



Asmah Abushagur, left, Wilma King, center, and Jaimen Brill will attend the Fashion for Good Roundtable in July in Rome.

RIT students help blind dress for success

Imagine coordinating your wardrobe in the dark. Every morning, millions of blind or visually impaired people reach into their closets to read the Braille-embossed aluminum tags sewn into their clothes or the coding system of safety pins they've devised to identify their garments.

Jaimen Brill and Asmah Abushagur want to give the blind and visually impaired community more independence in choosing their wardrobe and more confidence when dressing for success. They are in the process of forming the nonprofit organization White Cane Label to help the blind and visually impaired shop for clothing and coordinate their outfits. They are advocating for an interactive, talking Web site and standardized, Braille-embossed clothing tags made of cloth, not aluminum, to be sewn onto all garments.

The Web site will help offer clothing recommendations and will provide detailed descriptions of each item in various styles and price ranges. The Braille labels will include three symbols indicating the brand, color and coordinating style for mixing and matching individual pieces. A second label will include washing instructions in Braille.

Brill and Abushagur chose the name for their organization based on White Cane Day, Oct. 15, the annual day of awareness for issues facing the blind. The day is named for the familiar white cane used by millions of people.

Farewell, President and Mrs. Simone



Monroe County and the City of Rochester jointly declared Friday, June 15, as "Albert J. Simone Day." Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and Rochester Mayor Bob Duffy delivered a special proclamation on campus to Simone, who retires June 30. RIT officially dedicated the Albert J. and Carol R. Simone Plaza and Circle near the Eastman Building, Student Alumni Union and Sentinel sculpture for President Simone and his wife, Carol.

The Simones were also honored June 16 at a community gala in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. More than 900 people attended. At the event, RIT announced that the university raised several million dollars for the Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which will also include an endowed professorship in Simone's name.

Elizabeth Lamark | photographer

Black holes experts make new discovery

RIT scientists have discovered for the first time just how fast a supermassive black hole can be thrown from a galaxy when it merges with another black hole. The crucial factor in producing large "kicks" turns out to be the spin that the black holes carry prior to the merger.



Manuela Campanelli

Manuela Campanelli and her team at RIT derived a formula based on computer simulations that for the first time predict the size and direction of the kick, or radiation recoil, that follows the merger of two black holes. Their findings were published in the June 8 issue of *Physical Review Letters*. Their work was also the cover story for the June 2 issue of *New Scientist*.

Black holes represent the strongest gravitational fields in nature. These strong fields of gravity hold the black holes intact as they draw near and ultimately collapse upon each other. The collision creates waves of gravitational radiation that ripple outward through the galaxy at the speed of light and kick out black holes.

The black holes merge while
Black holes, page 4

Brill and Abushagur will pitch their ideas to leaders of the fashion world during fashion week, July 9-13, in Rome. The women will present their concept for White Cane Label at the Fashion for Good Roundtable in hopes of soliciting the kind of support that has brought attention to prominent causes like AIDS awareness and the anti-fur campaign. Brill and Abushagur will ask the industry to include

Braille labels on their garments. They will also request donations of clothing and accessories to stock the Web site store they plan to debut in fall 2009.

"Fashion has the power to bridge or separate people," says Wilma King, associate professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and co-founder of Fashion for Good. "I think the fashion industry is looking
White Cane Label, page 4

Baja teams unite at RIT Brazilian team captures first place

Cars flipped, metal twisted and endurance was tested. And when it was all over, Centro Universitario Da FEI, a Brazilian university, won the 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge hosted by RIT June 7-10.

FEI emerged as the top team from a field of 141 based on a Society of Automotive Engineers International formula that weighs each team's performance in the technical portion of the competition with results in the competition's dynamic events—hill climb, acceleration, maneuverability, traction and suspension, and endurance.

It was the second time RIT hosted the competition, but this year's field was twice the size of the event that was hosted in 2005.

"The entire event was an enormous success," says RIT's Marty Gordon, a mechanical engineering technology professor and the competition organizer. "A dedicated team of volunteers, which included faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the RIT Baja team, spent countless hours making it all happen."

RIT, which entered two cars in the competition, finished in 21st and 44th places.

WXXI-TV (Channel 21), Roch-

ester's PBS affiliate, is producing a one-hour documentary about the competition that will include footage from three RIT film students—Robert Drury, Regina Huynh and Tisa Zito. The documentary is scheduled to air in September. ■

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Centro Universitario Da FEI of Brazil, the overall champion of the 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge, maneuvers a jump at Hogback Hill Motocross Track in Palmyra, N.Y.

An unforgettable weekend



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The RIT community marked a milestone as the university celebrated its 122nd annual commencement May 25-26 and surpassed 100,000 alumni as members of the Class of 2007 accepted their diplomas. President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker at the event. Clinton and Yohei Sasakawa, chair of The Nippon Foundation of Japan, each received 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 (PEN-International) at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. At right, President Clinton shares a laugh with RIT President Albert Simone during the event.

Photography

Photographer's lens focuses on TV viewers, page 2

Viewpoints

A look back at Commencement, page 3

Scholarship and Research

Image Permanence Institute founder lauded with special imaging award honor, page 3

Newsmakers

Your colleagues' latest accomplishments, page 4

Formula hits top 10

RIT's formula racing team earned seventh place overall, among 130 challengers, at the 2007 Formula SAE competition, May 16-20, at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich. In specific categories, RIT took third place for cost, sixth place in endurance/fuel economy, 14th place for design, 15th place for skid pad and 22nd place in the autocross race.

Next, RIT's Formula racing team competes for the first time in the Formula Student Germany contest, Aug. 8-12, in Hockenheim, Germany. For more information, visit <http://students.sae.org/competitions/formulaseries>.

United Way grand totals

The RIT community raised a grand total of \$386,404 for the 2007 United Way Campaign—exceeding the goal of \$385,000. This is a record high amount raised for United Way and exceeds last year's amount by 4.6 percent.

"The RIT Steering Committee set an aggressive goal despite the fact that the United Way community campaign goal for 2007 was less than the amount raised in 2006," says Lynn Rowoth, RIT's 2007 United Way campaign coordinator. "Counting on the generous spirit of the RIT community in supporting those in need in Rochester, it was a tremendous campus-wide effort to exceed our goal this year, something about which we all can be excited."

Campus cats fundraiser

A fundraiser to benefit homeless cats living on the RIT campus will be held noon-5 p.m. June 23-24 at Store to Door Warehouse, 50 Ajax Road. For sale will be household goods, furniture, designer clothes and more. Proceeds from the sale will help the RIT Animal Advocacy group reach its goal of zero population growth. For more information, contact Joette Hartman at 475-5536.

Designers create usable ideas for Foodlink

The project is a perfect example of "experiential learning."

Thanks to students in the Design for Marketing class taught by professors Nancy Ciolek and Carol Fillip, a Rochester nonprofit agency has an abundance of creative ideas for building interest in a special product line.

The 20 students spent spring quarter developing ideas for Freshwise Farms, a hydroponic produce grower. Freshwise Farms is owned by Foodlink Inc., a Rochester-based agency that obtains and redistributes more than 7.5 million pounds of food annually through 550 programs serving hungry people in a 10-county area.

"For an organization such as Foodlink that has limited resources, this has been a real godsend," says Carey Corea '09 (art and design), CEO of Rochester communications/marketing firm Idea Connections and a Foodlink board member. Corea worked with students throughout the quarter, making visits to class to review the progress. For the final presentations, Corea was joined by Foodlink executive director Tom Ferraro; Jim Ferrari, general manager, food and nutrition operations; Frances Pesavento, director of programs; and Liz Sanders, manager of Freshwise Farms.

The hydroponic farm, located in Penfield, has been part of Foodlink for about five years. Previously called



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Richard Slynko, a May graduate of the School of Design, center, presents his marketing plan for Freshwise Farms to representatives of Foodlink including (seated, from left) Carey Corea, Jim Ferrari and Frances Pesavento. Jonathan Hopkins interpreted.

Freshlink Farms, the operation produces herbs, greens and blends that are sold in area markets. The name change prompted the agency to seek help with a new marketing program.

Students developed designs for package labels, letterheads, point-of-sale signage, store displays, brochures, advertising, Web pages and promotional items such as aprons, T-shirts, tote bags and hats.

"You've accelerated our initiative for marketing the farm," Corea told the class at the final session. "We're thrilled with what you've done." Erin McCallum, a May graduate of the

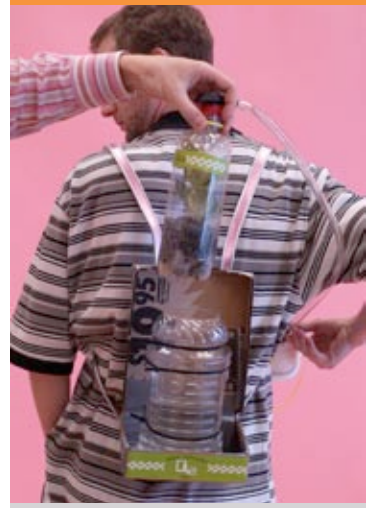
School of Design, believes the experience will prove useful. "Working with real clients was good practice."

Richard Slynko, another May graduate of the School of Design, enjoyed the opportunity to develop a strategic, integrated marketing plan. "There were endless possibilities," he says. "It was a lot of fun."

"It's nice to see these students really stretching," says Corea, noting that Foodlink will likely incorporate many of the students' ideas. "This is the kind of project I wish I'd had when I was in school." ■

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A breath of fresh air



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The fear of running out of air along with concerns about air pollution inspired this design created by Jon Simmons, a fourth-year illustration major. More than 150 College of Imaging Arts and Sciences students designed and constructed a wearable or portable design addressing a personal fear. Simmons' tank, filled with plants, connects to an oxygen mask. His goal was to design a tank that could provide an unlimited supply of oxygen and ultimately put the user's mind at ease. The students created the projects for their 3-D Design course which culminated with the annual 3-D Extravaganza show.

A closer look inside a living cell—'A' for creativity



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The Creativity: Technology: Invention symposium hosted last month by RIT's Creativity and Invention Working Group celebrated the fusion of art and technology through performances, student exhibits and faculty workshops and panels on the creative process. Here, students Whitney Domigan, left, Chelsea Killam and Jason Morrison transformed a classroom over the course of several hours into a model of the enzyme pathway inside a cell using structures they built, sewed, glued and suspended. The group won the Judges' Choice Award and the Most Creative Award.

Photo project gives new meaning to 'You Tube'

Photographer Susan Lakin has been so intrigued with the concept of reality TV that she decided to focus her camera lens on the real "stars" of hearth and home. During her house calls, she takes lights and camera equipment and literally moves in for the day paying artistic homage to their reflective images projected like a soft halo on their favorite television set.

Lakin, who hails from the West Coast, is an "honored-first-time" winning artist whose reality TV photographs will be on view at the Memorial Art Gallery's 61st Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition. And although the RIT associate professor of photography in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences has lived and taught in Rochester for the past seven years, she still thinks like a commercial artist.

"I left Santa Barbara to come here, and most people thought after my first winter of snow, I'd run back home," Lakin says with a laugh. "I was working as a commercial photographer and I was instructed to do some airbrushing of the photograph to get that 'perfect image.' The experience made me very conscious of how we define beauty and how we falsify and manipulate images to get that sense of perfection."

In the exhibition, Lakin has two photographs: one called *Joyce and Joe*, the other called *Christine*. Both are what Lakin calls, "reality-driven."

"Joyce and Joe are my neighbors on Rockingham Street, and I guess I'm pretty lucky to have shot their photo in front of their old Zenith TV because it died a week after I photographed them," says Lakin. "But I've always been fascinated about the dominance of television sets in people's homes, how we design our rooms around them. Plus, this phenomena of reality TV and how popular it has become, has really changed our lives. So I wanted my series to be a reflection of both."

Lakin says it's technically challenging to photograph her reality TV series. "I have to re-light the room to get the proper illumination on the screen, so the TV—when it's off—acts like a mirror. One of the hardest photos involved a dog and a cat—the dog was very cooperative but the cat kept running off and I had to chase it around and put it back in the picture."

"I find the students at RIT are so interested in new technology and how we interact with it," Lakin says. "And I'm thrilled to have my work at the Memorial Art Gallery, which is one of the real jewels of Rochester." ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu



Submitted by Susan Lakin

Susan Lakin photographed her neighbors Joyce and Joe in front of their Zenith TV set just days before it stopped working.

Summer vacation is hard work for one photo student

Breanna Dobbe isn't a biker and has next to no construction experience. But she's going to learn—fast.

Dobbe, a fourth-year advertising photography student, has chosen to spend her summer cycling across the United States and stopping along the way to help build houses in impoverished areas. She joined a group called Bike & Build, which organizes six similar journeys across the nation.

"It's kind of a once in a lifetime deal," says Dobbe, a goalie on RIT's women's hockey team. "Not many people get to experience something like this."

Dobbe, who is a member of Bike & Build's Southern U.S. team, left Jacksonville, Fla., June 15 and will arrive in San Francisco, Aug. 16. She'll be traveling through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The team's longest stop will be in New Orleans, where team members spend four days helping to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

"I drove through New Orleans a year ago with family, and I'm hoping it's going to be better—because the parts we saw still looked like a disas-



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Breanna Dobbe, a fourth-year advertising photography student, is biking across the country and stopping to do community service work along the way.

ter," Dobbe says. "I think they can use any help that they can get, and I think it's a great thing that so many people want to give up their summer to really help people and better their lives."

Dobbe has been preparing for this trip for months. But between school, work and sports, she wasn't able to get in all of the practice she had hoped for. In preparation, she biked, on average,

25-30 miles a day. An average leg on the trip is 55 miles long.

"I know it's going to be hard, but I think I'm going to be able to handle it," says Dobbe. "I'm not going to have much of a choice. It's just going to have to be something that I push through."

Dobbe isn't the only RIT connection to the group. David Mollitor, a computer science major, is traveling with a group that starts in Providence, R.I. and ends in San Francisco. RIT, led by Director of the Center for Religious Life Jeff Hering, hosts a group of Bike & Builders who stop in Rochester each year. ■

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Breanna Dobbe will be blogging about her experiences once a week on The Tiger Beat Blog. Follow her as she bikes from Jacksonville to San Francisco, stopping to do community service work in cities across the country. Visit www.thetigerbeat.com/blog. Also, check out www.rit.edu/news for photos that Breanna will periodically be sending from her journey.

Well, Commencement 2007 is over, and what a great weekend it was. President Simone's final commencement; a keynote address by President Bill Clinton; honorary degree presentations to both the former president and Yohei Sasakawa, chair of The Nippon Foundation; and, most importantly, celebrating the Class of 2007.

While it was happening, I was too busy to appreciate the time and effort provided by so many people who make it all happen. When it was over, and I could step back and actually think about it, I was struck at how the entire RIT community came together yet again to give our graduates a weekend they will always remember. So many people thanked me afterwards, but I didn't do it alone. It was a community effort, and thanks are due to many, especially the following people and departments:

- Staff from ITS, FAST Team, Registrar's Office and the Gordon Field House and Activities Center box office, especially Joe Loffredo, Linda Bueg, Kevin Dudarchik, Dan Pedersen, Luke Mekker, John Tassone and Jon Zhe, for creating a system to identify and track graduating students—including students on co-op, online students and early gradu-

ates—for ticket distribution. Nearly 9,000 tickets were distributed

- Facilities Management Services, especially Terry Walker, Paula Foster, Randy Vercauteren, Chris Furnare, their staffs and Hank Parker, our commencement decorators, for re-pairing and setting up U Lot, which included finding and setting up 13,000 chairs—in addition to all the other related arrangements for the college commencement ceremonies in the Gordon Field House and Ritter Ice Arena—and for making our campus shine

- ETC and Tech Crew, especially Steve Wunrow, Jim Bober, David Cronister, Rich Morse and Mike Kern for figuring out how to make sure that the Convocation could be seen and heard at the farthest reaches of U Lot. If you were there, you'll agree they and their crews did a fabulous job

- Food Service staff, especially Gary Gasper, who ran about 2,800 gallons of water to U Lot to help combat the heat and humidity

- Nearly 160 staff and students from across campus who took tickets, greeted and assisted guests, drove golf carts and answered more questions than you can possibly imagine

- The student and faculty proces-

sion was truly spectacular—thanks to staff from each college, Financial Aid, Project Lead the Way and others, especially Bonnie Travaglini and Debbie Kingsbury, who organized and led the procession

- Parking and Transportation and Public Safety, especially Gil Ong, Paula Benway, Rick LaClair, Gary Cannon, Dave Edborg and Chris Denninger who worked together to park and move people where they needed to go—both our guests and our employees as it was a regular workday. They also worked to make our campus safe and welcoming for our guests

- University News, especially Bob Finnerty and Paul Stella, for working with the media and getting us great news coverage

- The many others too numerous to name but equally important who worked behind the scenes to make the weekend a success

All in all, the Academic Convocation was a huge production, a truly collaborative effort involving the Commencement Planning Committee working for months in advance and more than 300 staff and contract workers who worked that week—a perfect combination of faculty, staff and students working together with-



out regard to department, college or division.

I am so proud to work with such amazing, talented and dedicated individuals.

Provenzano is director of operations for RIT's Division of Academic Affairs.

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

On the Web

with Mike Saffran
mjsuns@rit.edu



For those who missed it or simply want to relive it: Former President Bill Clinton's 2007 Academic Convocation keynote speech can be seen, heard and read online.

Open-captioned video coverage of the entire ceremony can be viewed at www.rit.edu/videos/?file=convocation2007. An audio-only podcast and transcript of Clinton's speech are available on the RIT University News Web site at www.rit.edu/news (see "Latest Podcasts").

Also online are audio podcasts and transcripts of RIT President **Albert Simone's** 15th and final Convocation address and speeches by RIT Student Government President **Lizzie Sorkin** and RIT's 2006-2007 College Delegates.

Plus, check out www.rit.edu/news for photo galleries of RIT's Academic Convocation and 122nd Commencement weekend, blog coverage on The Tiger Beat Blog, at www.thetigerbeat.com/blog, and links to outside media coverage (see "RIT In the News").

See you on the Web!

A '2020' peek at semiconductors



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT's microelectronic engineering department's 25th annual conference, May 14-16, drew 140 attendees for talks focusing on this year's theme, "Semiconductor Technologies Towards 2020." The conference, co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation and Micron Technology Inc., kicked off with a dinner in celebration of the micro-e department's silver anniversary and featuring a keynote address by Gary Patton, an IBM Corp. vice president. Shown above are conference attendees, including Lynn Fuller, professor of microelectronic engineering and founding department head, at a May 15 session in Xerox Auditorium.

Lab founder receives coveted imaging award

The Society for Imaging Science and Technology has awarded James Reilly, founder and director of the Image Permanence Institute, the HP Image Permanence Award, recognizing him for outstanding contributions in advancing the longevity of photographic and fine arts images.

Reilly receives a \$10,000 award for raising awareness about the effect of storage and usage conditions on permanence.

"My entire career has been about the preservation of imagery both old and new," says Reilly. "We've done a lot to advance that goal at the Image Permanence Institute. I've been writing, speaking and teaching about permanence for more than 25 years.



James Reilly

And the fact that it's the first time the award has been given, endows it with some special significance for me. By creating this award, the Hewlett-Packard Co. shows its corporate commitment to the importance of image permanence, not only for its own company but to society."

Reilly, a highly recognized scientist in the field of image permanence, serves as a consultant to many libraries, museums and archives including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the New York Public Library. He is also the co-director of the Advanced Residency Program in Photograph Conservation at the George Eastman House.

In 1985, Reilly founded the Image Permanence Institute, a university-based, nonprofit research laboratory devoted to scientific research in the preservation of visual and other

forms of recorded information. It's the world's largest independent laboratory with this specific scope.

"This award recognizes outstanding scientific and educational contributions to the longevity of photographs and fine art created using digital methods," says Rita Hofmann, conference vice president for IS&T and research and development director for Ilford Imaging. "Few individuals incorporate all that this award is meant to honor, as does James Reilly. The IPI lab he founded and guides has advanced the knowledge of photo image degradation and has evolved into the leading independent research facility in the world for preservation of images, with recognized high scientific standards. As the head of IPI, Reilly has studied and helped save numerous photo collections in many part of the world." ■

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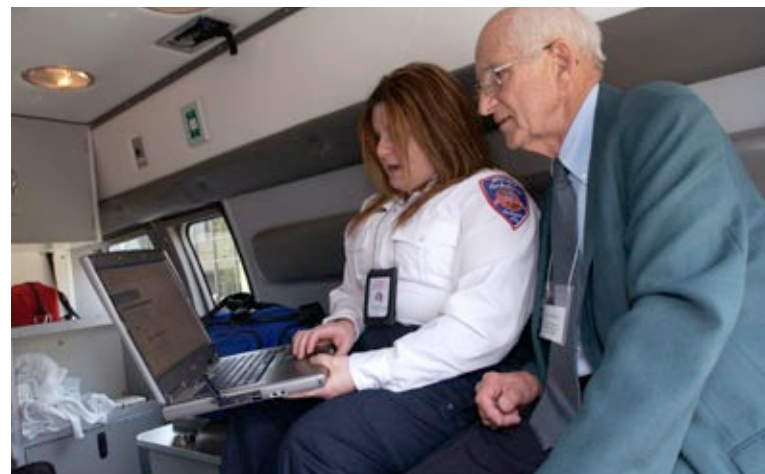
Students create online life-saving resource

Every second matters when firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and police officers are called to the scene of an emergency. In an effort to ensure they have the most comprehensive, up-to-date information for area hospitals, doctors and ambulance bases, RIT has developed the Emergency Medical Services Online Directory.

STEP (Society for Total Emergency Programs) Council of the Genesee Region, which produces an annual reference book, sought the technical expertise of RIT's software engineering students in developing the online database. RIT's Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure hosts the directory and will spearhead future development and research initiatives.

Nearly 50 people from various counties throughout New York state attended the "From Home to Hospital" conference May 9 at RIT. The goal of the conference was to encourage other counties to utilize the online directory as well as examine ways to improve emergency access information.

The EMS Online Directory, www.emsdirectory.org, is currently utilized by emergency medical services in Monroe and Livingston counties. The information is also available to the public. Monroe Ambulance's EMTs and paramedics can access the directory from the field using wireless technology.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Mindi Meath, left, Monroe Ambulance director of training, shows David Kluge, founder of STEP, how Monroe EMTs and paramedics can access the online directory while en route to the hospital.

"Oftentimes, patients may not know the hospital affiliation of

their physician," says Mindi Meath, director of training of Monroe Ambulance. "The online directory enables field EMS providers to save time during non-life-threatening situations and accurately transport patients to the facility their personal physician is affiliated with."

In addition to EMS providers, the EMS directory, page 4

New home for RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

The opening reception of the Alexander S. Lawson Publishing Center was held last month. The center is the new offices of the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press and RIT Press. The newly renovated space on the second floor of Wallace Library features an exhibition gallery, a sales area for press titles, office space and expanded production offices. The facility is named in honor of RIT's first Cary Professor and an early proponent of an RIT university press. The first publication with the new RIT Press imprint is a revised and enlarged edition of the history of RIT, written by Dane Gordon, RIT professor emeritus of philosophy, who attended the event with world-renowned typographer and former RIT professor Hermann Zapf.



Submitted by Dave Londres

Fourth-year photojournalism major Dave Londres took top honors for his photograph of freestyle motocross rider Casey Higgins. Londres is one of eight RIT photography students who participated in the Red Bull Illume Photography Workshop at Edge MX Motocross outside of Syracuse June 5. During the daylong photo shoot, students worked with professional photographer Francois Portmann and had the opportunity to photograph freestyle motocross riders in action. Londres won a trip to Boston to attend the Northeast Illume Photography Workshop.

Athletics enjoys record-breaking season

RIT athletics enjoyed a successful spring season, as five teams made the postseason and numerous individual and team records were broken in 2007.

In track and field, seniors Allison Griggs, Danielle Simmons and Dave Falcinelli, along with juniors Stephen Burns and LaKeisha Perez made appearances in the NCAA outdoor Division III championships. The women won the 2007 NYSCTC championship for the first time in RIT history, and placed second at the ECAC tournament, the highest finish ever for the team.

The men's lacrosse team won its third ECAC upstate championship in the last four seasons and won 14 games, one short of a school record. The Tigers were ranked as high as number two in the nation. Senior John Foley became the school's all-time leader in wins by a goalkeeper.

Four baseball players earned ABCA/Rawlings All-New York Re-

gion honors and helped lead RIT to 24 wins, tying the school record for victories in a season. Freshman outfielder Geoff Dornes became the first player in the history of the Empire 8 conference to be named the Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in the same season. Junior catcher Ryan Tryt earned CO-SIDA *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American honors. He is the first Tiger baseball player to receive this honor.

Sophomore Kelsey Evans became the first player to be honored as the Empire 8 conference Goalkeeper of the Year. She helped lead the women's lacrosse team to a program record equaling eight wins and its first appearance in the Empire 8 Tournament. Junior Amanda Crozier set school records for assists in a game (7), season (37) and career (57).

The men's and women's varsity 8 squads both finished eighth at the prestigious Dad Vail Championships in Philadelphia. Both squads com-

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Newsmakers

Nicholas DiFonzo, professor of psychology, and co-author Prashant Bordia, had their book *Rumor Psychology* chosen as a finalist in the ForeWord Book of the Year Awards, which represents some of the best work printed by independent publishing houses.

Andrew Herbert, assistant professor of psychology, contributed to *Developing and Sustaining a Research Supportive Curriculum*, published by the Council on Undergraduate Research. He wrote "How I Teach Experimental Psychology: Incorporating Research in a Research Design Course" for the section "Highlights of Teaching and Learning Strategies to Develop Research Skills."

Diane Hope, the William A. Kern Professor in Communications, edited *Visual Communication: Perception, Rhetoric and Technology*, a collection of papers from the William A. Kern Conferences in Visual Communication.

William Johnson Jr., distinguished professor of public policy, gave the keynote speech at the annual Martin Luther King community worship service in February.

Carl Lutzer and **James Marengo**, professors in the School of Mathematical Sciences, published "The Divergence of Balanced Harmonic-like Series" in the November 2006 issue of *College Mathematics Journal*.

Bruce Smith, Intel Professor of Microelectronic Engineering, has been elected a fellow of SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering—for research achievements and educational contributions in optical microlithography. The organization also cited Smith's more than 90 publications, including his textbook, *Microlithography: Science and Technology*, several chapters in other texts, and conference and journal papers.

peted successfully at the New York State Championships, as well.

Senior Josa Hanzlik broke the school record for doubles in a career (40), helping lead the Tigers to the number three seed in the 2007 Empire 8 Tournament.

The men's tennis team finished the 2007 season with a 6-5 record and competed in the Empire 8 championship match. ■

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Submitted by Kelsey Evans '09

RIT baseball player Ryan Tryt earned CO-SIDA *ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American* honors.

A message of thanks



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Jackie Nieves, a first-year mechanical engineering student, writes out a postcard to send to U.S. troops serving overseas. The on-campus card drive is part of Xerox Corp.'s national program, Let's Say Thanks. More than 700 postcards were signed by the RIT community. The messages were sent along with care packages to U.S. servicemen and servicewomen. RIT students from ROTC's military fraternity Pershing Rifles Z-8 collected the messages. School of Print Media students printed out the patriotic themed postcards designed by school children from across the country.

Black holes from page 1

spinning at the same speed but in different directions. Based on the computer simulations, the team of scientists—which includes Carlos Lousto, Yosef Zlochower and David Merritt—determined that supermassive black holes could be ejected from a galaxy at the speed of 4,000 kilometers per second. In contrast, non-spinning black holes can only be kicked from galaxies with speeds of about 200 kilometers per second.

"The magnitude of the kick comes from the spin orientation of the black holes," says Campanelli, director of the new Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation in RIT's School of Mathematical Sciences. "This was shocking to the astrophysical community. People knew that the black-hole spins would affect kicks, but not to this extent."

Campanelli's group was also the first to study simulated mergers of black holes that were spinning in random directions. They discovered that the spin axis and tilt of the spin determined the biggest kicks.

The team observed changes in the gravitational field when spinning black holes collided. Their results depart from most previous studies, which focus on idealized black holes—nonspinning or symmetrical in size. Campanelli's findings showed spinning black holes wobbling like a top and confirmed the spin-flip

phenomenon that occurs when the remaining black hole in a merger changes its orientation.

"Predicting kick helped us understand if black holes can get ejected from a large galaxy," Campanelli says.

"A kicked black hole will carry with it any gas that is tightly enough bound to it before the merger," says Merritt, an RIT physics professor. "The black hole could continue to shine until it had swallowed this gas."

The sudden expulsion of a black hole will shift matter in a galaxy.

Alessia Gualandris, an RIT post-doctoral fellow, is currently looking at what happens when black holes are removed from a galaxy.

Most likely, an ejected black hole will eventually return to its position at the center of a galaxy, although that would take a long time, Merritt says. ■

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White Cane Label from page 1

for innovative and sincere approaches to social responsibility. I have every confidence it will embrace and love White Cane Label."

White Cane Label grew from a class assignment to develop an awareness campaign for a special-needs group.

"We thought all our ideas had to have been done," says Brill '07 (B.S. advertising and public relations).

directory is also a lifesaving resource for the public. The directory includes valuable contact information for numerous ancillary organizations at the local, state and national levels, such as the American Red Cross, Alternatives for Battered Women, Lifespan and the Centers for Disease Control.

"We hope to expand the Directory to include all 62 counties in New York state," says David Kluge, STEP founder and editor of the STEP EMS Directory. "It provides the necessary interface between the first responders, physicians and the emergency departments of all area hospitals. From the moment first responders arrive at the scene to the point at which doctors begin caring for the patient in the emergency room, the process should be as seamless as possible. All the information is just a click away."

Guy Johnson, director of RIT's Center for Advancing the Study of

Cyberinfrastructure says: "We want to continue to improve the site's capabilities including efforts in data mining or the merging of information without having to manually input the data. We will correlate the information in a way that improves emergency medical services."

RIT software engineering students for the past several years worked on the directory for their senior projects. They designed the software so any U.S. county can input its data.

"My team provided daily support, both fixing any technical problems and helping organizations use the directory," says Dave Beaton, a 2006 RIT graduate who currently works at Paychex Inc. "This project provided a very unique opportunity for us because it allowed us to implement a real world application which people utilize on a daily basis." ■

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extend the Web site to become a global community resource for the blind and visually impaired. Proceeds made by White Cane Label will go back into the organization and fund scholarships for the blind and visually impaired. Profits will also be used to help fight preventable blindness in children living in developing countries. ■

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