



R·I·T

news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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Inside



A 'clean sweep' in the name of scientific research



Celebrating five years of showcasing student art

RIT ranks among top master's universities

Co-op and engineering excel; "best value" cited



RIT has again received high marks in the annual *U.S. News & World Report: America's Best Colleges*. Since the magazine began ranking colleges in 1983, RIT consistently has been listed among the top regional universities. RIT ranked sixth overall in the Best Universities—Master's (North region) category, and second in peer assessment, which is a survey of presidents, provosts and deans from other universities. In the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category, RIT ranked eighth among master's universities in the North. The formula used to determine which schools offer the best value relates to a school's academic quality to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of financial aid. The higher the quality of program and the lower the cost, the better the deal, according to *U.S. News*. In the "Programs to look for" category, RIT was listed as one of only 11 colleges nationally recognized for excellence in the "internships/co-ops" category. It is the third straight year RIT has made the list—based on nominations from college presidents, chief academic officers and deans—since *U.S. News* began the category in 2002.

U.S. News ranking, page 4

RIT celebrates opening of new field house

To celebrate the grand opening and dedication of the Gordon Field House and Activities Center, the RIT campus and community is invited to a day of participation, dedication and good fun on Friday, Sept. 10.

martial arts and juggling. The Dynamics, a blues band fronted by RIT's Joe Fornieri, political science professor in the College of Liberal Arts, will perform from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. and again from 4:30 to

cheerleaders, and appearance by Jim Kelly, four-time Super Bowl quarter back for the Buffalo Bills and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. •4:30 p.m.—reception and continued demos of the facility •9:30 p.m.—Second City comedy troupe, Chicago's legendary comedy theatre, will be the first major act to perform in the Gordon Field House. The touring troupe's performance features sketches, songs, improvisations and on-the-spot topical comedy. Tickets—\$2 for students, \$5 for alumni, faculty and staff, and \$10 general admission—are available



The weight room on the lower level of the Gordon Field House and Activities Center houses the newest weight training equipment.



The new pool is just one of the state-of-the-art features of the Gordon Field House.

The schedule of events includes: •2:30 p.m.—students will demonstrate aquatics, fitness and field work, 5:30 p.m. in the arena. •3:30 p.m.—dedication ceremony featuring ROTC, student athletes and

at the candy counter in the Student Alumni Union or by calling 475-5210. •11 p.m.—late night activities include a midnight bagel break and open swimming. For more information, visit www.rit.edu/fieldhouse. ■ Silandara Bartlett | sjbcom@rit.edu

Digital music service available on campus

RIT students can let the music play—and do it legally—thanks to a new service available on campus this fall. The Division of Information and Technology Services has signed an agreement with Cdigix, a company offering digital entertainment to colleges and universities. In doing so, RIT becomes one of the first schools in the nation to take part in the company's digital music service, designed as an alternative to illegal file sharing. Peer-to-peer file-sharing technology has experienced rapid growth over the past several years, putting many students across the nation at odds with the music and entertainment industry. That's led to recent crackdowns targeting individuals who

illegally share copyrighted material. Now, colleges and universities are being called upon to address the problem. "RIT must comply with federal copyright laws," states Diane Barbour, chief information officer. "At the same



time, we understand the convenience and appeal of listening to music online using student computers." Through Cdigix, students have the option of purchasing a subscription at \$2.99 per month, allowing them to listen to music online. Individual songs can be downloaded for 89

cents. Students who sign up for a full 9-month academic year subscription will receive a 3-month rebate of \$8.97. Purchases can be made by credit card, but plans are being finalized to incorporate RIT flex card transactions. ITS will host a server that makes the service run more quickly and efficiently. "By offering this service, we are hoping to protect our students and their parents from becoming involved in expensive lawsuits as a result of illegal music sharing," says Barbour. ITS is working with Student Government to publicize the Cdigix digital music service. Subscriptions may be made online at media.cdigix.com. ■ Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

Opening talks

RIT marks "back to school" with the Tiger Walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center, and the Convocation for New Students and Families, at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 30, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. The event featuring an address by Keith Jenkins, assistant professor, College of Liberal Arts, and remarks by RIT President Albert Simone, Academic Senate Chair Michael Lutz, Vice President for Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper and Sheila Sarratore, president of Student Government. Simone's Presidential Address to the Community begins at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 2, in the field house. The RIT community is invited to take part in both events.

Service day hopes to unite RIT family around the world

In an unprecedented international event, RIT will call upon its faculty, staff, students and alumni to participate in a service day like no other. RIT ROCS, or Reaching Out for Community Service, is set for Saturday, Sept. 18. The goal is to have RIT constituencies reach out together for a global day of volunteerism. Community service projects have been scheduled for Rochester and alumni chapter locations throughout the country as well as RIT's campuses in Croatia and Kosovo.

A kickoff rally for volunteers will take place at 8 a.m. in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center; volunteer projects will be completed from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. After returning to campus, volunteers can enjoy an afternoon of food and entertainment. "RIT's community involvement is well known, but this event is an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment and to contribute substantially by donating our time and energy to make a meaningful contribution to each community's quality

of life," says Cindee Gray, assistant vice president for government and community relations. "The day also will provide another venue to foster camaraderie and spirit among alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and others as they work together for the good of others." Projects include working at a blood drive, preparing hot lunches for a community program, painting, gardening, cleaning and packing computers for distribution, working with disabled children, entertaining nurs-

ing home residents, organizing a baseball clinic and assembling emergency kits, among others. Students, faculty and alumni in Dubrovnik, Croatia, will fix and refurbish playgrounds, and city residents will participate in the event as part of their "New Image of Dubrovnik" campaign. For detailed information, or to sign up, log onto www.rit.edu/175. The deadline to sign up for projects is Sept. 8. ■ Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

Continuing series to shine spotlight on RIT's eight colleges

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences hosts several events to commemorate anniversary

The next issue of *News & Events* will profile RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences as part of a continuing series dedicated to spotlighting RIT's colleges in celebration of the university's 175th anniversary. Throughout RIT's 2004-2005 school year, each college will host events marking RIT's 175th anniversary. The College of Imaging Arts and Sciences kicks off the celebration in September with a favorite RIT tradition and some exciting new exhibitions.



The Bridge, painted by M. Louise Stowell. Her work will be featured Sept. 17-Oct. 13.

• **Big Shot;** Sept. 12, RIT Administration Circle It's a homecoming for Big Shot after its international debut last year at Sweden's Royal Palace. This year's photograph will highlight *The Sentinel* sculpture. Volunteers should gather at the administration circle by 7:15 pm with their flashlights and camera flash units. • **Exhibit: "The Uncommon Denominator;"** Sept. 10- Oct. 15, National Technical Institute for the Deaf's Dyer Arts Center Exhibition honors Richard Hirsch,

who has gained national recognition in the field of ceramics as both a teacher and artist. Hirsch has been a professor in RIT's School for American Crafts since 1987. The show will feature the work of 38 artists, all former students of Hirsch. The exhibit opening will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 10. • **Symposium: "The Uncommon Denominator;"** Sept. 11 and 12, Carlson Auditorium Discussions to coincide with the College spotlight, page 4

Jazz ensemble to perform

The 10th season for the Performing Artists Concert Series at RIT kicks off with a jazz concert on Sept. 17.

From Chicago to New York, the second installment of last season's hit, brings the Rochester Classic Jazz Band back to campus to continue its salute to the history of jazz.

Performing will be Rod Blumenau on piano, Ralph Dickinson on tenor sax, Lynn Eberhardt on bass and tuba, Peter Ferran on clarinet, Lowell Miller on trombone, Brad Paxton on drums and vibes, Herb Smith on trumpet and performing vocals, Cindy Miller performing vocals and Michael Lasser as the narrator.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. concert held in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

All seats are unreserved and ticket



Rochester Classic Jazz Band, Sept. 17.

prices are \$5 for students, \$12 for faculty, staff and alumni, and \$18 general admission. A series ticket for all four of this season's concerts costs \$40 for faculty, staff and alumni and \$60 for general admission. Tickets are available at the candy counter in the SAU or call 475-5210.

Upcoming concerts in the performing artists series, sponsored by the Center for Campus Life, are: The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra—with Michael Buttermann conducting—Oct. 15

Nelita True solo piano recital, March 25, 2005.

From Bach to Bop and Back—improvisation and arrangement with jazz and classical trios—May 4, 2005. ■

Silandara Bartlett | sjbcom@rit.edu

RIT designs new driverless car

The 1991 Geo Storm hatchback driven by members of the RIT G-CART team doesn't boast fancy paint or expensive wheels, but rather an electronics suite that renders it capable of operating without an onboard driver.

G-CART—Grand Challenge Autonomous Race Team—is a student-run club building a vehicle to be entered in the U.S. government's Defense Advance Research Projects Agency semi-annual Grand Challenge.

The "challenge" is a lofty one, calling for a fully autonomous vehicle capable of completing a 150-mile trek across the Mojave Desert from Barstow, Calif., to Las Vegas in a 10-hour time limit without any human assistance. The winning team takes home a \$2 million cash prize, and the government gets the technology.

Presently, the RIT vehicle is driven

remotely, using a control system similar to a video game, complete with an arcade-style screen, steering wheel and pedals. Eventually, the vehicle will be able to drive itself, including making decisions and navigating obstacles on its own.

The RIT team will face tough competition, but so far the contest is still anyone's race. No vehicle has come close to completing the

course; a converted Humvee built by Carnegie Mellon University students on a \$3 million budget holds the current distance record of 7.4 miles.

RIT team members say it's the challenge, not the money, that provides motivation.

"It's just doing something that's never been done anywhere," says Mark Baybutt, team co-captain.

Visit www.gcart.rit.edu for more information. ■

Kevin Ptak

The winning team takes home a \$2 million cash prize, and the government gets the technology.

News briefs

Voter registration drive

Registered to vote? The Student Volunteer Office is on a mission to sign you up. They'll be encouraging students (and everyone else) to register to vote on these dates:

- 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Aug. 29, Gordon Field House and Activities Center
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 17, Gracie's
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 18, Gordon Field House during RIT ROCS community service day.

Syd performs free show

Boston-based musician Syd will perform at 9 p.m. Aug. 29 in Java Wally's. The free show features the singer/songwriter's acoustic pop/rock style. For details on Syd, visit www.sydband.com.

The dirtier, the better

An RIT mechanical engineering major captured first place in a 105-lap Modified Super DIRT Series race last month in Quebec, Canada.

Matt Sheppard, of Waterloo, won the quarter-mile, dirt-track race on July 12. He was the fastest qualifier at 103.7 mph, earning \$6,000 for his team. Sheppard was a DIRT Motorsports' rookie of the year in 2003.

Golf tourney information

Registrations are being accepted for the annual RIT Rick Pettinger Memorial Golf Tournament, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23. Registration begins at 11 a.m., with the tee off scheduled for noon at Shadow Lake Golf Club in Penfield. This annual tournament serves as the official start for RIT's 2005 United Way Campaign.

Golfers can save \$5 per player by registering and paying before Sept. 1. Deadline is Sept. 10; cost is \$90 per person and \$60 for RIT students. For information, call 475-4968 or e-mail mlsgrl@rit.edu.

NTID film wins awards

Achieving Goals, a videotape series produced in part by NTID, has earned six industry awards to date.

The series includes an optometrist, an attorney, a pediatrician, a veterinarian, a professional baseball player, a financial analyst, an educator and an entrepreneur, among others.

These tapes, together with their companion Web site, <http://netac.rit.edu/goals>, make students aware of the diverse career options available to them.

The series has landed a coveted Gold Telly Award for outstanding work worldwide, a Crystal Award of Excellence from the Communicator Awards, an Aurora Award for industry excellence, an Accolade Award for outstanding craft and creativity, and two Certificates for Creative Excellence from the U.S. International Film Festival Awards.


Softball Saturday, Sept. 11

This year's Softball Saturday tournament is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 11. To sign up to play, or for more information, call 475-7372 or e-mail ped@rit.edu.

Artists showcase at MAG

Karen Sardisco, a part-time professor in the foundations department, is one of six artists highlighted in the "Rochester Biennial" at the Memorial Art Gallery. The "Rochester Biennial" is an invitational and Sardisco was selected after a curatorial team from the gallery visited her Rochester studio. The "Rochester Biennial" runs through Sept. 5. Sardisco's featured pieces are mixed media works on paper.

Bang the drum slowly



Yes, that was the sound of drums coming from Building 70 recently. The drummers were 45 eighth- and ninth-graders from Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center and Frederick Douglass Preparatory School who attended a two-week math camp at RIT, where they learned concepts and applications by making and playing drums. They were instructed by Rochester City School District teachers and RIT students. The camp was a collaboration between Project Lead the Way and the Algebra Project, supported by a grant from the Math Excellence initiative of the GE Foundation.

NTID receives \$2.8 million grant

Funding to be used for interpreter training

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf, in cooperation with Monroe No. 1 BOCES, was awarded a \$2.8 million contract to continue its work of increasing the quality and quantity of sign language interpreters in New York's classrooms.



Educational interpreters will benefit from a \$2.8 million grant from the New York state Department of Education.

from a \$4 million contract from the NYSED, where more than 900 New York K-12 interpreters' skills and knowledge were assessed and provided individual professional development plans and training.

"The primary goal and benefit is that we will improve the education standards for more than 6,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students across the state," says Marilyn Mitchell, retired NTID associate professor and director of the project, called Preparation of Educational Interpreters. "The result of this effort will help create degrees for high school graduates or returning students who want to become interpreters, and guide the working interpreter toward creatively and successfully achieving the required degree." ■

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\$400K for silicon-wafer processing

The Kate Gleason College of Engineering won a two-year, \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a new method for silicon-wafer processing.



Mustafa Abushagur

New processing methodology, utilizing a multi-chamber, multi-function plasma and ion-beam processing system for etching and surface modification of nanotechnology materials, microelectromechanical systems (commonly called MEMS) and photonics, will enable the creation of innovative micro- and nano-scale devices, says Mustafa Abushagur, director of RIT's microsystems engineering Ph.D. program and the pro-

ject's lead researcher. Faculty and students at RIT, Alfred University, the University at Buffalo and Alabama A&M University will work with industrial partners on micro-actuators, sensors and micro-phonic devices for "smart sensor networks" and on photonic crystals for optical switching.

The new method surpasses conventional silicon processing that uses standard 4-inch and 6-inch silicon wafers since specialty materials come in a variety of forms.

It will permit processing of smaller wafers, squares or wafer fragments with greater control. Applications include photonics, MEMS, compound semiconductor electronics, magnetics and ceramics.

Other RIT faculty involved in the research are Santosh Kurinec, Alan Raisanen, Stephen Boedo and Sean Rommel. The grant is from the NSF's Major Research Instrumentation Program. ■

Michael Saffran | mjsuns@rit.edu

RIT imaging research program gets \$1.5 million

The 2004-05 appropriations bill recently approved by the VA/HUD/Independent Agencies Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives includes \$1.5 million to support RIT's Integrated Sensing Systems Initiative, a research program in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. The funding was sponsored by Congressman Jim Walsh, who chairs the subcommittee. The funding will support the development of sensors to dramatically increase the effectiveness of remote sensing in the production of image-based information for global environ-

mental monitoring, homeland security and military operations.

"This work is making a significant contribution to our national interests and we are honored and proud to have the Congressman Walsh's confidence and support," says RIT President Albert Simone.

The subcommittee bill must still be approved by the full Appropriations Committee, and a conference committee will iron out differences between the Senate and House versions of the legislation. A final decision on the FY 2005 funding is expected in the fall. ■

Circuit city

Forty-three high school students from the Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse regions attended RIT's first Student Workshop in Electronics Packaging, Aug. 12-13. Students, including Laura Mandanas from Oswego High School, shown assembling a circuit board, explored automation and electronics packaging, performed robotics and fiber-optic communication experiments, learned about RIT's electronics manufacturing curriculum and toured the Infotonics Technology Center in Canandaigua. The workshop was sponsored by RIT's Center for Electronics Manufacturing and Assembly in CAST and supported by a grant from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.



Students use elbow grease in the name of science

White cars used to gather spectral information for national archive

Students working in the Digital Imaging and Remote Sensing Laboratory in RIT’s Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science know more than the average person about white cars.

A team of five undergraduates and three high-school interns spent the few sunny days in August measuring spectral properties of white automobiles for a study funded by General Dynamics. The data—collected with the owners’ permission and after a complimentary car wash—will be stored in a national spectral archive. Spectral information can be used to simulate scenes from the real world for purposes as diverse as homeland security and environmental conservation. The scope of this experiment will expand in the future to include more colorful vehicles.

Project workers include imaging science majors Bethany Choate, Jessica



Ken Smith, an environmental science major, left, helps Brian Leahy, an imaging science major, take spectral measurements of a white car for a national archive.

D’Amico, Brian Leahy, undeclared science major Jesse Schott, environmental science major Ken Smith, and CIS high school interns, Jim Cretelos, from Victor High School, Tina Kieffer, from Nazareth Academy and David Snyder, from Lima Christian School.

Lon Smith, staff scientist, coordinates the student team. Under his guidance, the students measure the reflectance from the sun and the surface temperature of the car as quickly as possible to avoid the slightest changes

in the environment that could alter the temperature of the vehicle and corrupt data.

While one student operates the infrared spectrometer, another holds a gold reference plate to calibrate the measurements. A third student records the make and model of the vehicle, weather conditions that may influence the data collection,

and documents the location of the measurements on the car.

Smith and his crew hope to measure 30 vehicles by September. Collecting spectral data depends on nearly perfect weather conditions and using the sun as a source. Given the rainy summer, the team has learned to be flexible and to work fast when given a nice day.

“If you wait for a perfectly cloudless day in Rochester, you’ll wait forever,” Smith says. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Gray appointed assistant VP

Cynthia Gray has been named as assistant vice president for government and community relations by Deborah Stendardi, RIT vice president for government and community relations.



Cynthia Gray

In this new role, Gray, who has been at RIT for 18 years, will take on additional responsibilities related to RIT’s relationships with state and local government officials and community organizations, and continue to provide leadership to major university events, including Brick City Festival, as well as key programs and events hosted by RIT such as the Empire State Games, Special Olympics, FIRST Finger Lakes Regional Robotics Competition and others.

“Cindee has been an invaluable asset to RIT and to the Office of

Government and Community Relations, and this new title appropriately recognizes the scope and impact of her contributions to the university,” says Stendardi.

She adds, “Her leadership, creativity and commitment to RIT have opened many opportunities for the university to host important events in the community, bringing thousands of visitors to the campus. I am delighted to make this appointment in recognition of her extraordinary efforts and look forward to engaging her further in continuing to build and enhance RIT’s partnerships with government and community organizations.”

“I appreciate this acknowledgment of my contributions,” says Gray, “and I also would like to take this opportunity to offer my appreciation to the many talented staff who have supported our efforts throughout the years, and to Debbie Stendardi who has been an outstanding leader and mentor to me. I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that this role will afford me.” ■

Moore completes successful European digs

Two grants help trace early farming history, techniques

Plant remains, seeds and animal bones unearthed from the ground in a village in Croatia tell Andrew Moore he is on the right track in his search for the spread of early farming.

The dean of the College of Liberal Arts recently returned from his first season of excavation at Danilo along Croatia’s Dalmatian Coast.

Moore’s international team of scientists and students finished a ground-penetrating radar survey to identify the best places to dig at Danilo and another site, Pokrovnik. They also excavated a trench at Danilo. Moore was excited to find all three phases of the Neolithic period in a convenient stratigraphic stack in Pokrovnik. He will look to this site to reveal the whole sequence of time and how it captures the adoption of early farming in one place, while continuing to excavate Danilo.

Supporting Moore’s project are two grants from the National Geographic

Society and the National Science Foundation, with funding valued at \$17,691 and \$215,592, respectively.

The grants will help Moore trace early farming as it spread into Europe from Western Asia. Moore’s earlier work in Syria pushed back the date of

Part of Moore’s project includes an unprecedented environmental study of seven sets of waterfalls in the Krka gorge near the Danilo site, providing a ready-made climate gauge. A slice cut from the walls of the gorge shows changes in vegetation over time.

Moore says lime in the water dissolved to form the waterfalls in a relatively “quick” 19,000 years, preserving a history

Part of Andrew Moore’s project includes an unprecedented environmental study of seven sets of waterfalls in the Krka gorge near the Danilo site, providing a ready-made climate gauge.

early farming by 1,000 years to approximately 11,000 B.C. Studying artifacts from the Dalmatian and Adriatic coasts will reveal how agriculture as a way of life and economy arrived in the Mediterranean region.

Moore will seek to determine whether it came as a complete system or as a combination of farming plus hunting and gathering. The settled village life required for farming marks a significant shift in societal development and precedes the advent of towns and modern-day cities.

of climatic change.

Moore’s team for the first season included 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, along with students from RIT, Cornell University and Zadar University in Croatia. The team worked with Sibenik Museum and chief prehistoric archaeologist, Marko Mendusic. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

An exchange of ideas



Nineteen students from Japan spent two weeks studying at RIT this summer as part of an exchange program with Kyoto Computer Gakuin (Kyoto School of Computer Science). The summer program with KCG began in 1995 and since then 200 students have visited RIT.

Golisano College gets donation

Extreme Networks, the Santa Clara, Calif.-based provider of powerful, state-of-the-art, local area network switching infrastructures, has donated \$78,000 of computer networking equipment to RIT.

Students in RIT’s B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences pursuing a degree in applied networking and

systems administration will utilize this cutting edge technology, which teaches students how to be designers, implementers, and operators of computing networks and networked systems.

For example, students can program and use different propriety networks right in their computer labs. ■

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“Powered by the Future” campaign presses forward

“Powered by the Future,” RIT’s \$300 million campaign, has achieved another important milestone. This summer, the largest fund-raising effort in the university’s history surpassed \$200 million.

With just under two years remaining in the campaign, staff from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations will join more than 200 volunteers and RIT’s Board of Trustees in raising the remaining funds.

Publicly launched in fall 2002, “Powered by the Future” has already surpassed its goals in two of five priority areas—supporting applied research and learning, and the fund for the future. Another priority, reinventing the campus, is now more than three-quarters funded. The majority of effort

during the campaign’s climax will emphasize student-focused investments and recruiting and retaining top faculty.

Laurel Price Jones, vice president for development and alumni relations, says the campaign has brought to light a number of measures indicating a “culture of giving” developing at the university. “This on-going commitment of support for RIT from a variety of sources is an important factor in future financial stability for the institute,” she states.

More than 30,000 donors have made a gift to the campaign, including \$2 million committed by RIT faculty and staff members. For information on supporting “Powered by the Future,” call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 475-5500.



Nanotech advances solar-cell research

Scientists at RIT’s NanoPower Research Laboratories have received a boost in their search for new power supply solutions. Funding from BP Solar will support their work using nanotechnology.

BP Solar, a leading manufacturer of solar-electric products, has contracted RIT’s NanoPower Research Laboratories to develop plastic solar cells using nanomaterials. Total funding for the three-year program is \$250,000.

Until now, lightweight plastic solar cells have remained elusive. During the last decade, scientists struggled to substitute polymers for the expensive but effective crystalline materials such as silicon, a traditional solar cell material. These attempts produced solar cells with poor efficiencies at converting light into electricity.

RIT researchers, led by Ryne Raffaele, professor of physics and microsystems engineering and director of the NanoPower Research Laboratories, hope to develop an improved polymer solar cell using nanomaterial additives. Raffaele and his team will use a thin polymer film that can be rolled out in sheets. The film will contain nanoscale pieces of

semiconductor material and single-walled carbon nanotubes to maximize energy conversion.

This will enable huge sheets of thin film to be cut up and used, Raffaele says, even bent. In contrast, crystalline silicon, which has to be grown, is expensive and easily cracked.

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, a proponent of nanotechnology research, made the initial introduction of BP Solar to RIT following her visit to the university’s NanoPower Research Laboratories.

“Nanotechnology research and development is important to the economic future of New York and the nation,” Clinton says. “I am proud that research institutions like RIT are playing a leading role in the development of nanotechnology and am pleased that BP Solar recognizes the true quality of that research. This is another example of what we can achieve when we combine the power of New York’s world-class educational institutions with leaders in industry and business. I look forward to seeing the results of this partnership.” ■

Susan Gawlowicz | smguns@rit.edu

Bon appetit



Norm Sanders, one of 18 RIT food service chefs who participated in a weeklong course on healthy cooking, watches as Pierre LeBlanc prepares a ricotta pastry crust on Aug. 19.

LeBlanc, associate professor in culinary arts at The Culinary Institute of America, taught the course that emphasized savory food that’s lighter and healthier.



RIT is producing a documentary on the institute as part of the 175th Anniversary. The film, which is being co-produced by WXXI, will premier Nov. 11 at Ingle Auditorium. It will air later on WXXI. Film and Animation Professor Malcolm Spaull, David Cronister of the Educational Technology Center, Bob Finnerty, chief communications officer, and a host of RIT students, faculty and staff have been working on the documentary throughout the summer. Patti Durr, from NTID, was being filmed on this day.

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State restores TAP funding; other programs vetoed

The New York State Senate and Assembly recently approved a 2004-05 State Budget restoring full funding for the Tuition Assistance Program. The new budget also restored cuts in other higher education programs that had been proposed in Gov. Pataki's Executive Budget, including Bundy Aid, the Higher Education Opportunity Program, Science & Technology Entry Programs and the Liberty Partnerships program. However, these restorations were among almost 200 items in the budget vetoed by Pataki.

Pataki also vetoed a new Higher Education Capital Facilities Program that would have provided up to \$350 million for capital projects at public and independent colleges and universities. Of that, \$175 million was targeted to go to independent colleges, including RIT, for projects related to the "design, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or equipping of a facility on or near a college campus within the state of New York, includ-

ing critical academic facilities, economic development and/or high technology projects, and urban renewal and/or historical preservation projects."

"The TAP restoration is good news for students and parents, as well as for RIT," says Deborah Stendardi, vice

that these vetoes take away restorations in the other higher education programs as well as the groundbreaking Capital Facilities Program," adds Stendardi, "but we remain hopeful that the legislature will revisit these issues in the coming months."

Stendardi attributed the legislature's support for the program to a collaborative advocacy effort among the state's colleges and universities, led by the Commission

on Independent Colleges and Universities, and the business and labor communities, including the Building and Construction Trades Council, UNICON, Rochester Business Alliance and others.

The program had the unanimous support of the members of the State Senate and Assembly in the Rochester delegation. Pataki had proposed a similar program in his Executive Budget; in his veto message, he indicated that he objected to some of the changes that the Legislature made in that proposal. ■

president for government and community relations. "TAP is a critical component of the state's investment in higher education, and we are very appreciative of the continuing support and commitment of our state delegation to Albany."

She also acknowledged the importance of letters from students, faculty, staff and parents who wrote to their individual legislators to support the restoration of these programs, noting that "the grassroots support was pivotal in achieving this outcome."

"We are, of course, disappointed

TAP is a critical component of the state's investment in higher education, and we are very appreciative of the continuing support and commitment of our state delegation to Albany.
—Deborah Stendardi

Park Avenue's Gallery r celebrates fifth birthday

Five years ago this summer, the lights were on, the carpet was drying, the sculpture show was installed and Park Avenue merchants generously supplied refreshments of ice tea and cookies to their "new neighbor"—Gallery r.

Billed as RIT's new student-run metro showcase of contemporary art, Gallery r's grand opening was held during the Park Ave Summer Art Fest. The gallery rose to an auspicious start with more than 1,500 local visitors during the summer 1999 festival weekend.

At Gallery r, the current Small Format Art Exhibition features an array of works from jewelry, sculp-



Gallery r at 775 Park Avenue

ture, paintings and drawings to photography, glass, ceramics and wood. Viewers are invited to a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17, before the show closes on Sept. 18.

"Gallery r is a very special place for showing experimental work, and yet it's still a professional gallery where students deal with the same challenges faced by established artists in our community," explains says Zerbe Sodervick, gallery coordinator and director of extended studies at RIT.

For more information and gallery hours, call 242-9470 or visit www.galleryr.org. ■

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including Ada Howe Kent, Charles Livingston Bull and James Haven.

A reception will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 1 at the Bevier Gallery.

• **Symposium: "M. Louise Stowell and the Arts and Crafts at RIT,"** Oct. 2, Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building

Discussions from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will focus on Stowell, her teaching styles and the arts and crafts movement. ■

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Newsmakers

Abi Aghayere, associate professor of civil engineering technology, presented three papers at the 2004 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition, June 20-23, in Salt Lake City. He presented "New York State Building Code Seismic Loading Design" at a meeting of the Rochester chapter the American Society of Civil Engineers in April.

Anne Coon, professor of language and literature, presented the paper, "Twentieth Century Italian Women Poets in Reply Across the Water," at the Italian American Connections International Academic Conference, sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the University of Palermo in Italy, and held in Duluth, Minn. Coon's poetry chapbook, *Daedalus' Daughter*, was recently published by FootHills Publishing.

Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president of student affairs, received the 2004 lifetime service award from the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers in June. The award is presented to an individual who has made a career in the university setting and has made a positive contribution to students, colleagues and the NEACUHO organization.

Michael Eastman, associate professor of computer engineering technology, presented "Freshman Orientation Activities" at the 2004 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition, June 20-23, in Salt Lake City. The paper was co-written by **Rick Cliver**, **Steven Ciccarelli** and **Jeffrey Lillie**, assistant professors of computer engineering technology.

Daniel Goodwin, professor of packaging science, presented "The Need to Define Pre-Set Instrumentation (Requirements) for the Measurement of Various Parameters of the Distribution Environment" at the 14th IAPRI World Conference on Packaging, June 13-16, in Stockholm, Sweden.

James Hurny, assistant professor of telecommunications engineering technology, presented "Resources, Organizational Change and Data Systems: Outcomes Assessment Implementation Issues and Strategies" at the 2004 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition, June 20-23, in Salt Lake City. The paper was co-written by **Linda Tolan**, associate dean, College of Applied Science and Technology.

U.S. News ranking *continued from page 1*

In the "Best undergraduate engineering programs," RIT jumped to 56th, up from 77th a year ago, in the "highest degree is a doctorate" category. It should be noted that RIT was moved to the doctoral-degree ranking last year after it launched its new microsystems Ph.D. program, the first of its kind in the nation.

RIT's College of Business continues to be ranked among the top 4 percent of all U.S. business schools in the "Best Undergraduate Business Programs" category.

RIT President Albert Simone says the rankings reflect the high value of RIT's excellent academic programs and commitment to student success. "At RIT, teaching, learning, and scholarship are our central enterprises. Our continued recognition in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings reaffirms RIT's strong commitment to lead higher education in preparing students for successful careers in a global society."

Emmanuel Contomanolis, assis-

tant vice president and director of the Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services, says: "RIT is pleased and proud to be recognized as a national leader in cooperative education. This highlights what RIT has traditionally done so well: provide students a real-world experience as part of their degree program."

Regarding the high marks for RIT engineering, Harvey Palmer, dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, says: "Within this prestigious list, RIT may be the most career-oriented and the most focused on undergraduate education."

U.S. News bases its comprehensive university rankings on peer assessment, graduation and freshmen retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.

To see a comprehensive list of the college rankings online, visit the *U.S. News & World Report* Web site at www.usnews.com. ■

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College spotlight *continued from page 1*

exhibition will focus on crafts education and the state of crafts today and will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 11 and from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 12.

• **"Small Format Art Exhibition" reception;** Sept. 17, Gallery r

A reception from 7 to 9:30 p.m. will mark the end of a four-month long exhibition of eclectic art pieces produced by CIAS students.

• **Exhibit: "M. Louise Stowell: Arts and Crafts Artist and Educator;"** Sept. 17-Oct. 13, Bevier Gallery

New exhibit featuring the artwork of former Mechanics Institute graduate and educator, M. Louise Stowell (1861-1930). She earned a national reputation for her graphic work and watercolors, blending Japanese aesthetics with arts and crafts design. An early proponent of the arts and crafts movement, Stowell was one of the founders of the Rochester Arts and Crafts Society.

As a teacher of drawing and composition, she influenced some of Rochester's best-known artists,