R·I·T news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

November 15, 2007

Inauguration celebrates RIT's legacy of leaders

Bill Destler installed as ninth president during campus event

The legacy of RIT presidents runs deep from Carleton Gibson to Albert Simone. Now the leadership torch is in the hands of Bill Destler, who was installed as RIT's ninth president Friday at an inauguration ceremony in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Nearly 2,000 spectators, including more than 40 college and university leaders from throughout the nation, attended the event.

"Bill Destler is a superb choice for the presidency of Rochester Institute of Technology," said Cornell University President David Skorton, keynote speaker. "He is a 'Category of One' president equal to the task of making RIT the 'Category of One' university it is posed to be. He brings to this new role extensive experience in higher education, profound commitment to the future of this institution, and a cluster of ideas for RIT's future that are sound, far-sighted, and indeed essential."

RIT mourns the loss of two students in a tragic fire, *page 4*

Destler was officially installed as president by Michael Morley '69 (business administration), chairman of the RIT Board of Trustees; Christine Whitman, vice chair; and Donald Boyce '67 (business administration), chair of the presidential search committee.

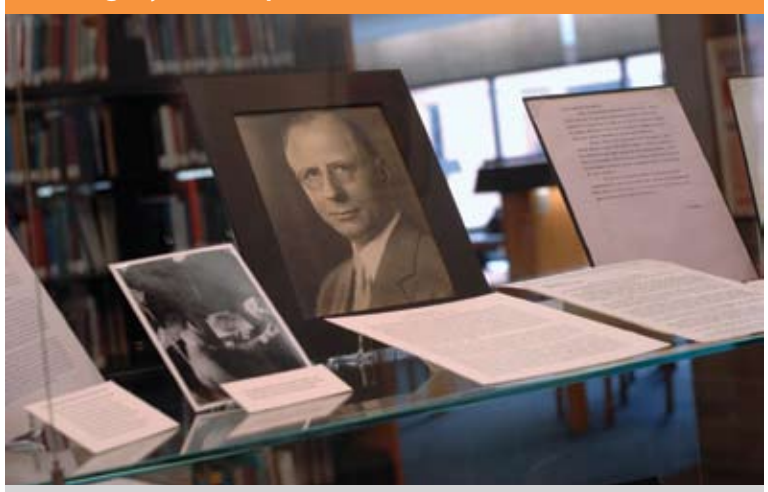
Destler inauguration, page 4

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Left: RIT President Bill Destler receives the presidential collar of authority from RIT Board of Trustees members Christine Whitman and Donald Boyce during the inauguration of Destler as RIT's ninth president on Nov. 9 in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Right: Cornell President David Skorton gave the keynote address during the inauguration ceremony.

The legacy of RIT's presidents comes to life



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

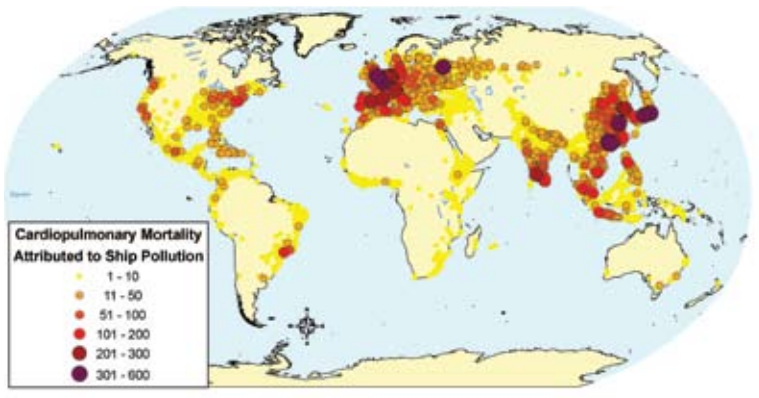
The images and memorabilia shown above are part of the latest exhibit at the RIT Museum located on the third floor of Wallace Library. RIT Presidents: A Legacy of Leadership, installed to coincide with President Bill Destler's inauguration, looks at the nine presidents of RIT using photographs and documents to give a look at their lives and what they have accomplished. The exhibit runs until March 7.

RIT researcher studies deaths caused by marine emissions

Pollution from marine shipping causes approximately 60,000 premature cardiopulmonary and lung-cancer deaths around the world each year, according to a report scheduled to appear in the Dec. 15 issue of *Environmental Science and Technology*, the journal of the American Chemical Society.

The report benchmarks for the first time the number of annual deaths caused globally by pollution from marine vessels, with coastal regions in Asia and Europe the most affected.

Conducted by James Corbett of University of Delaware and James Winebrake from RIT, the study correlates the global distribution of particulate matter—black carbon, sulfur, nitrogen and organic particles—released from ships' smoke stacks with heart disease and lung cancer mortalities in adults. The results indicate that approximately 60,000 people die prematurely around the world each year from shipping-related emissions. Under current regulation, and with the expected growth in shipping activity, the authors estimate the annual mortalities from ship emissions could increase by 40 percent by 2012.



The above map shows cardiopulmonary mortality attributable to ship emissions worldwide. The figure illustrates research findings posted on the Environmental Science and Technology Web site, http://pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag.

Corbett and Winebrake's results come in the midst of current discussions by the International Maritime Organization to regulate emissions from ships.

"This study will help inform policymakers about some of the health impacts associated with ship emissions, and the long-range transport of those emissions to population centers," says Winebrake, chair of the Department of Science, Technology and Society/Public Policy. "We now have a benchmark by which we can begin to evaluate the benefits of emission-reduction policies."

Annual deaths related to shipping emissions in Europe are estimated at 26,710, while the mortality rate is 19,870 in East Asia and 9,950 in South Asia. North America has approximately 5,000 premature deaths, concentrated mostly in the Gulf

Marine emissions, page 4

Student Spotlight

Engineering student re-examines a career in the classroom

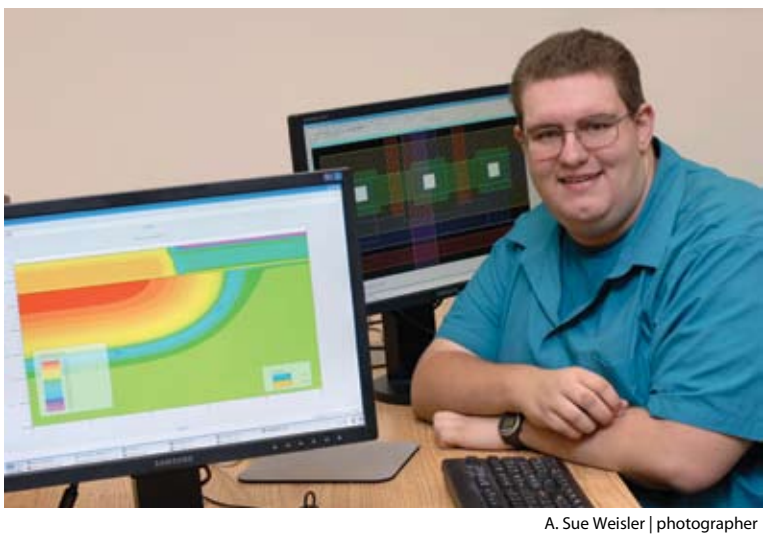
Webster's definition of education is "knowledge acquired by learning and instruction."

That description has taken on new meaning for RIT student Nathaniel Kane, thanks to an innovative co-op assignment that allowed him to enhance his own learning while bringing knowledge to others. Kane, a fifth-year microelectronic engineering major in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, completed a service-learning assignment last spring with Irondequoit High School, where he served as an assistant to physics teacher Thomas Schulte.

Working in senior physics and advanced-placement courses, Kane helped Schulte develop course curriculum, assisted in class lectures and tutored students who needed additional instruction. Kane also used his microelectronics experience to set up several labs for use by the class, including testing of a diode and resistor to illustrate the current-voltage characteristic of the devices. The experience was an excellent opportunity for Kane to apply his own learning experiences in a real-world setting, while also opening up new ideas for his future career path.

"I had never really considered education as a potential profession," Kane notes. "But I got a lot out of transferring my enthusiasm for a topic to the students and assisting them in furthering their own knowl-

Student Spotlight, page 4



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Nate Kane was pleased to share his engineering expertise with students at Irondequoit High School. His experience at the school has caused him to reconsider a career in education.

In the community

Library staff, athletes spend time at School #5, *page 2*

Student projects

Computer engineers showcase their creativity, *page 2*

Scholarship *and* Research

Latest black holes research lands RIT scientists in national publication, *page 2*

Sports update

RIT Tigers wrap up successful fall season, *page 4*

News briefs

Second Life coursework

Cyberspace has become Second Life to thousands of people who literally work at leading imaginary lives. Some even make a good living at it—and big advertisers are taking notice.

In touch with virtual reality are Professors Neil Hair (E. Philip Saunders College of Business) and Sue Barnes (College of Liberal Arts) who will teach a state-of-the-art class in Online Advertising during winter quarter. Interested students will learn how to advertise organizations and themselves in virtual space with a special focus on Second Life. For information, contact neilhair@hotmail.com.

Systems symposium

RIT's Department of Computer Engineering and Freescale Semiconductor are hosting the second annual embed systems symposium 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 28 in the Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason Building. The event includes presentations in the areas of CPU architecture, system debugging and user-interface development and features researchers from academia, industry and government. There will also be a special exhibition for students, including technology demonstrations and a design competition. For information, contact Kenneth Hsu at kweheec@rit.edu.

New gallery exhibit

John Retallack, chair of the visual media program and assistant professor in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, and Jill Kepler '04 (MFA), assistant professor of graphic design at Roberts Wesleyan College, are exhibiting their work at Finger Lakes Community College. The exhibit, Working Hands: A Confluence of Artists, is of Retallack's photography and Kepler's advertising and book designs. Retallack's portraits, "Colleagues," featuring many RIT faces, is also part of the exhibit. The show is in The Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34 at FLCC through Nov. 30.

Outspoken against war

Gen. John Batiste will present "Reflections on Iraq" 4 p.m. Dec. 5 in Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason Building. Batiste commanded the First U.S. Infantry Division in Iraq. He retired from the Army in order to speak out against the war. The event is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts Honors Program and the Department of Political Science. For interpreting services, contact Dian Miller at 475-2929 or dcm2021@rit.edu.

Sustainability courses

RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability will be offering two special-topics graduate courses during winter quarter. Fundamentals of Sustainability Science will introduce the concepts of ecological economics, ecosystem health and social ecology, which are essential to understanding the interactions between business, government and the environment. Industrial Ecology will examine the interaction between industrial and ecological systems. For more information, contact Thomas Seager at 475-2414 or Thomas.Seager@rit.edu.

Library staff, athletes lend a hand to School #5

For Julia Lisuzzo, 'TGIF' means more than just anticipating the upcoming weekend. Every Friday, Lisuzzo, seven of her colleagues at RIT's Wallace Library and six RIT student athletes look forward to volunteering at Rochester City School District's John Williams School. They're all part of a new partnership among Wallace Library, RIT Athletics and the elementary school, thanks, in part, to a grant from RIT's Division of Student Affairs. Other funds are being provided by the athletics department and Wallace Library. The program has helped to promote literacy and stress the importance and viability of a college education.

Lisuzzo, manager of administrative operations at Wallace Library, leaves campus every Friday morning with the other volunteers and devotes her morning to working with children in 14 classrooms on reading and math—or whatever assistance the teachers need at the moment.

Lisuzzo mentions that she is amazed by the sense of multiculturalism that is apparent when she and the other volunteers walk through the hallways. Some students come to school dressed in traditional South African clothing, for example. Lisuzzo says that it's like walking into an international festival every Friday.

"These children collectively speak more than 40 different languages, so it's hard for their teachers to work with them one-on-one to meet all of their reading needs," says Lisuzzo. "This school really has some unusual needs. In fact, they have an influx of refugees each spring. We're just happy to provide any support that we can."

The RIT staff and student volunteers plan to continue the partnership through the end of the school year—and beyond. The ultimate goal of the project is to promote literacy and the understanding of the importance of a college education. The presence of RIT student athletes in the classrooms serves a dual purpose. Not only do the youngsters get the attention they need from volunteers, they can ask questions about college from those who know it best—RIT students. The children at School #5 will also have the opportunity to take a field trip to RIT this spring to get a real taste of the college environment.

"Many of these students don't realize that college is a viable option for their futures. We hope to show them that education can make a difference and attaining a college degree is possible."

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Nine-year-old students Kenneth Cruz and Sara Perez, from Rochester's School #5, get extra help from Julia Lisuzzo as part of a partnership between Wallace Library and the elementary school.

The school's population has a poverty rate of 91 percent. For this reason, the Wallace Library staff is coordinating the "adoption" of the fifth grade for the holiday season and is asking RIT employees to donate a gift, or sponsor a child, so that each of the 80 children will have something to open during the holidays. The children need basic items—pillows, toothbrushes, combs, hats, gloves and scarves, among other things.

"It's an amazing feeling to know that we can help make a difference in a child's life," adds Lisuzzo.

To help in the gift-giving effort, contact Lisuzzo at 475-2363. ■

Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

RIT scientists' discovery featured in *Nature*

A group of RIT scientists has confirmed for the first time that supermassive black holes can produce powerful winds that shape their surrounding galaxy and regulate their own growth.

RIT physicists Stuart Young, David Axon and Andrew Robinson and colleagues at the University of Hertfordshire recently reported their findings in the Nov. 1 issue of *Nature*.

A specialized technique called polarimetry made it possible for the scientists to analyze the polarized light from active galactic nuclei (in this case, quasars) and to trace the gas launching vertically from the disk of gas (the quasar's "engine") surrounding the black hole.

A quasar—an extremely powerful source of radiation—is an active galactic nucleus found in some galaxies. Gas flowing into a supermassive black hole first accumulates in the quasar's rapidly spinning accretion disk.

"Gas flowing in from the galaxy 'fuels' the quasar," says Robinson, associate professor of physics. "Gas flowing out from the quasar regulates black-hole growth and galaxy formation."

Young, lead author of the paper "The Rotating Wind of the Quasar PG 1700+518," adds, "Our work suggests that the disk removes some of its excess angular momentum by launching a wind, so allowing accretion to happen in the first place to produce the quasar and allow the black hole to grow."

The RIT team studied the winds of gas coming off the quasar PG 1700+518, located in a galaxy approximately 3 billion light-years from Earth. Robinson obtained the data using the William Herschel Telescope on the Canary Islands.

Previous studies have pointed to the critical role winds play in the early or active phase of a galaxy, when a growing supermassive black hole draws in gas from the surrounding cloud and shines brighter than all of the stars in a galaxy.

"It has long been thought that such winds are launched from the accretion disk but, until now, this idea has been based on purely theoretical arguments," says Axon, professor and head of the physics department at RIT.

This was the second time *Nature* has published the work of RIT professors. In 2004, the journal ran a paper by RIT scientists Joel Kastner and Michael Richmond about the young star that illuminates McNeil's nebula in the constellation of Orion. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

No match for a pinball wizard

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Computer engineering students presented their design projects to fellow students and RIT faculty during the department's quarterly showcase Nov. 1. Harvey Palmer, left, dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, tested the digital-simulated pinball machine during his tour of the displays. Roy Czernikowski, professor of computer engineering, and students look on.

Women's Center grand re-opening

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT's Women's Center formally opened its new space during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 8. The Women's Center, located in the lower level of the Student Alumni Union in room A510, is designed to foster an educational environment in which women can be personally, academically and professionally successful. Honorary ribbon cutters were, pictured from left, Denise Herrera, Student Government's women's senator, Rebecca Johnson, associate of the university, Tom Hildebrandt, a representative of the Davenport Hatch Foundation, and Donna Rubin, director of the Women's Center.

NTID partners with Sprint for youth outreach programs

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the country in grades six through nine will benefit from a three-year $150,000 commitment by the Sprint Foundation to the new Reaching Out to Rising Stars initiative, involving two RIT/NTID programs, Steps to Success and MATHCOUNTS.

Steps to Success is a summer program for deaf and hard-of-hearing middle-school African American, Latino American and Native American students and their parents, emphasizing academic preparation and career possibilities.

MATHCOUNTS is a national competition designed to motivate middle-school children to achieve in the area of math and enrich their math skills development.

Reaching Out to Rising Stars will enhance both Steps to Success and MATHCOUNTS through a new distance-learning component using technology in RIT/NTID's Sprint Experimental Distance Learning/Access Demonstration Lab. The lab was created in the former NTID Learning Center Smart Classroom through a prior $50,000 grant from the Sprint Foundation. The Reaching Out to Rising Stars distance-learning initiative will include video conferencing and support for parents of Steps participants, MATHCOUNTS coaches and others.

"The Sprint Foundation is proud to support RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf," says Ralph Reid, executive director of the Sprint Foundation and vice president for corporate social responsibility. "Sprint's commitment to children doesn't stop at traditional education, but extends to all children regardless of race, religion or physical challenge. It is our hope that the support of the Sprint Foundation provides the necessary means by which these middle-school children will find their paths to success."

"We are grateful to the Sprint Foundation and their continued commitment to helping RIT provide innovative educational opportunities to young deaf and hard-of-hearing students," says Alan Hurwitz, RIT vice president for NTID and CEO/dean of NTID. "By showing middle-school children throughout the country that they can achieve and succeed, we open new doors of possibilities for them and their families. We thank the Sprint Foundation for sharing this vision and for partnering with us to make it happen." ■

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RIT professor is master puzzle solver

Zack Butler received a big clue about his future when he got a voicemail message from Will Shortz in 1995. Shortz may not be a recognizable name to everyone, but in puzzle circles, *The New York Times* crosswords puzzle editor is a legend.

"Will was captain of the U.S. Puzzle Team," says Butler, an RIT computer science professor. "He handpicked me to be one of the four members to represent the U.S. He was calling to confirm my plane reservations to Romania to compete in the World Finals."

The U.S. team won that year and Butler finished fourth in the individual competition. This past October in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Butler and the other members of the U.S. team pulled it out again, earning its tenth team world title championship. The types of puzzles the teams solve range from Sudoku to mazes to visual logic puzzles.

From as far back as he can remember, Butler has been solving all kinds of puzzles. His mother competes every year in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and Butler accompanied her when he was 14.

"I remember I didn't do very well in the crossword portion. We also did some word-play puzzles. I beat out almost everyone in the room. I was surprised."

Butler's skills at solving crosswords puzzles have greatly improved since he was a teenager. Out of a field of 400 crossword contenders, Butler finished in second place in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 2002.

"I was fast and I didn't make any mistakes."

It's customary practice for the top three players to finish the final round up on stage. Using large whiteboards, they solve the puzzles in front of a live audience.

"Each player wears headphones because while we are trying to complete the puzzles, announcers do play-by-play. 'Butler is going for the row in the bottom left hand corner.' It's pretty cool."

Butler is also a practicing cruciverbalist (one who writes crossword puzzles). It's a sure bet he's stumped a subscriber or two of *The New York Times*.

"Several of my crosswords have been published in the Tuesday and Thursday editions of the *Times*. Constructing crosswords helps me solve them faster. I write puzzles for the process because I think it's fun."

He likes to give his crosswords as gifts, with his wife and students often the receivers of his entries.

"I taught a robotics course in the spring and my students would come to class working on crossword puzzles, so I decided to write one for them with a robotics theme. My students know I'm the puzzle guy." ■

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Zack Butler, RIT assistant professor of computer science, has enjoyed great success as a member of the U.S. Puzzle Team.

New head for North Star Center

There's a new face running RIT's North Star Center for Academic Success and Cultural Affairs. Sean Bennett, formerly the associate vice president for diversity at Clarkson University, became the center's director this summer.

Sean Bennett

Bennett says the challenge of running the North Star Center was something that he found instantly attractive.

"I find the North Star Center to be as engaging as anything I've ever seen," he says. "The concept of effectively bridging academic support for students with the traditional cultural support is not something that you see a lot of other places doing."

Bennett and his team have set their sites on closing the gap between RIT's retention rate of African, Latino, Asian and Native American students and its overall student retention rate.

"What we want to do as a center, is to close that gap both socially and academically," Bennett says. "We want to offer quality programming, quality mentoring and make a quality effort to get students connected with the various tutoring, advising and professional development opportunities that are available at RIT."

Bennett, who was born in Rochester and graduated from Wilson Magnet High School, graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in engineering before earning a master's degree in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University. ■

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NTID receives $95K to host national summit

E. William Clymer

E. William Clymer, associate director of NTID's Center on Access Technology, has been awarded a $95,188 grant from the National Science Foundation's Office of Cyberinfrastructure for a Summit to Create a Cyber-Community to Advance Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Attending the summit will be 50 leaders in the field of support-service provision for postsecondary deaf and hard-of-hearing students from across the United States. The primary outcome of this conference will be a report on the current state of online remote interpreting and captioning for deaf and hard-of-hearing STEM students. Additionally, the principals will prepare a recommendation report specifying the characteristics of a multimedia cyberinfrastructure to provide remote communication support for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in mainstream STEM classrooms.

The three-day conference, scheduled for June 26-28, is timed to follow the 2008 International Symposium on Educational Technology and Education of the Deaf, scheduled for June 23-25 at RIT. Visit www.rit.edu/~techsym for symposium information.

"Leading the way in innovative technological teaching methods for deaf and hard-of-hearing students is at the core of NTID's mission," says Alan Hurwitz, RIT vice president for NTID and CEO/dean of NTID. "It's very exciting to be working with colleagues throughout the campus and around the country to benefit student learning."

Jorge Díaz-Herrera, dean of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, is co-principal investigator on the project. James DeCaro, former NTID dean and current director of both the Center on Access Technology and Postsecondary Education Network-International, and Richard Ladner, Boeing Professor in Computer Science and Engineering in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and adjunct professor of electrical engineering and linguistics at the University of Washington, will also be key participants in the summit. ■

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Addressing financial aid and campus security

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Members of the New York State Senate Higher Education Committee hosted an information forum Oct. 24 at RIT to gather comments and recommendations on issues related to New York state student financial-aid programs and campus security. Jim Watters, RIT senior vice president for finance and administration, far left, provided an overview of recent enhancements that RIT has made in the area of campus security, including the planned installation of a new rapid emergency alert system. The forum was led by Sen. Kenneth LaValle (R-Suffolk), center, who chairs the committee. He was joined by Sens. Jim Alesi (R-Fairport), second from left, and Joe Robach (R-Greece), second from right. Monroe Community College President Tom Flynn, far right, also participated in the panel. The committee will be using the information gathered at this forum and others to develop its legislative priorities for 2008.

Job fair brings potential employers to campus

Mark Benjamin | photographer

Nearly 300 students took advantage of the opportunity to connect with more than 100 employer representatives from 43 companies from all over the United States, including Bloomingdale's, JP Morgan Chase, Microsoft and the National Security Agency, at the annual NTID Job Fair Oct. 23. The event, which was NTID's largest job fair ever, was sponsored by the NTID Center on Employment in collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor.

McGuinness-Clarke leads University Publications

Colleen McGuinness-Clarke has been named the new director of RIT's University Publications. She has been interim director of the department for the past 18 months.

McGuinness-Clarke

She will direct operations and personnel for the office, which monitors university graphics standards and branding, publishes all marketing materials, designs numerous RIT publications and media, including the RIT Web site, and collaborates on the publication of *News & Events*, *RIT: The University Magazine* and NTID's *Focus* magazine.

McGuinness-Clarke previously served as the organization's art director and has been with the university for 19 years. She has also served as art director for the alumni magazine since its inception in 1999.

"I am very excited about this new opportunity and look forward to enhancing the services University Publications provides to the RIT community," McGuinness-Clarke says. "With the explosion of new media, this is an exciting time to be in publishing and design, and I hope to keep RIT at the forefront of the latest technology advances in the industry."

University Publications is a part of the Division of Enrollment Management and Career Services and also works closely with RIT's University News Services and NTID's Office of Marketing and Communications.

"Colleen is an excellent addition to the university's team of dedicated enrollment, marketing and communications professionals," notes James Miller, senior vice president for enrollment management and career services. "Her years of experience in the field and comprehensive knowledge of RIT make her the perfect person to lead University Publications and assist RIT in further promoting our educational mission locally, nationally and internationally."

McGuinness-Clarke received a bachelor's in fine arts in graphic design from RIT and is currently pursuing a master's degree in multidisciplinary studies. Prior to joining RIT, she worked as a graphic designer at the University of Rochester. ■

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Artistic development

Photo submitted by Eric Kerby

Therese Hannigan, left, RIT professor of new media design and imaging, offers feedback to a student artist during National Portfolio Day on Nov. 10. More than 400 student artists from high schools throughout Western New York converged on RIT for the free event. Representatives from the nation's top university art and design programs provided the students with feedback on their portfolios. More than 30 RIT professors from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences participated. Tours of the college were also given.

Marine emissions *from page 1*

Coast region, the West Coast and the Northeast, while the eastern coast of South America has 790 mortalities.

Ships run on residual oil, which has a sulfur content thousands of times greater than on-road diesel fuel. "Residual oil is a byproduct of the refinery process and tends to be much dirtier than other petroleum products," Winebrake says.

"We needed to know what the benefits are of cleaning up this fuel," he explains. "Now we can evaluate the human health impacts of policies to require low-sulfur fuels for the shipping industry or that require ships to put emissions-control technology on their vessels. Our study will help inform this policy debate."

Up until recently, researchers had little information with which to work; emissions data for marine vessels had to be linked with data tracking the movement of these vessels around the world. In their report, Corbett and Winebrake mapped marine pollution concentrations over the oceans and on land, estimating global and regional mortalities from ship emissions by integrating global ship inventories, atmospheric models and health impacts analyses.

The focus on long-term exposure to particulate matter in this study does not extend to impacts on children or other related health issues such as respiratory disease, asthma, hospital emissions and the economic impact of missed workdays and lost productivity.

This study was supported in part by the Oak Foundation, the German Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren and by the German Aerospace Center within the Young Investigators Group SeaKLIM. ■

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Teachers never stop learning

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Elementary and high-school teachers from across New York state participated in an educational outreach forum in the areas of microelectronics and nanotechnology Nov. 1 at RIT. The event was sponsored by the Department of Microelectronic Engineering and funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Jessica Schaffer became the first RIT women's volleyball player to record 600 kills and 600 digs in the same season.

RIT wraps up fall schedule

Several RIT athletic teams and individual athletes enjoyed successful campaigns during the 2007 fall season.

The volleyball team qualified for the NCAA tournament, making its first appearance since 1999. Women's soccer earned a post-season berth for the seventh straight season. The Tigers defeated rival University of Rochester for the first time in school history.

Senior Mark Frisicano finished his Tiger career with 26 goals, moving him into the top-10 all-time at RIT in that category.

Women's tennis team head coach Krystina Bachner led the team to nine wins and a berth in the Empire 8 Tournament.

Senior Andy Varble will represent the men's cross country squad at the 2007 NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships. The Tigers also won their fourth straight Empire 8 title. Juniors Jared Burdick and Peder Johnson recorded a handful of top-10 finishes during the season.

The women's cross country team, led by senior Adrienne Gagnier, showed improvement as the season progressed.

Both men's and women's crew programs had solid showings at many events, including the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass. ■

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The RIT community mourns the loss of two students

RIT reserved time during its inaugural celebration on Nov. 9 to acknowledge the lives of two students who died during a house fire earlier in the day.

Seth Policzer, a fourth-year computer engineering student from Parkland, Fla., and Syed Ali Turab, a fourth-year professional and technical communication student from New Milford, N.J., were remembered during a moment of silence. The pair died in a fire in the house they shared in Rochester.

A third student, Michael DiCocco, suffered serious injuries. At press time, DiCocco was in satisfactory condition at Strong Memorial Hospital.

In the opening to his inaugural address, President Destler expressed sadness over the incident. "Parents send their children to college so that they may have a better life. It is the world's most unimaginable tragedy when they send them to college and they do not come home."

Destler inauguration *from page 1*

Destler was formerly senior vice president for academic affairs and provost of the University of Maryland at College Park. He has a vision to take RIT to the next level by transforming it into the nation's first "innovation university."

Skorton described Destler, who earned a doctorate in the field of applied physics from Cornell, as a "distinguished researcher, educational innovator, seasoned and effective administrator and generous adviser." His speech touched on Destler's commitment to innovation, diversity, a greater cooperation with industry on research and development, and interdisciplinary cooperation to solve complex global problems.

"As Bill Destler rededicates himself today to the service of this university, so you must dedicate yourselves to working confidently and cooperatively with him toward the great future that RIT is poised to achieve," Skorton said.

In his inaugural address, Destler also encouraged the RIT community to take the university to the next level by capitalizing on its unusual strengths, including the "creative juices" of the student body.

"How do we encourage the development of their minds, their hearts and their souls in such a way that we ensure that the next generation of humans can grow and flourish on this planet? As we work to make RIT a real 'innovation university,' we will have to come up with good answers," Destler said.

Destler noted that RIT graduates are legendary for their ability to "hit the ground running" in their first jobs.

"But what if, in addition to these career-specific course offerings, RIT students had the experience of working on complex societal problems with students from different majors on teams in which each student brings his or her own discipline-specific knowledge to a cross-disciplinary effort to find real solutions? Isn't that the ideal way to get students thinking more generally about how they can make a contribution to humanity after they graduate? If we want to make RIT a real 'innovation university,' we will have to answer these questions as well."

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Howie Bursen and Sally Rogers, friends of President Destler from Cornell University, offered a surprise performance as a tribute to Destler's love of banjos.

Destler also noted that RIT is in an ideal position to become a low-cost "corporate R&D center" for U.S. businesses that are facing increasing global competition. "Why don't we fashion a new kind of industry-academia partnership at RIT by being more flexible on intellectual property issues and other policies that have historically prevented the corporate sector from using our colleges and universities as their corporate research centers?"

Destler added: "These questions do not have easy answers, but if we can positively address them, the rewards for these efforts for RIT, for the Rochester region and for our nation will be great, indeed. And the greatest beneficiaries of all will be our students, who will, by virtue of the experiences they have at RIT, become better world citizens while they gain the edge they will need to compete against the world's best. The university that best addresses these questions will capture the new high ground in higher education. Given our headstart in so many of these areas, why shouldn't that institution be RIT?

"RIT is now in a position to take its place among the world's pre-eminent institutions of higher education," Destler concluded. "Carpe diem, RIT!"

To read President Destler's inauguration speech, visit www.rit.edu/president. ■

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Student Spotlight *from page 1*

edge. It also helped me better process and understand the instruction I have received at RIT."

"Nate was an excellent edition to the class and provided a new perspective on the subjects we covered," adds Schulte, an alumnus of RIT's microelectronic engineering program. "He is a perfect example of the benefits service learning can provide in enhancing the educational experiences of everyone involved."

Kane hopes to continue to expand his teaching and mentoring expertise through future opportunities in the College of Engineering and is currently assisting several of his former students who are now freshmen at RIT.

The service-learning co-op with Irondequoit High School is a component of the microelectronic engineering department's community outreach programs, which seek to enhance engineering education and increase the number of students going into the field. This effort is made possible through a National Science Foundation education grant secured by department chair Santosh Kurinec.

"I am very happy that Nate had such a positive experience, and I hope he serves as a model for other RIT students," says Kurinec. "Through this type of interaction we can enhance educational programs at all levels and further promote engineering and science to the next generation of students." ■

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