R·I·T news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

Welcome to Brick City Homecoming

October 4, 2007

Funding for research hits record high

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.

David Bond appointed director of Sponsored Research Services, *page 3*

"The $24.3 million in new federal awards demonstrates the depth and breadth of scientific and engineering expertise in the RIT community," Bond says. "Investigators received substantial new funding in diverse fields ranging from education research to hyperspectral image analysis to life-cycle engineering and more."

The largest share of federal funding came from the U.S. Department of Defense and intelligence agencies, totaling $8.1 million, a 42 percent increase from 2006. The National Science Foundation awarded $4.5 million to RIT, an 18 percent increase.

Bond credits the work of 216 principal investigators and many other collaborating investigators for enhancing the level of sponsored research on campus.

Sponsored Research Services' 2007 annual report is available online at www.research.rit.edu. ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Dominican Republic President Leonel Antonio Fernández Reyna, center, and members of his cabinet toured RIT during a recent visit. President Fernández was accompanied by his wife, First Lady Margarita Cedeño de Fernández. The tour was led by Jim Miller, RIT senior vice president for enrollment management and career services.

Dominican Republic president visits RIT

RIT hosted Dominican Republic President Leonel Antonio Fernández Reyna and members of his cabinet Sept. 28. Fernández and RIT President Bill Destler discussed wide-ranging partnerships between the Dominican Republic and the university, which date back to 1996.

"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 connection will help the country become more competitive in the world market.

"We at RIT are also very real beneficiaries," Destler said, noting 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."

Through an educational partnership, RIT has been providing needs assessment, short-term training, research and consulting 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.

"RIT offers a unique mix of scholarship and practice, and that combination makes our university ideally suited to work with the Dominican Republic to develop new technologies and new ideas for businesses, products, and services," said Destler.

Dominican president, page 4

New Simone Center promotes innovation

Patrick Bosek and Casey Jordan could certainly put together impressive résumés and begin traditional job searches. Jordan will graduate this winter from RIT with a physics degree and Bosek recently graduated from the University at Buffalo with a degree in computer science.

But the two high school friends (Penfield High School '03) have caught the entrepreneurial bug. They would rather work 16-hour days developing a new software product and service. They would rather do Web consulting for a start-up alternative-fuel company. They would rather field phone calls from venture capitalists. They would rather control their own destiny and build their own business.

"The safe lifestyle of 9-to-5 isn't going to work for me," says Jordan. "We're building our business at full speed. Failure is not an option."

"The experience we have gained creating our own product and service is invaluable. The further along we get developing our product, the busier we're getting."—Patrick Bosek

Bosek and Jordan are the founders of Jorsek, where they are developing a virtual operating system on the Web that will provide workflow efficiencies for small- to mid-sized companies.

Jorsek is one example of the many activities taking place within the Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. More than $3 million has been raised from more than 200 donors for the center, named in honor of RIT's recently retired eighth president. A portion of the funds will be used to support an endowed professorship in Simone's name.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Casey Jordan, left, and Patrick Bosek, founders of Jorsek, are taking advantage of the services provided by the new Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The center connects students with Venture Creations, an RIT subsidiary that works with faculty, staff, alumni and with outside businesses to bring technologies to market. Students have the opportunity to work in the same building as Venture Creations, a business incubator, where they have access to business-startup expertise from faculty, graduate students and alumni. There are 10 start-up companies in Venture Creations, located off John Street in Henrietta.

The Simone Center is designed to promote, nurture and expand innovation and entrepreneurship activities with the RIT community. It is divided into three distinct activities:

- Academic and campus-based programs featuring the Student Business Development Lab
- Commercial activities featuring Venture Creations
- Programs that integrate both off-campus and academic initiatives

"Students will have a chance to see start-up companies up close. They will

Simone Center, page 4

Brick City ticket information

Tickets for the following events can be purchased at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center box office.

- Rihanna, 8 p.m., Oct. 5
  $16 for RIT students, $25 for faculty, staff, $30 for the public
- Steve Wozniak, 2 p.m., Oct. 6
  $8 for RIT students, $12 for parents, alumni, faculty, staff and guests
- Howie Mandel, 8 p.m., Oct. 6
  $17 for RIT students, $35 for parents, alumni, faculty, staff and guests

For more information, visit www.rit.edu/brickcity.

RIT students get down and dirty for a good cause

The ground had a distinct 'squish', slowly giving way, pressing and squeezing into every open space between, up and over bare toes with each step. Like thunder rolling in the distance, the commotion of the festivities penetrated the deep, methodic cadence of jersey-clad warriors—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 days' 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-caked students continued to play games and wrestle in the mud. ■

Brandon Borgna | bmb9935@rit.edu

Elizabeth Lamark | photographer

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.

News briefs

Entrepreneurs conference

Learn how experienced entrepreneurs create ventures in such 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 digital technologies have created new industries and changed the nature of competition among industries.

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 RIT President Bill Destler, and the luncheon speaker is Silicon Valley entrepreneur David Sifry, 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 (excluding luncheon and keynote address, which ranges from $7 to $10). Registration is available at 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 Film and Video," by Garrett Johnson, from Cell Phone Apple, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 in the Carlson auditorium.
- "R&D Activities at NASA Langley in Support of the Space Shuttle, the Mars Science Laboratory and Atmospheric Science," by Michael Gazarik from NASA Langley, 4 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Carlson auditorium.

For more information, contact Mitchell Rosen at rosen@cis.rit.edu or 475-7691.

Acclaimed author to speak

Journalist and writer Patricia J. Williams will present "Conjoined Identities and the Corporatized Body" at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building. A colloquium on Patricia Williams will be held at 4:15 p.m. in the B. Thomas Golisano auditorium. Williams, the James L. Rohr Professor of Law at Columbia University, is a critical theorist of race, class, gender and feminist jurisprudence in her books and column, "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/~cwg.

Award nominations due

Nominations are due Nov. 2 for the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award. Nomination forms can be found at www.rit.edu/gcr. Created by RIT Vice President Emeritus Alfred Davis, the award is presented annually to a member of the RIT faculty or staff whose public service and commitment mirrors that of the four presidents Davis worked with in his 67-year association with RIT. The award will also be presented along with the Bruce R. James Distinguished Public Service Award, presented to an RIT student for exemplary public service. This year's awards will be presented March 18.

Mystery novel hits close to home

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

RIT's associate vice president of student affairs debuted 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. "So, 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 novel. He would wake up early, often before 5 a.m., to write. Boice-Pardee then began shopping the completed manuscript to several publishing houses, but to no avail.

Finally, about a year ago, Boice-Pardee received a letter that was forwarded from his previous address in New Jersey. It was from Wind Storm Creative, a publisher based in Washington state. Windstorm Creative had been looking for a mystery series and wanted Boice-Pardee to author it. It accepted his first book, and contracted him for two more.

Missing Persons 101 is based in Westmire Shores, a college town on the New Jersey seashore. Readers follow Doug Carter-Conners, dean of students at Westmire 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 just completed this summer, will have a distinct RIT feel. Some of the characters may sound a bit familiar to many in the RIT community. Boice-Pardee says some will be obviously based on people from RIT, such as Mary-Grace Cooper, a vice president for student affairs at an upstate New York university. (RIT's vice president for student affairs is Mary-Beth Cooper). Others will be much more subtle.

"Some will know that a character has been based on them," Boice-Pardee says. "Others might wonder."

Not to worry, however, Boice-Pardee only plans to base characters on those he admires.

"I would never base a character on someone who I didn't like," he says. "I do it as kind of a tribute to these people."

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

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Associate Vice President Heath Boice-Pardee is the author of the murder mystery Missing Persons 101, *which is set on a college campus. The novel blends two of Boice-Pardee's passions: creative writing and student affairs.*

Conference talk links politics, Web

Paul Ferber

Paul Ferber, chair of the political science department, was featured on a discussion panel at the National Association of Legislative Information conference, held in Boston in August.

Throughout the two-hour panel, entitled "Interactive Technologies," Ferber discussed the role of interactive communication technology and its impact on the political environment and in increasing civic engagement at the state level. The presentation was part of research conducted in collaboration with Rudy Pugliese, RIT communication professor, and Franz Foltz, RIT associate professor of science, technology and society.

Since 2002, the three colleagues have worked together to study each state's political Web sites and the ways in which the sites' interactive devices engage participants through a two-way exchange. In addition to being presented at the conference, their research has been featured in eight academic and political publications.

"Our research has always been a team concept," says Ferber. "Our studies wouldn't have been possible without using a multidisciplinary approach." ■

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Students in Stephanie Cole's Foundation classes explored themes of The World of Conflict. Cole will present the boundary-exploring project at a conference in Dublin this month. Images in the above detail were created by Valerie Bizzaro and Kristina Brugnoni.

Project explores notion of academic space

A yearlong student project that explored "The World of Conflict" through an interdisciplinary, 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 Kirschen Cole will share insights and a video about the project that began in her 2D Design Foundation classes in 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.

Cole is one of four 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 Academic Spaces," organized by Mary Lynn Broe, Caroline Werner Gannett Professor of Humanities. In addition to Cole and Broe, the panel will include Guy Johnson, director of the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyber Infrastructure in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, and Karen Kinslow, a graduate student in human geography at the University of Kentucky.

The World of Conflict project involved 60 first-year students from Cole's Foundation classes who explored issues involving the environment, big business, war, sex, drugs and music, domestic abuse and animal cruelty.

The students created a five-part, panoramic multi-projection show that included narration, poetry, collage and animation and was projected in motion, 10 feet by 75 feet, across the College of Science auditorium wall last spring. The collage includes 55 different compositions and measures 80 feet long.

Students from English professor John Roche's poetry classes wrote poetry for the project. Roche and Broe also contributed original poetry. College of Science Dean Ian Gatley helped facilitate the project, and Tim Stephaney and Mitch Rosen from the College of Science provided technical expertise on using Watchout technology and the corresponding multiple projection software Dataton.

"This project illustrates the notion of an expansive classroom that works on multiple collaborative and interdisciplinary levels from the individual classroom to the whole university," Cole 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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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/Dia de los Muertos,* Denis Defibaugh, photography professor in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, documents his photographic vision through the people and their rituals as they honor family members who have died.

Defibaugh will hold a lecture and book signing at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, as part of its "Wish You Were Here" Travel Photography Lecture Series. He will host a second book signing at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford at 7 p.m. Nov. 10.

Defibaugh's interest in the Day of the Dead began in 1993 when he received a Fulbright/Hayes Fellowship for Mexico and met author/historian Ward Albro. Over the past decade, Defibaugh and Albro, professor emeritus at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, have been welcomed into people's homes and taken part in the public festivals. The Day of the Dead holiday, All Soul's 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 Defibaugh's photography, Albro writes an essay about the background of the beliefs and practices of the Dia de los Muertos observance.

"The response to the book has been overwhelmingly positive," says Defibaugh. "I'm very proud of it. Some of the people of Oaxaca were initially hesitant about me photographing them, especially at the festival in the cemetery. On my subsequent visits, I would give each person a copy of their photograph, and it would change the entire situation. People would line up to have me photograph them. The whole idea of giving photos back to people opens up a dialogue because they feel they are part of the whole experience. That's reflected in the book."

The book is available online at www.tamu.edu/upress, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and borders.com.

Many of Defibaugh's photographs in the book have been part of a solo exhibition, "Family Ties Do Not Die, The Day of the Dead," that has traveled to Miami, San Francisco, Montana, Niagara University's Castellani Art Museum and various city museums in Texas. ■

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Submitted by Denis Defibaugh

Cover photo from Defibaugh's book, The Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos.

Research addresses parks energy conservation issues

An idea Jamie Winebrake 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 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 $15,000.

"The goal is to improve the environmental quality of national parks, reduce energy bills and to educate future energy professionals," says Winebrake, professor and chair of RIT's science, technology and society/public policy department in the College of Liberal Arts.

Winebrake recently won 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 nation's parks are absolute gems," he says. "Yet, 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."

Jamie Winebrake

Improving energy efficiency at national parks conserves natural 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 from 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 Parks 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," Winebrake says. "They will be coming to us to try to learn to effectively implement sustainability at national parks." ■

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Game on!

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Nick Dziedzic, Billy Teng, Andrew Williams and David Huynh, left to right, were among the 400 RIT students who enjoyed playing video games at Game Day, hosted by RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, Sept. 20. The day's activities included non-tournament and tournament play. All the games were created by RIT students.

Recognizing CBET's contribution to our bio economy

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

*Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, center, accompanied by New York state senators Joe Robach, far left, and Jim Alesi, second from left, toured RIT's Center for Bioscience Education and Technology Sept. 18, along with President Bill Destler, second from right, and CBET Director Douglas Merrill. The facility was made possible with $8 million in state funding, including $4 million from the Senate's Gen*NY*sis program. Bruno noted the contributions that CBET is already making to the growing bio economy and spoke with faculty members and students about how the facility has enhanced programs.*

New help for deaf students outside of the classroom

The National Science Foundation's Research in Disability Education program has awarded NTID a grant of $300,000 to develop a remote transcription technology to assist deaf students—providing them access to spoken information when on field trips or in other settings outside the classroom.

NTID's Michael Stinson and his team, whose members include researchers from NTID, the College of Science and the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, will use the grant for their project, "Supporting Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Undergraduate Students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Field Settings with Remote Speech-to-Text Services."

The researchers will develop a remote speech-to-text assistive technology that allows individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including those with low vision, to view real-time transcription in remote/non-traditional settings via a handheld device, such as a cell phone or PDA.

"This new technology will provide access to spoken information for students in situations in which it is currently difficult to provide access, such as field trips for science classes and other learning experiences in which students are mobile," says Stinson.

The project will also evaluate the extent to which remote speech-to-text services aid students' communication access and learning in these non-traditional learning environments.

The team for this project has already been developing, researching and disseminating the C-Print® speech-to-text system, a widely used support service for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, for more than 15 years. This next generation of C-Print technology allows for the delivery of information to students wirelessly in a variety of remote settings, thus allowing them the same access to information as their hearing peers. ■

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Bond heads research services

David Bond

David Bond has been named the new director of RIT's Sponsored Research Services. He previously served as the department's associate director and was in charge of proposal development and identification of future funding opportunities. Prior to coming to RIT, Bond spent six years with the Center for Governmental Research where he was as a senior analyst, focusing on health, education and fiscal policy.

"David has done a tremendous job as associate director and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position," says Donald Boyd, RIT 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 promoting 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 expertise to the 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 Institute 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.

"RIT is in 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 research." ■

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Saunders College reaches out to start-up ventures

There's a new program for businesses that will have a positive impact on employment in the Rochester area.

The E. Philip Saunders College of Business and Finger Lakes Wired announce the establishment of an innovative new 10-week program, 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 companies, is designed to analyze market opportunities and develop a strategic growth and customized-implementation plan for each business.

The Strategic Growth program in the Saunders College is sponsored by Finger Lakes Wired, which is working with RIT and other partners to increase entrepreneurship and innovation and expand advance 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 commercialize technology," says Richard DeMartino, RIT associate professor of management and director of the Albert J. Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"One of the characteristics 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 realization 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.ritemba.com. ■

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News briefs

Kaleidoscope concert

The RIT music program will present a Kaleidoscope concert for Brick City Homecoming 3:30-5:30 p.m. Oct. 6 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. The concert will feature the RIT Singers, RIT Concert Band, RIT Jazz Ensemble, Eight Beat Measure, Encore, Surround Sound and Brick City Singers. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Peggy Noll at 475-6095.

Global pandemic talk

Best-selling author Steven Johnson will give a talk about *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World* 4 p.m. Oct. 11, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

The Ghost Map tells the story of the cholera epidemic in 1854 London. Johnson recounts the race by Dr. John Snow and Rev. Henry Whitehead to trace the spread of disease, saving lives by risking their own, and changing the scientific community's beliefs about contagions. *The Ghost Map* also questions the fate of modern cities in a world in which the threat of global pandemic is just around the corner.

First-year students read Johnson's historical account as the Institute Common Text, a new summer reading program for RIT's incoming first-year students. Other events throughout the academic year, including contests and movies, will revolve around this shared reading experience.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Elizabeth Mazzolini at eamgsl@rit.edu.

Campus poetry readings

Poets Sean Thomas Dougherty and Dorianne Laux will visit RIT for separate readings this month. Dougherty will read his work at 4 p.m. Oct. 17 in the College of Liberal Arts, room 1251. Laux will give her reading at 3 p.m. Oct.19 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. Her reading is in connection with the third annual Rochesterink Festival. Dougherty's visit is sponsored by the English department, *Signatures* magazine, and a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by Poets & Writers Inc. Laux's visit is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the Women's Center, the English department and *Signatures* magazine, in addition to funding from the Just Poets organization, sponsors of the Rochesterink Festival. Visit www.rochesterink.net/ for more information about the festival.

New CIAS appointments

There is a new administrative chair appointment in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Malcolm Spaull has been named the chair of the School of Film and Animation. Spaull served as acting chair during the 2006-2007 academic year. Howard Lester, long-time chair of the school, has assumed the role of graduate coordinator for the master of fine arts film program.

Success—one scoop at a time

Elizabeth Lamark | photographer

Jerry Greenfield, left, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's, visited RIT's Scoop Shop Sept. 14. Students, faculty and staff lined up to meet Greenfield, get his autograph and enjoy some of his ice cream. At one point, the line stretched outside the Student Alumni Union doors. RIT's Ben & Jerry's shop, located in the lobby of the Student Alumni Union, opened on Feb. 14, 2002.

news&events www.rit.edu/newsevents October 4, 2007 | Volume 40 | Number 3

Produced by University News Services, Building 86,
132 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623
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Dateline: RIT www.rit.edu/news/dateline
Podcasts www.rit.edu/news/podcasts
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Technology partnership will have profound effect on semiconductor industry

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Professors Sean Rommel, left, and Santosh Kurinec, far right, discuss the Amberwave project with their student research team.

RIT and AmberWave Systems, a leader in the research, development and licensing of advanced technologies 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, an initial development 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 photonics to improved photovoltaic cells. In the case of silicon photonics, ART could allow manufacturers to combine different materials onto a silicon base, forming chips that use light pulses to carry data, similar to fiber optic technology. The result is increased speed of data transmission which would be much faster than today's current systems allow.

"This award plays on the value of industry and university collaboration and the demonstrated strengths of AmberWave in the area of epitaxial thin film 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 due to 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 Kurinec, Sean Rommel and Karl Hirschman of RIT's Department of Microelectronic Engineering and student researchers, including Stuart Sieg, Raymond Krom and David Pawlik.

IBM, following collaborative research in strain silicon technology conducted by Kurinec, first introduced AmberWave Systems to RIT's semiconductor development efforts in 2003. Since then, AmberWave and RIT have worked closely on several projects and the company also provides highly valuable strained silicon wafers for use in several student research projects. ■

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Simone Center *from page 1*

see all the difficulties and challenges," says Donald Boyd, RIT vice president for research. "It made sense to put Dr. Simone's name with this center. He pushed hard to see this combination of students and start-up companies learning from each other. It falls into the Category-of-One concept, that we can do things differently than other business incubators."

"How are we unique? Our advantage is that we are leveraging both teaching and creativity to create experiential events for our students," says Richard DeMartino, associate professor of management in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business, who serves as director of academic and campus based programs within the center. "Sure, we would love to see the students create successful businesses. But our larger goal is to give the students a real-life business experience.

"They will learn the process of commercializing technology through businesses. RIT will provide a map to guide future entrepreneurs through the complex process of product commercialization. The program is designed to provide a unique applied experience to students seeking to gain learning in entrepreneurship and product commercialization."

DeMartino says more than 200 students per year provide some form of support to the incubator companies or student business teams, mostly marketing and strategy reports.

One area where DeMartino sees a distinct RIT advantage is building entrepreneurship in digital-related products and services. Jorsek fits into this niche. Through strategic partnerships and consulting, Jorsek will be marketing their product to businesses seeking a powerful Web presence or company intranet applications.

And thanks to having offices in Venture Creations, Bosek and Jordan have also done some Web consulting for Cerion Energy. Cerion, a startup company that recently hatched from the incubator, makes a product that makes diesel fuel burn more cleanly and efficiently.

It is this type of collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit that excites Boyd and DeMartino. They also see the center as an important asset to the Rochester community. "We need to promote entrepreneurship with the technical strengths of the Rochester community," says DeMartino.

For information, visit http://entrepreneurship.rit.edu. ■

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Dominican president *from page 1*

The Dominican delegation included Eddie Martinez, minister of state, and Radhamés Mejía, executive vice rector, Pontificia Universidad Catolica 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 Integrated Manufacturing Studies. The presidential team also met with Dominican students.

In 1996, RIT joined Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, N.Y., and PUCMM in Global Connections, an educational partnership program. In 2006, RIT and PUCMM established the International Center for Innovation in Technology and Management. The initiative is designed to provide support and build capacity in the Dominican Republic in the areas of technological infrastructure, human resource development, collaborative research, and innovation in the manufacturing and service sectors.

In 2007, the Dominican government significantly supported the partnerships through the International Center for Innovation in Technology and Management to support the government agenda to increase competitiveness of the country. RIT initiatives in the Dominican Republic also include enhancing cyber-infrastructure, innovation in manufacturing, and international business development. ■

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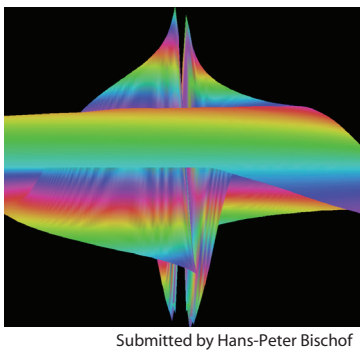
A. Sue Weisler | photographer

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

RIT scientists discover rippling gravity waves



Submitted by Hans-Peter Bischof

Colliding black holes create gravity waves.

A group of RIT scientists are at the forefront in the hunt for gravity waves, a competitive, computational quest that relies on simulating collisions of black holes on specialized computers. The gravitational pull of black holes and subsequent collision results in waves crashing and rippling outward across the galaxy.

The accompanying image created by Hans-Peter Bischof, associate professor of computer science, shows gravitational waves generated when two black holes merge. The image is based on data from RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant to build a new computer cluster. Scientists at the center are producing groundbreaking research in computational astrophysics and numerical relativity, a research field dedicated to proving Einstein's theory of general relativity. Manuela Campanelli is the principal investigator on the NSF grant; co-PIs are Carlos Lousto, David Merritt and Yosef Zlochower. Campanelli, Lousto and Zlochower are faculty of the School of Mathematical Sciences. Merritt is a professor in the physics department. ■

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