



Inside



‘Renaissance man’ Hillman Curtis to speak at RIT



Photo lecture focuses on last places on Earth

Composers, artists to gather at 2004 festival

An annual celebration of collaborative artistic talent returns to RIT this weekend. ImageMovementSound 2004 Festival, uniting motion picture makers, composers and choreographers, will offer up an array of works to stir the mind and senses.

Thirty-five students and faculty members from RIT’s School of Film and Animation, the Eastman School of Music and SUNY Brockport’s dance department have pooled their creative talents to bring forth nine works that combine their diverse artistic media.

The festival debuts at 8 p.m., today, April 8, in Kilbourn Hall of the Eastman School of Music. An encore presentation is scheduled for 8 p.m., Saturday, April 10, in RIT’s Ingle Auditorium. Admission for either performance is \$5; students with ID admitted free. A reception will follow each performance.

While RIT artists use film, video and computer technology to produce graphic elements or a motion picture, Eastman faculty and students compose original acoustic and computer-generated music and sound. SUNY Brockport choreographers and dancers create movement in concert for the purpose of live and/or edited video performance.

“It’s no one person’s work,” says Stephanie Maxwell, RIT associate professor of film and festival co-director. “It comes from the seed of an idea that results in a dynamic process—a collaboration. The end result is a powerful performance that’s done in a professional, polished way.”

The festival this year will be highlighted by the inclusion of avant-garde films that challenge the audience in interesting and novel ways.

For full program and festival information, visit [www.imsrochester.org](http://www.imsrochester.org) or call 229-2491. ■

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NTID researcher conducts hormone study

A pilot study conducted through a partnership with the NTID-based International Center for Hearing and Speech Research has revealed that women taking hormone replacement therapy may run the risk of diminished hearing.

Depending on the measure, HRT recipients performed 10 to 30 percent worse on hearing tests than women who had not received HRT, says D. Robert Frisina Sr., director of ICHSR.

For the past few decades, doctors have widely prescribed hormone replacement therapy to women to alleviate symptoms of menopause, such as night sweats, hot flashes and mood swings. In recent years, however, HRT



Researchers D. Robert Frisina Sr. and Robert Frisina Jr.

has been linked to increased risk of breast cancer, heart attacks, stroke and

group fared the worst. “It’s important to alert women that

dementia.

The scientists used three tests to compare the hearing of 32 women between the ages of 60 and 86 who had hormone therapy with 32 other women in the same age range who had not.

While the HRT group performed more poorly across the board, it was in complex settings, such as the ability to decipher a sentence while listening to someone amid a loud backdrop, that the HRT

there could be another significant side effect of hormone-replacement therapy,” says Robert Frisina Jr., associate director of ICHSR and professor of otolaryngology at University of Rochester Medical Center. “We know these findings clearly apply to the 64 women we studied. What we can’t say, from such a small number of people, is the extent to which they apply to everyone. A much larger study needs to be done.”

This finding, though, is the opposite of what they were expecting, says Frisina Sr., because women (and men) have estrogen receptors in the ear. More estrogen in the system due to HRT, one might hypothesize, might improve a woman’s ability to hear.

“In animal studies, estrogen is helpful,” says Frisina Sr., NTID researcher, page 4

Learning through a celebration of our differences



RIT’s Expressions of Diversity conference was held March 29-April 2, and hosted more than 1,200 participants. Conference attendees were able to register for small group sessions on topics such as “Soul Food: The Healthy Way,” “From our Roots” and “Inclusion Starts with ‘I.’” A special presentation was delivered by Claude Steele, far left, renowned diversity speaker. Right photo, presenter Douglas Curry enlightens his audience with a discussion about the origin of blues music in his talk, “Blacks and Blues.”

RIT to host Hunter’s Hope fund-raising gala this summer

Former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly and his wife, Jill, will bring their campaign against a rare, childhood illness to RIT, and it promises to be a star-studded occurrence.

The second annual Rochester Hunter’s Hope Candlelight Ball will take place at 7 p.m., Friday, July 23, at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. President Albert Simone will chair the event, which is expected to raise \$100,000 to fight Krabbe disease and other leukodystrophies (nervous system diseases.)

“Our goal is to make the Candlelight Ball the premier summer gala in Rochester,” says Kelly. “Bringing Dr. Simone on board as the honorary chair and moving the event to RIT are significant steps towards reaching our goal.”

Hunter’s Hope Foundation was established in 1997 by the Kellys

after their infant son, Hunter, was diagnosed with Krabbe leukodystrophy—an inherited, fatal, nervous-system disease. The agency works toward heightening public awareness of leukodystrophies as well as increasing the likelihood of early detection and treatment.

According to Simone, RIT looks forward to helping advance this cause.

“For 175 years, RIT has devoted its resources toward excellence in education, research and



Jim and Jill Kelly present a replica football jersey to President Albert Simone during a news conference announcing plans for the Hunter’s Hope Candlelight Ball. The event will be July 23 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center.

community outreach, so I can think of no better venue to host this event,” he states. “We are extremely proud to partner with the Hunter’s Hope Foundation, and we call upon our community to lend its support.”

The semi-formal event will feature a menu that highlights some of the area’s top restaurants and wineries. Live, silent and Chinese auctions will be part of the evening’s activities. Celebrity entertainment will be announced in the weeks ahead. Last year, comedian Jeff Foxworthy performed at the Rochester gala. Past performers at the Hunter’s Hope Candlelight Ball in Buffalo included Tim McGraw, Hootie and the Blowfish, Meatloaf, All-4-One and the Goo Goo Dolls.

For more information about the Candlelight Ball or Hunter’s Hope, visit [www.huntershope.org](http://www.huntershope.org). ■

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RIT creates program partnership with Turkish university

International ties are again being forged at RIT.

Beginning this summer, RIT will offer a joint master’s degree in engineering management with partner Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Representatives from both institutions signed the formal agreement on March 25. The program is structured so that students from Turkey will take six classes taught by RIT professors, delivered during two consecutive summer sessions.

During the first summer, RIT



Stanley McKenzie, RIT provost and vice president of academic affairs, left, signs an agreement alongside Ahmet Serpil from Yeditepe University.

faculty will travel to Istanbul to offer three courses. During the second summer, Yeditepe students will travel to Rochester to complete three additional courses. Each summer course will be offered as an intensive two-week session. The remaining six courses will be taught at Yeditepe during the winter and spring semesters, by faculty from Yeditepe who have been approved as adjunct faculty for RIT.

“I’m really as excited as I could be about this wonderful opportunity,”

says Harvey Palmer, dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Ahmet Serpil, rector for Yeditepe University, expressed similar feelings in his address. “Today I am fulfilling one of my dreams. As founding dean of my engineering school, my provost and I said that the first interest of Yeditepe is to establish a relationship with a United States university.”

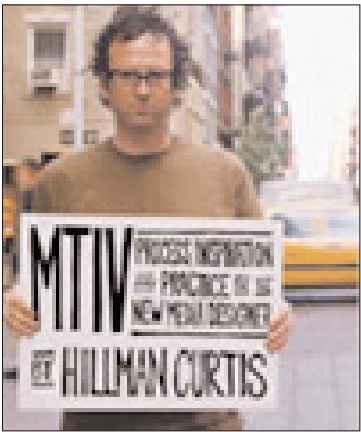
Serpil was hopeful for the future of the RIT-Yeditepe relationship. “This is just the start of our cooperation.” ■

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# Musician, graphic designer to shed light on his career

## Hillman Curtis to speak about Web design during April 8 lecture



Hillman Curtis

Hillman Curtis was a singer/song-writer/guitarist for a rock group called The Green Things for 10 years when his band scored a hit song on *Beverly Hills 90210*. The notoriety landed the group a record deal, which soon fell flat—leaving Curtis, at age 30, searching for a new creative outlet.

He found a new career after purchasing an old Mac II computer and experimenting with digital graphics in a Photoshop class.

Now Curtis is recognized as the Michael Jordan of Web design—an innovator who has capitalized on the expanding existence of the Internet to revolutionize his design work within its own art movement on the World Wide Web. The impressive client list of big hitters for his New York City design studio—Hillmancurtis Inc.—include Adobe, Rollingstone.com, MTV, Macromedia and British Airways.

The ex-musician—now considered a legend within the Web and graphic design community—will discuss his career leap and his new book, *MTIV: Process, Inspiration and Practice for the*

*New Media Designer* at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building. The lecture is sponsored by the new media department of RIT’s School of

**Curtis is recognized as the Michael Jordan of Web design—an innovator who has capitalized on the expanding existence of the Internet to revolutionize his design work within its own art movement on the World Wide Web.**

Design, the Rochester Flash User Group, Macromedia and New Riders.

While graphic artists struggle with “designer’s block,” Curtis recognizes the real source for inspiration. “I think all creative work has elements that are begged, borrowed, or stolen . . . but if done right still manages to stand out on its own and truly reflects the time in which it was created,” he notes. “You hear a ton of Pixies in Nirvana, but both bands

represent and speak to a time in my life and remain completely original in that right.”

And in a world surrounded by cell phones, pagers, laptops, iPods and other technology-based gadgets, Curtis remains complacent about our technically evolving society. He hasn’t owned a television in 15 years and confesses he never will—even

though his company trademark is “making the invisible visible.”

“I think what’s important is being open to the possibilities of new technologies, and I am fascinated by the progress, but I am not driven to own them myself,” Curtis explains.

The Hillman Curtis lecture is free for the RIT community and general public. To reserve a seat, register at <http://hillman.rit.edu/>. ■

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## Equinox Symphony Chamber Orchestra to perform April 16

The Performing Artists Series presents the Equinox Symphony Chamber Orchestra at 8 p.m. on April 16 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

The Equinox orchestra, and violinist Jassen Todorov, performed here last spring in a concert that presented the premiere of *Sydney the Sea Squid*, a narrated poem with original music composed by Paul Stuart. This time, Stuart will conduct an orchestra of 15 strings, two oboes and two horns in a program featuring *Sinfonia in G* by Giovanni Sammartini, *Choreography* by Norman Dello Joio, *Violin Concerto No. 2 in E Major* by Johann Sebastian Bach (with soloist Jassen Todorov), *Overture in C* by Georg Philipp Telemann and *Symphony*



Equinox Symphony Orchestra performs April 16.

No. 6 by Luigi Boccherini.

Stuart is an active conductor and internationally acclaimed composer

of operas, orchestral, chamber and choral music. He believes “that good music must be at once artistic, appealing and sophisticated.”

Stuart programs interesting and exciting music of many styles and periods and talks to audiences about interesting features and anecdotes of the music.

Todorov has distinguished himself as one of the most prominent violinists of his generation. Dubbed “an outstanding violinist . . . a player to

watch” by the British music journal *The Strad*, Todorov has appeared with major orchestras in the United States and Europe. He has given numerous recitals, including New York’s Weill Recital Hall, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and London’s St. James, and is an active performer in his native Bulgaria, where he is considered one of the country’s most prized young musicians.

Tickets—\$5 for students, \$12 for faculty/staff and \$18 for the public—are available at the candy counter and game room in the Student Alumni Union or at the door, if available.

For phone orders, call 5-2239. For information, log onto [www.davidigital.com/concert](http://www.davidigital.com/concert). ■

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## Next Gannett lecture, April 15



Howard Rheingold

Smart mobs and virtual communities will be the topic of the next Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Series sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts.

Author Howard Rheingold will present “Mobile Communications, Pervasive Computing and Collective Action,” at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building. The event is free and open to the public, and will be interpreted for the deaf.

Rheingold was one of the first to

address the phenomenon of social communication in cyberspace in his book, *The Virtual Community*, first published in 1985. His more recent, popular book *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*, describes what happens when “communication and computing technologies amplify human talents for cooperation.”

Rheingold’s lecture is co-sponsored by RIT’s College of Liberal Arts and the department of information technology in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

To learn more about the author, visit [www.smartmobs.com](http://www.smartmobs.com).

For more information about the Gannett lecture series, call 5-2057 or visit [www.rit.edu/gannettseries](http://www.rit.edu/gannettseries). ■

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### Sharing stories of survival



Nearly 200 students showed up to see Christy Smith, the first deaf Survivor contestant who recently visited NTID to share her experiences on the show. Her visit was sponsored by NTID’s Center on Employment, Student Life and the CEO/Dean’s office.

## RIT professors add a twist to poetry

A pilot poetry class, Digital and Contemporary Poetries, invites practicing poets into the classroom to show students how to stretch their imagination and the definition of poetry.

“We like to stress that there isn’t one kind of poetry,” says John Roche, professor of language and literature in the College of Liberal Arts.

Roche team-teaches the class with Linda Reinfeld, professor of language and literature at RIT, both of whom studied at the University of Buffalo under poet Robert Creeley.

Together, Reinfeld and Roche are leading their class through performance poetry, avant-garde poetry and the relatively new world of e-poetry in which computer codes and the Internet become poetic fodder.

Following is a list of poets and scholars who will visit RIT as part of the class. The free performances are made possible with funding from a FEAD grant provided by RIT’s Office of the Provost. Unless otherwise indicated, the events will take place in the

Liberal Arts Building, room A201.

■ Tele-conference with e-poet, artist, and musician Jim Andrews at 4 p.m., April 12

■ Loss Pequeño Glazier, e-poet and theorist will speak at noon, April 14, in the College of Science Auditorium, and at 4 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Building, room A201.

■ Steve Jacobs, professor of information technology at RIT, will talk at 4 p.m. on April 19.

■ Ed Sanders, Beat legend, author and e-publisher of *The Woodstock Journal*, will speak at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, followed by a performance at 7:30 p.m. in Carlson Auditorium; and will give a colloquium with Sam Abrams, professor of language and literature at RIT, on ancient Greek poetry at noon, Thursday, April 22, in the COLA lounge.

Requests for interpreters should be made directly to interpreting services. For more information, contact Roche at 5-4922 or Reinfeld at 5-4622. ■

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### News briefs

#### Gallery r gala, April 8

Blues II, a gala evening to benefit Gallery r, begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, at Edibles restaurant on University Ave. The evening features live music, gourmet hors d’oeuvres and a raffle of artwork donated by RIT faculty, alumni and students.

The cost is \$100 and each ticket holder will take home a unique piece of artwork as a thank you for supporting Gallery r. For ticket information, call 5-7562.

#### African culture festival

RIT’s Organization of African Students is sponsoring a two-day festival of African culture, April 8 and 9.

An art exhibition displaying paintings, sculptures, music and arts and crafts of African origin will fill the Student Alumni Union lobby from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 8. Some items will be for sale.

An African festival night runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, April 9, in Webb Auditorium. Drummers and dancers will entertain, a short play will be performed and African artwork will be displayed. John Marah, African American studies professor at SUNY Brockport, will speak about African arts and culture.

The event is free and open to the public.

#### Crayola creations wanted

Campus Connections is sponsoring its first annual Coloring Challenge for kids of all ages. Participants in several age groups—four and under, five through eight and nine through 12—should pick up their coloring page entry form at the Campus Connections service desk from April 12 through 16. Entries must be submitted by 8 p.m. on Monday, April 19. All contestants will receive a coupon for participating; prize-winners will be judged on best use of color and neatness.

#### NPD forum, April 14

The Technology Management Center at the College of Business presents the RIT New-Product Development Forum from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, in Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason Building.

Six distinguished speakers—including David Kuehler from Mattel Inc., and Marsha McArthur from Imaginatik—will discuss “New Product Development on the Edge.”

Registration is required and the cost, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch, is \$100 per person. The registration fee is waived for RIT students, alumni, staff and faculty, and forum members.

Additional information is available at [www.cob.rit.edu](http://www.cob.rit.edu) or by contacting Angelo Fuino at 5-7431 or [afuino@cob.rit.edu](mailto:afuino@cob.rit.edu).

#### Photography lecture

The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences will welcome highly regarded “street photographer” Joel Meyerowitz at an annual lecture sponsored by Fuji Photo Film USA Inc. Meyerowitz may be best known for his images that document the destruction and recovery of the World Trade Center site. His free presentation is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, in the Gosnell Building auditorium.



# Schley wins national research award

## Study focuses on success of deaf children throughout their lives



Sara Schley, assistant professor of research at NTID, has won a National Science Foundation CAREER award for her project, “Deaf Children and Young Adults: Predicting School, College, and Labor Success,” a first for NTID.

The Faculty Early Career Development Program is an NSF-wide initiative that supports the activities of promising teachers or scholars. Awardees are chosen for creative plans that effectively integrate research and education supporting the mission of their organizations.

Schley’s project award of \$520,848

will be used over five years to track deaf children’s school, college and employment paths to identify academic and labor success. Deaf children and young adults will be compared with their hearing siblings, using data from the National Bureau of Labor Studies’ “National Longitudinal Survey of Youth”. NTID alumni also will be surveyed to see how closely their experiences mirror patterns found in the research.

Factors to predict school success—defined for this study as academic achievement as well as completion of high school or its equivalent—will include expectations, attendance, standardized test performance and parent involvement with school. Young adult factors include social and emotional development, at-home responsibilities, job experience and family resources. Labor factors will include the subject’s age at his/her

first job, length of that job, expectations of contributing financially to the family as a young adult and job status.

Results will be tied into courses offered through NTID’s Master of Science in Secondary Education program, which trains future teachers of deaf students, and shared within and outside of RIT. Student mentoring is a large part of the project, with co-op experiences in research and data analysis for both undergraduate and graduate students at NTID.

“To date, no work on the bureau’s databases has focused on deaf individuals and their families,” says Schley. “I hope that some of this work will have far-reaching implications to the field in general, as well as NTID in particular, possibly feeding into not only the admissions process, but more importantly, the career development of our students.” ■

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### Exploring entrepreneurial endeavors



Richard Aab, right, president of RTA Associates, RIT trustee and a keynote speaker for COB’s inaugural Entrepreneurs Conference on March 26, said “universities can be the engines that drive future entrepreneurial endeavors.” Perhaps that’s the reason why Aab and Steven Sauer, chief executive of Business Methods Inc., spoke to nearly 160 attendees about risk taking and economic vision for our community.

### News briefs

#### A night of Motown music

The Vietnamese Student Association is hosting a music show from 5 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 10 in Clark Gymnasium. Vietnamese singers Don Ho and Loan Chau will entertain along with a five-piece band.

VSA will simulate a Motown atmosphere in Clark Gym, a very popular type of live Vietnamese concert. The show is sponsored by Student Government. Advanced tickets—\$15 for students and \$17 for the public—are available from VSA members or online at [www.rit.edu/~vsawww](http://www.rit.edu/~vsawww). Tickets are \$20 the night of the show. For more information, call 272-1406.

#### The buzz on the Big Bang

Henry Schaefer, author of *Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence?*, will speak at 7 p.m., April 16, in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building. Schaefer will discuss the Big Bang Theory and Christianity. Schaefer will sign copies of his book at 1 p.m. at Campus Connections.

#### Imaging practices studied

A multidisciplinary conference at RIT will explore the impact of the imaging revolution. The one-day conference, Rethinking Theories and Practices of Imaging: Technology, Representation and the Disciplines, will take place from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 16, in RIT’s Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science Auditorium.

The event, free and open to the public, is sponsored by RIT’s philosophy department, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost and the RIT General Education Honors Program. For more information, e-mail [thegsh@rit.edu](mailto:thegsh@rit.edu) or [emsgsh@rit.edu](mailto:emsgsh@rit.edu).

#### ‘Ritz,’ yet simply elegant

RIT’s School of Hospitality and Service Management hosts the 19th annual Puttin’ on the RITz dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. Michael Murphy ’84, vice president of sales and marketing for Renaissance Hotels and Resorts North America, is honorary chairman for the event, featuring a “Simply Elegant” theme, a four-course meal and live music by Jon Seiger and the All-Stars. The event is organized by students. For information, call 5-2608, e-mail [ritz\\_2004@hotmail.com](mailto:ritz_2004@hotmail.com), or visit <http://ritzdinner.rit.edu/menu>.

## RIT teams fare well in robotics competition



Under the guidance of RIT mentors, two local high school teams took home championships at regional FIRST robotics competitions in March.

The Charles Finney High School, mentored by RIT students Matt Lipschutz, Rob Heslin, Joe Ross, Greg Needel, Greg Doelger and Jon Saulsbery, won the March 20 compe-

tition at Annapolis, Md.

Churchville–Chili Senior High School, mentored by first-year RIT student Jennifer Mallory and alumnus Kate Nordland ’01 (mechanical engineering) won the March 27 event in Cleveland.

Both teams will move on to the national competition April 15-17 in Atlanta.

Two other teams affiliated with RIT also did well at the Cleveland competition.

The Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center team, sponsored by RIT and Bausch &

Lomb and advised by RIT professor William Scarborough, came in 23rd place. A team from Fairport High School, advised by Edward Hensel, professor and head of RIT’s mechanical engineering department, took 16th place and won an award for leadership and control.

The FIRST competition—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—will come to Rochester next spring when RIT hosts a regional competition in the new Gordon Field House and Activities Center in March 2005. ■

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## Donation enhances sonography program

### New lab, equipment helps simulate a hospital setting

RIT’s diagnostic medical sonography (ultrasound) program, part of the medical sciences department in the College of Science, recently added another ultrasound machine to its new lab in the Louise Slaughter Building.

The ultrasound department within the radiology unit at Strong Memorial Hospital donated a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine, Acuson 128 XP 10, worth \$30,000 to \$40,000.

“The machine does almost everything we want,” says Hamad Ghazle, director of diagnostic medical sonography at RIT. “It’s capable of performing abdominal, obstetrical, gynecological, vascular examinations and much more.”



RIT’s diagnostic medical sonography lab in the Louise Slaughter Building is designed to simulate a hospital setting.

The equipment helps the lab simulate a hospital-like setting in which students practice diagnostic techniques upon each other. Television screens hanging above each examination table display images processed on the ultrasound machines. This helps students interact and learn from each other.

“It is very important in this field

for students to be able to practice what they learn,” Ghazle says. “That’s why donations are very important to us. They enhance our educational and learning process and allow the program to provide the healthcare market with well-educated, well-rounded, and experienced sonographers.” ■

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### The last place on earth



Photographer Eric Meola has traveled throughout the world to document disappearing cultures, religions, customs and ceremonies. The images will be published in *The Last Places on Earth*, a new book due out this summer.

Meola will share the stories behind the photos during a lecture hosted by the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

His presentation, sponsored by Cannon U.S.A., is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, in the Gosnell Building auditorium.

### News briefs

#### ITS news update

The last ITS Technology Seminar of the academic year will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 22 in the Laboratory of Applied Computing, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Faculty members Nirmala Shenoy, Hans-Peter Bischof, Jay Yang and Bruce Hartpence will present “A Robust Framework for Secure Connectivity and Roaming over Serverless Wireless Networks.”

ITS Technology Seminars are free and open to the RIT community. To register, e-mail [cioits@rit.edu](mailto:cioits@rit.edu). Interpreters are available upon request.

ITS is also conducting an assessment of its products and services to help the division improve technology support to RIT customers. The survey is available April 12-23 at the ITS Web site: [www.rit.edu/its](http://www.rit.edu/its).

#### Innovation lecture

The RIT American Studies seminar—Technology, Humanities and the American Experience—will explore ways technology has altered American society with a free lecture on innovation.

Clark Bullard will present, “Managing Technological Innovation,” from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday, April 19 in the B. Thomas Golisano College auditorium.

Bullard is professor of mechanical engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For information, or to request interpreting services, contact Jeffrey Wagner at 5-5289 or [mngwse@rit.edu](mailto:mngwse@rit.edu).

#### Gosnell Lecture, April 21

The final Gosnell Lecture of the academic year will address obstacles facing disability programs.

Kajal Lahiri will present, “Recent Challenges to America’s Disability Programs,” from 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, in the Xerox Auditorium, Gleason Building.

Lahiri is a professor of economics, health policy, and management and behavior at the University of Albany, State University of New York.

For more information and interpreting requests, contact Cass Shellman at 5-2057.



Learning true art from the masters



Wallace Library held a successful Book Arts Fair on March 26. The interactive event featured demonstrations by some of the leading experts in the fields of calligraphy, pochoir illustration, screen printing, photopolymer printing, papermaking, paste paper, bookbinding and non-traditional books. Shown here, Susan Mee works with a student to make handmade paper.

Manley named lacrosse coach



Tricia Manley

Manley recently took over as head coach of RIT’s women’s lacrosse program. Manley comes to RIT after spending the past three seasons as head women’s lacrosse coach at Keuka College, a program she founded in 2001. Manley earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Central

Connecticut State University, where she was a member and captain of the Division I women’s lacrosse program. Manley also attended Finger Lakes Community College from 1997 to 1999. While at FLCC, she played lacrosse, earning MVP honors. She is the all-time record holder in several categories at FLCC, including goals in a game and goals in a season. She was a two-sport star at CCSU and FLCC, playing both lacrosse and soccer at the Division I and junior college levels. Manley is pursuing her master’s degree in school counseling at Roberts Wesleyan College. ■

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Setting a winning example



Wayne LeChase, CEO of LeChase Construction Services LLC, addresses the audience as the winner of the 2004 Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneur Award. LeChase was honored at an awards luncheon on March 25 at Oak Hill Country Club.

Memorial service

Joanne Fiser

The campus community will remember Joanne Fiser, former head cashier for food service, during a memorial service at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, in Jones Chapel, located in RIT’s Interfaith Center. Fiser, who passed away on Feb. 29, recently retired after 33 years at RIT. A reception in the Student Alumni Union cafeteria will follow the service.

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NTID researcher continued from page 1

ful to nerve cells both in the ear and brain,” explains Frisina Jr. “We were surprised to learn that in our group of subjects, the estrogen appears to be hurting the cells in the ear.”

Frisina Jr. says additional research needs to happen to determine if the hearing loss can be attributed to the fact that HRT is not a natural dose, and/or if the timing of the dose is an issue.

“Yet another factor is that the ear depends on a certain balance of sodium and potassium to work properly,” Frisina Jr. says. “Estrogen reduces potassium and also causes sodium retention. That area needs further exploration, as well.”

The team has already begun researching all the questions this finding has raised, as well as others, such as how much and what kind of HRT made a difference in the hearing loss; and if HRT is discontinued, will hearing improve?

“We’re not experts on HRT,” Frisina Jr. asserts. “But if HRT is going to con-

tinue to be prescribed on such a wide basis, more sensory testing should be done for HRT and other test drugs.”

Five years ago, ICHSR scientists at NTID and UR discovered that age-related hearing loss is caused not only by malfunctioning of the inner ear, but also by miscommunication in the

brain linked to chemical reactions that change with age.

The discovery will

likely lead to medications to correct the condition, and will affect millions of people over the age of 55.

Established in 1989 as a joint program of NTID and the UR School of Medicine and Dentistry’s Division of Otolaryngology, ICHSR has a five-year, \$6.3-million grant from the NIH.

The group has been continually funded through five-year grants from NIH since 1993 and draws upon extensive research on human hearing, at RIT/NTID, with expertise in neuroscience from the University of Rochester. ■

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Depending on the measure, HRT recipients performed 10 to 30 percent worse on hearing tests than women who had not received HRT.

Designer greens



The second annual Mini Golf on Campus raised more than \$500 for the debut of RIT’s United Way campaign. The Golfer’s Choice Award went to Facilities Management Services, one of 19 RIT departments and student groups that sponsored and designed the greens. Turnout for the event was high—196 golfers made up 62 teams—and the best individual scores went to Gage Kerrigan (42) and Mary Jane Kosel (51).

News briefs

Strategic Plan progress

Progress has been made during the 2004 Strategic Planning process.

Task forces made up of over 300 members of the RIT community have contributed to the development of five task force reports and almost 200 students, faculty and staff participated in the five forums held in March.

Additionally, the community submitted feedback electronically on the Strategic Planning Web site.

The Board of Trustees has been asked to provide feedback on the reports at the April 15-16 meeting. Subsequently, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will use the reports to begin preparing the Strategic Plan.

In May, the RIT community will have an opportunity to provide comment on the draft version of the Strategic Plan.

All related Strategic Planning information is posted to the Strategic Planning Web site, located on the president’s Web site, [www.rit.edu/president](http://www.rit.edu/president), for review by the community.

“I am happy with progress we have made and am looking forward to engaging the community during the final stages of the strategic planning process,” says RIT President Albert Simone.

Public speaking contest

Qualifying rounds of the annual spring institute public speaking contest will begin the week of April 26.

Students will be asked to deliver a six- to eight-minute speech persuading a general audience about an issue of national or international concern. Three finalists will be picked based on scores received from judges in these rounds.

The final round of speeches will be held Friday, May 7. First-place prize is \$400, second-place is \$200 and third-place is \$100.

The event is sponsored by the department of communication and the College of Liberal Arts.

For more information, students should contact Grant Cos, contest coordinator, at 5-6646 or [gccgpt@rit.edu](mailto:gccgpt@rit.edu).