

RIT to open Dubai campus in 2008

RIT is planting roots in the Middle East with a planned campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, scheduled to open next fall. RIT President Bill Destler recently signed a memorandum of understanding with officials from Dubai, one of the seven Emirates and a major port on the Persian Gulf.

Dubai, recently dubbed “Sudden City” by the media, is feverishly transforming into an international hub of commerce in the Middle East. Dubai leaders are also focusing on strengthening higher education in the region.

“Dubai is the perfect fit for RIT given the university’s strategic plan to enhance global opportunities for our students,” says Destler. “This will also strengthen RIT’s relationships and reputation with multi-national companies by being close to them wherever they are in the world and by providing those companies with a capable workforce already exposed to living, learning and working in a multi-cultural environment.”

RIT Dubai, the name of the new campus, will be a part of Dubai Silicon Oasis, a 7.2-square-kilometer complex that will include a high-tech park, housing, retail, banks, conference centers and more. Dubai Silicon Oasis is being called the “world’s premier high-technology park for microelectronics and semiconductor research, development and production” by Dubai officials. RIT Dubai would be in the heart of the multi-



Submitted photograph

RIT Dubai is expected to open next fall. Shown here is the headquarters for Dubai Silicon Oasis, currently under construction, where RIT Dubai will be located.

billion dollar complex created by the Dubai government. Dubai will invest in building a full-fledged campus including an academic center, living quarters for students and faculty and a recreational facility. RIT will provide academic content, leadership and management of the university.

“RIT is on the ground floor of one of the premier projects in Dubai,” says James Watters, senior vice

president, Finance and Administration. “This is exciting because we will eventually be granting RIT degrees and have RIT alumni in this region of the world. Dubai has become a cosmopolitan destination. This will provide RIT with networking and lifetime contacts on a global scale.”

Planning is well underway with initial offerings focusing on part-time graduate students in fields such

as electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, finance and service management. By 2009, graduate offerings will extend to full-time graduate students and include applied networking, telecommunications, facility management, and manufacturing management and leadership. In 2010, RIT Dubai will begin offering undergraduate programs to full-time students.

The partnership will create unique study and co-op abroad opportunities for RIT students. RIT expects the establishment of RIT Dubai to create significant opportunities for faculty exchange as well. RIT Dubai will also strengthen RIT’s relationship and reputation with multi-national corporations that have established a strong presence in the Emirates and in Dubai.

The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum, has established a \$10 billion foundation to support human development in the Arab world. A major focus of this foundation is to provide scholarships to enhance higher education in the region. A magnet high school for science and technology is also expected to open in the Dubai Silicon Oasis in 2008.

According to Jim Miller, senior vice president, Enrollment Management and Career Services: “Dubai adds an important on-the-ground presence that complements exciting

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Innovation fest sessions set

Want to learn more about Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival? Two information sessions will be held at the Idea Factory in Wallace Library at noon Friday, Dec. 7, and at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Submissions to participate in the festival are due Dec. 17. The festival is slated for May 3. A programming committee will review each of the entries.

President Bill Destler envisions hundreds of projects, products and inventions from students, faculty and staff featured campuswide at the free event. The Gordon Field House and Activities Center, the Quarter Mile and each of the eight colleges will be used to display the best RIT work.

“We want students, faculty and staff to show off their extraordinary work to Rochester and the world,” says Barry Culhane, chair of the festival planning committee. “We are looking for hundreds of exhibits to be on display along with creative activities.”

Exhibit proposals are coming in from all over campus. A few examples include wind turbines, robots, an iTheater, a pneumatic pumpkin cannon, eye-tracking devices, an electric bicycle and more.

A submission form can be found at www.rit.edu/imagine. ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

\$2 million in federal funds helps CIMS sustain military fleets

RIT’s Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies will continue to advance research and development in the areas of defense modernization, remanufacturing and asset health management thanks to \$2 million in new federal funding recently secured by U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, as well as Congressmen Randy Kuhl and Tom Reynolds. The funds will advance the efforts of CIMS’ Defense Modernization and Sustainment Initiative, which is assisting the U.S. military in modernizing their vehicle fleets while also improving durability and fuel efficiency.

“This research program in defense modernization and sustainment at CIMS is a national resource that is contributing to the safety and well being of our armed forces, and also saving dollars for the taxpayer by extending the life and improving the performance of critical military equipment,” says RIT President Bill Destler. “It is this type of work that is enabling us to launch the new Golisano Institute for Sustainability with such a strong base of expertise, and we appreciate the longstanding and



Submitted photograph

An RIT co-op student conducts research on a military vehicle as part of CIMS’ Defense Modernization and Sustainment Initiative.

committed support for this program in our House and Senate delegations.”

“This is terrific news for RIT and will help catapult the Rochester area into the forefront of our defense efforts,” adds Schumer. “These funds will go a long way in supporting the cutting-edge research at CIMS, which seeks to provide our troops with the safest, most durable and advanced vehicle fleets in the world.”

“This is great news for RIT and

CIMS funding, page 4

Student Spotlight

Golisano College student excels in dual role: journalist and engineer



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Jen Loomis, fourth-year software engineering student in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, is editor in chief of Reporter magazine.

RIT’s Jazz Ensemble.

“I started playing in fifth grade. When I was in high school I had the solo in the trombone-baritone saxophonist piece *Superbone Meets the Bad Man*. What was cool is that I got to play with saxophonist Denis DiBlasio from Maynard Ferguson’s Big Band.”

Loomis has put music on hold

for the moment as she balances a 40-hour workweek at *Reporter* and a full course load.

“I’m probably spending less time on my studies but working harder at it when I am. The biggest thing I’ve learned since taking over as editor in chief is that it’s much more efficient to do my homework in the library or

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In the community

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On the side

Web developer shares small-town drama with the world, page 2

Scholarship and Research

RIT opens two new labs: nanoscale images and fuel cells, page 3



Literary contributions

RIT professor writes the book on robotics, page 4

Imaging science talks

Upcoming talks hosted by the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science Seminar Series include: “Seeing is Believing: It’s All About the Background,” presented by Thomas Meade, professor of biochemistry at Northwestern University, Dec. 12; “Processing Spectral Images for Printing,” presented by Philipp Urban, an RIT post-doctoral fellow, Jan. 9; “Cellflix: The Annual Cell Phone Film Festival,” presented by Dianne Lynch, dean of the Park School of Communications, Ithaca College, Jan. 16.

The presentations begin at 4 p.m. in the Carlson Center auditorium. For information, contact Mitchell Rosen at rosen@cis.rit.edu or 475-7691.

Metalwork at Bevier

Bevier Gallery in the James E. Booth Building hosts a juried exhibition, “Exploring Boundaries: Evolutionary Metal,” with an opening reception 5-7 p.m. Dec. 14. The show runs through Jan. 23 and features a wide spectrum of art from innovative and visionary metal artists whose work combines traditional and nontraditional processes in jewelry and metalwork. For more information and gallery hours, call 475-2626.

Dancer, poet offer lectures

Dancer, choreographer and MacArthur fellow Elizabeth Streb, director of Streb Extreme Dance Company, will present “The Limitless Imagination of the Muscles and the Bones: Action in Time and Space,” 7 p.m. Jan. 7 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium.

American Sign Language poet and hearing collaborator Peter Cook and Kenny Lerner, an NTID history professor, will present “Poetry in Motion: The Flying Words Project,” 7 p.m. Feb. 2 in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building.

The events are free and open to the public. For information, visit www.rit.edu/~cwg/.

Beat the winter blues

People ages 50 and older have the opportunity to take classes on the arts, literature, sciences, history and government at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Free course previews of winter sessions will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 7 and 9. Courses range from Peer Group Seminar in Science-Cryptology and The Amazing History of Life on Earth, to Sherlock Holmes: Foreign Affairs and Global Warming: Status, Implications and Policy. A free open house is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 14-17. For information, call 292-8989 or e-mail info@Osher.rit.edu.

Croatian summer study

RIT students can experience life on the Adriatic while earning college credit through a summer program in Croatia. The study-abroad program runs June 9 through July 11 at RIT’s American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The program includes courses offered by RIT’s colleges of Liberal Arts and Science as well as field trips. For program details, contact Vince Serravallo at vssgsp@rit.edu.

Rochester’s homeless showcased at Gallery r

There are people who sleep outdoors on park benches or in cardboard boxes tucked away in darkened alleyways near vacant buildings. Everything they own is stuffed into plastic bags and wheeled around in shopping carts. They are at the mercy of soup kitchens for sustenance, or sometimes just sifting through garbage cans piled along the street. Many of them have been victims of domestic violence or suffer from mental illness and substance abuse.

The homeless are hard to ignore, and during this holiday season RIT’s

“We’ve got to get what we can during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. When the new year comes, nobody remembers you’re hungry.”
—Rochester homeless man

Gallery r is hosting an exhibition that brings their plight home. “Unseen Neighbors: Homeless in Rochester” runs through Jan. 12. An opening night discussion and reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7.

Under the direction of associate professor Loret Steinberg from the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, the project was an interdisciplinary classroom/com-

munity endeavor for nine RIT students (photojournalism, fine art photography, Liberal Arts) who immersed themselves in the social issue of homelessness in Rochester and documented what they saw and learned from the experience.

“My course is based on some of the work I’ve done for more than 17 years at RIT, finding ways to get students downtown to work with and learn from people in the community,” Steinberg explains. “I’ve been working with homeless people and groups working with homeless and poor people for more than three years myself.”

According to Steinberg, the students were required to volunteer at The House of Mercy. Some also volunteered at other shelters, participated in the Poverty Reality Tour sponsored by the Social Welfare Action Alliance, and attended guest lectures with homeless or formerly homeless individuals.

“We talked a great deal about homelessness and poverty and listened a great deal to each other,” Steinberg says. “Rather than looking at their subjects as ‘the other,’ students worked directly with people whose lives fall into a social concern.

“The work at Gallery r is our way of sharing what we’ve learned and what people we’ve worked with want to say and share with others.



Submitted by Lisa Barker

This photograph of one of Rochester’s homeless neighbors, “John,” is one of the many on display at the Gallery r exhibit.

It provides the inspiration to raise public awareness around the holiday season, when the public is more likely to remember the homeless and the poor.”

Gallery r, 775 Park Ave., is open

from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 242-9470 or visit cias.rit.edu/~galleryr.

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

University Publications Web developer Jared Lyon, ’01 (B.S. information technology) co-organizes an annual festival in Washington state focusing on Twin Peaks.

Web developer shares *Twin Peaks* fascination with the world

Something interesting happened on television in the early 1990s: A quirky, creepy murder mystery called *Twin Peaks* came and went, creating a sensation and a cult following. Fans of the short-lived program had never seen anything quite like it and were not ready to let it go when it went off the air after 29 episodes.

The television series created by David Lynch (*Blue Velvet*, *Eraser Head*) and Mark Frost (*Hill Street Blues*) caught the attention of University Publications Web developer Jared Lyon when he was in eighth grade.

“I grew up in a small town, and I liked the idea that there was more happening in this boring town than I lived in than meets the eye, and that’s what *Twin Peaks* is all about,” says Lyon, who hails from Barton, Vt. “On the surface, it’s just this town where everyone likes coffee and cherry pie, but then there’s this whole underbelly and something evil coming from the woods.”

Lyon shares his fascination for the peculiar characters and the odd camera work characteristic of the program with an ardent fan base that meets each year in North Bend, Wash., the setting of the fictional

town of *Twin Peaks*. Fans from all over the world meet for a weekend-long festival filled with bus tours (with Lyon as the tour guide), movie viewing, trivia games and a celebrity dinner.

In 2004, Lyon became a co-organizer of the annual Twin Peaks Festival and, tapping his professional skills, created a corresponding Web page, www.twinpeaksfest.com.

The festival, which began in 1993, draws approximately 100 fans each year. According to Lyon, nearly two-thirds of the attendees are first-time festival-goers. The recently released DVD set *Twin Peaks—The Definitive Gold Box Edition* includes a documentary about the festival, *Return to Twin Peaks*, which prominently features Lyon at the 2006 event.

“People say *Twin Peaks* is groundbreaking,” Lyon says. “What does groundbreaking mean to us now in 2007? Back then it was completely different. The most popular TV shows were *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show*, *Who’s the Boss?* There was no *Lost*, *Heroes*, *X Files*. There was always the *Twilight Zone*. But *Twin Peaks* was one of a kind.”

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Conference brings romanticism to light in a unique way

From Dec. 13 to 15, RIT will host The Fate of Romanticism: From Faust to the Present—an exploration of the deep romantic heritage of contemporary movements in philosophy, cultural studies and the arts.

Conducted in a traditional ‘salon’ format, the conference structure encourages participants to view, react and critique various artistic works, creating a collaborative environment where no one work has a single author.

Through the presentation of scholarly papers, visual art, music, poetry and theatre, The Fate of Romanticism allows participants to experience artistic works with common romantic themes, like human limitation, reason and integrity through the use of a specific medium.

For a complete schedule of events, visit the conference Web site at fateofromanticism.rit.edu.

Brandon Borgna | bmb9935@rit.edu

Capturing athletic prowess



Sarah A. Friedman | photographer

Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson is just one of the many athletes Sarah A. Friedman has captured through her camera lens. Friedman, an editorial/advertising photographer based out of New York City, will be the next speaker in the Charles Arnold Lecture Series on Thursday, Dec. 13. Her presentation starts at 7 p.m. in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Friedman’s clients include Nike, ESPN, Fortune and Vibe. She is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Jemison takes the helm as RIT’s newest Minett Professor

Peter Jemison, independent curator and artist and member of the Heron Clan and Seneca Nation of Indians, has been named RIT’s newest Fred-erick H. Minett Professor.

The part-time appointment runs through the academic year. As Minett Professor, Jemison will teach the winter quarter course New York Native Americans out of the College of Liberal Arts. The course concentrates on the Seneca Nation at the confluence of tradition and change and includes a visual history of the tribe, origins of the Seneca, the Great Law, sovereignty, war and its aftermath, treaties, land determination, internal conflict and economic development. The course is part of the sociology concentration and minor and part of the Native American Studies concentration.

After studying art education at Buffalo State College and the University of Siena in Italy, Jemi-son returned to the Cattaraugus Reservation to become the education director for the Seneca Nation of Indians. This return began Jemison’s lifelong-learning journey as a Long-house man, following the traditional way of life of the Seneca.

Jemison has also spent time in New York City where he became

gallery director for the American Indian Community House Gallery and Museum. There he curated 35 exhibitions of contemporary Native American art and traditional crafts.

Following his time in New York City, he relocated to upstate New York to become the historic site manager for the Ganondagan historic site.

Jemison’s art has been featured in several books about Native American art including *I Stand in the Center of the Good* by Lawrence Abbott and *Native American Art* by Penney and Longfish. He has completed commis-sioned fine-art prints for the Memorial Art Gallery, the Mashantucket Pequot Cultural Center in Connecticut and the University of Arizona at Tucson. Most recently, Jemison taught in the American studies department at SUNY Buffalo, and President Bush ap-pointed him to a four-year term on the Advisory Council on Historic Preser-vation to represent Native Americans and Native Hawaiians.

“The Minett Professorship at RIT continually showcases the most compelling voices of the Rochester business, arts and educational com-munities; this year will be no differ-ent with the appointment of artist,



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Peter Jemison, a Native American member of the Seneca Nation of Indians, is teaching a course this winter through the College of Liberal Arts.

lecturer and advocate of Native American culture, Peter Jemison,” says Alfreda Brown, RIT’s interim chief diversity officer.

RIT’s Minett professorship brings distinguished Rochester-area minor-ity professionals to the RIT campus to share their knowledge and experi-ence with students and faculty. Past Minett professors include Reuben Davis, retired Supreme Court associate justice; Maurice Holmes, corporate vice president and chief engineer for Xerox Corp.; Walter Cooper, New York state regent; Wil-liam Johnson, Rochester mayor; and Carlos Carballada, former president and chief executive officer of First National Bank of Rochester. ■

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News briefs

Ethics lectures on tap

The Ezra A. Hale Ethics Lecture Series presents: “Clinical Ethics in Germany and the United States: Why Consultation Matters,” by Gerd Richter, M.D. and professor of philosophy, University Medical Center, Marburg, Germany, 4 p.m. Dec. 6; “The True Benefits of Falsity,” by David Suits, RIT philosophy professor, 4 p.m. Jan. 10; and “Peering into the Brain: Social Implications of New Neurotech-nologies,” by Kenneth Foster, professor of bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania, 4 p.m. Jan. 17. The free lectures will be held in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. They are sponsored by the Hale Chair in Applied Ethics, Wade Robison. Foster’s talk is co-sponsored by the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Globalization, trade lecture

Ralph Gomory, president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, will give the Science, Technology and Society/Public Policy Lec-ture 2:30-4 p.m. Dec. 7, in the Golisano College auditorium. Gomory’s talk, which will discuss globalization and trade policy, will be based on his book, *Global Trade and Con-flicting National Interest*, which he co-authored with Princeton University Economist William Baumol. Gomory, one of the country’s foremost technology leaders, has been president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation since 1989 and previously served as IBM’s research director.

Holiday concert Dec. 14

The RIT Music Program will present its annual holiday concert 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. RIT Orchestra, RIT Concert Band and Jazz Ensembles, and the RIT Singers will perform songs from the season. The event is free and open to the public. For infor-mation, call 475-6095.

NTID hosts ‘Sign-Arella’

Sign-Arella is a folktale based on the children’s classic *Cinderella*. Sign-Arella was created in the deaf cultural tradition of adapt-ing common stories into deaf culture. Produced and performed in American Sign Language and spoken English by the NTID Drama Club, the show will be performed at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 1 p.m. Dec. 15 in Robert F. Panara Theatre. For free admission bring a toy to donate to the TOYS for TOTS program.

SPAS holiday auction

In the spirit of holiday giving, students in RIT’s School of Pho-tographic Arts and Sciences will hold their annual holiday auc-tion Dec. 20. Part of the money raised will benefit The Boys and Girls Club of Rochester and the Rochester Rehabilitation Center’s Ventures Program. Items up for auction include digital cameras, film, photo-graphic equipment, restaurant and spa gift certificates. Bidding gets underway at 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Frank E. Gannett Building. In addition to the live auction, faculty and staff donated artwork will be offered in a silent auction. The Gradu-ate Photography Association is sponsoring the event.

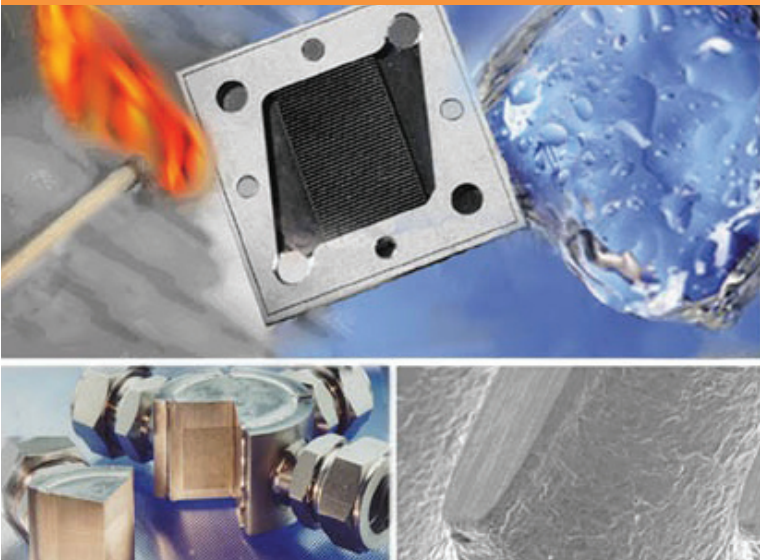
A new industry partnership



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Jorge Uribe ’07, alumnus of RIT’s School of Print Media and a plant manager at Avery Dennison, was among the presenters at the Printing Industry Center’s annual symposium and planning meeting Nov. 14-15. During the two-day event, discussions were held about the center’s latest research in such areas as digital color printing and cross-media migration and integra-tion. Avery Dennison, a global leader in pressure-sensitive technology and self-adhesive solutions, is the newest industry partner to join the Printing Industry Center.

Fuel-cell lab to open Dec. 14



Submitted image

RIT officially dedicates its new Fuel Cell Laboratory during a ceremony at 3 p.m. Dec. 14 in the James E. Gleason Building. The facility, headed by Satish Kandlikar, the Gleason Professor of Mechanical Engineering, will coordinate with RIT’s Thermal Analysis and Microfluidics Lab and focus on improving the performance and efficiency of fuel-cell technologies. The new lab is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and General Motors. The dedication ceremony is part of a Fuel Cell Technology Forum, sponsored by the lab and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The forum will include technical presentations from national and international experts in the field and runs 2-5:30 p.m. in the Xerox Auditorium.

New imaging lab casts big focus on tiny objects

It takes a room full of high-powered microscopes to shed light on one of the tiniest subjects on campus: nanomaterials.

Some of the most powerful microscopes at RIT will be showcased at the NanoImaging Laboratory open house from 2 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, room A263. The RIT community is invited to visit the lab and see the instruments used to image nanoscale materials, such as quantum dots and carbon nanotubes. Of particular interest are the trans-mission electron and atomic probe microscopes, preferred instruments in the field of nanoimaging. Some of the microscopes in the NanoImaging Laboratory were acquired with the assistance of Xerox and Kodak.

The NanoImaging Laboratory grew from overlapping interests between co-directors Ryne Raf-faelle, director of the NanoPower Research Laboratories in the physics department, and Rich Hailstone, associate professor of nanoimaging in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. The co-directors are currently collaborating on a project looking at the use of nanomaterials for use in light-emitting diodes.

“One thing I find interesting about the NanoImaging Lab, and the whole concept of nanoimaging at RIT, is the use of microscopy to develop nanomaterials and nanotechnology, and the development of nanomateri-als and nanotechnology for imaging applications,” Raffaele says. “We’re developing semiconducting quantum dots to make new devices for sensing our environment. In other ways, we’re using high-powered microscopes to investigate those very same semicon-ducting dots.”

The NanoImaging Laboratory has implications for other programs at RIT in addition to imaging science and physics, Raffaele says. Microsys-tems, biology and chemistry could also benefit. “When we developed the lab, we had in mind for this to become a laboratory that can support the imaging needs of a wide variety of programs at RIT.” ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

First-year students build and test their own autonomous robots

Electrical, computer and telecom-munications engineering technol-ogy students didn’t waste any time putting their creative energy to work. First-year students in that department spent their first quarter building small autonomous robots, known as TekBots.

And on Nov. 12, they got to see their work in action.

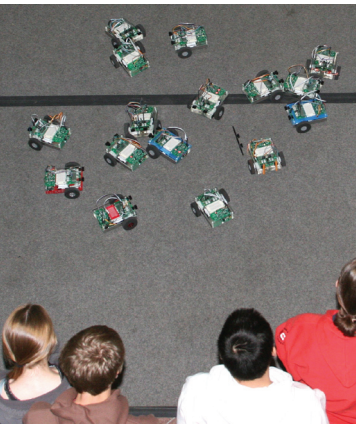
Each TekBot was put to the test in a series of four events. A drag race tested the speed of the robot, the tractor pull tested its strength, a “bump-n-run” event tested speed and maneuverability and an obstacle course tested all of those skills in one final race.

The robots were built as part of the ExCiTe class, an introduction to electrical, computer and telecommu-nications engineering technology.

“An important educational aspect of this course is that students are able to apply engineering concepts very early in their academic career,”

says Mike Eastman, the department’s chair. “This type of course helps them see the value of an engineer-ing education and understand the purpose of the difficult math and science courses they take.” ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu



Submitted photograph

First-year students spent their first quarter at RIT building and competing small autonomous robots, known as TekBots.

Deck the halls with arts and crafts



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

If you're looking for handmade, one-of-a kind gifts for the holidays, don't miss the annual School for American Crafts student sale, Dec. 12 and 13, in the Student Alumni Union. The sale runs 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Shoppers are sure to find blown-glass ornaments, wood creations, silver jewelry and ceramic wares. Prices, based on student experience, materials and time invested, typically range from \$10 to \$50. Many of the students, from first-year to graduate level, rely on the sale to defray expenses throughout the school year.

On the Pod

with Mike Saffran
mjsuns@rit.edu



Doubling the number of female engineers—to three in 10—is needed for the United States to capitalize on the intellectual capital of women and for the nation to attain its true potential for innovation. So says **Margaret Bailey**, the Kate Gleason Chair and professor of mechanical engineering in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Speaking on the RIT news podcast "Studio 86," Bailey says reaching a "critical mass" of 30 percent female engineers—along with achieving other diversity goals—will lead to more and greater technological advances. "As teams become more diverse

and more functional, the results become more innovative—I've seen it time and time again," Bailey says.

Hear the complete "Studio 86" interview at www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/studio86_11-20-07.m4a or visit www.rit.edu/news (and see "Latest Podcasts"). Also on "Studio 86," hear an interview with *Reporter* editor in chief **Jen Loomis**. Visit www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/studio86_12-04-07.m4a.

On the RIT University News Web site, you can relive last month's inauguration of **Bill Destler** as RIT's ninth president. See a gallery of photos at www.rit.edu/news/gallery, listen to President Destler's speech at www.rit.edu/news/podcasts (transcript also available), or watch closed-captioned video of the entire ceremony and a slide show at www.rit.edu/president.

See you on the pod and Web!

Student Spotlight

in the labs."

She spent her summer in the Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making in RIT's Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure. She worked on the Materials Use: Science, Engineering and Society program, a five-year study funded by the National Science Foundation to build and link computer models to understand the consumer and industry response to policy decisions, and how the state of the market impacts the environment.

"I'm probably going to take some courses in environmental policy. I really love the work I'm doing on this project. It's made me realize that with my software engineering degree, I can help the world in some way."

Loomis isn't sure what she wants to do following graduation, although joining the Peace Corps is an option she's considering.

"I would love to go to into an undeveloped country and help work on its software infrastructure."

Seeing the world isn't something the Clifton Park, N.Y., native has had the time to do, but says the opportunities she's been given at *Reporter* have been well worth it.

"My experience at *Reporter* has been amazing. If I had gone to a larger school, with tons of liberal arts majors I don't think I would have gotten the opportunity to work in the capacity that I do at *Reporter*. I'm a software engineering student learning about art. That's cool." ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

Online extra: Hear an interview with *Reporter* editor in chief Jen Loomis on the RIT news podcast "Studio 86" at www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/studio86_12-04-07.m4a

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www.rit.edu/newsevents

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Dubai

campuses in Croatia and Kosovo, as well as program-based delivery in the Dominican Republic. These international initiatives build on and complement the over 60 existing partnerships and agreements RIT has established with foreign universities, international organizations and government agencies spanning five continents."

Miller adds: "Currently, RIT enrolls approximately 1,500 foreign students representing 95 countries in undergraduate and graduate programs in Rochester. More than 900 additional international students are pursuing RIT degrees at existing international locations."

RIT leaders gave credit to Professor Mustafa Abushagur, director of microsystems engineering, for initially starting and leading the dialogue with Dubai leaders over the last two years.

"This is a great opportunity for RIT to become a major provider of high quality educational programs in the global market," says Abushagur. "RIT Dubai will provide our students with an opportunity to experience being in an international setting among students from all over the world." ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

CIMS funding

the entire Rochester Region," says Clinton. "The work done by CIMS will allow our military to advance the modernization and readiness of their equipment and technology, while we continue to build on the region's reputation as a leader in cutting-edge research and development."

"CIMS' research will help ensure that our troops stay safe by making sure that we continue to develop and test the systems and machinery necessary to accomplish our military goals while also protecting our troops in the field," notes Kuhl.

"As our brave men and women of the military continue to face new challenges in the battlefield, our responsibility is to provide them with the resources that will protect them and allow them to do their job," adds Reynolds. "It is great that a local institution, RIT, is taking such an active role in ensuring the safety of our troops. It is great news for our region in terms of potential jobs, and great for our troops in terms of their safety."

The project, in collaboration with

the Army Research Laboratory, seeks to develop processes and tools to track the status and future health of vehicle systems. The initiative also works with military researchers and maintenance personnel to detect, diagnose and repair material aging failures, provide decision support tools to determine when and how to upgrade these systems, and conduct research to develop the next generation of weapons and support systems. The work builds on previous modernization efforts conducted with the Army and the Office of Naval Research.

"We have developed a strong partnership with the Department of Defense and have assisted them in numerous research projects designed to reduce costs associated with sustainment of equipment, enhance design and reuse and ensure the safety of our troops," states Nabil Nasr, assistant provost for academic affairs and director of both CIMS and the Golisano Institute for Sustainability." ■

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New guide helps build a better robot

Ever wanted to learn how to build your own robot? A new book by an RIT professor can show you the way.

Practical and Experimental Robotics, co-written by Ferat Sahin, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, offers introductory instruction in robotics and robotic applications to assist students, teachers and researchers in creating and using their own robots.

The book takes a hands-on approach to provide detailed explorations of the construction, theory and experimentation surrounding a variety of robot types. Sahin notes that unlike most books in the field, his guide offers a complete set of robotic topics—from electronics to mechanics to computer interface and programming—allowing it to be utilized as a stand-alone source for beginners, hobbyists or advanced learners.

"This book can assist people who are just starting out in the field, allowing them to build knowledge in robotics step by step from theory, through construction, operation and experimentation," Sahin says. "But given the comprehensiveness, it can also be utilized by more advanced students as well as educators looking to create coursework in the field."

Sahin co-wrote the guide with Pushkin Kachroo, visiting associate professor of electrical and computer

engineering at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. For information on the book, visit www.crcpress.co.uk. ■

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Ferat Sahin: co-author of a robotics guide

Obituaries

Jeffrey Owen Jones, film professor, School of Film and Animation, Nov. 10.

Jane McMahon, RIT retiree, Nov. 14.

Anthony Trippe, professor, College of Applied Science and Technology, Nov. 24.

Dorothy Wadsworth, former development director and founding member of the Athenaeum, Nov. 27.