lindsey Brady, from Emmaus, Pa., is the College of Business graduate delegate. Brady will graduate with an MBA in management and leadership. She earned her B.S. in imaging and photographic technology from RIT and worked co-op positions with Fuji Film E-Systems and Canon USA Inc. She is a recipient of the Dr. Ronald Francis Scholarship, served as the 2006-2007 Graduate Ambassador and as the event coordinator for Graduate Management Association. She was captain of the RIT tennis team and is a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, Order of Omega, Golden Key International Honor Society, and Alpha Sigma Lambda Honorary Society. After graduation, she plans to work at an imaging firm in a position that combines her expertise in photography and business.

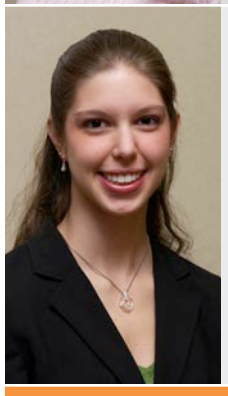
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Abiodun (Abi) Odunlami is a laboratory science technology major from Philadelphia. She is a recipient of the Ms. NTID Award, given for making a difference in the community as a whole. Odunlami completed a co-op as a chemical technician at Eastman Kodak's Film Sensitizing Division and worked as a research assistant. She also served as a community student advocate on the NTID Student Life Team. Upon graduation, she will continue her studies at RIT in biotechnology studies and plans to receive a B.S. in 2008. Odunlami's goal is to work for a pharmaceutical company or as a forensic scientist.

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
Joseph Kardamis, from Strongsville, Ohio, will receive his B.S./M.S. in computer science with minors in German language and culture and mathematics. A recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award and member of the Honors Program and the Nathaniel Rochester Society, he worked co-op positions with NASA Glenn Research Center and Actual Systems, UK Ltd., and as a researcher at RIT. He was also involved with Surround Sound, one of RIT's a cappella groups. Kardamis has accepted a position at Sherwin-Williams in Cleveland working on Java enterprise application development.

American College of Management and Technology
Mirjana Ŝutić, from Ploče, Croatia, graduated from Bloxham School, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, UK, and is pursuing a B.S. in hospitality and service management with a concentration in human resources at RIT's American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia. As president of the ACMT Student Council, she gathered fellow students to work together on humanitarian projects. She is a recipient of the ACMT Academic scholarship, RIT Nathaniel Rochester scholarship and Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship Award.

Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Jamie Boeheim, from West Seneca, N.Y., is receiving a B.S./M.S. in computer engineering with a minor in mathematics and graduate concentrations in imaging and architecture. She is the recipient of many scholarships and awards, including the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award. As a member of the Honors Engineering Program, Boeheim studied product development at companies in Seattle and Milan, Italy. Her co-op experiences include working at SUNY at Buffalo, Analog Devices Inc., in San Jose, Calif., and Xelic in Rochester. Upon graduation, Boeheim will enter the work force and later pursue a Ph.D. for university-level teaching.

American University in Kosovo
Petrit Kelmendi is a sophomore at the American University in Kosovo. Kelmendi has been a member of the Dean's List as well as a recipient of AUK-awarded merit scholarships. Beyond his native Albanian, Kelmendi is fluent in English and Serbo-Croatian. He worked as an English tutor for AUK and volunteered to participate in a university-sponsored program to teach English to grade-school children with developmental problems. He completed a co-op working with foreign advisors and the staff of the oversight committee within the Kosovo Assembly for Budget and Finance. Kelmendi has been an active participant in youth conferences dealing with Balkans-specific issues, as well as regional youth-oriented professional competitions.



College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
Jessica Rae Mills, from Home, Pa., will graduate with a B.F.A. in graphic design and a minor in communications. Mills recently received the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship Award. She completed a co-op at the University of Rochester Medical Center, served as a resident assistant, and worked at ITS and at RIT Housing Operations as a graphic designer. Mills was also a member of the RIT track team and Baptist Campus Ministries. After graduation, she plans to work at a small graphic design firm in Chicago while continuing her freelance work under Jessi Rae Designs.

Student delegates are selected for personal achievements that demonstrate the ideals of RIT including, but not limited to, academic excellence.They will speak at their respective college commencement ceremonies.

Shuttle service and parking information

Shuttle Bus Service
To enter campus, use the entrances on Jefferson Road. RIT Public Safety personnel will direct you to parking areas. Shuttle service will be available Friday and Saturday to reach the Academic Convocation and the Commencement ceremony locations. On Friday, shuttle service will be available 8 a.m.-9 p.m. On Saturday, shuttle service will be available beginning at 7 a.m. On both days, shuttles will make continuous loops throughout all the major parking lots (D, E, F, G, H, J, S and T) and will return guests to the parking lots after the ceremonies.

"People Movers"
Senior citizens and individuals with special mobility needs are invited to use special carts operated by RIT staff. Carts are available at one of the many people-mover stations across campus.

Seating/Special Needs
Both the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Ritter Arena have bleacher seating, which have steps. If you or any member of your family uses a wheelchair, contact Parking and Transportation Services for accessibility arrangements at http://finweb.rit.edu/rmss/pats, click on "Forms." Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Accessible Parking and Seating Requests"; or call 475-2074. Both ceremony locations will have staff on hand to assist you with special needs; however, prior arrangements must be made. Please note that seating is not guaranteed.

RIT does not have wheelchairs available on campus. If you would like to rent a wheelchair, you may contact Monroe Wheelchair at 546-8595 or www.monroewheelchair.com or Fonte Surgical Supply at 338-1000 or (800) 836-2130.

Special Parking/Transportation Needs
If you need special parking or mobility van transportation, contact Parking and Transportation Services at http://finweb.rit.edu/rmss/pats, click on "Forms." Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Accessible Parking and Seating Requests"; or call 475-2074, even if your vehicle already has a disabled parking permit.

Viewpoints

Defining success—one experience at a time

by Albert Simone

During new student orientation each year, I tell the beginning freshmen and their parents that the students are "RIT alumni in training." I say that "student success" is RIT's purpose, and that this success is what motivates and guides RIT faculty, staff, administration and trustees.

What is "student success?" It is students graduating from RIT. More than that, it is students being happy with and enthusiastic about their total experience at RIT.

In particular, it is students gaining in-depth knowledge in their major field and broad knowledge of the world around them. It is students learning how to learn over a lifetime. It is students developing their leadership, teaming, communication and socialization skills from the vast array of extracurricular programs in which they can actively participate. It is students forming bonds with classmates that will last a lifetime. It is students fully prepared for and confident about the profession and local, national and global communities they will be entering.

Interestingly, student success is students who feel wistful nostalgia about leaving RIT. It is parents who are satisfied and pleased that their sons and daughters chose RIT. It is RIT faculty, staff, administration and trustees who take great pride in the graduating class.

Student success is all of the above, all at the same time.

Since student success is what RIT is all about, it should come as no surprise that graduation ceremonies and celebrations are the high point of the year for me. I have my own nostalgia as I think back on my years as an undergraduate student at Tufts University.

Those were the most influential years of my life. The cocky kid on the outside, who was scared on the inside, over the four years became quietly and respectfully self-confident on both the outside and the inside—like many RIT students graduating this year. Doing my fraternity brother a favor by going on a blind date (I had wheels that night, and he did not), I met my wife-to-be (Carolie), and we have been constant playmates for just over 50 years—and this will be the case for many RIT students graduating this year.

A couple of weeks ago, we honored an RIT alumnus who graduated almost 40 years ago by naming him the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus. At the awards banquet, he filled out his table with his wife, adult daughter and four RIT alumni from his graduating class. They worked in different fields, lived all over the country and experienced different life challenges. Yet the bonds they had established while undergraduates at RIT remained strong, and they maintained their friendship over the many years. This, too, will be the experience of many RIT students graduating this year.

This will be the final graduation over which I shall preside. It is a wonderful way to cap my career—taking pride in and celebrating with the outstanding graduates of the RIT class of 2007. I thank them for all they have given me and wish them all the happiness and recognition they so aptly deserve.

Simone is president of RIT. He will retire June 30 after 15 years of service.

To read "The Simone Legacy," a time line of Simone's tenure at RIT and comments from colleagues in the Spring 2007 issue of *RIT: The University Magazine,* visit **www.rit.edu/news**.

Graduate studies under watchful eye of new dean

Andrew Moore

When RIT announced in January that it would create a new deanship to oversee its growing graduate degree programs, Andrew Moore appeared to be logical choice if the university could keep him from running off to the farm.

Moore had just finished serving as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts for seven years. He transformed the college from primarily a supporting role for undergraduates into a college with a stronger identity on campus that now offers several diverse degree programs. Moore planned to return to teaching and further pursue his passion for archaeological digs that includes researching early farming in Croatia.

But the idea of strategically coordinating RIT's growing graduate program was too good to pass up. This is familiar territory for Moore, who served as an associate dean in the Graduate School at Yale University from 1991 to 1999 before coming to RIT.

"The tremendous growth in graduate programs at RIT in the past few years, along with the projected future growth, is such that we need a person whose full-time responsibility is overseeing the myriad issues involved with graduate studies," says Provost Stan McKenzie. "Andrew's previous experience makes him the perfect person to inaugurate this position."

The business of running graduate programs will still remain decentralized among RIT's eight colleges, says Moore. "But RIT is maturing as a university at the graduate level and the new deanship will be an independent advocate for graduate students."

RIT offered its first master's degree in 1960 and its first doctorate in 1988. Today, RIT has about 2,400 graduate students in about 70 programs. Within the next 10 years, Moore would like to see this grow to 3,000 students and 100 programs. RIT is already growing at the doctoral level with color science this fall joining three other Ph.D. programs: imaging science (1988), microsystems (2002) and computing and information sciences (2005). Astrophysics is currently under RIT internal review and sustainability is in the design stage.

Moore points to RIT's Strategic Plan (2005-2015) as his roadmap for a comprehensive and strategic approach for the recruitment of top quality graduate students. "RIT wants to continue to become a leading university of applied technology," he says. "In order to do this, graduate programs should be based above all on building the research experience. Research must become an increasingly central theme of graduate education at RIT."

"If we want to be the leaders in our fields, we must have distinctive and first-rate programs in fields of study targeted by RIT."

— Andrew Moore, dean of graduate studies

Moore indicates one of his primary goals will be to build a stronger sense of community among graduate students. This will start with a formal orientation program in August and other special programming, including career workshops. "The personal and social needs of a graduate student are much different from an undergraduate," he says.

The dean is also looking into new graduate student housing options on campus. He would like to see more full-time graduate students living on campus. About 50 percent of today's graduate students are international, while the others include commuters from the Rochester area, and students from New York and other states. Moore would like to see RIT's reputation grow at the graduate level to attract even more students from across the nation. He also plans to start an endowment to create fellowships for graduate students.

Moore, who officially began his new duties in March, has spent the spring meeting with the deans and program coordinators of each of the eight colleges to get their perspectives. By working in coordination, he is confident graduate education at RIT is positioned to make large strides in coming years.

"Graduate students will play a key role as RIT continues to move to a new level. Our students will meet global needs and will be a feeder to Rochester's new economy and beyond," Moore adds. ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

RIT yearbook makes a long-awaited comeback

Carve out space on your bookshelves, a yearbook is returning to RIT.

RIT Timeline is hoping to pick up where its predecessor *Techmilla* left off—but in an entirely different way. There will be no portraits and senior quotes in this book. Instead, editors hope that it will be exactly what its name suggests: a timeline recapping the year that was in Brick City.

"We're not really a yearbook, but we're calling ourselves that for a lack of a better term," says Kristina Leh, the founding editor of *RIT Timeline*. "We capture events of the past year. When you open it up, it'll start with day one and it will end with graduation."

The book originated at the urging of both RIT President Albert Simone and Student Government leaders. Leh began thinking about the process last summer and has been working on it ever since.

Original plans called for the creation of a DVD that would accompany the book; however, the time crunch of launching a publication from scratch nixed that idea for the first volume. Leh says that a DVD may be included in future volumes of the publication.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The staff of RIT Timeline *(from top): Kristin McGeorge, Petr Nestratov, Kristin Brown, Tom Pelillo, Abdul Matsah, Daniel Martin and Kristina Leh.*

"My major goal for this year was to have a book—and we are going to have a book," Leh says. "That makes me very happy."

The book will be printed on demand and will have two editions available. The first edition will be for returning students. The second edition is for graduating students and will feature commencement.

Student Government President Lizzie Sorkin says she loves browsing through old copies of *Techmilla* in the Student Alumni Union and wishes it never stopped publishing in the first place. But, she's thankful that *RIT Timeline* is attempting to fill that void.

"*Timeline* gives us all an opportunity to appreciate the spirited community we've become through the different things we've accomplished all year," Sorkin says.

RIT Timeline will cost $25 and can be purchased at www.rittimeline.com. The first 1,000 copies will be sold at a discounted rate of $20. ■

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On the Web

with ***Mike Saffran***
mjsuns@rit.edu

Welcome to our special commencement edition of *News & Events*. Some of you—particularly family and friends of graduates—may be reading this publication for the first time. After returning home following commencement activities, you're encouraged to stay informed about RIT news by reading *News & Events* online at www.rit.edu/newsevents. *News & Events* stories are also featured alongside other RIT news on the University News Web site, www.rit.edu/news.

Newly minted RIT alumni and anyone else interested in keeping up-to-date with RIT news can also rely on the following features—all part of the University News Web site's "one-stop shopping" for RIT news:

- News releases (also available via RSS feed)
- Podcasts (also via RSS feed, iTunes and Pod-Planet.com)
- *RIT: The University Magazine*—the online version of RIT's award-winning alumni magazine, published three times a year
- Campus Spotlight and Photo Gallery
- The Tiger Beat Blog—the place to talk about RIT news and to go behind the scenes with University News writers for the "story behind the story"
- RIT In the News—links to newspaper and other publications' stories featuring RIT news and RIT people in the news (also via RSS feed)
- Links to RIT specialty-discipline areas and the RIT Athletics Web site

Additionally, you're invited to subscribe to *Dateline: RIT,* a monthly e-newsletter featuring highlights from "RIT In the News" and *News & Events*. You'll also receive alerts to new episodes of "Dateline: RIT – The Podcast," a twice monthly show featuring the remarks of RIT newsmakers in their own voices, campus news and *News & Events* highlights. Plus, you'll be alerted to breaking news. (Don't worry—we promise not to inundate your inbox with frivolous e-mails. Currently, subscribers hear from us about three times a month.)

The RIT University News Web site is your online source for on-demand, 'VIP' access to the latest RIT news.

Welcome, new readers and Web site visitors . . . and congratulations and warm wishes, graduates!

Honoring a diversity champion

James Watters, RIT's senior vice president for finance and administration, was presented with the Isaac L. Jordan Faculty/Staff Pluralism Award by the Commission for Promoting Pluralism in a ceremony held April 25. Past award winners include RIT President Albert Simone and Sarah Reynolds, user services coordinator for Wallace Library.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching honorees

Roberley Bell, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences

Bell: Her energy transcends the classroom

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Roberley Bell practices what she preaches. She believes that to excel at teaching, one must excel at scholarship outside the classroom.

"What we teach in the classroom comes from our participation in the discipline," says Bell. "You then bring that energy and drive to your students. I think in an academic setting, scholarship and teaching can't be separated."

It's proved to be an award winning philosophy. Bell, professor in the foundations department in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, first won the coveted Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1999. In 2005, the college honored her with the Gitner Prize, an annual award presented to a faculty member who makes outstanding contributions to his or her profession.

"I feel very honored," she says. "It means a lot to me because I think these two awards go hand in hand."

Bell is also proud to be recognized for teaching first-year students. She teaches 3-D design to freshmen and says it's a critical transition point in their lives. "We have to be the ones to help students find that beginning. Students come to us from high school, and they have this idea of what it is they want to do, but they really don't know what that is. And so we are opening up a whole new world to them and affording them all kinds of opportunities they don't know exist."

Bell acknowledges the road to personal discovery for freshmen is not always an easy one. Art, design and craft majors must take a 3-D design foundations course. "They would rather be in their design class or studio art class, so it can be a challenge. What's rewarding for me is when I really push students to research and conceptualize ideas, and in the end their work is good. I know I'm helping them to evolve and find out who they are."

Cory Card, who earned his BFA and MFA in fine art studio at RIT, had Bell as a freshman and a graduate student. "Roberley Bell is one of those rare teachers who constantly demands and receives excellence from her students," says Card. "Her teaching impacted me in various ways. She exposed me to concepts and ideas that helped me excel even after my years at RIT. Roberley maintains a vast knowledge of contemporary art and the art-making process which she passes on to her students. "

Bell teaches upper level courses in public art/public space, installation art and contemporary art history. One of her classes is Thinking about Making: The Practice of Art in a Global Society. "I developed this course because I felt my students views of the world were far too narrow. It's really important to me students reach out to the world around them."

Bell's personal sculpture work will soon take her half way around the world. She will be on sabbatical next school year. During her time away she will do a residency at The Stadt Kunstlerhaus, an art house in Salzburg, Austria, for a garden research project. Her sculptures center around man-made landscape. "I'm very interested in how we mediate between the real and the artificial. And so my work is very playful, but it's also a critique of how humans control nature."

She is currently designing a floating garden for a sculpture park outside of New Haven, Conn. In 2004, *Year in Review*, a guide highlighting the country's best public art projects, featured one of Bell's sculptures commissioned for the Public Art Biennial at the Neuberger Museum on the State University of New York College at Purchase campus.

Whether inside or outside the classroom, Bell believes the educational process is a two-way street. She recalls the philosophy of one of her professors at Alfred University, Bill Perry.

"He would say to me and my classmates, 'I can put the information within reach, but I can't hand it to you.'" ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

Stan Hoi, E. Philip Saunders College of Business

Hoi: Expects students' diligence and hard work

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

There's a sign that says "Stanley Main Street" on the door to his office in the Lowenthal Building.

With a laugh, Chun-Keung (Stan) Hoi, associate professor of finance in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business, explains how his adopted name, Stan, came into existence.

"I grew up in Hong Kong and when we go to high school, it is required we select an English name to use. My eldest sister gave me the name Stanley—and to this day, I don't know if my name came from the famous street right along the seaside called Stanley, or because there was a prison not too far away from it. I was quite rebellious back then, and that could be the reason why she chose it for me."

No longer a rebel but a valued law and finance and corporate governance academic at RIT since 1997, Hoi is one of the 2007 RIT honorees for the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching. He also received the Outstanding Teaching Award in 2002 and the Outstanding Service Award in 2003, both in the Saunders College of Business.

"I didn't expect the award," says Hoi, "and many years ago when I was attending the University of North Texas, my passion was radio, speech and drama. I got over it very quickly when I took Shakespearean drama and a course on costume making. I realized I could never be a performer, and I couldn't imagine a life of sewing beads and jewels on fabrics."

Instead, Hoi became interested in economics, first helping out in the department as a teaching assistant—which later paved his way to a career in teaching. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in economics from the University of North Texas, and his Ph.D. in finance from Arizona State University.

"I do demand a lot from my students," says Hoi, "and I randomly pick them out in class to see if they are paying attention. My job is to make sure the students are learning and acquire the skills and concepts they need to be successful."

Although Hoi's father owned a company in Hong Kong, many of his five siblings continued their education in the United States.

"My wife, Kitty, comes from Hong Kong, and she's a systems analyst at Blue Cross-Blue Shield. We have two children, Edmund, who is 15, and Alison, who is 10," Hoi explains. "But what's nice is that we have family close by and we see them often. I have a brother in New York City, a sister in Chicago and another sister and my mom who live in Toronto."

While teaching at RIT, Hoi developed the curriculum for Modeling, which is used in financial analysis. "We had many students who were working co-ops for companies that had financial models automated in Microsoft Excel, a spreadsheet program with calculation and graphing capabilities. So I created the modeling course, complete with lectures and computer lab work, because of the demand by the students."

Hoi says what he values most in his students is, "initiative and a willingness to work—even if they aren't A-plus students."

"As a professor, I gravitate towards challenging them and making them work hard," Hoi says. "And if they've taken a class with me before and are willing to do so again, I consider that an accomplishment." ■

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Keith Whittington, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Whittington: At home in the classroom

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

In a literature course, it's expected that class time will be devoted to free-flowing discussion of the concepts, motivations, style, structure and nuance of assigned reading material.

In computer programming courses, those types of discussions are not the norm.

Keith Whittington, associate professor of information technology, is changing that, using "active learning" techniques with great success.

"The typical classroom is a highly competitive environment," Whittington points out. "There are a few students who compete to be the first to answer any question, and the rest of the class sits back in silence. I try to create a more cooperative environment by finding non-threatening ways to get everybody participating."

To get students talking, he uses a variety of low-tech methods. For instance, he uses playing cards to randomly call on students and gives each group a red card and a green card, then poses a problem.

"Hold up the green card if you think this will compile," he instructs the students. At first, a consistent field of the same color flies up, but as the problems become more complex, mixed pockets of red and green appear. Whittington can readily see which students understand the concepts—and he helps them build confidence by encouraging them to explain their conclusions.

He uses this and other methods to get all students involved, but the core of his innovation is the use of cooperative learning activities. He splits the students into small groups and they are given specific, well-planned and highly orchestrated activities. These activities attempt to deepen the understanding of the students by making them solve problems that they may not be able to solve as individuals. It also gets students talking, writing, sharing ideas and teaching each other.

Students appreciate his efforts.

"Keith doesn't just want students to pass his classes, he wants them to fully grasp underlying concepts, to learn how to learn, to excel," says Dean Ganskop, information technology graduate student. "After researching teaching methods, he employs the best ones in his classes. Keith wants his students to learn, and he gives his all to ensure that they do."

It was as an adjunct faculty member at Indian River Community College in Ft. Pierce, Fla. that he developed a passion for teaching.

At the time, he was also working for Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. in West Palm Beach, Fla. and he earned an M.S. in computer science from Nova Southeastern University.

Armed with that credential, 23 years of industry experience, and 10 years of teaching, Whittington decided to look for a full-time faculty position.

"RIT popped up," he says, a job materialized, and Whittington and his family left Florida for Rochester. The transition wasn't too difficult for the Binghamton, N.Y., native. "It was like coming home."

At RIT, one of his first assignments was to develop an alternative Java programming sequence. All information technology majors are required to take a three-sequence course in Java, but the middle sequence had posed challenges for many students. Whittington broke the second sequence into two segments, so students had the option of taking the traditional three-sequence course of a four-sequence option.

After teaching the new sequence for several years, Whittington received a $60,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. "They gave me funding based on my promising results and the fact that I had developed active learning materials specific for intro programming, which was lacking in that discipline."

The results of the alternative Java programming sequence have been positive: Retention increased by 9 percent, with a 14 percent increase in the number of students receiving A, B or C grades. However, in addition to these impressive results, Whittington's active sections consistently get 20 percent less D, W and F grades and 15 percent more A, B and Cs than the sections taught in the "traditional" way.

Results for the 2005-2007 academic years are being evaluated, and Whittington will be producing a report in the coming months.

The payoff for Whittington is the ultimate benefit for students. "My calling is to get more students into happier learning environments," he says. "Compared to helping students, everything else seems so shallow. Here, I'm touching lives. Sometimes I can't believe the path my life has taken. I love what I'm doing now," Whittington adds. "Sometimes I come out of class just thrilled." ■

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Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Alex Bitterman, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences

Bitterman: Helping to shape the experiences of our students A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Alex Bitterman is an architect in the literal sense. He's also an architect of learning, shaping young people's educational experiences here at RIT. It's those experiences that led students to nominate Bitterman for the Provost's Award in Teaching. Recipients of this award must have three years or less teaching experience at RIT.

"It's a tremendous honor to win the award. I think, though, it reflects more on my faculty and staff colleagues, and my students, than it does on me," says Bitterman, RIT assistant professor of graphic design. "Without their support, without the enthusiasm of my students it wouldn't be much of an award, so I think it speaks more to their abilities and their support more than my teaching."

Rajat Khullar, a second-year graduate student in graphic design, says Bitterman has been a wonderful source of inspiration for his own design work.

"Professor Bitterman draws on all areas including his architecture, graphic design and administrative backgrounds," says Khullar. "This allows us as students to think more deeply and address a design problem from not only a graphic designers point of view, but a usability and accessibility point of view. In a real-world work environment, problems are solved collaboratively. Collaboration is what Professor Bitterman is all about in the classroom."

Bitterman just completed his second full year of teaching in RIT's School of Design. Prior to RIT, Bitterman taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo and Buffalo State. Born and raised in Buffalo, he still lives there today, describing the one-hour commute down the Thruway as "pastoral."

"I love being able to have a foot in both cities. I share my time between Buffalo and Rochester. They are very complementary, very different cities, with very different heritages."

In addition to the reputation of RIT's School of Design, Bitterman says Rochester's architectural heritage drew him here. "I think that probably my favorite master plan is RIT, though it is the 'Brick City,' it is an incredibly well planned campus, maintained incredibly well."

He points out the various RIT buildings whose designs were influenced by modern 20th century architects like Le Corbusier. "Le Corbusier is one of my favorite architects. There is only one of Le Corbusier's buildings in North America (Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University), but we are fortunate to have architecture that reflects his influence in Rochester."

It was a summer program at Harvard that whetted Bitterman's appetite for architecture and he decided to apply to architecture school at UB despite being told as a teenager he wasn't proficient enough in math and science to be admitted. He got in.

"I loved architecture school. With the fellowships I had, I did a lot of editorial work, which was more interesting and meaningful to me, than actually designing buildings. I realized then that I wanted to teach and to apply my design education and design skills in a different, thoughtful and meaningful way, and at that point I started teaching and doing a lot of writing."

At the moment, he's focused on scholarship and teaching, with his doctorate almost completed, or as he says with a smile, "ABD" (translation: all but dissertation!)

Bitterman's area of research interest and expertise is branding, specifically place branding, or the collective identity of a specific geographic place. His research for his Ph.D. led him to write a book, *Buffalo is a Cool Place to Live*, featuring a collection of photographs of the city's architectural details along with informal interviews he conducted with current and former Buffalonians of their personal stories and experiences.

Bitterman says he brings his own experiences into the classroom as a springboard for discussion with his students.

"I believe very strongly that learning is very much about reflecting on one's own experiences and one's own proximity in life and being able to view the design problem at hand through those experiences. In that way, every single student and every single teacher has an inherently unique perspective on what it is they are doing, and that's not so much their brand, but their stamp of influence on whatever it is they are designing." ■

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Narayan named a top U.S. math professor

Darren Narayan

The Mathematical Association of America recently recognized RIT's Darren Narayan as one of the nation's top mathematics professors.

Narayan, associate professor of mathematics and director of undergraduate research in the School of Mathematical Sciences, received the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching.

The mathematical association established the Alder Award in 2003 to honor professors who influence students beyond the classroom. Award recipients must have taught full time in the United States or Canada for two to seven years after receiving their doctoral degree. The annual award is given to as many as three college or university professors.

"I am thrilled to be named among this year's Alder Award winners," Narayan says. "It is surprising to be honored for doing something that I love in a career that is so rewarding. I would like to thank all of the students at RIT that I have had the pleasure of teaching. I have learned as much as I have taught."

To help students learn and appreciate mathematics, Narayan incorporates innovative teaching tools such as real world applications from Microsoft Research, Mack Trucks and JetBlue Airways. Narayan and faculty from other departments are collecting such examples for the STEM Real World Applications Modules Project, funded by a $119,930 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Narayan has built a nationally recognized program for undergraduate research. With the help of JetBlue Airways and RIT alumni, he has secured over $12,000 in travel for RIT students to present their research at national conferences. In addition, Narayan has co-authored research papers with nine RIT students.

"Darren's combination of energy, enthusiasm and communication skills has become a great asset for the School of Mathematical Sciences, the College of Science and the institute," says Sophia Maggelakis, head of the School of Mathematical Sciences. "He is good in generating not only good ideas, but also strategies for carrying them out, and his inspiration and positive attitude infuses everything he does. He is most deserving of this prestigious award." ■

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Happy 20th birthday to The Athenaeum

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute @ RIT members have spent the 2006-2007 year planning for the 20th anniversary celebration of The Athenaeum's inception. "Class Act" participants include Gisela Balents, Alex Marcus, Ed Salem, Ana Moreno and Kathy Hayes.

Faculty earn distinguished provost's grants and trustees scholarships

This year's recipients of the Trustees Scholarship Awards have clearly demonstrated records of excellent scholarship at RIT over at least a three-year period.

Michael Amy

Michael Amy, associate professor of art history, foundations department, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Amy joined RIT in 2000, and his research interests include the Renaissance and contemporary art. In addition, Amy has received the 2006 Gitner Family Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Graphic Communication.

Amit Batabyal

Amitrajeet Batabyal, Arthur J. Gosnell Professor of Economics, College of Liberal Arts.

Batabyal joined RIT in 2000 and currently conducts research in environmental economics, natural resource economics, ecological economics, development economics, international trade theory, and the interface of economics with philosophy and political science.

Additionally, he has received several grants from the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Bruce Smith

Bruce Smith, Intel Professor of Microelectronic Engineering, Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Smith joined RIT in 1988 and is currently the director of RIT's Center for Nanolithography Research. Smith has published numerous research papers and is co-author of *Microlithography: Science and Technology*. Research interests include optical nanolithography and fabrication of semiconductor devices and systems. In 1999, he received RIT's first Creator's Award for success as an inventor. He was recently named a fellow of SPIE, formerly the International Society for Optical Engineering.

The 2007-2008 Provost's Learning and Innovations Grant Program encourages faculty-initiated projects that directly target learning outcomes and student success.

The committee, whose membership includes a representative from each college, finalized the award winners.

Award recipients are: **Alex Bitterman,** graphic design; **Neil Hair,** marketing; **Paul Craig,** chemistry; **Richard Doolittle,** medical science; **Susan Barnes,** communication; **Ron Hira** and **James Winebrake,** public policy; **Dina Newman, Harvey Pough** and **Kate Wright,** biological sciences; **Lisa Hermsen,** Institute Writing Committee; **Steven Ciccarelli,** electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology; **Beth Carle** and **William Leonard,** manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology/packaging science; **P.R. Mukund,** electrical engineering; **Sudhakar Paidy,** industrial and systems engineering; **Pratapa Reddy** and **Dhireesha Kudithipudi,** computer engineering; **Jim Perkins,** medical illustration; **Jonathan Schull** and **Jay Alan Jackson,** information technology; and **Margaret Bailey,** mechanical engineering. ■

A lasting tribute to NTID's founding director

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The RIT community gathered April 27 to celebrate the dedication of the D. Robert Frisina Quadrangle at RIT. The quadrangle was created in honor of D. Robert Frisina, founding director of RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf and a pioneer in the field of hearing loss and deafness. Pictured here, left to right, are RIT President Albert Simone; Sarah Gordon, NTID Student Congress president; Frisina, who currently is director of the RIT/NTID-based International Center for Hearing and Speech Research and an NTID professor of communication services; and Alan Hurwitz, RIT vice president for NTID and CEO/dean of NTID.

News briefs

CAB activities honored

RIT's College Activities Board took home three national awards from the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities' annual conference this year. The group took first place in the printed advertising competition for its spring 2007 calendar and the Web competition for its Web site, cab.rit.edu. Students took second place in the theme materials competition for their Spring Festival '06 campaign.

Corporate run to aid RIT

There is added incentive to participate in the 17th annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge this year—$7,500 of the money raised will go to benefit RIT's North Star Center.

The event, which takes place May 31 at RIT, is the largest road race in the Rochester area and organizers anticipate a record-breaking field of more than 10,000 participants in this year's competition.

The race begins at 7 p.m. and concludes with a party for participants.

Second place for canoe

RIT finished second overall in the annual Upstate New York Regional Concrete Canoe Competition, hosted last month at Cornell University. The students also finished in first place for their design paper and second place in the race.

In a companion event, RIT's steel-bridge team took first place in an aesthetics competition.

'Amos' the robot goes far

RIT's Multidisciplinary Robotics Club earned an innovation award at this spring's Mini Grand Challenge 2007, hosted by Penn State Abington. The club's fully autonomous robot, nicknamed Amos, had the second-farthest distance traveled of any robot in the competition. The dual-motor-powered robot uses sensors, global-positioning and LiDAR—Light Detection and Ranging—laser technology (the same type used by teams competing in the $2 million grand-prize Darpa Grand Challenge) to detect obstacles in its path.

Next, the team is gearing up for the 15th annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition, June 8-11, at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. For more on RIT's Multidisciplinary Robotics Club, visit www.mdrc.rit.edu.

VoIP conference May 18

The third annual Voice over Internet Protocol Conference will be held May 18. Co-hosted by the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and the College of Applied Science and Technology, the conference features exhibitor presentations, technology demonstrations and industry leading speakers, including the keynote address from Marisa Viveros, director of integrated communications services at IBM Corp. Viveros' address is at 9 a.m. in the Golisano College auditorium. VoIP vendors will have exhibits set up in the Golisano College atrium throughout the day. For more information, visit www.casci.rit.edu/voip.

RIT grad is study in the power of determination

Kevin Rollins woke up and had no idea where he was. It was dark and his surroundings were strange. He tried to get up. Suddenly a team of nurses rushed into his room and restrained him.

Rollins had just emerged from a two-week medically-induced coma. Two metal plates had been inserted in his jaw. A hole was drilled into his skull to relieve brain swelling. He couldn't hear out of his left ear.

And yet those physical ailments were nothing compared to the hurdles he would have to conquer in the years to come.

On March 1, 2001, Rollins was a passenger in a friend's 1999 Ford Explorer. He was home in Canastota, N.Y., on break, having just completed his second quarter at RIT.

Rollins doesn't remember where he and his friends were headed. In fact, he doesn't remember anything from that week. He's been told that it was a snowy night. At least six inches covered East Hickory Street that evening when the truck spun out of control and smashed into a tree.

After spending two weeks in a coma, Rollins woke up feeling no pain. However, he had suffered brain trauma. With the exception of the week leading up to the accident, his memory was intact. But he had trouble completing everyday tasks.

He remained in the hospital for 27 days and spent four months in therapy. Physically, he fully recovered. So Rollins thought it was odd when his doctors and his parents asked him if he wanted to return to RIT.

Submitted by Kevin Rollins

After surviving a major automobile accident and suffering brain trauma, Kevin Rollins is now in a place few, other than himself, thought possible: finishing up a co-op at Critical Link in Syracuse and preparing to graduate.

"I told them, 'Of course I want to go back. Why wouldn't I want to go back?' But I didn't know what I wouldn't be able to do," Rollins says. "I seemed fine."

But Rollins was not fine. He returned to RIT the following fall and things were difficult.

"I would sit in a math class and it was like the class was being taught in a different language," he recalls. "I couldn't understand what the professor was trying to tell me, let alone learn all the material."

Rollins received a 'C' in one class and failed the rest. The student who always had wanted to be an electrical engineer—even as a child he used to dismantle his toys in an effort to figure out how they worked—had grown frustrated. He decided to go home.

"I stayed until Christmas break, and then I realized I couldn't do it anymore," he says. "It was a waste of time and money. I couldn't understand what was going on."

But he wasn't giving up.

He enrolled at SUNY Morrisville, which is close to his home, and began taking some lower-level classes. He had progressed to Calculus II at RIT, but enrolled in Basic Algebra at Morrisville. He still couldn't comprehend the material.

Rollins says he couldn't understand the reasons for doing something and the processes behind it. So he began to memorize the material, instead. And it worked. In May 2004 he earned his associate degree.

He refused to stop there. Rollins returned to RIT the following September. Things still weren't the same.

"It was like getting on a treadmill that was going 50 miles per hour," he says. "I couldn't keep up with it. RIT was just so much faster paced."

But with persistence and the help of the professors in his new major, computer engineering technology, he caught up.

"Within the last year, I went from memorizing everything to really understanding things," he says. "It was like a light switch."

Now, Rollins is just completing a co-op at Critical Link, a hardware and software development company in Syracuse. The co-op marks the completion of his final graduation requirements.

He will receive his diploma May 25 and plans to mail copies to the doctors and nurses who helped him make his recovery.

"Even when I was making errors, I knew I could do it," Rollins says. "I wanted to prove to everybody that I could get back to where I was."

Rollins plans on working for a few years and then returning to RIT to get a master's degree in computer engineering.

"God gives you a hand of cards to play with in life," Rollins says. "Even if he takes some of those cards away, you still have to play the best you can with whatever cards you have left. That's exactly what I'm trying to do." ■

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RIT Baja team to host worldwide racers this summer

Long after most college students have begun their summer vacations, the RIT Baja team will still be pulling all-nighters. And it will have plenty of company.

RIT will host more than 140 other Baja teams from colleges and universities around the world June 7-10 for the 2007 Baja SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Rochester World Challenge—which organizers say will be the largest event of its kind.

And members of the RIT team can't wait for the event to begin.

"Not only are we there to race, but it's also just a great time and a great atmosphere," says Dave Hallbach, a fifth-year mechanical engineering technology student. "We get the opportunity to meet kids from all over the world. It's just an awesome experience."

Each team will design and build an all-terrain vehicle capable of holding up under the most adverse conditions. Rain and mud at these events is not uncommon. The competition is divided into two components: static and dynamic events.

The static events will take place in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center during the first two days of the competition as judges evaluate the design and inspect the safety condition of each team's vehicle. Then, the competition shifts to Hogback Hill Motocross Track in Palmyra, Wayne County, for the dynamic events.

Each team will undergo a series of challenges that includes tests for acceleration, traction and maneuverability. Then the competition's premier event—the endurance competition—takes place on the final day. The endurance event assesses each vehicle's ability to operate continuously over a four-hour stretch through rugged terrain. The team that completes the most laps in the four-hour period wins.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Phil Hannum is a member of RIT's Baja team that designed and built all-terrain vehicles for the 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge June 7-10.

"It's going to be a phenomenal event. You never know what you're going to see next," says Marty Gordon, a mechanical engineering technology professor, the RIT Baja team advisor and the event's organizer. "It has everything—action, drama, teamwork, problem-solving and students from all over the world interacting."

The event is free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit www.rit.edu/news/baja. ■

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Honoring RIT's inventors

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

William Morris, right, mechanical technician in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, accepts congratulations from RIT President Albert Simone following the university's annual Inventors Recognition Ceremony. Morris was among a half dozen inventors on campus to receive plaques at the event commemorating a recent patent. RIT's Intellectual Property Policy Committee and the Technology Licensing Office hosted the event.

NTID hosts deaf-ed conference

An emerging research area among those who study education of deaf students—looking at how students' educational backgrounds account for what they know, their learning strategies, and ways that instructors can optimize educational opportunities for them—will be the topic of a June 21-22 conference at RIT hosted by NTID's new Center for Education Research Partnerships. The conference is co-sponsored by Oxford University Press and is supported by a $149,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

"Cognitive Underpinnings of Learning by Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students" will feature experts from around the world and will focus on how deaf students learn science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Presentations will examine educational theory, cognitive and neuropsychological foundations of learning, language, and quantitative/mathematical skills with the hope of establishing a national research agenda in this area.

Marc Marschark, NTID professor and director of the center, says: "Although deaf individuals have a long history of contributions to science and technology, we suspect that some barriers have limited the number of individuals in those fields. Recent research suggests that these barriers have little to do with hearing loss or communication, but may be the product of multimedia technologies and teachers' lack of knowledge about differences in the way that deaf and hearing students learn and what they know."

Oxford University Press will publish a "fast track production" book highlighting contributions by presenters that will be available free within a year to all conference participants.

NSF has given more than $2.5 million in grants to support the center in the past several years.

Information on the conference and the center can be found at www.ntid.rit.edu/CognitiveUnderpinnings. ■

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Viewpoints

A free spirit reflects on the RIT experience

by Mai Hosoe

I grew up in an orthodox Japanese society and within the Japanese educational system. Good students in Japan are expected to listen quietly and accept what teachers say. Therefore, I grew up without ever having the opportunity to express my own opinions or ideas.

While I was in middle school, I began to question the Japanese education system, which is a vat of knowledge that spills away at eager students around it. Little does such a system do to foster creativity in a young mind. Hence, I have always wanted to free my mind and spirit.

Upon being accepted to RIT, I was given the opportunity to interact with educators who were interested in the opinion of the individual. I found a culture where I could grow and prosper with my own ideas and dreams and to expand my horizon through the knowledge and practicality of my education. I understood the contrast between traditional Japanese culture and the rest of the world. A personal responsibility to close the gap between such cultures arose within me. It was a burgeoning aspiration to create bridges and crossroads where I could serve as the catalyst for other cultures to interact with Japan.

In my personal pursuit, I was given the opportunity of serving as a Japanese guest relationship officer at the Colombo Hilton in Sri Lanka. This was part of my co-op experience that is required for my graduation from RIT. My summer position took me to a unique destination, which posed several challenges to visitors as well as to those in the service industry. Sri Lanka is a beautiful tropical island, however a turbulent political arena and bouts of terrorism create a challenging atmosphere for hospitality professionals. As a guest relationship officer, it was my responsibility to establish relationships with the Japanese tourists and business travelers. The hotel looked to the officer to make the Japanese clientele feel at home. It was my responsibility to relate the true beauty and splendor of their destination and to create a joyous experience despite the challenges and turbulent nature of the state.

It also served as a unique experience where I was able to educate many locals in the ways of the Japanese people. I was able to do away with certain stereotypical assumptions about the Japanese. It also enabled me to share my culture with people from a different background. I grew sensitive to the methods and mechanics of bringing cultures together. In the end, I realized that this is what truly defines hospitality—bringing people closer together. It is challenging to make a stranger feel welcome, and it is even harder to establish a long-term relationship across cultures that yields positive outcomes in business.

The beauty of this experience correlates to the education I received at RIT. The wealth of knowledge, as well as the practical application of the art of hospitality, enabled me to leverage my experience in Sri Lanka to new heights. I am grateful to RIT for giving me the opportunity to grow in confidence and purpose. A traditional Japanese education would have delivered a different fate.

I value my experiences and know they will shape and form the foundation of who I will become in the future. I also know that many years from today, as I face a challenging and evolving hospitality industry, I will draw from the strength that RIT has provided me.

Mai Hosoe is a graduating travel and tourism management major from Yokohama, Japan.

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

'Lunar' rocks, craters no match for RIT moonbuggy

Human-Powered Vehicle Team takes first in NASA contest

Next stop: the moon.

RIT's Human-Powered Vehicle Team rolled to a first-place finish in the 14th annual Great Moonbuggy Race, April 13-14, at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, in Huntsville, Ala.

The six-member student team finished with the fastest time—four minutes and 38 seconds, nine seconds ahead of its closest challenger—to earn the top spot in the college division of the NASA-sponsored contest. The victory was RIT's first in eight trips to the competition.

Twenty-two teams from the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada built compact, lightweight and flexible—yet durable—two-passenger, human-powered vehicles designed to withstand the punishment of a half-mile simulated lunar-terrain course featuring craters, rocks, inclines, "lava" ridges and "lunar" soil.

"The team spent considerable time redesigning the moonbuggy to correct last year's component failures to the drive-shaft system," explains Stephen Boedo, associate professor of mechanical engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the team's advisor. "The course keeps getting tougher each year—it's hard enough just to finish. I'm very proud of our team's accomplishment, particularly the way students work together to implement engineering principles learned in the classroom."

Adds Stephen Sweet, a third-year mechanical engineering major and team president, on benefits to students from participating in the event: "Every member of the team is exposed to an engineering project that is similar to what would be encountered in an industrial setting. We have to design and fabricate an entire vehicle on a limited budget, within a short timespan and with limited manpower. It is an invaluable experience that builds on classroom lessons and extends into the real world, giving us experience with design, testing, collaboration, economics, fabrication and prototyping."

For more about the contest, which was also sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corp., visit http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov. ■

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Courtesy of D. Higginbotham (NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center)

Jacqueline Hill, a second-year biochemistry major, left, and Ben Strohman, a fifth-year mechanical engineering technology major and RIT Human-Powered Vehicle Team lead designer, traverse a simulated lunar-terrain course at the Great Moonbuggy Race, April 14, in Huntsville, Ala. RIT captured first place in the college division of the NASA-sponsored contest.

News briefs

Honoring the Simones

The RIT community has united to honor Albert and Carolie Simone. The legacy of Simone's 15-year presidency and the impact of Carolie Simone's work with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and her many other contributions will be remembered at RIT through funds named in their honor.

The special funds are being designated for areas identified by each of them as having special significance in their lives. Gifts honoring Simone may be made to the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Carolie R. Simone Endowed Scholarship at NTID will be established to honor RIT's first lady.

Those wishing to be a part of this effort can contact the Office of Development at 475-5500.

In addition, a gala community tribute to President Simone and Carolie Simone will take place June 16 at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

The event, titled "How You Start is How You Finish," is open to all. It begins with a 6 p.m. reception followed by dinner, a program and dancing to the Gap Mangione Band.

Tickets for the black-tie optional event are $100.

For more information, contact Cindee Gray at 475-4987 or at csggrl@rit.edu.

'Heart of Tango' premiere

World-class tango dancers Colette Herbert and Richard Council will perform both on the big screen and live on stage as part of the world premiere of the film *The Heart of Tango* at RIT on May 20.

Directed and produced by RIT professor Johnny Robinson, the film examines what defines Argentine tango dancing. The film screening is at 7 p.m. in the James E. Booth Building's Webb Auditorium.

Following the film, Herbert and Council will give a live dance performance on stage.

The event is free and open to the public.

Welcome, CBET

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT officially dedicated the Center for Bioscience Education and Technology last month with a ceremony and ribbon cutting. The center is a national model for comprehensive academic, community and career-training programs in biotechnology and medical sciences. The center was made possible through the efforts of Sen. Jim Alesi, Assemblymember Susan John and Assemblyman Joe Morelle. Shown, from left to right, are CBET Director Douglas Merrill, Morelle, RIT President Albert Simone, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, John, biology student Katelyn Page and Tammie Guerin, a graduate of CBET's workforce retraining program.

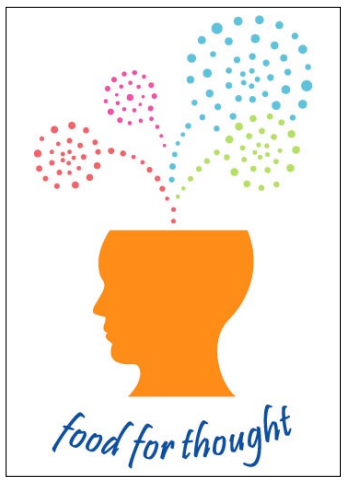
Library serves up food for thought

Mark your calendars—June 14 marks the debut of what is planned as an annual event at RIT's Wallace Library.

Food For Thought is a moveable feast of factoids and topics designed to provide a day of both technical and non-technical learning sessions for RIT staff.

Twenty-four workshops are scheduled throughout the day including courses such as New Features of Microsoft Windows Vista and Art on Campus Walking Tour. Multiple sessions will run concurrently, so attendees will make selections from the menu of options within each block of time. Selections range from application-specific workshops, to an exploration of technology trends, to how-to instruction on self-publishing.

All menu items are offered on an "à la carte" basis, so attendees can hand-pick those that appeal to them most.



Registration is required and is available through June 12. All sessions and are on a first-come, first-served basis. For details including registration, schedule and presenter information, visit library.rit.edu/foodforthought. ■

Diversity Day at RIT

Submitted by Ken Huth

Stephen Young, right, founder and senior partner of Insight Education Systems, chats with Ronald Zarella, RIT trustee and chairman and CEO of Bausch & Lomb Inc., during RIT Diversity Day April 23. The trustee-sponsored event featured presentations and workshops related to the sixth annual Expressions of Diversity Conference.

‘RIT SportsZone’ achieves milestone

A line of excited hockey fans—waiting—snakes its way across the Ritter Arena lobby. With a video camera mounted on his shoulder, third-year film and animation student Kent Weaver pans the scene—cover video for use in an *RIT SportsZone* feature on hockey star Derek Roy.

As the special guest at RIT hockey’s Buffalo Sabres Night event, Roy is severely delayed by a traffic jam on the New York State Thruway. When he finally arrives, autograph seekers take priority, so an opportunity for Weaver and *RIT SportsZone* reporter Michelle Nicholson to interview the Sabres’ center is far from certain. But after more than a half hour of greeting fans, Roy kindly agrees to talk.

“We finally got an opportunity to start the interview,” recalls Weaver, “and then the camera goes dead.”

Quickly, Weaver scrambles to replace the battery, salvaging their story from impending disaster. “Thankfully, it all turned out great,” he says.

Kent Weaver

Weaver and Nicholson, a graduating MBA student, experience the exciting—and sometimes complicated—reality of television production through their participation in *RIT SportsZone*. They are among 80 students who serve as the driving force behind the weekly half-hour show that showcases the university’s athletic programs and related activities on campus.

RIT SportsZone celebrated the production of its 70th episode last month. James Watters, RIT’s senior vice president of finance and administration, describes the show’s creation as “one of the more interesting things I’ve done during my time here.”

Submitted by Ken Huth

Reporter Michelle Nicholson interviews Buffalo Sabres center Derek Roy last February for an RIT SportsZone *segment.*

The idea for a locally broadcast program was included in a pitch made by Watters to Sean Bratches, executive vice president of sales and marketing at ESPN and a 1984 graduate of the E. Philip Saunders College of Business. Bratches agreed to a formal partnership between the sports programming network and RIT, and *RIT SportsZone* became one of the resulting initiatives.

Since its debut in 2003, RIT students have shared responsibility for all aspects of the program, including talent, video production, graphic design and marketing. “Talk about experiential learning,” states Watters. “These folks are getting it.”

Mark Fragale, *RIT SportsZone* producer and director, says the show and its focus on RIT athletics is a source of pride for the campus community, but he agrees the primary impact of the program comes from what’s happening behind the camera.

“The show employs students from every one of RIT’s colleges, working in a variety of different disciplines,” explains Fragale. “There are students who have gone on to work at ESPN and in a lot of other related fields.”

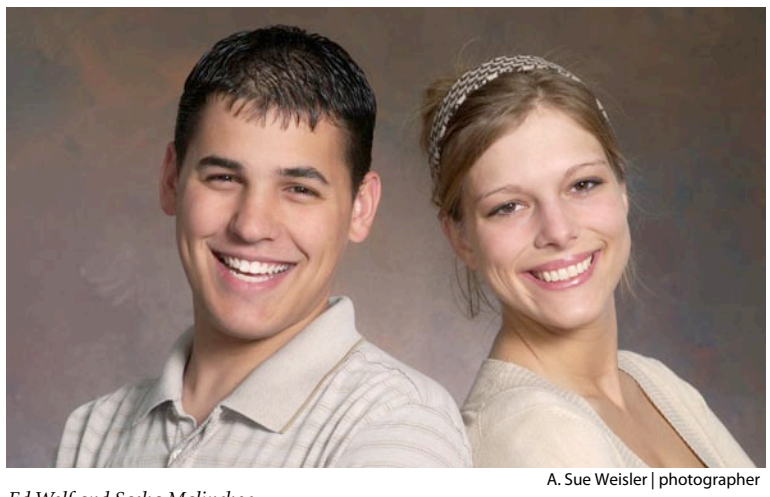
Weaver, who serves as the student executive producer of *RIT SportsZone*, looks forward to pursuing a career in TV sports production. The former youth hockey player believes his experience at RIT has helped him find a niche.

“Hockey is still a passion of mine, and sports production allows me to continue that passion in a different way.” ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

RIT SportsZone can be seen at 6 p.m. Fridays on the Time Warner Sports Network, channel 26; Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN2, channel 25; and throughout the week on cable access channel 4.

New Student Government leadership lays out agenda



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Ed Wolf and Sasha Malinchoc

Leaders hope to enhance sense of community on campus and give Student Alumni Union a new look

Ed Wolf and Sasha Malinchoc emerged from a field of four teams to become Student Government’s next president and vice president.

Wolf says his candidacy grew out of a desire to spur change.

“I remember sitting around with a bunch of my friends complaining about the way that Student Government was doing things,” says Wolf, a third-year computer engineering major from Newtown, Conn. “And then I realized that I could either keep complaining and not do anything about it, or I could get involved—and that’s what I did.”

Once Wolf decided to run, his next challenge was finding a running mate. He didn’t have to look very long before finding a partner to complement him. Wolf teamed with Malinchoc, who served two years as a resident advisor, and laid out an aggressive agenda that led to more than a 200-vote victory.

Wolf and Malinchoc say the theme of their administration will be improving student life on campus. They hope to accomplish this by delegating much of the student programming responsibility to other major student organizations, freeing up their time to work with administration on addressing issues that face students.

They hope to increase the sense of community among students, by creating more gathering spaces on campus—specifically in the residence halls.

“A lot of the lounges have been converted to triples to accommodate our housing crunch,” Wolf says. “But, hopefully, eventually we can begin to find spaces where we can distribute games and things like that to encourage people to come out of their rooms.”

Wolf and Malinchoc believe that another one of their goals, providing wireless Internet access in the residence halls, would also help accomplish that objective.

Another of their major goals is to encourage a facelift of the Student Alumni Union. They hope to push for the Clark pool’s conversion into club and meeting space and for the transformation of the Fireside Lounge into more functional space.

The duo sees the Student Development Center at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf as a model for what the Student Alumni Union should become.

“The SAU should be a rallying point for the whole student body,” says Malinchoc. ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

RIT student connects with local government group to create CD-ROM

Before coming to RIT, second-year student Ian Paterson spent a summer creating a mock 51st state government as part of the Ohio American Legion’s Boys State program.

Paterson was never terribly interested in government, but he did love working with computers. He joined a team to create a digital CD-ROM yearbook for the program.

And when members of the Ohio American Legion needed help developing last year’s yearbook, they knew they could count on Paterson for help. But they had no idea that they would get the full support of some of his Computer Science House roommates, as well.

“We try to do around three service projects a year,” Paterson says. “People were interested in helping. The yearbook reaches 1,000 people each year, so it was a good way to incorporate community service and outreach—getting the Computer Science House name out there.”

The team spent weeks reworking the yearbook—designing new layouts, sorting photos, creating pages and designing graphics. Within weeks they had compiled a version that included 255 separate HTML pages and more than 500 pages. The team also designed a CD label and mailer packaging.

The yearbook, which included a page dedicated to RIT and Computer Science House, was distributed to more than 1,000 participants and to hundreds of high schools across Ohio.

“We sincerely hope that the recipients will laugh at the crazy photos, introduce their families to their fellow citizens and enjoy the lasting memories that the yearbook holds,” Paterson says.

Students from RIT’s Computer Science House joined forces with the Ohio American Legion’s Boys State program to create a CD-ROM yearbook that contains more than 250 digital pages. One of those pages is pictured at left.

The Ohio American Legion was so impressed with Computer Science House’s work that they hired Paterson to return to the camp this summer to supervise a student yearbook team. ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

Tipping a few

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

First-year honors students in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering competed May 8 in the Tip-a-Can contest in which students designed devices using ordinary items, housed in canisters and set to automatically tip over. James Spoth, a computer engineering major, above, and his teammates earned second place for their contraption—a gadget built from a circuit board, a computer’s internal fan (with the fins removed), two nine-volt batteries and duct tape (all costing no more than $20 total, a design criteria).

Sarbanes-Oxley legislator visits RIT

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Paul Sarbanes, far left, former five-term U.S. senator from Maryland and co-author of the historic Sarbanes-Oxley Act in response to corporate scandals like Enron and Tyco, was guest speaker on May 4 at the E. Philip Saunders College of Business’ William D. Gasser Distinguished Lecture Series. During a luncheon at Henry’s, Sarbanes visited with former Congressman John LaFalce (D-N.Y.), center, and RIT accounting professor Daniel Tessoni. The event was co-sponsored by The Presidential Colloquium, the Center for Consumer Financial Services and the Graduate Management Association.

Honoring excellence in Liberal Arts

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The College of Liberal Arts' 27th annual Kearse Student Honor Awards recognize students from across the university for their excellence in liberal arts coursework. The winning scholars are shown here at the award ceremony in April with Interim Dean Glenn Kist. This year's recipients are Matthew Campbell, Karen Casilio, Ian Downey, Philip Draxl, Michael Dudley, Luiz Freitas, Corinne Griffiths, Stephanie Hofner, Jennifer Holas, Daniel Irwin, Amy Jerrett, Maureen Lester, Samantha Lumbert, Jonas McLeod, Russell Raymond, Katherine Robert, David Rubel, Irina Slastenko and Jonathan Szymaniak.

Davis Scholarship winners

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The annual Davis Scholarships give special recognition to student leaders who significantly contribute to campus life. The 2007 Davis Scholarship winners, shown with Mary Lu Clark, whose family funds the scholarships, are Nyshma Abreu-Mercado, Shamika Banks, Allison Crane, Lori Duprey, Yenory Garcia, Michelle Gerson, Damaris Gomez, Robert Hoy, Amy Jerrett, Mehlam Kalverts, Anna Kolnik, Christine Longo, Simone Perry, Davina Romansky, Jaclyn Russo and Paul Solt.

Scholarship salutes math, science, engineering students

Juniors Brandy Pappas, Jessica Smith and Matthew Woodruff have been named 2007 Goldwater Scholars. The prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship is awarded to top undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. The award is based on academic merit, and virtually all winners plan on pursuing a Ph.D.

The three College of Science students are among just 317 students chosen nationally from more than 1,100 nominees. The students will receive a $7,500 scholarship, which covers tuition fees, books and room and board.

Brandy Pappas, a biochemistry major, has been conducting research on the characterization of human eye lens protein alpha crystalline. Pappas, the current president of the RIT honors council, plans to pursue her Ph.D. in biophysics of biophysical chemistry, then begin an academic career teaching and conducting research on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease.

Jessica Smith, a biochemistry major, currently works in the synthetic organic research laboratory of Tina Collison, assistant professor of chemistry. Smith, who is in the RIT research scholars program, plans to obtain her Ph.D. in biochemistry or bio-organic chemistry and pursue a career at either a research university or a pharmaceutical company.

Matthew Woodruff, a biotechnology major, has been involved in research in the virology laboratory of Maureen Ferran, associate professor of biological sciences. He plans to obtain his Ph.D. in immunology and pursue an academic career so he can combine his interest in research and teaching.

Andrew Varble, a junior biotechnology major, was also a Goldwater nominee. Varble holds an RIT presidential scholarship and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in virology. ■

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For more scholarships and awards coverage, visit *News & Events* online at **www.rit.edu/newsevents**.

Student Government presents annual awards

RIT's Student Government presented its end-of-the-year awards last month. The awards recognize both students and student organizations for their individual achievements and contributions to the RIT community. They included:

- Outstanding International Student: Mehlam Kalverts, Mai Hosoe, Tse Feng Yong
- Isaac L. Jordan Sr. Memorial Scholarship: Matthew Danna, Shamika Banks
- Frederick Douglass Scholarship: Liz Ransey, Joseph Graham, Courtnee Hill, Martin Martinez, Joshua Dentley
- Kathleen Keyes Scholarship: Lori Duprey, Mehlam Kalverts
- RHA Member of the Year: Tim Wallenhorst
- OCASA Director of the Year: Christina Karas
- NSC Dr. Robert Frisina Past President's Award: Sarah Gordon
- Global Union Club of the Year: Asian Culture Society
- BACC Appreciation Awards: Rohan Palma, Susan Fuentes
- Greek Council Outstanding Woman: Brianna Lombardozzi
- Best of Clubs Showcase: RIT Players
- SG Member of the Year: Kate Dyson
- SG President's Award: Dave Blonski
- SG Extra Mile Award: Lana Verschage
- SG Outstanding Community Service Club: Habitat for Humanity
- SG Outstanding Programming Club: Asian Culture Society
- Outstanding Club Advisor: Cha Ron Sattler
- Outstanding MSO Advisor: Bill St. Jean
- Outstanding Greek Advisor: Sharon Kompalla
- President's Cup for Outstanding Greek Chapter: Alpha Sigma Alpha
- Eric Scott Senna Spirit Award: Dave Blonski
- Cheryl Bulls, Lanette Moore and Susan Willoughby Memorial Scholarship: Mia Sanchez ■

International scholars

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

This year, 23 students from countries around the world were honored by RIT's International Student Scholarship program. The scholars are Jayachandran John, Gopal Battacharya, Ana Maria Leal Yepes, Sourav Srimal, Elizaveta Liubkina, Raj Rathi, Arjun Sachdeva, Sooji Kim, Matthew Bezaire, Terry Men Chun Fung Ching, Harsha Narne, Qiang Li, Kyung-Ok Choi, Duk Gyu Hwang, Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue, Nicholas Lin, Diego Padron LaFebre, Aditya Manjrekar, Hiromi Tanabe, Rajat Karan Khullar, Shawn Persaud, JiHong Kil and Fan Zhang.

Celebrating our outstanding undergraduate students

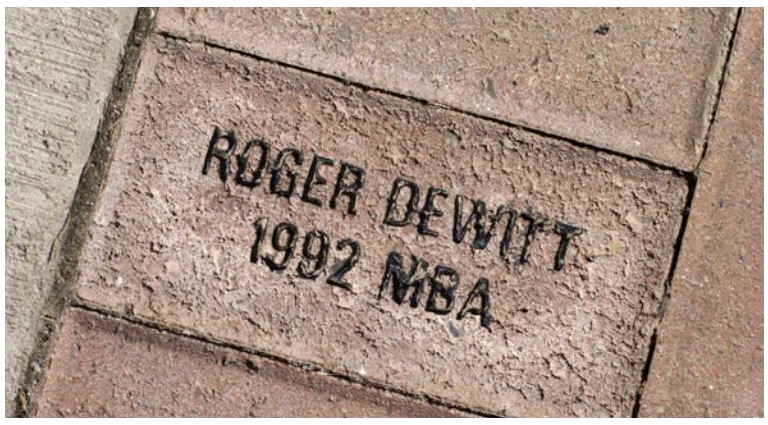
A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT honored students as Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars in a ceremony held in April. The scholars are Michelle Anderson, Matthew Bliss, Frances Cabrera, Susanne DeGrace Clair, Kujtim Gazideda, Miguel Gonzalez, Nora Latifi, Liridon Mavriqi, David Peretz, Mirjana Sutic, Jennifer Whigham, Melanie Bliss, Inga Mareike Grote, Harry Merritt, Amethyst Rule, Brian Abraham, Sunil Alwani, Brian Bennett, Patrick Campagnano, Timothy Garwood, Eric Harris Goldman, Louis Horton, Jaroslaw Malarz, Christopher Mayers, Matthew Mosesohn, Peter Bishop Mottola, Andrew David Nortrup, Nathan Olmsted, Brendan Parker, Timothy Petersen, Jeffrey Joseph Robble, Kevin Visalli, Elliot Vos, Margaret Mary Anderson, Mark Baybutt, David Blonski, Tim Brackbill, Elizabeth Dombrowski, Jeremy Espenshade, Joel Forman, Kenneth Fourspring, Gregory Gluszek, David Grymin, Bartley Lettenberger, Martin Troy Noah Martinez, Josemaria Mora, Charles Schillberg, Rashmi Shah, Todd Simon, Ege Bilgen, Teresa Burr, Lauren DeLuca, Nicholas Duers, Lindsay Ellis, Mallory Frost, Margaret Gatautis, Jenny Hung, Jesse Kraker, Yutak Kwok, Jessica Rae Mills, Amanda Lyle Needham, Joseph Pietruch, Bradlea Elizabeth Raga, Dezirae Rague, Douglas Steele Salati, Kara Slezak, Erin Snyder, Brenna Cammeron, Carly Gioia, John-Michael Stern, Chelsie Armbruster, Brenna Brady, John Brothers II, Sarah Denial, Kate Dyson, Jessica Gallagher, Walter Hopkins, Justin Kwong, Katelyn Rae Page, Brandy Pappas, Stacey Shaw and Andrew Kahn-Richie.

Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

This year's inductees to the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honorary Society include Alissa Albert, Aisosa Ayela-Uwangue, David Blonski, Blair Brown, Michelle Brown, Matthew Burrough, Kelly DiCesare, Kate Dyson, Sarah Gordon, Marc Hyman, Latica Ivkivic, Zemma Kassa, Ryan Larcom, Stephanie Matuszewski, Jessica Mills, Nina Mimica, Nikhil Nampalli, Joseph Pacanowski, Katelyn Page, Mallika Ramaswamy, Gabriel Rinaldi, Amethyst Rule, Diane Seaver, Ruth Simmons, Izidora Skracic, Hye Yon Yi and Danny Zhu. The society recognizes students who excel in scholarship, participate in activities and practice responsible leadership.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

A commemorative brick in front of the RIT Student Life Center bears the name of an alumnus. To learn about RIT's Buy a Brick program, supporting the Endowed Alumni Legacy Scholarship, visit www.rit.edu/buyabrick.

Brick-buying program builds lasting memories

One look at the RIT campus and it becomes quite obvious it has the nickname Brick City. The most recent brick tally stands at 14,867,389, and yes, someone does keep count.

Adding to that number through RIT's "Buy a Brick" program is Denise DeWitt, an academic advisor at the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. She purchased her first souvenir brick for her husband Roger, who received both his undergraduate (1979) and graduate (1992) degrees at RIT.

"In 2002, RIT was promoting the brick program for the 175th anniversary, and for the cost of $175, you could get an engraved four-by-eight personalized brick to be placed along the renovated quarter mile," DeWitt explains. "I thought I'd buy one for my husband, and then later I had the idea of purchasing bricks for two of our daughters who also graduated from RIT—Jennifer, a packaging major who finished in 2004, and Sarah, a physician's assistant who finished in 2006."

In a couple of years, DeWitt will add one more family RIT alumna to the brick legacy—Rachel, who is in her second year in the ultrasound and sonography program in the College of Science.

"Plus, Denise purchased a family seat in the Gordon Field House under the DeWitt family name, a logical connection for this ultimate RIT family," says Marty Burris, director of family giving in the RIT Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

"I am pleased that Roger, and all three daughters chose to attend RIT, and I am sure they have seen the benefit from their RIT education in their lives and professions," says Burris. "The Buy a Brick program is ongoing, and a fabulous way to recognize the family and to give enduring support to the Endowed Alumni Legacy Scholarship."

According to DeWitt, her family's bricks, which are located in front of the Student Life Center, will leave their mark.

"I think it's unique that we were all here in some capacity for a little while, and it's a piece of our history we can be proud of," says DeWitt. "I thought it was a nice way to honor my family and also give back to RIT."

For more Buy a Brick information, visit www.rit.edu/buyabrick. ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

Students 'dream up' collaborative publication

RIT photography and graphic design students faced a monumental challenge during their waking hours—to produce a 100-page, full-color magazine in five weeks on the topic of dreams.

The project was for their editorial design course co-taught by Denis Defibaugh, professor of photography in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, and Lorrie Frear, assistant professor of graphic design in RIT's School of Design.

"I think we shocked a lot of people in the time frame we did it," says Frear.

All seniors, the 20 photo students and 20 graphic design students first brainstormed a theme and ultimately chose dreams.

"The theme was open to interpretation and seemed interesting for both design and photography," says John Chiappone, fourth-year graphic design major and the magazine's co-art director.

The class came up with the

The cover of Drēm

magazine's title, *Drēm: Because Reality is Overrated*, incorporating the acronym REM (rapid eye movement), the stage in the sleep cycle when dreaming occurs.

Modeled after a magazine-run environment, the students voted on a staff, with each position filled by a designer and a photographer.

"This magazine was a good challenge for us because we each had to work with someone else in a different major," says Katie Koch, fourth-year advertising photography major and the magazine's co-art director. "It also exposed us

Publication, page 12

A shot of one of the inside spreads of the new publication

Formula team savors pre-event success

Along with a newly expanded machine shop, the Formula team also experienced another luxury this year. In contrast to the all-nighters and narrowly met deadlines that became almost customary in years past, this year's car was ready, right on time.

"Our goal was to complete the car as soon as possible so we'd have time to test it, make adjustments and do fine-tuning," says project manager Anthony Capobianco, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major.

As scheduled, on April 1 drivers tested the car for the first time, allowing the team more than a month for adjusting and tuning before the Formula SAE Competition, the culmination of the team's hard work and long hours.

The annual competition, held May 19-20 at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich., simulates the process automobile companies must go through to turn a simple prototype into a full production vehicle. In addition to performance testing for acceleration, handling and braking, this year's 130 collegiate teams are also judged based on their cost analysis, overall engineering design and a sales presentation, which is judged based on the car's feasibility for production.

Though they've yet to compete, this year has already been a success because of the many team goals that have been met and exceeded.

"In the past, we had always been extremely strong in our engineering, but the strong team component was lacking," says Capobianco. "This year we created two new leadership roles that have strengthened both the team and our car's performance."

As newly appointed associate project manager, fifth-year mechanical engineering major Lawrence Litchfield established a production schedule and managed the production of the car, which successfully met the deadline, which had been established seven months prior.

Led by fifth-year mechanical engineering major Laurie Underhill, the New Vehicle Dynamics group bridged the gap between the test track and the auto shop by gathering test data, then creating solutions to improve upon the observations made while testing.

"This year, we realized that every role on this team is very important and the entire team is committed to doing what's necessary to win," says Capobianco. ■

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Submitted by Dave Holland

RIT President Albert Simone climbed into the driver's seat of F-15, this year's newly designed Formula SAE racecar, during its unveiling ceremony May 4. Team advisor Alan Nye looks on.

CIMS to help 'green' N.Y. firms

RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies has been awarded a $550,000 grant from Empire State Development to establish a new initiative in pollution prevention.

Nabil Nasr

"Ideally, this program will develop into an important state-wide resource for the research and implementation of new clean technologies in partnership with industry."

— Daniel Gundersen, Empire State Development/Upstate chairman

The program will leverage the center's existing research in alternative cleaning implementation, remanufacturing, sustainable process development and green product assessment to assist companies in preventing pollution. The project will also enhance economic efficiency and productivity as well as provide informed input for future statewide pollution prevention efforts.

"We are extremely honored to be selected for this initiative and look forward to expanding our efforts in pollution prevention to assist a broad range of companies throughout New York state," says Nabil Nasr, director of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies. "Our experience has shown that there is often significant opportunity to enhance environmental quality while contributing to economic growth."

"We are proud to partner with RIT on this pilot initiative," adds Daniel Gundersen, Empire State Development/Upstate chairman. "Investing in new and innovative technologies is part of our larger economic development strategy to foster growth in a wide range of industries throughout New York state. Ideally, this program will develop into an important state-wide resource for the research and implementation of new clean technologies in partnership with industry."

As the model for effective environmental stewardship has moved from a paradigm of pollution control to prevention, increased emphasis is being placed on achieving environmental improvements beyond what is required by law. Pollution prevention programs to be offered to companies through this pilot program will include on-site technical assistance, research and development, technology transfer and education. These capabilities will help firms reduce and in some cases eliminate the production of air and solid waste as well as the use of hazardous materials.

Empire State Development will utilize the results of the pilot program to strengthen its pollution prevention efforts and identify practices for use by a wider array of companies from throughout the state.

CIMS will work with companies and other stakeholders from across New York state to develop and implement pollution-prevention strategies as part of this effort. Interested organizations should contact the center at info@cims.rit.edu for further information. ■

Will Dube | wjduns@rit.edu

A walking tour of RIT's artwork on display

Submitted photo

This rocking bench by graduate woodworking student Jacob Snowbarger is one of the many projects that will be showcased during the School for American Crafts annual Walkthrough. The event is a tradition based on "walking through" the school's metals, wood, ceramics and glass studios to view work created throughout the school year by RIT's talented student artists. Walkthrough will be from 4 to 6 p.m. May 21 in the James E. Booth Building. All of the school's graduate and undergraduate students will participate.

Student wins national design award

Dan Bolinski, a fourth-year industrial design student, has won the Industrial Designers Society of America National Student Merit Award, one of only five awarded in the United States each year. Bolinski graduates this month with a bachelor of arts in industrial design and an associate degree in illustration.

Bolinski's win marks the third time in the award's four-year history that an RIT student has taken top honors in the Northeast.

Bolinski presented his portfolio of student work to more than 350 professional designers and students at the society's annual Northeast District Conference held in April at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. Upon reviewing the portfolios of top design students, a jury of seven society members selected Bolinski as the winner. Rhode Island School of Design, Pratt Institute, Syracuse University and Massachusetts College of Art were among the eleven universities and colleges participating in the competition.

Bolinski's portfolio presentation included work he's done for two big name brands, Xerox and Reebok. For one of his courses, Bolinski worked with industrial designers at Xerox on a concept for a tablet personal computer. "It's a Windows-based system to be used on construction sites," says Bolinski. "The computer can collect signatures from surveyors. There is a thermal printer attached to it that allows the paperwork to be printed right on site, speeding up the process."

From computers to apparel, Bolinski interned last year in the apparel department at Reebok International in Boston. "I worked on performance golf apparel, like crew and polo shirts. Factors we had to consider in our designs were how fabrics lay on the body, the location of the body's major heat zones and how graphics will appear in a 3-D design. The internship was a nice blend of industrial design and graphic design."

He's continued to do freelance work for Reebok while completing his courses. "Reebok approached me at the end of my internship and asked if I would like to be part of the redesign of its NFL receiver gloves. So I hope to return to Reebok for a full-time job after graduation. My experience there was phenomenal."

Bolinski's professors laud his accomplishments and talent.

"A merit award juror at the competition commented that Dan's projects clearly show an arc of consistent improvement from initial concept to finished product, and the same can be said for his personal development as a designer here at RIT," says Alan Reddig, the society's student chapter faculty advisor at RIT and lecturer in industrial design. "His body of work reflects the high standards of both the institution he leaves and the profession he enters." ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Dan Bolinski, a fourth-year industrial design student and native of Nanticoke, Pa., won a premier award from the Industrial Designers Society of America.

Clearing the way for College Town

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Plans for a housing, retail and entertainment center on campus are moving from rendering to reality. Work crews broke ground last month on RIT's College Town project, located on 60 acres of land on the northeast corner of campus. Construction is scheduled to be completed by fall 2008.

'Micro-e' program hits quarter-century mark

Microelectronics growth sparked PC revolution 25 years ago

Communication. Virtual commerce. Healthcare breakthroughs. Entertainment. Access to a base of knowledge accumulated from the start of time. All any time, any place . . . and attributed to advances in the semiconductor industry.

For more than a quarter century, RIT has contributed to this microelectronic engineering revolution.

The university's microelectronic engineering program—the first of its kind in the nation—launched Jan. 20, 1982. At the time, President Ronald Reagan was beginning the second year of his first term, America's first "test tube" baby was about three weeks old, AT&T had just agreed to a breakup, *Dallas* was the nation's most popular television show, and Olivia Newton-John's *Physical* was climbing Billboard's "Hot 100" chart.

About five months earlier, in August 1981, IBM Corp. introduced the first IBM personal computer featuring 16 KB of random-access memory, or RAM, and an operating speed of 4.77 MHz. It retailed for about $1,200.

Today, some PCs have 2 GB of RAM, run at 3 GHz and sell for less than half the price of that first home computer. Similarly, RIT's "micro-e" department has grown by leaps and bounds in its technological capabilities since the early '80s. Today's 150 undergraduate and graduate students are instructed by eight faculty members in space that includes the 10,000-square-foot Semiconductor & Microsystems Fabrication Laboratory—the largest "clean room" dedicated to education in the country.

This week, the department celebrated its silver anniversary and the hosting of its 25th annual conference with an anniversary dinner at the Hyatt Regency Rochester.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

As one of the strong ties between RIT and the Town of Henrietta, students from the Rush-Henrietta Central School District regularly visit RIT microelectronic engineering labs—just as a different group of youngsters recently toured RIT's Semiconductor & Microsystems Fabrication Laboratory. Gowns are required to protect microchips from contamination, and yellow light (resulting from filtering short wavelengths from white light) is used to avoid exposure of the photoresist during microchip processing. RIT's Department of Microelectronic Engineering is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Micro-e's impact felt nationally . . .

More than 600 RIT micro-e graduates currently work in the semiconductor field, with a huge majority of them—roughly 90 percent—employed in the United States, says Santosh Kurinec, professor and department head. The homegrown talent represents a significant contribution to American society and the world, she asserts.

"We're grooming a domestic workforce to meet the demands of this global high-tech industry," says Kurinec, who, as department head since 2001, is one of only two people to have held the position. Lynn Fuller, RIT professor of microelectronic engineering, was the founding department head.

Among the 600 grads, more than 100 are currently employed by Freescale Inc. (formerly part of Motorola Inc.), about 80 work for Intel Corp., some 60 earn paychecks from IBM, and more than 60 have gone on to graduate school. Other top employers of RIT micro-e grads include National Semiconductor Corp., Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and Micron Technology Inc.

. . . and locally

Though the RIT micro-e program's influence is spread worldwide, its impact is felt nowhere stronger than right here in Henrietta. Three Henrietta-based companies have had direct ties to RIT's micro-e program: Amphibian Systems, located on Tech Park Drive, was founded by Bruce Smith, Intel Professor of Microelectronic Engineering; and Integrated Nano-Technologies, on Lehigh Station Road, and Advanced Vision Technologies Inc., formerly on Lucius Gordon Drive, collaborated with RIT micro-e faculty.

Additionally, three current members of the RIT micro-e faculty—Smith, Karl Hirschman and Rob Pearson—are graduates of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District and RIT. Another Rush-Henrietta and RIT micro-e grad, Steve Carlson, was named an RIT Outstanding Alumnus in 1999.

Because of the strong ties between RIT's micro-e department and its hometown, the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce on May 9 presented a 2007 Community of Excellence Award to the department. Kurinec points out that students, recruiters, vendors, short-course attendees (typically adult students completing short, intensive training sessions paid for by their employers) and other visitors all boost the town's economy. "In placing Rochester on the map educationally, micro-e also brings hundreds of people yearly to Henrietta hotels and restaurants," she says.

Toward the future

Along with a B.S. in microelectronic engineering, RIT students can now earn an M.E. in microelectronics manufacturing engineering (which is also offered online, attracting students nationally and internationally), an M.S. in microelectronic engineering, a B.S./M.S. in microelectronics/materials science and engineering, and a Ph.D. in microsystems engineering—a first-of-its kind multidisciplinary doctoral degree launched in 2002. In 2005, the department created a minor in microelectronics and nanofabrication.

To further illustrate from where the field of microelectronic engineering has come in 25 years, Kurinec says: "In 1982, the smallest feature printed in a microchip was one hundredth (1/100) the diameter of a typical human hair. Today, it's about 0.5 thousandths (1/2000) the diameter of a human hair. The thin insulating film in modern transistors is a few molecules thick. These extreme dimensions are produced with accuracy and reproducibility everyday. These are the marvels of today's semiconductor technology."

As for the next quarter century in microelectronic engineering, Kurinec predicts: "The next 25 years will see further miniaturization of the microchip using nanotechnology, and the convergence of many technologies such as nanoelectronics, nanomechanics, photonics, bio and novel computing, and software developments. Every person will have easy access to the accumulated knowledge of the human race at any time and in any place, format and language. We may have voice recognition with wireless access in our PC devices, which may be wearable and have terahertz speeds and terabyte memories. We'll see the PC interacting with sensing and biological interfaces." ■

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RIT micro-e by the numbers

Age: 25 years (Jan. 20, 1982)

Department heads in 25 years: 2

Graduates working in the semiconductor field: 600

Most grads employed by a single company: 110 (Freescale Inc.)

Undergraduate enrollment: 110

Graduate enrollment: 40

Faculty: 8

Faculty who are graduates of both Rush-Henrietta schools and RIT: 3

Henrietta companies founded by a faculty member: 1 (Amphibian Systems)

Degrees offered: 5 (B.S., M.E., M.S., B.S./M.S., Ph.D.)

Square footage of Semiconductor & Microsystems Fabrication Laboratory: 10,000 (largest "clean room" dedicated to education in the country)

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On the big screen

Submitted photo

The 3-D animated film, S'not our Fault, *created by graduate students Joe Arcovitch, Ignacio Barrios and Dan Driscoll, will be among the student films shown at RIT's School of Film and Animation Honors Show. The show will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. May 27 at Rochester's Little Theatre.* S'not our Fault *is a comedy about factory workers scrambling to save their jobs and their company after violating code. The Honors Show features 25 films of various genre including narratives, documentaries, experimentals and 2-D and 3-D animations. First-year students through graduate students submitted more than 500 films for consideration. The show is open to the public. Admission is $5, and students with ID will be admitted for free.*

Class of 2007 *from page 1*

by President Simone.

"By recognizing the excellence of our faculty and students, we spotlight RIT tradition, university pride and community spirit," says Simone.

Following Academic Convocation, each RIT college celebrates commencement with individual ceremonies and receptions (see accompanying schedule). During these ceremonies, graduating students are recognized individually and respective delegates address those in attendance. Tickets are not necessary, and ample seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"It is time for the faculty and staff to take pride in our students' accomplishment and congratulate them on a job well done," remarks Stanley McKenzie, RIT provost. "Celebrating our graduates also provides us with opportunities to greet their proud families and friends."

Kit Mayberry, vice president for academic affairs, adds, "Each graduate is a living embodiment of a successful academic career, possessing the knowledge and skills to begin the next phase of his or her career."

All ceremonies during Commencement weekend are sign-language interpreted and real-time captioned. To help visitors with questions, information booths are being located around campus and volunteer ushers are present at the convocation and each college ceremony. ■

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Wind-powered light *from page 1*

to reduce the university's reliance on power from carbon-producing sources, Watters told the senior-design team at a May 4 presentation. "This is a terrific project," he remarked.

A bright future

An active student at RIT, Gmeinder has served as president of the student section of the Society of Women Engineers and chair of the RIT student section of the Rochester chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. As a tour guide for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, she also serves as an unofficial ambassador for RIT.

"I love RIT—I think it's a great school," she says, adding that she believes she received her money's worth through opportunities to explore varied technologies, the personal attention she received from her professors, and RIT's co-op program, facilities and dedicated faculty members who know their students by name. "It's not so big that you get lost."

On campus tours for prospective and accepted students, some of who may be seeing RIT's bricks for the first time, she relishes saying, "We don't have marble columns in our library, but we do have all the latest software on our computers."

After earning her B.S./M.E. this month, Gmeinder will waste no time getting to work. On June 4, she begins in a position in upstream technology with the Corporate Engineering Technologies Lab of Procter & Gamble Co., in Cincinnati.

Rochester's natural resources

Wind is typically aplenty in the Rochester area, which also boasts another natural resource in abundance: Genesee River water. Because of the nearby campus asset, the team is also exploring the feasibility of another sustainable technology, a heating and cooling system for Riverknoll Apartments utilizing geothermal heat pumps and Genesee River water (in essence, brown river water would be converted to green energy).

"This system will cost more initially but the yearly electricity costs will be significantly less compared with conventional air conditioning," predicts Kevin Costantini, a fifth-year industrial engineering major.

While that part of the project is on the drawing board, the wind turbine-powered walkway light is a reality. Will more wind turbines be sprouting on campus lampposts—and possibly even on some posts on your street? After completing a 30-year life-cycle analysis, the verdict is in: Due to the high cost of fixtures and batteries, it's still cheaper to buy electricity.

But the conclusion doesn't necessarily mean that wind turbine-powered lights aren't in our future. Gmeinder says that a single turbine and proper battery setup could possibly power multiple street or walkway lamps, and mass production would lower the cost per unit—making this a "green" idea that's ripe for future development. ■

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In a recent random sample of passersby, more than three-quarters of those polled replied that they liked the wind-powered walkway light, while not a single respondent had an unfavorable opinion of it.

Publication *from page 10*

to deadlines which we will soon face in the real world."

Peppered throughout the magazine are articles covering a wide range of dark and whimsical topics from nightmares to monsters to dream jobs to daydreams. In an excerpt from her article, "Beware, Those Dangerous Delusions," Allison Johnston, a fourth-year graphic design student writes: "Where would brilliant ideas come from if we never allowed them to sprout in the warm sunlight of our daydreams? Daydreaming is both soothing and inspiring, letting us distress while filling our brains with unexpected solutions to life's little problems."

More than half of the students, including staff members, submitted articles. "The feature editors mainly chose the articles," says Defibaugh. "The copy editors were responsible for correcting typos and grammatical errors and oversaw the overall quality of the text. The production team had the most critical job of putting everything together to ensure the layout was configured properly."

Lindsay Tendler, fourth-year advertising photography major and one of *Drēm*'s production editors says: "Towards the end, it became really intense with the production team working long hours to get the magazine ready for print. It was a great experience and made me realize I may want to pursue magazine production as a career."

Michael Riordan, professor in the School of Print Media, and some of his fourth-year new media publishing students also helped with production. RIT's Printing Applications Laboratory printed the magazine.

"While all the students are visual communicators, they have different personalities and talents from various disciplines. It was great to see all the talents come together in this magazine," says Frear. ■

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Announcing RIT's 2007 Distinguished Alumni

Submitted by Ken Huth

RIT's annual Distinguished Alumni for 2007 were honored at a ceremony in April. They are, from left: Bart Guerreri '67, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, founder and chairman of DSD Laboratories, Sudbury, Mass.; Janet Ofano '04, College of Liberal Arts, communications coordinator for Dresser-Rand Co., Olean, N.Y.; Michael Krummhoefener '92, College of Applied Science and Technology, animation artist for Pixar Animation Studio, Emeryville, Calif.; Andrew Brenneman '88, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, senior national account executive with Sprint Business Solutions, Reston, Va.; Stephen Schultz '89, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, chief technical officer of Pictometry International Corp., Rochester; Charles Brown Jr. '79, E. Philip Saunders College of Business, executive director of the Center of Excellence in Math and Science, Rochester; and Andrew Davidhazy '68, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, professor, RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Not present for the ceremony was Kim VanGelder '86, College of Science, chief information officer and vice president for Eastman Kodak Co.

A fond farewell

Students, faculty and staff will have another chance to say goodbye to President Simone June 15—officially "Albert J. Simone Day" in Monroe County and the City of Rochester. A 10 a.m. ceremony and ice cream social will be held in the administrative circle, near the Sentinel *sculpture. Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy will be on hand to deliver a proclamation. After serving RIT for 15 years, Simone's last day is June 30.*

Submitted by Josh Lehrer