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-encoded aluminum tags sewn into their clothes or the coding system of safety pins they’ve devised to identify their garments. Jaimie Brill and Aamah Abushagur want to give the blind and visually impaired community more independence in choosing their wardrobe and more confidence when dressing for success.

Brill and Abushagur chose the name White Cane Day, Oct. 15, the annual day of awareness for issues facing the blind. They have joined other local organizations and RIT’s students and faculty 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-encoded clothing tags made of cloth, not aluminum, to be sewn onto all garments.

Braille labels will include three symbols indicating the brand, color and coordinating outfit. 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-encoded 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 White Cane Label 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 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 co-founder of Fashion for Good, “I think the fashion industry is looking for the right person to help the blind and visually impaired dress with 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-encoded clothing tags made of cloth, not aluminum, to be sewn onto all garments.

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News briefs

Formula hits top 10

RIT’s formula racing team earned second place overall, among 130 competitors, at the 2007 Formula SAE competition, May 15-20, at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romulus, Mich. In specific categories, RIT took third place for cost, sixth place in endurance/fuel economy, 14th place for design, 15th place for lap time 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://www.students.sae.org/competitions/formulaseries.

United Way grand totals

The RIT community raised a grand total of $386,604 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%

“The RIT Steering Committee set an aggressive goal despite the fact that the United Way campaign’s designation for 2007 was less than the amount raised in 2006,” said Linn Rovnow, RIT’s 2007 United Way campaign coordinator.

“Counting on the generosity 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 at the RIT campus will be held noon-5 p.m., June 23-24 at Store Warehouse, 50 Ajax Road. For sale will be household goods, used clothing and more. Proceeds from the sale will help the RIT Animal Advocacy group reach its goal of $40,000 to help handicapped cats.

For more information contact Joette Hartman at 475-5357.

A closer look inside a living cell—A for creativity

Art and design, January 30, 2007

The Creativity: Technology: Invention symposium hosted last month by the Department of Creative 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 Dommigian, left, Chandra Datt and Joe Simmons transformed a classroom on the course of several hours into a model of the enzyme pathway inside a cell using structures they built, drew and glued.

The group won the Judges’ Choice Award and the Most Creative Award.

A breath of fresh air

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 these great photos in front of their old Zenith TV because it’s the Zenith that was the television that I was photographed,” 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 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 Murphy | smpurse@gmail.com

Summer vacation is hard work for one photo student

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

Dobbs, 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 Bikes & Build which organizes six similar journeys across the nation.

“It’s kind of a once in a lifetime deal,” says Dobbs, a goalie on RIT’s women’s hockey team. “Not many people get to experience something like this.”

Dobbs, who is a member of Bike & Build’s Southern U.S. team, left Jacksonville, Fla., June 18 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 disaster,” Dobbs says. “I think they can use any help that they can get, and I think it’s a good thing that so many people want to give up their summer to really help people and better their lives.”

Dobbs has been preparing for this trip for months. 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.

“It’s kind of a once in a lifetime deal,” Dobbs says. “I think I’m going to be able to handle it,” says Dobbs. “I’m not going to have much of a choice. It’s just going to have to be something that I push through.”

Dobbs is not 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 & Build students who stop in Rochester each year.

July 15 | glb@rit.edu

Breanna Dobbs 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 along the way. Visit www.thetigerbeat.com/blog. Also, check out www.rit.edu/news for photos that Dobbs will be sending from her journey.
Students create online live-saving resource

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 SIP Image Permanence Award, recognizing him for outstanding contributions in advancing the understanding of photographic and fine art 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 a lot of good work at the Image Permanence Institute. I’ve been writing, speaking and teaching about permanence for more than 25 years.

And the fact that it’s the first time the award has been given, it’s kind of a big deal. By creating this award, the Hewlett-Packard Co. has shown 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 ISEH and research and development director for Ilford Imaging.

"Few individuals incorporate all that the award is about into their work," as does James Reilly. The ILE lab he founded and guides has advanced the knowledge of 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 ILE, Reilly has been able to help save numerous photos collections in many parts of the world."
ATHLETICS JOINS RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

RIT athletics enjoyed a successful spring season, as four 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 NYSTIC 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 No. 13 in the nation in RIT history, and placed second at the NCAA tournament, the highest finish ever for the team.

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

Four baseball players earned ABCA/Rawlings All-New York Region honors and helped lead RIT to a 30-20 season, the school record for victories in a season. Freshman outfielder Geoff Doorns 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 Bryan Tryt earned CO-SIDA ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American honors. He is the first RIT baseball player to receive this honor.

Sophomore football player Evan Burns became the first player to be honored as the Empire 8 conference Goalkeeper of the Year. He helped lead the women’s lacrosse team to a program record-tying 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 competed successfully at the New York State Championship regatta.

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

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

In soccer, the men’s and women’s teams both finished eighth at the NCAA tournament.

In volleyball, the women’s team upset No. 1 seed California. The win extended the season to 21 matches, breaking the school record.

The women’s cross-country team finished eighth at the NCAA regional meet.

In swimming, the men’s and women’s teams both finished fifth at the NCAA meet.

In track and field, the women’s track and field team finished fourth at the NCAA meet.

In tennis, the men’s team finished fourth at the NCAA meet.

In golf, the men’s and women’s teams both finished fifth at the NCAA meet.

In basketball, the men’s team finished sixth at the NCAA meet.

In hockey, the men’s team finished sixth at the NCAA meet.

In lacrosse, the women’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In lacrosse, the men’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In baseball, the men’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In softball, the women’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In volleyball, the men’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In swimming, the women’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In track and field, the women’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In tennis, the men’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In hockey, the men’s team finished seventh at the NCAA meet.

In soccer, the women’s team finished eighth at the NCAA meet.

In cross-country, the men’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

In basketball, the women’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

In lacrosse, the men’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

In baseball, the men’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

In softball, the women’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

In volleyball, the men’s team finished 12th at the NCAA meet.

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