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news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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Class of 2004 helps kick off 175th celebration

Reflections on the past accompany a celebration of the future as RIT welcomes thousands of parents and family members, friends and the campus community to its 119th annual commencement, May 21-22. President Albert Simone will confer degrees on more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students during Academic Convocation and college graduation ceremonies.

This year's activities take on added significance as RIT kicks off its 175th anniversary celebration, which is to be commemorated throughout the 2004-05 academic calendar. Also, commencement becomes the first official event to be held inside the new, \$25 million Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Anne Mulcahy, chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp., presents the keynote address during Academic Convocation at 7:30 p.m. on May 21. A student exhibition outside the Gordon Field House precedes the event,



beginning at 6:15 p.m., and a fireworks display concludes the evening's activities.

During convocation, RIT recognizes the excellence of its students and professors. The ceremony hails RIT honors students—12 of whom were selected as college delegates—and

professors who won Outstanding Teaching Awards. Each of the undergraduate student delegates—including a representative of the American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia—offers brief remarks during the event.

"By celebrating the excellence of our faculty and students, we spotlight the RIT tradition, university pride and community spirit," says President Simone.

"Students are what the university is all about," he adds. "Our celebration honors our graduates and offers a culminating experience for them, their families and friends, a capstone of their

time at RIT and a fitting finale to years of hard work and sacrifice."

RIT's eight colleges celebrate commencement in individual ceremonies with banners, music, food and exhibits (see schedule on this page). The student delegates each speak at their respective ceremonies.

"Graduation is the highlight event of the university community," states Stanley McKenzie, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "It is time for the faculty and staff to take pride in our students' accomplishment and congratulate them on a job well done."

Academic Convocation and all degree ceremonies will be sign-language interpreted and real-time captioned. Tickets are not required and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To assist visitors, information booths will be located around campus. ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

Xerox CEO Mulcahy to give commencement address

Mulcahy to address 3,500 graduates at May 21 Academic Convocation ceremony

Anne Mulcahy, chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp., will deliver RIT's commencement address during Academic Convocation at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21. She will also be receiving an honorary degree in humane letters at the event.

Named as Xerox CEO on Aug. 1, 2001, and chairman five months later, Mulcahy has successfully led the company in cutting costs and reducing its debt. In addition, a heightened emphasis on research and development has resulted in an impressive mix of new Xerox products—from digital copiers to high-volume color printers integrated with service offerings like book publishing and digital archiving.

"There's a will to ensure that our company not only survives but has an opportunity to become great again," Mulcahy says.



Anne Mulcahy

From May 2000 through July 2001, Mulcahy served as president and chief operating officer of Xerox. Prior to that, she was president of Xerox's

General Markets Operations, which created and sold products for reseller, dealer and retail channels.

She began her Xerox career as a field sales representative in 1976 and assumed increasingly responsible sales and senior management positions. From 1992 to 1995, Mulcahy was vice president for human resources, responsible for compensation, benefits, human resource strategy, labor relations, management development and employee training.

Mulcahy became chief staff officer in 1997 and corporate senior vice president in 1998. Prior to that, she served as vice president and staff officer for Customer Operations, covering South America, Central America, Europe, Asia, Africa and China.

In addition to the Xerox board, Mulcahy is a member of the boards of directors of Fuji Xerox Company

Ltd., Target Corp., Catalyst and Fannie Mae, and is a member of The Business Council.

A native of Rockville Centre, N.Y., Mulcahy earned a bachelor's degree in English/journalism from Marymount College in Tarrytown in 1974. ■

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VP, NTID dean is installed



T. Alan Hurwitz

T. Alan Hurwitz was formally installed as vice president of RIT and dean for RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf during a standing-room-only ceremony in the Panara Theatre, viewed by deaf and hard-of-hearing students across the country via satellite and video streaming.

Hurwitz has worked tirelessly on behalf of the deaf community and has held key leadership positions within virtually all of the major national organizations related to deaf and hard-of-hearing education and advocacy. During his 34 years at NTID, he held a variety of positions in support services and student and academic affairs. Most recently he was NTID's dean.

"Today we honor him for reaching the next milestone in his distinguished career," said RIT President Albert Simone, "and the highest pinnacle of success at NTID, as we formally install him as RIT vice president and dean for NTID."

In his remarks, Hurwitz paid tribute to NTID's "founding family" of faculty and staff members who have worked at NTID since it opened in 1968. He also shared his vision for NTID's future, including strengthening NTID's institutional identity and the relationship between NTID and the other colleges of RIT, enhancing recruitment strategies and maintaining quality access and support services. ■

Karen Black | kebnmr@rit.edu

\$2 million to launch telecom center

Another new edifice will soon rise on the RIT campus when the university creates a comprehensive center for telecommunications education and research in the U.S.

Spurred by a \$2 million grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, RIT will create the William G. McGowan Center for Telecommunications, the centerpiece of a new 50,000-square-foot School of Engineering Technology Building. The structure, which will be located near the Louise M. Slaughter Building, will also include McGowan Student Commons, a three-story, 7,000-square-foot main entrance and gathering



The late William McGowan, founder of MCI Communications Corp.

space for students and special events.

The telecom center will bring students, university and high school faculty, and working professionals

together for collaborative teaching and research. It will house the telecommunications system lab, featuring the most advanced curriculum and equipment in the

nation; the optoelectronics lab; the K-12 networking lab and "smart" classrooms. The \$2 million McGowan grant will fund two-thirds of the cost of the telecom center.

"The grant is a great honor in the

name of a true pioneer in the telecommunications field," says Wiley McKinzie, dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. "It's

the keystone gift for the School of Engineering Technology Building."

The structure will be home to CAST programs in electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology; civil engineering

technology/environmental management and safety; and manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology/packaging science. It will house RIT's Center for Electronics



Rendering of McGowan Student Commons

Telecom center, page 12

Commencement ceremony schedule

Friday, May 21

College of Applied Science and Technology, 2 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center

College of Business, 2:30 p.m., Ritter Ice Arena

Academic Convocation Outdoor student exhibition, 6:15 p.m., outside the Gordon Field House

Convocation, 7:30 p.m., Gordon Field House—featuring keynote address by Anne Mulcahy, chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp.

Saturday, May 22

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, 8:30 a.m., Gordon Field House

College of Liberal Arts, 8:30 a.m., Ritter Ice Arena

College of Science, 11 a.m., Ritter Ice Arena

Kate Gleason College of Engineering, 11:30 a.m., Gordon Field House

National Technical Institute for the Deaf, 2 p.m., Ritter Ice Arena

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, 2:30 p.m., Gordon Field House

No tickets are needed for any of these events. All ceremonies are sign-language interpreted and real-time captioned. Additional information is available at www.rit.edu/commencement.

2004 College Delegates

Student delegates were selected for personal achievements that demonstrate the ideals of RIT, including academic excellence. They will speak at their respective college commencement ceremonies.



Lisa Marie Pietruszka

College of Applied Science and Technology
Lisa Marie Pietruszka, from Elmwood Park, N.J., is receiving her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology. She worked on co-op with Marotta Controls as an assistant engineer, Moog Inc. as a stress analyst and NASA Langley Research Center in the Undergraduate Student Research Program. She contributed to two published research papers, including one that was recently presented at the American Ceramic Society Conference. Upon graduation, Lisa plans to attend graduate school and is pursuing employment opportunities with aerospace companies.



Colleen Baude

From Chatham, N.J., Colleen Baude is a graduate student in the packaging science program. She holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition management from RIT. Over the past year, Colleen has worked as a lab assistant, research assistant and graduate assistant in her department and served an internship with Wyeth Consumer Healthcare. She is a member of the Packaging Club and the Career Fair Committee. As an undergraduate, Colleen was a member of the women's ice hockey team. She now serves as assistant coach. After graduation, Colleen plans to pursue employment in the packaging engineering field.



Joseph Burwick

College of Business
Joseph Burwick, an accounting major from Williamsville, N.Y., served as president of Next Generation of Accountants and vice president of the Financial Management Association. An RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, Nathaniel Rochester Scholar and recipient of Joseph and Helen Blatecky and Alfred L. and Ruby C. Davis leadership awards, Joseph is also a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Golden Key International and National Scholars honor societies. Joseph will begin work at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in September and plans to take the CPA exam in November.



Ernest Thompson III

Ernest Thompson III is completing his MBA with concentrations in e-commerce and entrepreneurship. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. John Fisher College in Rochester. In addition to his studies, Ernest, who is married with three children, is vice president/general manager of the equipment division at CPAC Inc. He holds two patents, is a certified photo-finishing engineer and is a member of the Society of Photo Finishing Engineers and the International Imaging Industry Association.



Danijela Crljen

American College of Management and Technology
Danijela Crljen is a hotel and resort management major at ACMT, RIT's college in Dubrovnik, Croatia. An RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, Danijela worked as a public relations representative at ArTakt, Art Management and as a front desk hostess for Atlas Travel Agency in Split, Croatia, and as a guest relations agent at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Her other activities include serving as editor of the student paper, a member of Student Council Congress Committee and student speaker at Career Fair 2003. Danijela is an active member of the Dubrovnik Chamber Choir and co-founder of the jazz-dance group, Labirius. She plans to pursue graduate studies.



Agnes Barton-Sabo

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
Agnes Barton-Sabo, from Anchorage, Alaska, is receiving a bachelor's degree in professional photographic illustration. She spent a year abroad in Portugal with the American Field Service. Agnes' work has appeared in several exhibitions and is included in the Media Café Collection. She received an award for best performance in *Signatures* Fall Poetry Slam 2003 and honorable mention in the RIT 2003 Student Writing Contest. Agnes plans to move to New York City and seek employment in media arts or journalism.



Kirsten Bassion

Kirsten Bassion is an MFA student in the ceramics program. She holds a bachelor's degree in studio art from Skidmore College and has studied at the College of William and Mary, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Kirsten is a ceramics instructor and a graduate community advocate in RIT's Center for Residence Life. Kirsten's goals include teaching and establishing a ceramics studio to continue her own work.



Amber Mescher

Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Amber Mescher, an electrical engineering major from Berwyn, Pa., is a Nathaniel Rochester Society Scholar and RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar. She worked on co-ops with Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp., Microwave Data Systems and Hewlett Packard. On campus, Amber was a student manager at RIT's Educational Technology Center and a supervisor at the Center for Human Performance. A four-year starter on the women's lacrosse team, Amber helped coach the team this year. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Society of Women Engineers, IEEE and Golden Key International Honor Society. She is a student athlete mentor. Amber plans to return to Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp. in Colorado after graduation.



Monique Mazza

College of Liberal Arts
Monique Mazza, from Rochester, is a criminal justice major with a minor in philosophy. She is a student clerk at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York and participated in a research project for the Rochester Police Department. An RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, Monique is a recipient of Lois Macy, Albert W. Skinner Law and Order, the Women's Council of RIT Endowed and Nathaniel Rochester Society scholarships and the Richard B. Lewis Award for Scholastic Achievement. She serves as secretary for the Golden Key International Honor Society, is a member of the Pre-Law Association and is a peer mentor to first year and transfer students in her department. Monique plans to attend law school.



Marlene Roque

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Marlene Roque graduated in November with her associate degree in accounting technology. She describes herself as trilingual, with skills in Spanish, American Sign Language and English. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States last year. While a student, Marlene was a member of the Hispanic Cub and worked as a computer lab assistant in the Business Careers Department. After she graduated, Marlene returned to New York City where she is currently seeking full-time employment.



David Fetzner

College of Science
David Fetzner is an imaging science major from San Antonio, Texas. He is a recipient of several honors and awards including the Imaging Science and Technology Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship award and Doolittle-Merrill Premedical Studies and Nathaniel Rochester Society scholarships. A member of the College of Science Student Advisory Board and Golden Key International Honor Society, David is a singer in the RIT Choir and RIT Brick City Singers. He worked as a student ambassador leader for RIT Office of Admissions and as an ultrasound imaging researcher at the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. In the fall, David plans to attend medical school at the University of Texas at Houston.



Joseph Dolan

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
From West Seneca, N.Y., Joseph Dolan is an information technology major concentrating in network administration and systems administration. He is a member of the bowling club and was ranked number one by average in the U.S. for college students in November. He is vice president of membership communication for Golden Key International Honor Society and is a member of the Information Technologies Student Organization. He plans to pursue a master's degree in information technology and an MBA.

Shuttle Service and Parking Information

Please use entrances on Jefferson Road. RIT Campus Safety personnel will direct you to parking areas. Shuttle service will be available Friday and Saturday for the Academic Convocation and Commencement ceremony locations as noted:

Friday For the Academic Convocation, shuttles will be in service from 5 to 10 p.m. between all parking lots and Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Shuttles will return guests to the parking lots after the Convocation.

Saturday Starting at 7 a.m., shuttles will run between the parking lots and each of the Commencement ceremony locations. Shuttles will make continuous loops through all the parking lots throughout the day and will return guests to the parking lots.

"People Movers" Senior citizens and individuals with special needs are invited to use carts oper-

ated by RIT staff. Carts are available at one of the many people-mover stations across campus.

Seating/Special Needs Both the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Ritter Ice Arena have bleacher seating, which have steps. If you use a wheelchair, contact Campus Safety at 475-5879 (v); 475-2074 (TTY) for arrangements. Both locations will have staff on hand to assist you with special needs; however, prior arrangements must be made. We do not have wheelchairs available on campus. To rent a wheelchair, contact Monroe Wheelchair at 546-8595, or Fonte Surgical Supply at 338-1000 or 800-836-2130.

Special Parking/Transportation Needs If you need special parking or mobility van transportation, call Campus Safety at 475-5879 (v) or 475-2074 (TTY) even if your vehicle already has a disabled parking permit.



This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. We hope “Viewpoints” inspires discussion among the RIT community. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail newsevents@rit.edu.

When the Mechanics Institute decided against awarding degrees (in 1923), it was not because it couldn’t award them if it had wished. Most of the teachers of mechanic arts, domestic science and art in the Rochester high schools were graduates of the Institute’s three year (normal) teaching programs. But in 1925, the New York State Education Department ruled that teacher certification required four-year degrees. The institute said “no,” and in so doing eliminated 65 percent of its total educational programs. Why such an extraordinary step, unthinkable now?

The mission of the school was to the “out of step student.” Its aim was to provide an education

beyond high school but not college. If it went with degrees it knew it would lose its freedom to innovate and experiment. The institute wanted to educate its students in ways most helpful to them, independent of external requirements. That is why it decided—no degrees.

How many students have complained about letter grades? In 1928 the institute abolished letter grades in favor of written evaluations. Visitors came to the school from all over the country to find out how it worked. It worked well until, with a growing number of students, it became unmanageable.

These are two examples of the institute’s innovative and experimental approach to education. Almost 60 years later, in 1983, RIT was the first school in the country to offer a degree in biotechnology. The year before it offered the first, and still the only, undergraduate degree in microelectronic engineering offered anywhere.

This year is the institute’s 175th anniversary, dating from 1829. The Erie Canal had opened just

four years before. People poured into the Rochester community on canal boats every day. Among them was a group of men who wanted to keep up with what was going on in the world. They established a library, organized lectures and discussions, and called it the Athenaeum. New York state granted a charter in 1830. That was the

practical employment skills. The leaders of Mechanics Institute believed the education they offered required more. A booklet published by the institute about 1906 makes the point. Students were expected to have ideas, and to express their ideas in clear and correct English. They were expected to study literature and learn a foreign language. These were ambitious and innovative goals, but they captured the eclectic spirit of the Rochester Athenaeum (which merged with Mechanics Institute in 1891). Far more than many technical schools in this country, RIT believes that a professional career must be set in a broader humanistic context.

RIT believes that a career must be set in a broader humanistic context.

first step toward what is now Rochester Institute of Technology

By 1885 the city had become an important industrial center with an urgent need for skilled workers. But skilled workers were in short supply. The Mechanics Institute was established in 1885 to train young people, men and women on equal terms, to find jobs (a primary objective of the institute ever since).

But the institute was concerned not only with that. Many educators at the time insisted that technical education should concentrate wholly on

The founders of the Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute would be astonished if they could see RIT now on its 1,300 acre campus, with approximately 340 academic programs and 15,500 students from all over the world.

They would be astonished and they would be very proud, not only of what the institute has accomplished, but of what it will accomplish as it becomes an increasingly powerful educational force. ■

RIT kicks off 175th anniversary celebration

If only Col. Nathaniel Rochester could see us now.

Rochester, the Revolutionary War veteran and city’s namesake, created the Athenaeum in 1829. It was here that local residents came to listen to lectures from some of America’s best-known orators—Charles Dickens, Frederick Douglass, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Horace Greeley and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The Athenaeum later merged with Mechanics Institute and together these organizations eventually became RIT.



dent for government and community relations, and co-chair of the planning committee.

A 27-member team, which includes faculty, staff, students, retirees, trustees and alumni, is helping to plan and implement the anniversary year events. The anniversary will continue through the next academic year, concluding with commencement 2005.

“The committee has laid out a plan that provides opportunities for all members of the RIT family to be engaged in a variety of events and activities throughout the year,” says Stendarði. “In addition, we hope to cre-

gala and presentation of inaugural corporate awards, with keynote address by Richard Florida, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 6 p.m. and “Rochester on the Rise: Taking Our Community to New Heights,” a conference focused on economic development, Lyndon Baines Johnson Building, 1-5 p.m.

■ **Sept. 18:** RIT ROCS Day (Reaching Out for Community Service). A day of community service projects for students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends throughout the U.S. and abroad.

■ **Oct. 21-24:** Brick City Festival. The event features alumni weekend, family weekend, reunions and a community open house.

The theme for the anniversary is ‘RIT: Celebrating 175 years of Education, Exploration and Innovation.’

ate some new traditions that will carry on beyond the anniversary year.”

Upcoming highlights of the anniversary include the first public event in the new Gordon Field House and Activities Center—the 2004 commencement. Anne Mulcahy, chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp., will deliver the keynote address at the May 21 convocation. The RIT community will be treated to a fireworks show immediately following convocation. Best viewing for the fireworks display will be near the entrance of the field house and the north sidewalk, overlooking the soccer field.

Other highlights include:

■ **June 10:** Founder’s Day, anniversary

■ Each of RIT’s eight college’s will sponsor activities throughout the year.

■ RIT is producing a documentary on the university in partnership with WXXI-TV. The documentary will be premiered at the November Board of Trustees meeting .

“The 175th anniversary provides an excellent opportunity to foster pride in RIT and enhance its reputation throughout the country and internationally,” says Fred Smith, secretary of the institute and assistant to the president, who also co-chairs the committee.

For information, including a list of events, visit www.rit.edu/175. ■

Bob Finnerty | refuns@rit.edu

Gordon Field House debuts

The Gordon Field House and Activities Center gets christened at commencement. Having a capacity of 8,500, it replaces the huge white tent of years past.



The Gordon Field House and Activities Center

Attached to the existing Student Life Center, the Gordon Field House adds almost 160,000 square feet of space in the form of two pools, a two-story fitness center and 60,000-square-foot multi-use arena and indoor field.

The Gordon Field House will open for everyday use in July. It’s a building with many uses from commencement ceremonies and concerts to intramural sports, weight training and swimming.

Gordon Field House Statistics:

- 500,000-gallon, 60-by-120 feet, intramural competition pool with moveable bulkhead
- 130,000 bricks
- 92,000-gallon recreational pool with wave machine and 25-person Jacuzzi
- 60,000-square-foot indoor track and playing fields
- 18,000-square-foot two-story fitness center
- 8,500 person occupancy
- 2,500 electronic bleacher seats with back and arm rests
- 764 steel pipe pilings embedded

- 30 feet into bedrock support the structure’s concrete and steel
- 650 tons of steel
- 50-foot-high, 65,000 pound decorative tower air conditioning
- 20 miles of wiring
- Two namesakes: Lucius (“Bob”) and Marie Gordon. ■

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Be a part of RIT history

With a donation of \$250, you, your family, your club or organization, or college department will be recognized with a plaque on one of the seats in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

Log onto www.rit.edu/~300www/fieldhouse/index.html to download the order form and fax it to 475-7004, or mail it to the address on the form. RIT employees can order a seat plaque through payroll deduction. Download the order form and return it to the Office of Development, 2100 George Eastman Building. The Gordon Field House will be dedicated this fall.

Re-energizing the region: Author speaks at Founders Day event

Creating the foundation for a resurgence of Rochester’s economy may require a fresh approach—one that taps the resources of the community’s “creative class.”

That’s the focus of Rochester on the Rise: Taking Our Community to New Heights, a conference planned for Thursday, June 10, in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Building. The event, part of the Founders Day Celebration for RIT’s 175th Anniversary, is designed to create dialogue that enables the region to harness its assets and strengths while addressing the challenges of remaining a leading center of innovation and economic growth.

“Rochester’s assets as a ‘creative class community’ run deep,” says Deborah Stendarði, RIT’s vice president of government and community relations, “but we have not fully harnessed them to our advantage to position this com-

munity to compete for companies that are seeking to grow or relocate. In light of RIT’s close ties to the community throughout its history, we feel that this forum provides an appropriate opportunity, in concert with RIT’s 175th anniversary, to develop recommendations that lead to a road map for the community’s future.”

Richard Florida, Heinz Professor of Regional Economic Development at Carnegie Mellon University, will provide the keynote address. Florida is the author of *Rise of the Creative Class: And How it’s Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*.

In this widely acclaimed book, Florida describes members of the creative class as “creative profession-



Richard Florida, distinguished author, will speak June 10.

als” who work in a wide range of knowledge-intensive industries and engage in creative problem-solving.

He believes these individuals are best equipped to manage the “Four Ts” of economic development—talent, technology, tolerance and territorial assets.

Participants at the conference will discuss these elements during focus group sessions. The event is presented in partnership with Rochester Business Alliance and Greater Rochester Enterprise and is sponsored by *Rochester Business Journal* and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield.

For information on RIT’s Founders Day events, call 475-7814 or visit www.rit.edu/175. ■

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Corporate awards gala

Founders Day events conclude with a gala dinner celebration at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and includes the presentation of RIT’s inaugural Corporate Awards to companies that have made significant contributions to RIT’s students, programs and facilities. Bausch & Lomb, Eastman Kodak, Gleason Corp. and Xerox will be recognized with the Corporate Founders Award for their longstanding support and commitment to RIT. In addition, IBM and M&T Bank will be honored with the Corporate Partner Award for their contributions to the advancement and growth of RIT.

Honorary co-chairs of the anniversary dinner gala are Ann Burr, Sandra Parker and John M. Summers, all members of the RIT Board of Trustees.

Eisenhart Award Honorees

Since 1965, RIT’s Eisenhart Awards for Outstanding Teaching have honored and celebrated faculty excellence. Up to four awards are given each year to recipients in various RIT programs. Winners are chosen through rigorous peer review of student nominations. This year, four professors will receive the awards during the academic convocation on Friday, May 21.

The Eisenhart family, for whom the awards are named, has a long history with RIT. The late M. Herbert Eisenhart, president and board chairman of Bausch & Lomb, was an RIT trustee for more than 50 years. Richard Eisenhart continues the RIT connection, serving on the board since 1972, as chairman for six years and now as trustee emeritus.

Patrica Durr, National Technical Institute for the Deaf

One can easily tell what’s important to Patricia Durr by looking around her small office. Black and white and color photos of her children and other people very special to her line one wall in no particular order. Another wall showcases all types of artwork by her students, children and professional artists, each carrying equal importance in its placement. Next to them hangs a framed newspaper article about the famous 1988 controversy in Washington, D.C., that caused the world to listen to deaf people’s needs.

Favorite quotes torn from magazines are taped to the computer, alongside colorful Post-its with phone numbers and scribbled reminders.

She is constantly interrupted by students dropping by for a quick question, and it’s obvious they are her first priority.

As associate professor of social sciences and deaf studies in NTID’s cultural and creative studies department, she tells her students on the first day of class to go back and find the child in themselves, the one whose favorite word is ‘why?’

“First and foremost in my thoughts are to empower students through knowledge,” says Durr, who has taught at RIT/NTID for 14 years. “I encourage my students to explore, and to understand that they do have a very active and vital role in our society.

“Some of the classroom strategies I have found to be very effective with students,” she says, “have been the use of very diverse and dynamic guest presenters, mock trials about controversial issues, class debates, and individual and group presentations.”

“One of Patti’s strengths is being able to get people to think more critically, in a way that does not seem patronizing, intimidating or threatening, but rather neutral,” says former NTID student Erin Esposito.



Durr: Empowers students through knowledge.

Ricky Postl, also a former student, says that he continues to be amazed by the multiple areas of expertise and charisma Durr has to offer to the Rochester community and NTID/RIT.

“I have come to the very good conclusion that Patricia is a

breathing gold mine,” he says.

On and off campus, Durr is very active promoting arts and culture, as well as supporting many different causes and working to improve education and increase awareness in everything she does.

Durr, who grew up very hard of hearing, didn’t learn sign language until she was 20. She can relate to her deaf and hard-of-hearing students and the isolation they have often felt growing up.

While most college-age men and women tend to be insecure and unsure, Durr says that many deaf and hard-of-hearing college-age students share those normal feelings, but have an added feeling of thinking that they are not capable of doing certain things that their hearing peers can.

Durr attributes that to being overprotected as youngsters, being isolated from communication, and in many cases being told by family or educators through the years that they can’t do something because of their deafness.

“Through my teaching, I encourage them to become advocates for themselves, and to show them that indeed, they *can*,” Durr explains.

“I love it when a student has a ‘Eureka’ moment,” she says about some of the rewards of her job. “And I love it when a student brings a new interpretation to something that I didn’t see in that way. My students are a continual inspiration to me. They have taught me a great deal.”

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Andreas Langner, College of Science

Andreas Langner invites his students on safari in search of elephants in the chemistry laboratory. Not real elephants, of course, rather the proverbial kind whose existence must be pieced together like a puzzle. One student spots a trunk, the other a tail, yet another a tusk and together the answer that is the elephant emerges from the bush into plain view. Sometimes.



Langner: Strives for depth.

“The kind of students I want to attract to my group are the ones who want to learn how to tackle a problem that may not have an answer—or

may have an answer that is a surprise,” Langner says. “Their perspective may not be the right one, but by combining their efforts in space or time, they see something there that cannot be perceived by one research effort alone.”

Langner’s holistic approach to chemistry—and life—encour-

ages students to persevere when frustrated and uncomfortable.

He describes himself “first and foremost” as a teacher who also has a “fair amount of research activity.” He uses formal research to give his students practice conducting scientific experiments and an unfettered pursuit of the proverbial elephant. In much the same way, his laboratory assignments—such as for this term’s chemical kinetics lab and polymer characterization lab—stimulate students’ creativity. Langner designs experiments that will not necessarily work if followed precisely. Doing so, he says, teaches his students flexibility and how to adjust their protocols as needed.

An interest in learning styles helps Langner draw upon his students’ strengths.

Langner points to apathy and anonymity as a teacher’s biggest challenge and the root of retention problems. His students, however, cannot afford to be apathetic. Likewise, the anonymity that can swallow students in large lecture halls is impossible to maintain during the one-on-one interaction in Langner’s labs.

“One of the things I excel at is what I call ‘I will be present.’ I’m going to come prepared and I expect the same. I strive for depth and what I demand from students is depth. I demand sweat equity.”

Langner understands the importance of perseverance and pushing oneself forward. He turned down a partial scholarship to study theater at Princeton University for a steadier career path in the sciences. He “got bit by the research bug” at State University of New York at Buffalo where he completed his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering in three years. Langner was looking forward to attending graduate school at Stanford University when he was struck by a

car in the UB parking lot. He sustained a spinal chord injury that landed him in the Erie County Medical Center for six months and confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life. Without hesitation, Langner transferred his fellowship to UB and began working on a doctorate in chemical engineering.

Langner joined RIT in 1989, turning down offers at Johns Hopkins University, Bucknell University and Benington College. He liked that RIT’s placement rate “couldn’t be beat” and thought that the co-op experience was an important component of an education. RIT also offered him a chance to stay in western New York, near his wife’s family. Nine years ago the couple decided to adopt two children from an orphanage in Vietnam, thinking that siblings would be able to help each other adapt to their new home. The pair of siblings soon grew to a group when the Langners learned four children from the same family needed a home.

Langner’s pride in his children carries over to his students. He and colleague Michael Kotlarchyk won a Cottrell Science Award to support undergraduates interested in research. Four students, two each from the physics and chemistry departments, spent two summers studying microemulsions—an important research area for materials processing and a wide variety of consumer products. The grant also enabled two students to work at national research laboratories.

“When I first started teaching I think I had more of a philosophical approach, but now that I’ve become a father it is a lot more pragmatic,” he says. “All you can do is create the opportunity, create the environment.”

He adds: “I think what I value in myself is independence and being adaptable and being forward thinking. And I think this spills out to how I work with my students.”

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Victor Perotti, College of Business

This professor doesn’t mind taking cheap shots by students for some “pie in the eye” fund-raiser in the College of Business Zutes Atrium.

And yet, he begins each class with a quote, challenging students to think where it came from and who said it. Two of his favorites are mindbenders:

There are no educators. As a thinker, one should speak only of self-education.

More things exist without our knowledge than with it and the order in creation which you see is that which you have put there, like a string in a maze, so that you will not lose your way.

The first quote, by 19th century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, explains Victor Perotti’s modus operandi at RIT, to create an environment where students become self-directed.

The second comes from an excerpt in Cormac McCarthy’s chilling book, *Blood Meridian*, because Perotti recently “has been thinking about the importance of individuals in an organization like RIT.”

The associate professor of management information systems knows how to straddle the worlds of academic rigor and personal expectations—using equal doses of instruction balanced with common sense.

Even his office in the College of Business offers a few clues to his relaxed teaching style: a purple lava lamp, a serene pic-

ture of a pristine beach in the Adirondack mountains, pictures of his parents, siblings, wife Jennifer and 2-year-old son Evan, desktop sand art with a rake and pebbles, and books that range from the philosophical *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* to texts on business programming and Web systems development.

“I have a diverse educational background and it sometimes comes as a surprise to people,” says Perotti, who earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in computer science as well as M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in cognitive psychology from Ohio State University.

“I’m a proponent of problem-based learning, which means creating a space in the classroom where students become active and actually direct the way they learn,” he explains.

Encouraging students to interact and think for themselves is why Perotti is being honored this year as a recipient of the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching.

“I don’t believe in memorization and I lecture as little as possible,” Perotti says about teaching MIS and e-Business courses at RIT since 1997. “I give the students realistic problems they would encounter in industry and businesses in the global marketplace. Technology comes and goes, so the ability to assimilate new information and run with it is essential for future business leaders.”



Perotti: Fosters problem-based learning.

Perotti also admits it’s a “family affair” at RIT because his parents moved from their faculty positions in Ohio two years ago to teach here as emeritus professors.

“My mother teaches global business and my father is an MIS professor for the executive MBA program,” he says. “Sometimes it’s like a Perotti ‘who’s who’ in the College of Business.”

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COLA dean, archeologist to lead farming expedition in Croatia

Earlier discoveries by Andrew Moore helped scientists date agriculture to 11,000 B.C.

Tracing the spread of farming is an archeological puzzle that has long interested Andrew Moore, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Evidence of early farming signifies a move away from hunting and gathering, and the advent of village settlements, ancient precursors of post-modern cities.

In June, Moore will head to Croatia to launch the first season of an archaeological dig in the village of Danilo along the Dalmatian Coast. He will use this key Neolithic site as a case study for the spread of farming from West Asia into the Mediterranean and Central Europe. Evidence of early and late Neolithic phases at Danilo makes this excavation especially interesting to him.

Moore's earlier work in Syria pushed back the date of early farming by 1,000 years to approximately 11,000 B.C. His more than 30 years of research is detailed in his book, *Village on the Euphrates*.

Moore looked to the relatively neglected area in Croatia when unrest in

the Middle East caused him to suspend a project in the Jordan Valley. He soon made contact with an active community of Croatian archeologists and RIT's American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik. ACMT will provide a base of operations for Moore and his team during their month-long stay.

"ACMT will provide very real logistical support," Moore says. "The project represents an RIT and ACMT effort."

Moore's team will include Anthony Legge and Gordon Hillman, an archeozoologist and an archeobotanist, respectively, with whom he has worked for the last 30 years. Two geomorphologists from the University of Pennsylvania will join the team, along



Residents of the village of Danilo in Croatia look on as a member of Andrew Moore's team assesses the excavation site. This photograph was taken during a preliminary visit.

with students from RIT, Cornell University and Zadar University in Croatia. The team will work in collaboration with Sibenik Museum and chief prehistoric archaeologist, Marko Mendusic.

While the bulk of digging will be

done next summer, Moore is treating this year as an exploratory season, a chance for the entire team to meet for the first time and to work with technology they will use during the excavation.

Last year, Moore and students from Cornell University's geology department conducted a survey of ground-penetrating radar to identify the best place to excavate. The survey allowed the team to see archeological layers and features, including a hearth and a stone wall buried underground. The Cornell team will also participate this year.

"We engaged the interest of local archeologists in new approaches to

archaeology using new theories and applying technical solutions to recovering data," Moore says.

This year, Moore will introduce a unique device designed by a team of six mechanical engineering students at RIT to uncover data systematically. The flotation machine will separate charred plant remains, bones and small artifacts from the soil—keys to Moore's inquiry. The machine will replace what he calls "primitive devices" and will yield higher-quality and more dependable results.

He is equally excited about three major waterfalls near the Danilo site that will provide a ready-made climate gauge not studied before. According to Moore, lime in the water dissolved to form the gorges in a relatively "quick" 19,000 years, preserving a history of climactic vegetation.

"This represents an environmental study that will be new for this part of the Mediterranean," Moore says. ■

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Welded sculpture class shows off talent ; meshes with real-world training

Erica Sacheli doesn't really fit the traditional image of a welder. In fact, this petite, fine arts student can't help but smile over the reaction she gets from people when describing her new talent.

"They really think it's cool—kind of intriguing," she says.

Sacheli is among a dozen students from RIT's School of Art taking a class in welded sculpture. During one quarter of training, students get to combine steel with their unique visions and transform them into works of art. The course instructor, Professor Bruce Sodervick, says understanding the mechanics of welding is only part of the lesson plan.

"The real challenge in teaching this is relating it to the real world," he explains. "Unless students get contact with real life situations, they don't understand the need for preplanning and the methodical stages of development."

To compensate for that, Sodervick

takes his class out into the "real world." After three weeks of classroom lecture, students move off campus to continue their lessons at Mahany Welding Supply in Gates. The company's facility—which features a modern training center equipped with the latest in welding technology—is available to members of the class at no personal expense. Also, the Mahany staff is on hand to help students turn their visions into reality.

For Mahany's president, Michael



Sparks fly as Erica Sacheli works on completing her welded sculpture project.

Krupnicki, it's a way to give something back to the university. Krupnicki graduated from the Executive MBA program in the College of Business in 1999.

"Having college students come in here with their energy and excitement gives us all a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction," he states.

"Their level of creativity never ceases to amaze me."

Sean Pelletier, a third-year fine art student from Keene, N.H., dreamed up an ambitious design for his sculpture,

incorporating a motion detector that triggers a spinning wheel. Although welding is not new to him, the opportunity to collaborate with Krupnicki and his staff is particularly appealing.

"It's great to work with people like Mike who do this professionally," says Pelletier. "I'm mainly a painter, but this training is something that I can add to my experience in the art field."

Sacheli agrees. The third-year student from Rochester is considering a career in interior design. She hopes the welding experience will enhance her opportunities, allowing her to incorporate more metallic aspects into her designs.

"If nothing else, it will be nice to do as a hobby at home," she claims. "I'm just really having a lot of fun with it." ■

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Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching



Sean Sutton, College of Liberal Arts

The first thing you might notice about Sean Sutton is his accent. Sutton not only happens to be a native Australian teaching U.S. politics in the College of Liberal Arts, he's also the recipient of the Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

For a man who never wanted to be a teacher growing up, the award is another chapter of an interesting life spanning two continents and half the globe.

"I wanted to be a bookbinder, or maybe a stockbroker," he says. "But as is often the case, I ran into a teacher I admired and got hooked."

Politics always fascinated Sutton, and in order to pursue a newfound interest in teaching, he decided to continue his education in the United States. American politics, he quickly found, was more complicated than he expected.

"There was quite a bit of learning involved. Often, the teacher would make a statement and assume everyone knew what he was talking about. I didn't," says Sutton.

As his studies progressed, Sutton found he did have an advantage over his American peers—a fresh perspective. He found documents like the Declaration of Independence to be "new, interesting and wonderful." With time and study, Sutton soon surpassed his classmates. In class discussion, his professors would challenge his classmates,

asking "Is there an American here who can answer?" Sutton describes his teaching style as "serious playfulness." Every class is punctuated by at least one good laugh. He quickly identifies adaptability and participation as two founding principles that guide his teaching. Sutton combines dialectic and lecture with interesting and relevant reading material outside of class.

"If you give students interesting, good stuff, they open right up," Sutton says.

He also tries to draw students into classroom debates. "You have to be able to think things through for yourself, to think on the fly," he says.

A tactic of Sutton's is simply pointing to students and asking them to explain their position on an issue. Colleagues of Sutton have high praise for his teaching abilities.

"Professor Sutton adapts to the students in his classes and stretches them to new levels of performance beyond what they thought they could do," says John Murley, professor and chair of the political science department, "Thirty years from now he will be a legend at RIT for the quality of his classes."

Sutton's academic pursuits include work on a critique of Rational Choice theory, titled, "A Wealth of Notions: the Poverty of Rational Choice," which he hopes to publish soon. This summer, he plans to edit a collection of essays on the politics of William Shakespeare. Modern political scientists, he believes, could learn much from study of the Bard.

Outside the classroom, Sutton enjoys a good game of chess, though he humbly admits he has "no talent at all."

"It's terrible really, I've played all my life and I love something I'll never be good at."

Even after consulting several manuals on strategies to improve his game, he fails to see any results.

"My excuse is that I've never devoted the necessary time, but that just hides a lack of talent," he says.

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Annual SAC 'Walkthrough,' May 17

The creativity of some artistic RIT students will be showcased during a special one-day event. "Walkthrough" takes place from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 17, in the James E. Booth Building.

This is an annual tradition for the School for American Crafts. Everyone is welcome to tour the school's metals, wood, ceramics and glass studios. Works created by students will be on display, and there will be lively demonstrations highlighting each program.

"It's an opportunity to experience the entirety of the school in a way not possible during normal day-to-



Kirsten Bassion's ceramic bowl will be on display during the SAC "Walkthrough."

day activities," says Michael Rogers, SAC chair. "It's both a celebration and a significant educational event."

For more information, call 475-6114. ■

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Wasting away



In honor of Earth Day, RIT's Facilities Management recycling department partnered with Delta Phi Epsilon fraternity and environmental sciences professor Karl Korfmacher's honors class to conduct the second annual RIT Waste Audit. From left, students Taryn Kay, Alicja Bajorska and Kim Roberts weigh and measure trash. Auditors went through 335 pounds of RIT garbage of which they found 27 percent could be recycled—a big improvement over last year's audit where 50 percent of trash on campus could be recycled but wasn't. Last quarter, 30 percent of RIT's waste stream was recycled.

The Fuehrers reach the century mark for family tradition

Four generations of family members attend RIT—one graduates May 21

The Fuehrers have built a legacy on their wealth of knowledge.

During the past 100 years, four generations of family members have attended RIT.

In 1904, William J. Fuehrer started classes at the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute and graduated with a degree in architecture.

On May 21, his great-grandson, David Fuehrer, will graduate from RIT with an MBA, concentrating in technology management degree. And the link crisscrosses throughout the Fuehrers' educational history at RIT:

- Charles Edwards (David's maternal grandfather) graduated in 1937 with a degree in mechanical engineering.
- Gerard Rossner (David's third-cousin) earned a BFA in photography in 1961.
- Craig Fuehrer (David's father) attended classes in 1968 for his masters in chemistry.
- Martin Mendola (David's cousin) earned his MBA in 1998.
- Eric Fuehrer (David's brother) is a finance major who will graduate in 2005.

Early beginnings: William Fuehrer and Gerard Rossner

The legacy began with William, an architect in Rochester who opened his own business in 1910. William's designs include St. Boniface School on Gregory Street, Haddon Hall on University Avenue and buildings on Thurston Road and in downtown Rochester.

Rossner remembers his "Uncle William the architect" and often visited him on the job when he was a young boy. "He had a cigar box filled with new pencils and he would break each of them in half and sharpen both ends so no one would want to steal them if they were stubs," he recalled. "He was a smart businessman."

Following a four-year stint in the Navy as an aviation photographer, Rossner attended RIT because it was the only place to go for photography. He graduated in 1961, and worked as an industrial photographer for Kodak until 1989.

"I took classes in the Clark Building at the downtown campus," Rossner says. "I was taught by some of the big names in early photography: Charlie Savage, who taught portraiture, and C.B. Neblette, world-famous photographer, author and first dean of RIT's College of Graphic Arts and Photography."

Change of direction: Charles Edwards

"My great-grandfather's belief in higher education started the RIT tradition that includes both my mother's and father's side of the family," says David Fuehrer, a research coordinator at RIT's College of Business Technology Management Center.

"William Fuehrer has served as our



Four generations of Fuehrers have attended RIT during the past 100 years, including, from left, Eric, Craig, David and Charles Edwards.

role model and his diploma has been passed from one family to another while they attended classes at RIT. It's hanging in my parent's house. But my grandfather, Charles, also played a big role in our lives."

In his recollections, Charles cites an important date in history—David's graduation day—as a reaffirmation of his family's destiny.

"It was May 21, 1927," he recalls. "I was a young boy and delivering milk from our dairy farm when a neighbor called out to me, 'Lindberg made it,'" he says. "Soon it will be May 21, and

the date carries even more meaning because someone in my family has 'made it.'"

"And David's graduation day is also my 88th birthday," says Charles, who plans on attending the ceremony.

While RIT's selling point has always been reality based for family members—close to home with a strong focus to progress from academics to internships and the workforce—the cost of education has changed.

"When I went to RIT, tuition was \$150 a year and it was raised to \$200 during my third year," says Charles with a laugh. "I paid my way by making 40 cents an hour at Kodak. I've been told it's quite different now."

Time Out: Craig Fuehrer

Craig enrolled at RIT in 1968 to earn a masters degree in chemistry but only attended classes for three weeks.

"I wanted to carry on the family tradition," says Craig, "but I had just returned from Vietnam where I was awarded the Purple Heart after severe injuries in a major attack where everyone else was killed. I couldn't deal with all those memories and ended up back in the hospital. So my two sons are my legacy, so to speak—to carry on what I couldn't finish myself."

Now he is known as the family historian and record-keeper of many RIT milestones throughout 10 decades.

"Whether it's significant or not, William's diploma has number 21 on it," Craig notes. "When you consider RIT's 175-year history and all the students who passed through its doors, you can understand why numbering diplomas was eliminated."

Moving On: David and Eric Fuehrer

David and Eric believe there are lessons learned by continuing the RIT tradition. They recently spent a few hours sifting through their grandfather's college memorabilia—permanent reminders of family history to weigh, consider, but never take for granted.

"Many students don't want to attend college where their parents or grandparents went, but that idea never crossed my mind," says Eric. "In fact, when I see how ambitious and successful my relatives have been in their careers and their lives, I figured those were good steps to follow."

Likewise, David realizes what it means to be a fourth generation-Fuehrer-graduate from RIT.

"We've all taken different paths but we all came back and have continued to be a part of this campus for 100 years," he affirms. "RIT has been a big part of my life and my family's life and the breath of experience and education this university offers is testimony to the diverse paths we've taken and will continue to take."

"Our family ties to RIT have both been an honor and a very wise investment." ■

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RIT honors its scholarship donors

When Jesse Williamson first arrived at RIT two years ago, he knew there would be some uncertainty to manage. College offered new academic and social challenges, but there would be financial challenges as well.

"I really wasn't sure how I would handle the expense," he recalls. "I just had to believe that everything would fall into place."

Like thousands of RIT students, Williamson found the support he needed through scholarship assistance. And behind every young scholar is an individual, organization or company that's making the support possible.

RIT saluted its scholarship donors during its seventh annual Celebration of Scholarship. The event, which was held this year at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, provided an opportunity to honor their generosity.

"It's also an occasion for the scholarship recipients and their donors to meet each other," explains Debbie Kingsbury, director of donor relations. "The students learn there are real people behind the awards they receive—people and organizations committed to RIT and helping students receive their education. And donors get what they want—to meet the students and hear first-hand how their contributions are benefiting the future of these young scholars."

That's what brought Gerald and Jean Countryman to the Celebration



Jesse Williamson, center, joins scholarship donors Jean and Gerald Countryman at the seventh annual Celebration of Scholarship.

of Scholarship. Three years ago, their son Jerome, an RIT mechanical engineering student, died during a spring break accident in Mexico. In the wake of that tragedy, the family chose to honor his memory by establishing a scholarship.

The Jerome Countryman Memorial Scholarship targets students enrolled in the mechanical engineering program in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. The recipients must demonstrate financial need and also maintain good academic standing.

"Jerome had such character," says Jean Countryman. "He was honest, hardworking and down to earth. If somebody had a problem, that person could go to him, and he would give the shirt off his back."

That legacy is what ties the Countrymans with Jesse Williamson.

As the first recipient of the Jerome Countryman Memorial Scholarship, Williamson receives the financial assistance that helps support his academic pursuits.

"I feel both honored and blessed to receive this scholarship and to play a part in keeping Jerome's memory alive," he states.

Memories are what sustain Doreen Ferraro. Four years ago, she lost her son Joseph to a fatal bout with meningitis. Through Ferraro's persistence and the support of family and friends, an endowed scholarship at RIT now commemorates her son's enthusiasm for life and affection for others.

"Knowing he is able to continue being a goodwill ambassador, even in death, brings a smile to the faces and warmth to the hearts of everyone who knew him," she says.

Joining Ferraro and the Countrymans at this year's celebration were more than 100 other scholarship donors, including members of RIT's Facilities Management Division. The group pooled \$30,000 in personal resources to create the Facilities Management Endowed Scholarship. It's among 18 new scholarships created during that past year.

In total, there are 478 scholarship programs benefiting RIT students. For information, contact RIT's development office at 475-5500. ■

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It's all in the family



In honor of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work day, Rick Auburn, a technician in RIT's industrial design department, brought his daughter, Sage, far right, to work to see what he does all day long. Zoe Morgan, daughter of industrial design professor David Morgan, joined in the fun. Here the girls react to the noise of the drill press.

Fuel cell conference, June 14-16

Leading experts converge on RIT campus

For the second consecutive year, worldwide fuel-cell experts will converge at RIT for two global conferences next month.

The second International Conference on Fuel Cell Science, Engineering and Technology, June 14 to 16, will highlight advances in fuel-cell systems and components for stationary, mobile and portable power-generation applications. David Garman, assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy with the U.S. Department of Energy, will be a banquet speaker.

"Fuel cells are an emerging technology for electric power generation," says Ramesh Shah, RIT research professor of mechanical engineering, director of the



Ramesh Shah

Advanced Fuel Cell Research Laboratory in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and conference co-chair.

"This technology has great promise with the use of alternative fuel sources beyond fossil fuels, and it will have a far-reaching impact on our society and the U.S. and global economies."

Shah cites advantages of fuel cells including high efficiency, low emissions, low noise and reduced reliance on foreign oil. Challenges associated with fuel cells, many of which will be addressed at the conference, include high power-generation costs, large packaging requirements and issues surrounding performance and reliability of fuel-cell stacks and



Satish Kandlikar

Fuel cell conference, page 12

Aero design team in competition



RIT's Aero Design team earned eighth place among 35 teams in the annual SAE Aero Design East contest in April near Orlando, Fla. Teams competed to lift the most weight and fly a specified pattern and distance. RIT's aircraft carried a payload of 19.8 pounds. Advised by Kevin Kochersberger, associate professor of mechanical engineering (back row, far right), students on the team are members of the Society of Automotive Engineers, competition sponsor.

What will be your legacy?

by Kevin Ptak, fourth-year professional and technical communication student, and 2004 graduate

Viewpoints

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. We hope “Viewpoints” inspires discussion among the RIT community. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail newsevents@rit.edu.



Last September, at the Convocation ceremony for the College of Liberal Arts, I was privileged to address the incoming class of first-year students and deliver to them an inspirational speech of welcome to RIT. It seems fitting, now, at the end of the school year, I again have an opportunity to address the student body—this time as I make my exit.

Over the past four years, it has been my distinct

pleasure to work with the students and faculty of the College of Liberal Arts. It has been an even greater experience to be a part of this institution, to learn so much in such a short time, and to meet so many people that I will not forget.

I am envious of the classes that will graduate in the next few years; they are fortunate to attend RIT at such an exciting time. This university has changed so much over the last several years—it has literally transformed before my eyes. The addition of the new Gordon Field House and Activities Center is just the beginning of more new things to come. RIT has steadily transitioned to become one of the foremost institutions of higher learning, and I can only imagine what its future holds.

We are also looking back now, in celebration of a rich 175 years. In coursework this past winter, I had the chance to investigate the history of RIT for

myself and search the archives for examples of art and literature from times long past. I found that though the landscape of the institute has continually changed, the creativity, talent and innovation exhibited by RIT students has always remained constant. I look forward to seeing more of the same from generations of students to come.

As a graduating student, this is my opportunity to deliver a speech of farewell, and so I leave those who remain with a little advice: Your time here is far shorter than you realize. What will be your legacy when you leave? Will others remember you as simply a student or as someone who cared enough to make a difference, to leave something behind for others to identify with and learn from? Improving this school for others is about more than being a good citizen: It’s about helping others learn from all you have accomplished. ■

Public service award created

Al Davis, commonly referred to as “Mr. RIT,” is at it again.

As part of the 175th anniversary celebration, Davis has established the Bruce R. James Distinguished Public Service Award. James, a 1964 RIT graduate, is the Public Printer of the United States. The presidential appointment makes him the highest-ranking public servant among all RIT alumni.



Al Davis

The new award will recognize a student or student organization for exemplary public service in the greater Rochester community. Davis created a \$20,000 endowment for the award. Each year, \$1,000 will be distributed by the recipient to a campus organization or a community not-for-profit organization of his/her choice.

Davis said James is a model for public service. James, chairman of RIT’s Board of Trustees, has served

dozens of civic organizations in his career, including the Boy Scouts and a school district.

Davis created the award to encourage students to engage in public service. In 2003, Davis also created the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award, which is now presented annually to a member of the RIT faculty or staff whose public service and commitment mirrors that of the four RIT presidents who worked with Davis. Davis, vice president emeritus, has a 66-year association with RIT.

Davis’ inspiration for his two public service awards came from CIA Director George Tenet during his remarks at the 2002 Commencement. Tenet told the graduates: “Serve someone other than yourself, something bigger than yourself.” ■

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Bruce James

Puttin’ on the RITz



Photo by Walter Colley

RIT’s School of Hospitality and Service Management hosted its 19th annual Puttin’ on the RITz dinner-dance on April 17 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. Above, from left, Jennifer Matteson, Janina DeBellis, Jeff Haberbush and Jillian Patterson prepare the salad, a bed of dandelions and arugula. DeBellis, a fourth-year hotel and resort management major, received the Drew Montecucullo Award, named for an alumnus and former faculty member who was a role model for high standards, creativity, energy and professional success. The gala, attended by 276, was organized entirely by students. Proceeds benefit the hospitality education fund for educational student travel, undergraduate and graduate awards, equipment and scholarships.

Photo students head to Brazil

New class to focus on underwater photography

Some college students spend summer vacation working seasonal jobs back home. Others stay at RIT to get ahead by taking summer classes. In contrast, a select few will spend two weeks on an island off the coast of Brazil taking documentary photos and building portfolios in an exciting new addition to the curriculum of the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

A new course—Photography in Brazil—offers students an opportunity to gain experience working in another country and “dive in” to underwater photography

Millard Schisler, a Brazilian RIT adjunct professor, first proposed the Brazil class last fall.

“I wanted to create a course in Brazil that could expose students to the culture, landscape and to people within social organizations,” says Schisler.

The class started in spring and will stretch over three consecutive quarters. Initially, students met for a preparation period to learn about Brazilian culture, geography, food and regional topics of interest. Several students took Portuguese language classes to supplement their learning.

One week after final exams, the group will depart to spend two weeks in Natal, Rio de Janeiro and Fernando de Noronha, a sheltered archipelago allowing only 420 visitors daily. Once on the islands, the students will work

to produce documentary photos for Brazilian nonprofit groups. Underwater photographs taken on the coral reefs surrounding the island group will become a primary focus.

Students will also work with a local high school by installing a digital photography workstation and training the teachers on how to use it. Two RIT computers and a digital camera will be left as gifts for the area residents and schoolchildren. There will also be an opportunity to take pictures in the local villages and towns on the mainland.

In fall quarter, students will share and critique their work and present their trip portfolios.

The concept of this class is based on a similar class sponsored by SPAS—Photography in Cuba. In a rare cultural exchange between United States students and the Cuban people, SPAS students return from trips to Cuba in spring quarter with great photos—and the stories to go along with them.

William DuBois, professor and chair of the photographic arts department, will also take part in the excursion.

“Aside from the great weather, Brazil will offer some unique photo opportunities for our students. Underwater photography, while similar to photography above water, demands different lighting techniques and color filtration. This will be an important skill for students to learn,” he says. ■

Underwater photographs taken on the coral reefs surrounding the island group will become a primary focus.

Student Government Extra Mile award

RIT’s electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology department in the College of Applied Science and Technology received this year’s Extra Mile Award from Student Government. The award, presented at the sixth annual Student Government All Governance Awards Banquet on April 25, was given for outstanding and attentive service to students throughout the year. More than 300 students, parents, faculty and staff attended.

Carol Richardson, professor and department chair, singled out Kathy Alhart, Jan DiCaro and Pam Gurbacki, who work in student services for the department, as those most deserving of the award. “They have gone the extra mile for students for many years,” Richardson says.

Other finalists for the award included the information technology department and RIT’s North Star Center for Academic Success & Cultural Affairs.

Strategic planning update

RIT is in the final stages of its year-long strategic planning process.

The community has the chance to weigh in on the draft version of the Strategic Plan by downloading a copy at www.rit.edu/president and clicking on the Strategic Planning logo. The draft version is available in PDF format under the documents section.

A feedback Web site is available at www.rit.edu/president/feedback for the RIT community to provide comments through May 23. The feedback received from the Web site will be considered as the final draft of the 2005-

2015 Strategic Plan is prepared.

The plan will be finalized in early June and presented to the Board of Trustees at the July meeting for discussion and approval. The approved plan will serve as an anchor for decision making and provide guidance that will assist decision makers at all levels of the university.

“Faculty, staff and student participation has been instrumental in developing this plan, and I hope that many more members of our campus provide input during the final stages of the process,” says RIT President Albert Simone. ■



News briefs

SOFA Honors show

Sofia Coppola is turning heads as the young director of the blockbuster movie *Lost in Translation*. So who will become Hollywood’s next hotshot filmmaker?

Potential candidates from RIT are ready to debut their recent film projects during the annual School of Film and Animation Honors Show. The event is a way to showcase this year’s best undergraduate and graduate student productions. The projectors start rolling at 3:30 p.m. on May 23, at The Little theater in downtown Rochester. Admission to the show is \$5, but RIT students with ID can get in for free.

\$90K packaging grant

RIT’s packaging science program in the College of Applied Science and Technology is receiving \$90,000 over three years from American Packaging Corp. to support graduate research in the Integrated Plastics Center. The gift will fund the American Packaging Corp. graduate assistantship and provide a one-year tuition stipend to two graduate students.

Peter Schottland, president and chief executive officer of American Packaging, and other representatives of the Rochester-based firm announced the gift in an April 27 visit to RIT. The company provides packaging for industries including food, beverage, medical, household, personal care and more.

Launched last year, RIT’s 1,100-square-foot plastics center is used to evaluate and characterize plastic materials and develop cost-effective packaging. RIT’s packaging science program is one of only six in the nation.

Staff Appreciation Day

This year’s annual Staff Appreciation Picnic will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 25, in the Administration Circle. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; the stickball tournament starts at 1 p.m.

Heart Walk updates

Team Tiger took on the Heart Walk challenge with gusto this year, raising more than \$6,600. This year’s participation doubled that of the previous highest year—2000, with \$300 raised and 120 walkers.

More than 200 people participated this year. The RIT student Social Work team raised the most money—more than \$800.

Serving the less fortunate

Balancing learning and life can be hard enough, but some students go beyond to find a place for service in their college careers. One example is RIT’s Habitat for Humanity club, which donated \$1,200 to the Livingston County Habitat for Humanity on April 17 at the dedication of a newly completed home. The club raised the money from their annual Snowball semi-formal.

The RIT club has partnered with the Livingston county group since its inception in spring 2000 and has helped to build several houses.

Also this year, during spring break, club members ventured to Concord, N.C., to work with the Cabarrus County Habitat for Humanity. Part of the Habitat for Humanity’s Collegiate Challenge spring break program, five club members spent their break building two houses there.

For information, <http://habitat.rit.edu/>.

2004 Award Recipients

Winning writers



The Institute Writing Committee named six winners of this year's Student Writing Contest. Seated are, from left to right, Marigold Bethany, second-year biology/pre-vet major and one of two grand-prize winners in the essay category; Christopher Vongsawat, fourth-year multidisciplinary student, winner of an honorable mention award in the creative writing and a writing award winner for four consecutive years; Frank Hilbert, fourth-year business management student and two-time winner of an honorable mention in creative writing. Standing, from left to right, are Andrew Moore, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Agnes Barton-Sabo, fourth-year fine-art photography major and two-time winner of an honorable mention in creative writing; Stanley McKenzie, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Ren Meinhart, third-year visual media major and grand-prize winner in the creative writing category; Chris Cochrane, first-year electrical engineering major and grand-prize winner in the essay category; Albert Simone, RIT President; and Katherine Schumacher, chair of the Institute Writing Committee.

Bennett Scholars

The TRIO Support Services program in RIT's Learning Development Center honored recipients of the Bennett Scholarship in a ceremony at the end of April. The 2004 Bennett Scholars are Jennifer Buckley, second-year pre-veterinary medicine; John Hughes, fifth-year information technology; Craig Rocco, second-year software engineering; and Cynthia Ross, fourth-year business management. "Each applicant, in their own way, was a winner and it was hard to choose. However, these students certainly made a great case for themselves. All the packages were inspiring in unique ways," says Marie Giardino, program director.

Sweet rewards of success



RIT's College Panhellenic Association honored 98 Greek women for their academic achievement at their second annual Sweet Rewards Dessert Reception and ceremony in May. Stacey Shaw, first-year physician assistant student and Alpha Xi Delta sister, was honored for having a cumulative GPA of 4.0. A new award this year was given to the pledge class with the highest average GPA for the quarter in which they were initiated, to recognize academic excellence during a time that is often challenging for students as they become part of a new sorority. Alpha Xi Delta's winter 2003-04 new member class won this year's award with an average GPA of 3.31. The class included Laura Foster, Katie Wilson, Julie Watkins, Stacey Shaw and Krista Oreshan.

Student Government awards

A multitude of awards was given to RIT individuals and student groups at the Student Government Awards Banquet in late April.

Award winners included Eric Alley—RHA Member of the Year; Nicole Lighthouse—OCASA Director of the Year; Christopher Samp—NSC Dr. Robert Frisina's Past President Award; RIT Comedy Troupe—SG Outstanding Club Programming; Social Work Club—SG Outstanding Community Service; International House—Global Union Club of the Year; Unity House—BACC Appreciation Awards; David Falletta, Tau Kappa Epsilon—Greek Council Outstanding Greek Man; Erin Hannan, Alpha Xi Delta—Greek



Council Outstanding Greek Woman; Dawn Soufleris, Delta Phi Epsilon—Outstanding Greek Advisor; Lonnie Parker and La Toye Adams—

Isaac L. Jordan Sr. Memorial Scholarship for Diversity; La Toye Adams—the Cheryl Bulls, Lanette Moore and Susan Willoughby Memorial

Scholarship; Lonnie Parker—Frederick Douglass Scholarship; Justin Ricci—Student Government Member of the Year; Eric Majewicz—Student Government Senator of the Year; Whitney Anderson—Kathleen Keyes Memorial Scholarship; Delta Phi Epsilon—President's Cup for Outstanding Greek Chapter; and Itzel Morales—Eric Scott Senna Spirit Award. ■

Stand out scholars



The College of Liberal Arts' annual Kearsse Student Honor Awards recognize students from across the university for their excellence in liberal arts coursework. Dean Andrew Moore joined the winning scholars, Tom Connelly, Christina Cozan, Carol Ferrara, Sarah Harmon, Jeffrey Ingraham, Bill Kuker, Timothy Lebo, James Letts, Andrew Maimone, David Marion, Vanessa Mazza, Russell Raymond, Christina Sekella, Jason Selleck, Abby Uschold, Kavya Yadav and Leah Zodarecky.

Distance learning scholarships

Provost Stanley McKenzie and Online Learning hosted the 2004 Exemplary Online Teaching Awards and 2003/2004 Distance Learning Scholarship Award on April 28 in Wallace Library.

At the ceremony, the Distance Learning Student Scholarship was presented to Lee Gwin, B.S. student in Applied Arts and Sciences.

Recognized for the Exemplary Distance Learning Faculty Award was Thomas Moran, assistant professor in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, College of Applied Science and Technology.

Samuel McQuade, assistant professor of Criminal Justice in the College of Liberal Arts, was honored with the Exemplary Online Teaching Award. ■

International student scholars



Alfred Davis, front row, far left, RIT vice president emeritus, joined the winning scholars honored by RIT's International Student Scholarship program—this year celebrating 38 students from countries around the world. The scholars are Roman Blagovirny, Aakash Dinish C. Chauhan, Myung Hwa Choi, Nikhil Deshpande, Ashish A. Digvadekar, Hemantkumar N. Gai, Trisha Gard, Gautam Umesh Gupta, Vivek Jaganathan, Faraz Khan, Kiran Lad, Hyun Jung Lee, Deepti Mehrotra, Akihiko Miyoshi, Kalpesh Modi, Itzel Morales, Mithun Mukherjee, Mohammed R. Rahman, Hans-Christian Rotmann, Amardeep Sekhri, Vishal Shah, Ajish Thomas and Minh Zuong. Missing from the photo are: Pratik Bavishi, Chi-Shiuan Lu, Katherine Leigh McNulty, Gaurav Poddar, Vikas Gupta, Patel Satyam, Aman Relan, Pari Dukovic, Qing Quan, Charulata Gyan Daultani, Mian Sheng Lim, Hye-Jin Nae, Ashish C. Vora, Vinod Rao Pesara and Karthik Raguraman.

Davis scholars



The annual Davis Scholarship Awards luncheon this month gave special recognition to student leaders who significantly contribute to campus life. Alfred Davis, RIT vice president emeritus, Mary Lu Clark and Brunhilda Knapp joined the winning scholars. They are LaToye Adams, Whitney Anderson, Jessica Campbell, Jessie Carter, Genevieve DeGuire, Nicholas Herber, Nathan Holland, Yaniv Koter, Michelle Lipchick, Emily Manbeck, Udochi Okeke, Lonnie Parker, Adam Peck, Nathan Pendleton, Annemarie Ross, Christopher Samp and Bridgit Sweetin.

Outstanding female seniors



Sahlah Lawson, far left, fifth-year biology student, and Kimberly Johnston, fourth-year business administration/marketing student, won this year's Outstanding Female Senior Award presented by RIT's Women's Council.

2004 Award Recipients

Outstanding undergraduate scholars



RIT honored students as Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars in a ceremony and reception held in April. Joined by Stanley McKenzie, provost and vice president for academic affairs, top right, the scholars are Ana Bljaic, Jacqueline Cicala, Danijela Crljen, Naida Kadribegovic, Andrijana Korda, Ira-Ela Majer, Marielena Morehouse, Lidija Radacic, Adnan Secibovic, Dijana Sitte, Toma Sutic, Iva Tokic, Vi To Tran and Bozana Zekan from the College of Applied Science and Technology; Jeffrey Burger, Joseph Burwick, Ian Hatcher, Andrew Remming and Joseph Williams from the College of Business; Adam Beck, Thad Billig, Robert Brecher, Scott Douglas, Glenn Katzen, Matthew Lachman, Richard Lazar, Matthew Miller, Michael Ricci, Shaun Savani, Christina Sekella and Andrew Carl Yohn from the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences; Royce Abel, Frank Alva Krueger, William Lambert, Aimee Lemieux, Yuriy Luzanov, Katie McConky, Sashank Nanduri, Eric Nelson, David Pawlik, Julian Peters, Mark Pude, Anthony Rounding, Darren Rowen, Kim Schuttenberg, Surat Teerakapibal and Brian VanBuren from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering; Samuel Aquillano, Justin Arcangeli, Jessica D'Amico, Christina Fisher, Stacey Gianas, Amanda Grandfield, Sean Ryan Keeton, Gregory Madore, Matthew Mattice, Karen Ong, Jamie Rogers, Sara Shaffer, Jill Spaeth and Erica Swenson from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences; Shannon Baker, Jessica Fabin, David Marion and Monique Mazza from the College of Liberal Arts; and Jessica Badgett, Brad Conrad, Dusica Curanovic, William Dowdle, Victor Kostyuk, Mark Mentriskoski, Russell Mark Rohring, Andrew Rullo, Stephanie Shubert, Victoria Anne Shults and Rachel Woltman from the College of Science.

Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees



Alpha Sigma Lambda Honorary Society inducted 24 new students this year. The students were honored at a dinner this month at Liberty Hill along with their chosen mentors. The honorary society annual inducts new members based on scholarship, participation in activities and leadership in academic and co-curricular student activities. This year's honorees are Jessica Marie Backer, Meredith Bielaska, Kevin Carpenter, Ryan Chafin, Shana Dage, Joseph Dolan, Calvin Farmer, Porsche Haag, Korrie Kamp, Molly Kearns, David Lickstein, Megan Keely MacNeil, Robert Manley, Monique Mazza, Katherine McNulty, Amber Mescher, Robert Rinefierd, Jason Selleck, Abbie Stokes-Riner, Adam Stone, Chad Tucker, Jessica Vastola, Katrina Willoughby and Minoru Yoshida.

Baldwin scholars honored



This year's David M. Baldwin Memorial Scholarships in the department of biological sciences in the College of Science went to Evan Santo, Dusica Curanovic, Rob Thomson, Amanda Keller and Anna Ludi. The Baldwin scholarship recognizes students for their academic excellence and service to the community. The winners were honored at an award ceremony in April. The scholarship is named for a professor of biological sciences at RIT who died in 1975 and who left his estate to the university. The first Baldwin Scholarships were awarded in 1981.

Students inducted into communications honor society

The College of Liberal Arts Department of Communication recently inducted four new members to Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association. The initiates, Sean King, at left, Robert Cox and Elizabeth Barnard are shown with Susan Barnes, at right, associate professor of communication and faculty advisor to the honor society. Missing from the picture is David Falletta. The professional and technical communication majors were inducted into the society based on their academic qualifications and leadership potential.



Marking a transition



Graduates of the physician assistant program in the College of Science are honored each year in a special ceremony marking their transition from students to professionals. During the annual "coating ceremony" professors present each senior with a white, knee-length coat, embroidered with their name and title, to replace their shorter student coats worn to denote status. Here, Peggy Neagle receives a hand from John Oliphant, clinical coordinator, at left, and Heidi Miller, director of the physician assistant program, as graduates Joseph Spinelli and Melanie Carroll wait their turn.

Fantastic photography

Brandon Remler, right, sales manager for Fuji Photo Film U.S.A. Inc., views the winning portfolios from this year's Fuji Scholarships competition. Kris Kowal, left, from Canton, Mich., earned \$2,000 as the first-prize winner, and Quincy Scott from Gary, Ind., was awarded \$1,000 for second prize. Both students are advertising photography majors in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Judging for the scholarships was based on visual quality, craft, presentation and creativity.



McGowan scholarship winner

A third-year accounting student is receiving the largest scholarship offered by the College of Business. Brian Patterson has been named this year's winner of the William G. McGowan Scholars Program.

Patterson will receive a full scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year, made possible by a grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. The program recognizes academic achievement among business students while encouraging leadership and community involvement.

In the past, Patterson was awarded the RIT Presidential scholarship and scholarships provided through the Honors program and the Nathaniel Rochester Society. He also was recipient of a one-time scholarship through the Institute of Management

Accountants.

"The College of Business has been extremely generous in rewarding me with merit scholarships for my hard

work in the classroom and my dedication to multiple student clubs and activities," Patterson says. "As my senior year approaches, I am very excited about working to improve student morale and to get people excited about being at RIT."

Patterson is an active member of various campus organizations including the Student Alumni Association, Lowenthal Group, Next Generation of

Accountants and the American Production and Inventory Control Society.

RIT is among 31 colleges and universities around the country that participate in the William G. McGowan Scholars Program, named in honor of the founder and chairman of MCI Communications Corp. ■



Brian Patterson

Accolades continue for film Miner to show animation at Cannes

Kimberly Miner is making a major impact in the world of student film. Miner will present her short film *Perpetual Motion* at the Cannes Film

comical question: If a cat always lands on its feet, and toast always lands jelly-side down, what would happen to a cat with jelly toast strapped to its back? The



Kimberly Miner will show “Perpetual Motion” at the Cannes Film Festival in France, May 22.

Festival in France on May 22. It tops a long list of other honors received for the film, including a gold medal in the animation category of the Student Academy Awards last June. Miner, a second-year animation major in the School of Film and Animation, says her initial reaction to the news was disbelief. “This wasn’t something I intended at all,” she says. “I didn’t have a clue as to what the significance of this film would be.” The 87-second-long film raises a

answer is explored in laugh-aloud fashion through the use of hand drawings, watercolors and computer-assisted animation. Having never traveled outside the country, Miner thinks the festival will be an exciting but frenzied environment. She intends to enjoy the opportunity to show her work at such a prestigious event, and simply savor the moment. “I’ll just enjoy whatever comes.” View *Perpetual Motion* at www.rit.edu/news. ■ Kevin Ptak | kppuns@rit.edu

Media ecology conference

Every time we gain something, we give something up. Take the Internet, for instance. “With the Internet we gain the flexibility of going across time and space,” says Susan Barnes, associate professor of communication at RIT. “We lose the association of



Susan Barnes

people with their words, and so people are no longer accountable for their words and actions. We have worms and spam happening because you can’t track these people down. You would never have these things occurring in a face-to-face community.” The “environment” media creates is the focus of an emerging discipline called media ecology, a blend of communication studies with information technology and the arts. Media ecology and the liberal arts will be the focus of an upcoming conference at RIT when the university hosts the Media Ecology Association’s fifth annual convention from June 10 to 13. The conference will explore Media Environments and the Liberal Arts from a variety of perspectives.

“When I first came to RIT, I realized I was starting to see a lot of intersections between liberal arts, information technologies and creative expressions,” says Barnes, one of the founding members of the MEA. “I thought this conference would be an opportunity to bring together different people from campus to explore media and, in particular, digital environments that are changing everything.” She adds: “The digital medium is the first medium that combines words, pictures, sounds and motion. That’s why Web sites can resemble books and newspapers, and TV shows can go online. It’s such a flexible medium.” Barnes notes that digital media blurs boundaries of what used to be traditional disciplines. For instance, Web site design could fall under information technology, graphic arts

and communication. “The whole premise of the conference is that once a new communication medium is introduced into a liberal arts discipline it changes everything,” Barnes says. “It will influence how we teach, do research and express ourselves creatively.” One of the conference highlights will include a keynote speech by author and media critic Douglas Rushkoff, who will talk about computer games at 7 p.m. on June 11 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. Rushkoff is the author of several best-selling books on new

media and popular culture, including *Cyberia* and *Media Virus*, and correspondent for the PBS *Frontline* documentary, *Merchants of Cool*. Other points of interest will include panel sessions on blogging, gaming, visual ecologies and digital poetry. RIT professors Elizabeth Lawley, Stephen Jacobs and John Roche will head discussion panels, along with such visiting authors and scholars as Robert Logan, author of *Alphabet Effect*, Denise Schmandt-Besserat, art historian and archaeologist from Stanford University, authors Gary Gumpert and Susan Drucker, Marjorie Lusesabrink, president of the Los Angeles-based Electric Literature Organization, and Liss Jeffrey from the McLuhan Center at the University of Toronto, among others. “Many of these conference sessions are pilot ideas for possible courses in liberal arts and information technology, and possibly other disciplines,” Barnes says, “and to make a point that in the liberal arts we are affected by digital media and communication environments.” Media Environments and the Liberal Arts begins at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, and wraps up at 1 p.m. on June 13. It is sponsored by RIT’s communication department and the William A. Kern Professor in Communications, and the College of Liberal Arts. The event is free to the RIT community, \$60 for the general public and \$25 for non-RIT students. Visit www.rit.edu/~sbbgpt/mea-rit. ■ Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Winning ways



The College of Science Student Advisory Board has recognized an outstanding faculty member each term this year with a new COS Faculty of the Quarter Award. Winners are nominated by students and selected by members of the COSSAB based on their dedication and enthusiasm shown to the student body. The award is unique within COS and is recognized by Student Government. Award winners are, from left to right, Carl Salvaggio, professor of imaging science and winner of the fall quarter, Robert Rothman, professor of biological sciences and winner of the spring quarter, and Matthew Coppenbarger, professor of mathematics and statistics and winner of the winter quarter.

Grant supports RIT Web site \$1 million gift lends technology support

RIT has received a grant from CampusEAI for \$1 million in software and services over the next five years to support the my.rit.edu portal’s research and development. “This grant gives us a lot more flexibility to add our own functionality to my.rit.edu,” says Dave Hostetter, director of information and technology services. “We’ll no longer be dependent on a commercial application and will extend our own development staff by partnering with other schools.” As a grant recipient, RIT becomes a member of the exclusive CampusEAI community, collaborating and sharing resources with other

universities such as UNC-Chapel Hill, Case Western Reserve University, University of Oklahoma and Washington State University. The my.rit.edu portal switch won’t affect online courseware platforms (such as Prometheus and First Class). They’ll integrate with the portal the same way they do now, Hostetter says. The change is expected to roll out during the summer, but it will be relatively transparent to the average user. “The real value is working with other institutions to build functionality for the portal and be able to leverage each other’s expertise,” Hostetter says. ■ Silandara Bartlett | sjbcom@rit.edu

Departments partner to help ‘clean house’

Everyone accumulates too much stuff. But only college students have to move it out of their apartments and dorm rooms at the end of every school year. In order to alleviate the strain of trying to squeeze all that stuff into cars to take home, or let it go to waste in a landfill, RIT’s Facilities Management Services, Housing Operations and Residence Life are partnering with Goodwill for the 2004 End of the Year Move Out Collection. From May 15 to 23, containers will

be available throughout campus to collect unwanted items. Clothes, books, small appliances—anything that is in good enough condition for Goodwill to resell—can be dropped off. Last year’s pilot program collected more than 1,000 pounds of donated items from the residence halls. This year the program is expanding to include the entire housing population on campus, says Jason Flynn, RIT recycling administrator. The benefits of this program are multi-fold. Students can dispose of

News briefs

SG President’s Award

The Office of the President was awarded the Student Government President’s Award at the SG banquet on April 25. Student Government President Steve Shapiro commended RIT President Albert Simone and his administrative team for its leadership in the development of the Strategic Plan. Shapiro noted that students have been given a strong voice in the development of the plan, which is expected to be adopted by the Board of Trustees in July. Shapiro thanked Simone for getting students involved and allowing the student body to shape the future of the university.

Latest COB offerings

The College of Business has introduced six minors that will be available to all RIT undergraduate students beginning fall 2004. The minors are in the areas of accounting, finance, management, marketing, international business and management information systems. The minors are five courses in length and will allow current business students to expand their business learning experiences and non-business students to gain knowledge in a focused business discipline to supplement their program of study. For information, visit www.cob.rit.edu.

Kids on Campus

’Lil Kids on Campus and Kids on Campus launches its 21st season with an innovative summer line-up for students entering grades one through 10. Open from July 6 to 30, Kids on Campus offers cutting-edge workshops in many areas of interest to youngsters. For information on both program, and registration information, call Susan Kurtz at 5-5987 or susankurtz@mail.rit.edu or visit www.rit.edu/~kocwww.

Blinding them with science



Geneticist, author and filmmaker, R. Spencer Wells visited RIT to talk about his research in population genetics that traces humanity back to a single ancestor. Wells’ work—the subject of a PBS National Geographic documentary, Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey, based on his book of the same name—follows humanity’s migration from Africa to the far reaches of the world. A reception held by the College of Science gave students a chance to meet Wells. Here, Wells, at left, talks to students, from left, Rebecca Rigden, Chalonda Rolle, Jody Pape and Daniela Palacio.

RIT team heads to Israel on mission to examine Dead Sea Scrolls

Work focused on using digital imaging technology on a portion of the ancient documents

An invitation to digitize a section of the Dead Sea Scrolls was too tempting to resist. So, an RIT archeologist and his assistant flew to Tel Aviv last March during a rare 10-day pocket of quiet in between suicide bombings and the assassination of a Hamas movement leader.

Robert Johnston, dean and professor emeritus and special assistant to the provost at RIT, and Lucanus Morgan '01 (imaging science) took their chances. The scrolls were worth it.

“We had to be careful—you could hear gunfire. No riding on buses or dining in restaurants,” Johnston says. “There are checkpoints everywhere armed by soldiers with Uzis. Even people going on dates carry machine guns.”

Morgan agreed. “Most everyone is on edge. Almost everyone carries a weapon.”

They traveled to Israel at the request of James Charlesworth, professor of New Testament language and literature at Princeton Theological Seminary, and editor and



James Charlesworth, left, assesses the Temple Scroll with Lucanus Morgan, center, and Robert Johnston. Morgan and Johnston visited Israel to digitize the manuscript for Charlesworth's next book.

director of the Princeton Dead Seas Scrolls Project. The Dead Sea Scrolls are ancient Jewish documents that

predate 68 A.D. Charlesworth asked Johnston and Morgan to digitize a portion of the manuscript known as the Temple Scroll to illustrate his latest book. This fragmented section runs more than 20 feet, with the largest continuous piece measuring 12 feet.

“You can't bend them or touch them because they would simply fall apart,” Johnston says.

A combination of time, mold and humidity ravaged the leather scrolls. Although different theories exist, Johnston believes the scrolls were hidden from invading Romans in 70 B.C. Bedouins of the Tamara tribe discovered them in 20th century and sold them as antiquities. The scrolls are now housed in vaults in the Hekal HasSepher (“The Shrine of the Book”) in the

Israel Museum in Jerusalem. (To learn more about the museum, visit www.imj.org.il/eng/shrine.)

Johnston and Morgan, an imaging scientist at ITT, set up a color infrared camera over the scrolls and used separate filters to capture data on different layers of the electromagnetic spectrum, the range of visible and invisible light.

“We never touched it,” Morgan says of the manuscript. “Technicians



Robert Johnston, right, stands with Kando in his antiques shop in Bethlehem. The digitized print behind them credits work RIT did with Xerox Corp. and Princeton in the 1980s. Kando's father bought what turned out to be the Dead Sea Scrolls from Bedouins in the 1940s.

moved it with tweezers.” Morgan laid the images on top of each other, registering the characters, and stitched the images together. Ongoing computer processing already has revealed new information, he says. RIT was first associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls in the late 1980s, during Johnston's tenure as interim director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. Johnston—a pioneer in digital capture and digital processing of degraded images—and a group of imaging scientists from CIS and Xerox Corp. digitized the manuscripts for Princeton. A photograph of a digitized image crediting the three partners hangs in an antiquities shop in Bethlehem owned by Kando, the son of the man who rediscovered the scrolls. Johnston and Morgan's trip was funded by Princeton University with partial support from the Xerox Foundation. A \$4,000 grant from the Foundation on Christian Origins in Durham, N.C., supported the digital processing. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

New Student Government leaders

With a vision focused on the future and an ambitious agenda, newly elected Student Government President Sheila Sarratore and Vice President David Blonski are ready to

Dave and things just clicked. We haven't looked back since.” Both Sarratore and Blonski are eager to get to work.

“We want to focus on taking RIT from great to excellent. Often times, there is a lot of talk of how to make things better. We want to make sure that talk is turned into action, and that things are accomplished. Students here are concerned about their future; they're concerned about exceeding expectations and they want to get a solid foundation for the rest of



Student Government President Sheila Sarratore and Vice President David Blonski

represent the student body for the 2004-2005 academic year.

The decision to run for office had been brewing in the minds of both Sarratore and Blonski, but after meeting for the first time shortly before the elections, things just fell into place.

“Sometimes things just feel right,” says Blonski. “After meeting Sheila and getting caught up in her enthusiasm, I knew that this was the year to make a difference.”

Sarratore confirms the serendipitous encounter: “Throughout the year, I had considered the possibility of stepping up and running for president, but I couldn't do it alone. The week election packets were due, I met

their lives,” says Sarratore. Improving the quality of an RIT education by creating double majors and instituting a business minor rank high on the to-do list of the new officers. Academic advising and social conditions are also issues they'll address starting next fall.

Blonski, a second-year industrial engineering student, and Sarratore, a third-year new media publishing student, also want to congratulate the graduating class.

“As fellow students, we know that you've worked hard and we promise to work just as hard to build upon the outstanding reputation that have made you so proud,” says Sarratore. ■

Kevin Ptak | kppuns@rit.edu

Film makes Rochester debut

Holocaust film to be shown at Jewish Film Fest

An RIT student production, highlighting the heroic struggle of one Holocaust survivor, is receiving some impressive recognition. *Henry's Story: A Teenager Survives* has been accepted into the Rochester Jewish Film Festival.

Produced by Isobel Werner, a fourth-year biomedical photography student, along with Thomas Zigon, assistant professor in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, the film features an interview with Henry Silberstern. Born to a middle class Jewish family in Czechoslovakia, Silberstern relives the experience of surviving a Nazi concentration camp

and how that impacted his life growing up.

“I feel it's important to remember what happened, not just so we can shake our heads and say, ‘Yes, isn't it awful,’” explains Werner. “I hope it might really move us to action for people all over the world today who are persecuted, starved and beaten every day.”

A sneak preview of *Henry's Story* will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave. The film festival is scheduled for July. ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

RIT hosts security, identity theft conference June 16

Program partners RIT with U.S. Secret Service to bring experts to campus

Identity theft is a crime that has exploded in the last decade, devastating lives and credit ratings, and leaving victims at a loss.

Next month, RIT and the U.S. Secret Service will host the day-long conference, Attacking Identity Theft Together. The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. The event is free and open to the public.

Representatives from the U.S. Secret Service office approached RIT's Department of Criminal Justice in January about hosting the conference, says Thomas Castellano, chair of criminal justice.

Criminal justice adjunct professor Joseph Hennekey helped make the connection. An investigator in the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Hennekey was recently assigned to a regional task force on electronic crime, spearheaded by the Secret Service.

“Joe Hennekey was indispensable in serving as a bridge between RIT and the Secret Service,” Castellano notes. The conference is designed to communicate to a wide audience. Experts

Initiative • The resources of financial institutions in responding to identity theft • Fraudulent document recognition in relation to drivers' licenses and related issues from the Department of Motor Vehicles. During the conference criminal justice students and

members of SPARSA (Security Practices and Research Student Association) will present their related research in poster sessions in the SAU.

“One of our major goals is to link our students with these law enforcement officials and corporate security personnel to develop stronger professional relations,” Castellano says.

The event is co-sponsored by RIT's criminal justice department, College of Liberal Arts, Campus Safety and SPARSA.

For information, or to register, visit www.rit.edu/~crimjust/idtheft.html. ■

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During the conference, criminal justice students and members of SPARSA will present their related research in poster sessions.

from law enforcement and financial and private institutions will address different ways thieves steal identities and what consumers, law enforcement and financial institutions can do to combat it. Highlights will include: • An identity crime video and CD-ROM resource guide by the U.S. Secret Service • Consumer education and the ID Theft Database by the Federal Trade Commission • Local prosecutorial efforts by the Department of Justice • U.S. Postal Inspection Service Resources and Consumer Awareness

A race to the finish



Photo by Marty Gordon

RIT's mini-Baja team captured fifth and sixth places among nearly 90 challengers in the Mini Baja West last month in Portland, Ore. RIT's two cars, which were entered separately, also earned top-10 placements for design, endurance, hill climbing, maneuverability, “rock crawl” and sales report.

“This is the best the team has finished for both cars—we're very pleased,” says Jeff Broomhead, fifth-year mechanical engineering major and the team's project manager, shown above ready to overtake a competitor in last month's Mini Baja Brazil.

Next, RIT headed to Montreal last week for the Mini Baja East, to be followed by the Midwest Mini Baja, June 3-6 in Milwaukee.

RIT's mini-Baja team is supported by the manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology/packaging science department in the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Corporate Time system to be retired soon

Switch to Exchange calendar this month

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of a campus-wide team of RIT technical staff, and with significant input from faculty and staff through the information forums held over the past months, a transition strategy and timeframe have been established for the retirement of Corporate Time.

Users should begin manually recreating calendar events into Exchange calendar starting May 17. Shutdown of Corporate Time is scheduled for June 4, and all Corporate Time users should be using the Exchange system by June 7. Exchange will be the supported scheduling tool for the university.

Users with questions can call the Information and Technology Services Help Desk at 475-4357, or send e-mail to helpdesk@rit.edu. Supporting documentation will also be available on the ITS Web site, www.rit.edu/~wwwits/news.

Additional communications will be sent to faculty and staff in preparation for the transition. ■

Some things to see



Bevier Gallery recently hosted Graduate Thesis Exhibitions featuring work by MFA candidates—including So Yeon Yang’s colorful mixed media on plastic. Next at Bevier is the Undergraduate Student Honors Exhibition, from May 22 to Sept. 6, showcasing student honors work from the School of Art, School of Design and School for American Crafts. Summer hours run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information, call 475-7680.

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Chase Corporate Challenge hits RIT May 27

Rochester’s largest road race moves from its original home in Highland Park to RIT this year. The venue change for the annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge allows Rochester’s biggest corporate social event to grow at a record pace. From its beginning in 1990 with



Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president of student affairs, and Bruce Oliver, professor of accounting, chat with bagpiper Lex Sleeman, assistant director of intramurals and club sports, before the 2003 Corporate Challenge.

816 participants, the race steadily grew to a record turnout in 2003 of 8,760 runners from 346 companies. RIT offers 400 percent more space for company tents and hospitality areas and five times the parking spaces. It also offers a

wide-paved roadway easily capable of holding more than 10,000 participants and improved sight lines for spectators. This year’s 3.5-mile race is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27. Registration deadline is May 14. Cost is \$16 and includes RIT and JP Morgan Chase T-shirts. It is open to RIT employees who worked a minimum of 25 hours a week for at least three months prior to race day. Race forms are available in the Student Life Center or online at www.jpmorgan-chasecc.com/04races/roc/rocreg04.htm. Proceeds go to the Al Sigl Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Horticultural Trust Fund. ■

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Fuel cell conference *continued from page 6*

power plants. About 350 researchers, analysts, consultants, designers, managers and practitioners are expected for the conference, which will detail advances in design, analysis, optimization and manufacturing of macro, micro and novel fuel-cell systems and components. Other areas of focus include fuel-cell stacks, fuel reformers, air management, power delivery and cogeneration. For information and presenters list, visit www.asme.org/events/fuelcell. Immediately following the fuel-cell conference, the second International Conference on Microchannels and Minichannels will be held June 17 to 19. “Microchannels are used in many diverse applications including fuel

cells, electronics cooling, bioengineering and MEMS—microelectromechanical—devices,” says Satish Kandlikar, RIT professor of mechanical engineering and conference chair. “This emerging area will enable microminiaturization of many devices, from computers to space-bound systems. “This will be a truly international conference,” adds Kandlikar, who, along with Bill Grande, RIT assistant professor of microelectronic engineering, are among more than 120 presenters from 23 countries. For information visit www.asme.org/events/micromini. Both conferences, sponsored by RIT and the American Society of

Mechanical Engineers, will be at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. A pre-conference course, Fundamentals of Fuel Cell Component and System Design, will be instructed by Shah, June 11 and 12 at RIT. Contact Shah at 475-7439 or rksame@rit.edu. ■ Michael Saffran | mjsuns@rit.edu

Obituaries

Rob Roy Kelly

Rob Roy Kelly, graphic design educator, historian and collector, died Jan. 22 in Tempe, Ariz. Kelly served a one-year appointment as the William A. Kern Professor of Communications at RIT in 1974. In 2001, a Web site, www.rit.edu/~rkelly, was developed by students in conjunction with the donation of his papers to RIT.

Bev Kerr

Bev Kerr, RIT retiree, passed away April 21 after an extended illness. Prior to her retirement in 1998, she worked for 18 years as staff assistant in the RIT Student Affairs Office for the director of student conduct.

Doug May

Doug May, former RIT men’s soccer coach, passed away April 22 due to complications from a sudden illness. RIT became a Division III soccer powerhouse from 1980 to 1995 under May, earning 11 trips to the NCAA Tournament, four to the Final Four and one appearance in the national championship game. He is a member of the RIT Sports Hall of Fame. His career record, over 24 seasons including at Nazareth College, was 251-120-38.

Newsmakers

Carol Richardson, professor and chair of electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology, is chair of the planning committee for the Society of Women Engineers Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Women Making History, to be held in Rochester in 2005. The conference will honor Susan B. Anthony and Kate Gleason. **Robert Rothman**, professor of biological sciences, gave the keynote address, Galapagos—Darwin’s Laboratory of Evolution, at the Rochester Academy of Science’s fall session hosted by the College of Science in November. **Jasper Shealy**, professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering, was an invited guest lecturer at a conference in Italy, where he presented findings of a 12-year study on skiing and snowboarding fatalities, effects of helmet use on reducing fatalities and problems associated with helmet use. He also presented the study, “How fast do people go on alpine slopes?” As chairman of the American Society for Testing and Materials committee, which oversees standards for snow skiing and snowboarding equipment, he attended a meeting of the International Standards Organization in Munich, Germany. The meeting covered testing of ski binding equipment in the U.S. and Europe, testing of rental and retail ski equipment in Europe and specifications for ski helmets in Europe. **James Winebrake**, associate professor and chair of public policy, presented his talk, Air Quality Impacts of Transportation Ferry Services, at a conference in January sponsored by the Transportation Research Board on Emissions from Marine Transportation. In September, Winebrake talked to Japanese auto industry executives about the future of fuel-cell vehicle technology in the U.S. as part of a program sponsored by MIT. **Fritz Yambrach**, associate professor of packaging science, presented the paper, “Place and Package Design Appropriateness in Consumer Products: Cross-Cultural Studies Evaluating Package Design Value,” at the 100th international meeting of the American Association of Geographers, in March in Philadelphia.

Telecom center *continued from page 1*

Manufacturing and Assembly and the National Technology Training Center, where high school teachers train in engineering technology curricula through Project Lead the Way and the Cisco Networking Academy. It will be a center for cross-disciplinary projects in CAST, the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. “The board of directors of the McGowan Charitable Fund is pleased to be able to join with RIT in the creation of this unique and needed telecommunications center named after our founder, Bill McGowan,” says Monsignor Andrew McGowan, chairman of the fund and brother of the late William McGowan. “It will help fulfill the vision Bill had for the entire telecommunications field and will, for years to come, advance research and learning in this important industry.” William McGowan, a pioneer in the telecommunications field, founded MCI Communications Corp. in 1968 and led the company until his death in 1992. His vision helped shape RIT’s telecommunications engineering technology program when he urged universities to prepare a workforce for the

changing industry by stressing technology, public policy and marketing. “The telecom field is dynamic and resilient,” adds Carol Richardson, professor and chair of RIT’s electrical, computer and telecommunications engineering technology program. “RIT is seeing growth in the number of permanent and cooperative educational opportunities for our telecom students.” RIT’s telecommunications engineering technology undergraduate program was the first accredited program of its kind in the nation when it was launched in 1989. Today, it is one of only four such programs in the U.S. It features technical and management tracks and certificate programs, all available on campus and online. Last year, RIT began a master’s degree program in telecommunications engineering technology, the first of its kind in the nation. The grant is the largest to RIT from the Washington, D.C.-based William G. McGowan Charitable Fund Inc. and among the fund’s largest to any institution. Founded in 1992 by William McGowan, the fund has provided RIT with more than \$100,000 in business scholarships. ■

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Rocks, ridges and craters



Andrew Street pushes hard as the RIT moon buggy nears the finish line at the Great Moon Buggy Race held April 3 in Huntsville, Ala. Despite breaking three chains in competition, the team went on to finish in 12th place, posting their best finish yet at the national competition.