The wide-ranging nature of RIT's research activities is attracting increased financial support. Fiscal year 2007, which ended June 30, marked another record for the university in the form of $39.6 million in sponsored projects. It’s an increase of more than $4 million from the previous fiscal year.

A substantial increase in awards from federal agencies provided a dramatic impact. The value of those awards rose by 40 percent during this most recent reporting period, according to David Bond, director of RIT’s Sponsored Research Services.

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“RIT has been providing needed assessment, short-term training, research and coordination support for business and industry, as well as academic programs in the Dominican Republic. There are currently more than 40 students from the Dominican Republic studying in bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. programs at RIT. An additional 50 graduate students are studying RIT programs in networking and systems administration and service management in the Dominican Republic. To date, more than 250 students from the Dominican Republic have completed RIT degrees in disciplines critical to the economic development of the country. We need to train our people at a high level to fully integrate into the international community!”

“We at RIT are also very real beneficiaries,” said Bond, adding that RIT students and faculty have the opportunity to study and teach in the Dominican Republic and also to learn from Dominican students on the RIT campus. “There aren’t any great universities that are not internationally engaged.”

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“The collaboration with RIT provides opportunities to our students to have high quality education,” said Fernández. “We need to train our people at a high level to fully integrate into the international community.” He believes that the collaboration will help the country become more competitive in the world market.

“We at RIT are also very real beneficiaries,” said Bond, adding that RIT students and faculty have the opportunity to study and teach in the Dominican Republic and also to learn from Dominican students on the RIT campus. “There aren’t any great universities that are not internationally engaged.”

On the side

Student affairs administrator tells a tale of murder, page 2

In the community

Saunders College program helps new businesses thrive, page 3

Scholarship and Research

Funding will help study environmental upkeep of our national parks, page 3

New projects

Partnership has positive effect on semiconductor industry, page 4

RIT students get down and dirty for a good cause

The ground had a distinct ‘squish’, slowly giving way, and squeezing into every open space between, up and over bare toes with each step. Like thunder rolling between, up and over bare toes squeezing into every open space in the distance, the commotion of ‘pull…pull…pull!’ The 12th annual Mud Tug was underway.

On Sept. 22, 55 teams of 10 members gathered at the activities field behind Grace Watson Hall to test their strength in the tug-o-war tournament, a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation.

In addition to the 550 competitors, more than 500 students showed their support throughout the day, cheering for the teams and enjoying the food, prizes and festivities. In addition to the main ‘tugging pit’, where the tournament was taking place, an additional ‘play pit’ was set up so students could get down and dirty, wallowing in the mud.

“It was great to see so many people come and be a part of fun,” says Casey Meixell, a fourth-year electrical engineering technology student and member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. “Mud Tug is always a great event because it’s just a fun, crazy atmosphere.”

By day’s end, the winners had been crowned, more than $2,400 had been raised for the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation, and the field behind Grace Watson Hall looked like a scene from Woodstock, as hundreds of mud-covered students continued to play games and wrestle in the mud.

The 12th annual Mud Tug, organized by the Phi Kappa Psi and Zeta Tau Alpha Greek organizations, raised $2,400 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation on Sept. 22.
Mystery novel hits close to home

Heath Boice-Pardee, in a sense, has resorted to murder.

RIT’s associate vice president of student affairs debated the first of a series of novels last month with the release of Missing Persons 101—a murder mystery novel that is set on a college campus.

Boice-Pardee began work on the novel six years ago, when he was assistant dean of student affairs at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, as a way to rekindle his passion for creative writing.

Boice-Pardee was a communications major during his undergraduate days at The College of Saint Rose in Albany. After graduating, he spent a few years working in television news in the Albany area before transitioning into the world of student affairs.

“I wanted to write about what I know. So I came up with the idea of using a college campus as the setting for a mystery novel,” Boice-Pardee says. “No, the protagonist is a dean of students at a small, private college on the Jersey shore.”

So Boice-Pardee got to work, attempting to balance his career and family with his attempt at writing a mystery novel. He struggled for quite some time before 5 a.m., to write. Boice-Pardee then began shopping the completed manuscript to publishers and writing houses, but to no avail.

Finally, about a year ago, Boice-Pardee received a letter that was forwarded from his previous address in Washington state. It was from Wind Storm Creative, a publisher based in Washington state. Wind Storm Creative had been looking for a mystery series and wanted Boice-Pardee to author it. He accepted it first book, and contracted him for two more. Missing Persons 101 is based in Westmore Shores, a college town on the New Jersey seashore. Readers follow Doug Carter-Connors, dean of students at Westmore College, as he attempts to solve the disappearance of Jessica Philmore, one of his students.

The second book in the series has been completed and is due to be released next year. This one, which Boice-Pardee estimates taking until the summer, will have a distinct RIT feel. Some of the characters may have a familiar face to many in the RIT community. Boice-Pardee says some will be obviously based on people at RIT, others on Mary-Beth Grace Cooper, a vice president for student affairs at an upstate New York university. RIT’s 2007 vice president for student affairs is Mary-Beth Cooper. Others will be much more embellished.

“Some will know that a character has been based on them,” Boice-Pardee says. “You might wish you’d never met them.”

For more information, visit www.101mysteries.com. The novel will be arriving in the Campus Library sections bookstore soon.

John Edsall | jedsall@rit.edu

Project explores notion of academic space

A yearlong student project that explored “The World of Conflict” through a multimedia collage will be showcased later this month at an international conference about the changing notions of space in academia.

The conference, Defining Space, will be held at University College Dublin Oct. 11-13 and will explore space from different perspectives. Artist Stephanie Kirchen Coles will share insights and a video about the project that began in her 2D Design Foundation classes at the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences last year and expanded to include poetry students from the College of Liberal Arts and faculty from the College of Science.

Coles is one of two interdisciplinary panelists sponsored by the Caroline Werner Gannett Project who will attend the conference as part of the panel “Moving Out/ There: Strategies for Re-imagining the Academic Spaces,” organized by Mary Lynn Broe, Caroline Werner Gannett Professor of Humanities. In addition to Coles and Broe, the panel will include Guy Johnson, director of the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyber Infrastructures in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, and Karen Kinohara, a student matte in human geography at the University of Kentucky.

The World of Conflict project involved 60 first-year students from Coles’ Foundation classes who worked as a team on a project that included narrative, poetry, collage and animation and was projected in motion, 10 feet by 75 feet, across the College of Science auditorium wall last spring. The collaboration includes 55 different compositions and measures 60 feet long.

Students from English professor John Roch’s poetry classes wrote poems that were animated into a book. Broe also contributed original graphic poetry: College of Science Dean Ian Gale organized the project, and Tim Stephany and Mitch Rosen from the College of Science provided technical expertise on using Watchout technology and the corresponding multiple projection software.

“The project illustrates the notion of an expansive classroom that works on multiple collaborative and interdisciplinary levels from the individua to the whole university,” Coles says. “In the process there was a shifting sense of classroom space. Students felt connected to RIT as a whole university as well as connected to the global community as a world classroom.”

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News briefs

Entrepreneurs conference

Learn how experienced entrepreneurs create valuable market fields as social networking, Web 2.0, video gaming, software and new media. RIT will host the 2007 RIT Entrepreneurs Conference Oct. 5. This year’s theme: Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the New Economy, will emphasize how Rochester-based companies have created new industries and changed the nature of competition in the global marketplace. The conference begins at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast at RIT’s B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. The morning speaker is Dr. Roger Schlaf, a professor of law at the University of Connecticut, and the luncheon speaker is Silicon Valley entrepreneur David S. Isaacs, founder and chairman of the board of Technorati Inc. Concurrent sessions will be held 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. in the Louise M. Slaughter Building. The cost is $50; free for RIT faculty and staff. Registering is required. For more information, visit www.rit.edu/entconf or call Donna Slavin at 475-2199.

Imaging science lectures

Upcoming talks hosted by the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science Seminar Series will include:

Color Imaging for Imaging and Video by Garrett Johnson, from Cell Phone Imaging, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 in the Carlson auditorium.

TED Activities at NASA Langley in Support of the Space Shuttle, the Mars Science Laboratory and Associated Sciences, by Michael Gazark from NASA Langley Research Center, Oct. 17 in the Carlson auditorium.

For more information, contact Karen Danyliw at kdanyli@rit.edu or 475-7691.

Acclaimed author to speak

Journalist and writer Patricia A. Williams will present “Conjoined Identities: The Geography of the Black Body” at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Bond Hall. Williams, a dean of the college of liberal arts where Patterson Williams is based, will be guest lecturing at RIT at 4:30 p.m. in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. She is the James L. Rohr Professor of Law at Columbia University, is a contributing editor of The New York Times, a woman, gender and feminist jurisprudence in her books and columns, ”Diary of a Mad Law Professor,” in The Nation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.rit.edu/coag.

Award nominations due

Nominations are due Nov. 2 for the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award. Nominations form can be found at www.rit.edu/coag. Create a letter to RIT’s vice president Emeritus Alfred Davis, the award is presented annually to a member of the RIT community or staff whose public service and commitment mirrors that of the founders of the university. Nominations must be submitted with his 67-year association with RIT. The award will also be presented with the Bruce James Distinguished Public Service Award, presented to an RIT student for exemplary public service. This year’s awards will be presented March 18.

Professor documents ‘Day of Dead’ rituals

The people of Oaxaca, Mexico, commemorate the dead each year during a three-day spiritual festival, known as Day of the Dead or Dia de los Muertos, in which they believe the spirits return to visit. In a new book, The Day of the Dead: Dias De Muertos, author Dayton Deihlbaugh, photography professor in RIT’s School of Photography, Arts and Sciences, documents his photographic vision through the people and their rituals as they honor family members who have died.

Deihlbaugh will hold a lecture and book signing at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, as part of its “Wish You Were Here” Travel Photography Lecture Series. A book signing at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford at 7 p.m. Nov. 10.

Deihlbaugh is interested in the Day of the Dead began in 1993 when he received a Fulbright/Hayes Fellowship for Mexico and met art historian/World Abre. Over the past decade, Deihlbaugh and Abre, professor emeritus at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, have worked together to study people’s homes and taken part in the public festivities. The Day of the Dead holiday, All Souls’ Day, coincides with the Catholic tradition of All Saint’s Day and resembles the United States’ more commercial Halloween.

The hardbound book features street photography and intimate portraits. Along with Deihlbaugh photography, Abre writes an essay about the background of the beliefs and practices of the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

“The response to the book has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Abre. “One of the most gratifying experiences for one of the people of Oaxaca were initially hesitant about me photographing them, especially in the festival at the cemetery. On my subsequent visits, I would give each person a copy of their photograph. The next year’s visit, they would open up a dialogue because they feel we are the part of the same experience. That’s reflected in the book.”

The book is available online at www.tamu.edu/epress, amazon.com, barnes- and-noble.com and borders.com.

Many of Deihlbaugh photographs in the book have been part of a solo exhibition titled “Day of the Dead,” that has traveled to Miami, San Francisco, Montana, Niagara University’s Carribean Art Museum and various city museums in Texas.

Kelly Osborne | koseb@rit.edu

Cover photo by Dayton Deihlbaugh
An idea Jamie Winebrae had more than a decade ago while working on energy issues at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia has solidified into a respected national program partnering with universities with national parks to address energy-related needs.

Now in its 10th year, the University-National Park Energy Partnership Program has leveraged nearly $1.2 million for energy projects in the national parks. The program has funded nearly 70 projects at more than 30 of the 375 national parks, with the average project costing $15,500.

“THe goal is to improve the environmental quality of national parks, reduce energy bills and to educate future energy professionals,” says Winebrae, professor and chair of RIT’s science, technology and sustainability and society/public policy department in the College of Liberal Arts.

Winebrae recently received a $350,000 grant from the National Park Service to continue fostering new energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through the program. He also is one of six members on the National Park Service’s Working Group on Energy and Sustainability.

“Our national parks are absolute gems,” he says. “They contain old buildings and equipment that waste a lot of energy and, therefore, money. These projects uncover energy savings opportunities and help parks implement renewable energy measures that would otherwise be out of reach.”

Improving energy efficiency at national parks conserves natural energy resources and saves tax dollars. At the same time, students gain valuable experience conducting energy audits and data analysis, and finding ways to use alternative energy sources such as solar energy and wind turbines. The program has funded proposals from all over the country, including Alaska and Hawaii. Last year, an RIT student worked with professor Carl Lundgren to conduct energy audits and identified energy conservation measures for the Women’s Rights National Historic Site in Seneca Falls.

At the completion of each project, the student teams produce detailed reports that are submitted to Terry Brennan, National Parks Service Green Energy Programs Program Coordinator and program co-founder. The National Park Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016, and sustainability in the parks will be a major theme.

“We fit in nicely,” Winebrae says. “They will be coming to us to try to learn to effectively implement sustainability at national parks.”

David Bond has been named the new director of RIT’s Sponsored Research Services.

He previously served as the department’s associate director and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position,” says Donald Boyd, RIT’s vice president for research. “As RIT looks to enhance its research efforts, David will be a major catalyst in expanding funding and assisting faculty in promotion and their work.”

“I am very excited about this new opportunity and look forward to working with RIT administration, faculty, staff and students to enhance our research capacity and promote our priorities, including our national and international academic community,” adds Bond.

Sponsored Research Services facilitates all aspects of externally funded grants and contracts from proposal through award and post award. The department also sponsors RIT’s annual PI reception, which recognizes faculty and staff who participate in sponsored research as principal investigators, and the PI Institution training series.

Bond will look to further expand the department’s efforts to assist faculty in identifying and applying for funding, with a particular focus on educating the RIT community on how the grant process works and how to enhance opportunities for success. “There is an exciting place for research right now,” notes Bond.

“We are seeing more recognition for our research from a broader set of sponsors. It is my hope that Sponsored Research Services continues to be a supportive infrastructure for the RIT community as we grow in impact on employment in the Rochester area.

The RIT-Colleagues College of Business and Finger Lakes Wired announce the establishment of an information management, Creating and Leading Strategic Growth, which begins this month. The workshop-style training and mentoring program, which targets high potential regional small- and medium-sized businesses, is designed to analyze market opportunities and develop a strategic growth and customized-implementation plan for each business.

The Strategic Growth program in the college is sponsored by Finger Lakes Wired, which is working with RIT and other partners to increase entrepreneurship and innovation and expand advanced opportunities for workers throughout the region.

“We have 17 business teams enrolled in the program, and not only will they learn practical business strategies for company-specific growth initiatives, we will mesh it with our Saunders mission, which is to help small companies use commercialization technologies,” says Richard DeMartino, RIT associate professor of management and director of the Albert J Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. “One of the interesting tenets of these companies is that innovation has to be part of the solution for business growth and they have to have an existing strategy of where they are,” DeMartino explains. “In essence, the program will be a real-ization process for these businesses, and the beauty of it is that we don’t do the work for them. They do it for themselves.”

For more information on the Creating and Leading Strategic Growth program, call 475-7435 or visit www.ritembm.com.

Marcia Murphy | murphyma@rit.edu

Finger Lakes Wired, RIT-Colleagues College of Business, Storm In Motion, Inc., and Finger Lakes Wired’s New Ithaca 4.0 receive $45,000 from Finger Lakes Wired, RIT-Colleagues College of Business, and Storm In Motion, Inc.

Finger Lakes Wired, RIT-Colleagues College of Business, and Storm In Motion, Inc., each contributed $15,000 to the Finger Lakes Wired, RIT-Colleagues College of Business, and Storm In Motion, Inc. grant pool. This money will be used to help small companies promote their businesses and create new opportunities for workers throughout the region.

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Technology partnership will have profound effect on semiconductor industry

RIT and AmberWave Systems, a leader in the research, development and deployment of new technologies and processes for semiconductor manufacturing, are collaborating on new research that has the potential to revolutionize the semiconductor industry. The partnership seeks to integrate compound semiconductor devices on silicon using an innovative technique called Aspect Ratio Trapping, also known as ART, and developed by AmberWave, which is based in Salem, N.H. The research is being funded through a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

"ART is a technology that may open the door to faster, more powerful chips, which could find their way into a wide range of applications from silicon-based photonic to improved photovoltaic cells," says Donald Boyd, RIT’s vice president for thin film electronic materials. "The industry and university collaboration increased speed of data transmission by allowing manufacturers to combine different materials for photonic, ART could allow manufacturers to combine different materials to produce silicon based photonic devices that are more efficient, lower cost and easier to deploy than currently available systems.

"This new plays on the value of integrating industry and university collaboration and the demonstrated strengths of AmberWave in the area of epitaxial silicon electronic materials," says Donald Boyd, RIT’s vice president for research. "The semiconductor materials being investigated under this project have been used for years in niche markets, requiring extreme high-speed performance, optical properties, and/or radio frequency properties. However, they have seen little market penetration for more mainstream applications because of high costs and difficulty in integration with conventional, inexpensive silicon electronics. However, ART would allow manufacturers to capitalize on their investments in current manufacturing technologies, reducing costs considerably and allowing the devices to be included in products at consumer-friendly prices.”

"This research has the potential to seamlessly integrate III-V and silicon microelectronics to retain the best properties of each, opening up the possibility for truly massive speed improvements in memory and processor chips, integrated silicon-photonic devices for ultra-high bandwidth fiber-optic communications, and novel radio frequency chips for wireless communications," Boyd adds.

The project includes Santosh Kirtane, Sean Rommel and Karl Hirschman of RIT’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, “Boyd adds. For research. "We need to focus on research that has the potential to impact the semiconductor industry. We have the technology and the expertise to make a real difference."

the semiconductor industry can do things differently than other industries.

The Dominican delegation included Eddie Martinez, minister of state, and Radamón Mejía, executive vice rector of Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre Y Maestra (PUCMM), a major university in Santo Domingo, the capital and largest city in the Dominican Republic. The dignitaries toured Wallace Memorial Library, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, and the Center for Integrating Manufacturing Studies. The presidential team also met with Dominican students.

In 1996, RIT and RIT挑land Community College in Dryden, N.Y., and PUCMM in Global Con- nect compendium technology. The program is designed to provide support and build capacity to local entrepreneurs and other community members who seek to create and grow new firms. The program is funded by the NSF.

President Fernandez also had the opportunity to meet with RIT students from the Dominican Republic during his visit.