The number of inspectors
How many ships should be inspected or are inadequately checked for invasive species under the ballast water systems of ships? How much damage can invasive species cause? And what is the cost of ignoring these problems?

Economic damages of an invasive species such as zebra mussels can cost millions of dollars. Regulating invasive species that enter the United States through the ballast waters of ships is a problem Amit Batabyal is trying to understand with the help of a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.

Batabyal, Arthur J. Gosnell professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts, won a $74,000 grant to apply economic and queuing theory to the problem of invasive species. Batabyal hopes to develop a fresh perspective on queuing theory, the mathematical analysis of waiting lines, in use it to focus on inspectors and ships entering U.S. ports. According to Batabyal, no one before has applied this theory to invasive species management problems.

Queuing theory will give Batabyal a theoretical framework to understand different scenarios, such as:
• The number of inspectors needed to check ships entering ports
• How many ships should be allowed in a particular port at one time
• The cost of making ships that wait to be inspected versus the cost of a biological invasion of ships are not inspected or are inadequately checked

“Queuing theory has many real world applications in areas where the U.S. agriculture department is encouraging research,” Batabyal says. “It provides researchers with tools for modeling uncertainty. That’s precisely what is needed because many real-world problems such as the management of invasive species involve decision making under uncertainty.”

Amit Batabyal

An RIT alumnus and his wife are pledging $5 million to the university for engineering, engineering technology and competing scholarships. The bequest is the largest ever from an RIT alumnus to the university.

The commitment, from Charles and Andrea Volpe of Charleston, S.C., will expand the scholarship that bears their names to benefit additional students. Established in 2003, the scholarship, covering full tuition for four years, targets students from Red Jacket High School, Victor High School and Canandaigua High School.

Charles Volpe ’59 (B.S. mechanical engineering), a 1954 graduate of Red Jacket High School and native of Manchester, N.Y., is the retired president and chief operating officer of KEMET Electronics Corp. in Simpsonville, S.C. “My wife and I have been searching for a way to give something back to RIT and to my hometown, so offering engineering scholarships to RIT students from Red Jacket, Victor and Canandaigua seemed to accomplish both of these goals,” he says. “Our dream is that enough students will graduate through this scholarship that they, in turn, will see fit to individually or as a group of Volpe Scholars get together and give something back to RIT and to the hometown.”

Currently, one RIT student is supported with a full scholarship. In Volpe pledge, page 6

A cross-country journey in celebration of RIT’s 175th anniversary

The College of Science is celebrating RIT’s 175th anniversary with a special lecture series representing the growing intellectual climate within COS, extending beyond its classrooms and laboratories. Visiting scholars will deliver lectures throughout the winter on topics including Einstein, the growth of black holes in the universe and the inner workings of the National Science Foundation. Earlier this month, author and astrophysicist Mario Livio gave the annual John Wiley Jones Distinguished Lecture in Science. Upcoming appearances will follow by such renowned scientists as physicists Jim Gates in January and Kout and Gabrielle Long in March.

“Many of the speakers we’ve invited are internationally known, and all will give very exciting talks,” says Ian Gatley, dean of COS. A gala event for COS faculty, staff, students and selected alumni will be held to further mark the college’s 175th celebration. In addition, a time-line displayed in the COS atrium will record the college’s development and its evolving role at RIT.

“We’re very excited about the new strategic plan with its emphasis on scholarship,” Gatley says. “We think it creates opportunities to learn by doing, which is a hallmark of an RIT education.”

A strong research program is reshaping COS under Gatley’s leadership with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and intercollegiate collaboration. Research efforts have blossomed in all departments from the remote sensing program in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science to physics, bioinformatics and chemistry to mathematics and statistics, which, among other things, creatively challenges the way calculus can be taught.

According to Gatley, future growth in the college will likely come in the form Science: exploring the future of science, page 6
Photographers capture a piece of history on film

Limited electric. Horns swarming. Drunkenburgers trying to break in. Pieces of building blowing off in the wind. Steve Diehl, associate professor of imaging and photographic technology, and his wife, Vicki Zaremba-Diehl ’75 (photo illustration), faced these conditions as they documented the dilapidated state of the first permanent army hospital in the United States.

The Diehls shot documentary photographs of the disrepair. There is much history behind the Stone Hospital in Sackets Harbor, N.Y. that opened in 1838. The original architect is believed to be Robert Mills, who designed the Washington Monument. And the Stone Hospital is where Samuel Guthrie administered chloroform as an anesthesia for the first time.

Using a 4 by 5 camera, the Diehls shot 48 different views of the building inside and out. They also photographed the interior of the building at night. “Conditions were hazardous as the building is very unstable,” says Steve Diehl. “Almost the entire west facade collapsed last year along with the north wing. As we photographed, we could hear building materials falling.” Their detailed documentation was for the Sackets Harbor Area Cultural Preservation Foundation. The foundation is trying to raise $1.5 million to rehabilitate the structure. The Diehls’ images have been sent to the state and the U.S. Library of Congress.

Once the photographs were shot, they hand processed the black and white film and printed the images on fiber-based paper—an archival requirement by the U.S. Library of Congress, where the negatives and prints will be stored.

The couple gave up two weeks of their vacation and donated $14,000 dollars for photographic services. “RIT supplied all the chemistry for the processing and printing,” says Diehl. “This was very much a community project.”

RIT alumnus takes engineering knowledge overseas

John Myers graduated from RIT at the end of the fall semester and hopes to one day come back as a professor. “I’ve already told some of the professors that I want to replace them when they are ready to retire,” Myers says. Myers, a software engineering major, already has a lot of experience teaching in a classroom. He spent two months during the summer training newly hired engineers in China through a co-op for Concorde Camera. The 22-year-old taught engineers how to use software, write documentation for the factory that employed 5,000 people. He ate lunch with the factory workers on several occasions, took a Chinese name and learned Mandarin.

“They always giggled because my accent was pretty horrible, but at least I made the attempt.” He would travel from his apartment in Hong Kong to a town called Shenzhen. Myers would go by train and then get dropped off at the border between Hong Kong and China.

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Myers journey to China was the first time in his life he had traveled outside of the Eastern Time zone. Myers is also the first in his family to go to college. The Onondaga, N.Y., native says he couldn’t have found a better college and program for what he wants to do.

“I have a lot of school pride. I like a sense of connection. Five years is a long investment in something. If you don’t have pride in the school and specifically the program, it becomes a boring five years. I’ve lost my voice at many hockey games.”

Myers could also be found in the software engineering mentoring lab—a place where students go for review sessions, to study and socialize. He served as vice president of the School of Software Engineers. His days of hitting the books are not over. Myers plans to go to graduate school and would like to work for a government contractor.

Shenzhen. Myers would go by train and then get dropped off at the border between Hong Kong and China. After he went through customs, he would cross a bridge flanked by Hong Kong guards at one end and Chinese guards at the other—an experience he describes as “very surreal.”

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John Myers, recent graduate of RIT’s software engineering program, left, and engineers from Concorde Camera eating lunch in Hong Kong. Myers trained the engineers for two months during the summer.

Roger DeMuth is an obsessive “drawer” and all of his creations seem slightly deranged—Bob Lee latches on to a team of designers who work with the National Football League—

Mary Ellen Mark. Larsen is primarily known for her black and white film prints, but she also has a lot of photography for the music industry. Zaremba-Diehl ’75 (photo illustration) was a recent guest artist at RIT. Her paintings are in more than 20 museums and in many private collections. Her favorite medium is oil paint. The artist’s exhibition is focused on her work and the art world from a personal and spiritual perspective.

Illustrations at Gallery r

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Throughout the school year, the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences’ Charles Arnold Lecture Series brings speakers to RIT who offer a combination of talent, experience and insight. SPAS welcomes back six of its talented alumni to share insights about working in the business at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium.

The following alumni will take part: Rony Eriksson ’01 (advertising photography); Chae Kilin ’04 (MFA), Erika Larsen ’97, ’00 (BFA advertising photography, MFA computer graphic design); Paul Ninly ’90 (photojournalism), Joe Schmutzer ’95 (advertising photography) and Dan Shenken ’97 (photojournalism). They will be part of a panel discussion moderated by Lisa Natauro, program coordinator in RIT’s Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services.

Eriksson, based in London, does a lot of photography for the music industry. Kilin, Larsen and Shenken work outside of New York City. Kilin is the studio manager for photographer Mary Ellen Mark. Larsen is primarily an editorial photographer whose clients include Time, Fortune and Sports Afield. Shenken has photographed in Israel and a number of other international locations. Ninly is the photo editor of the Sporting News in St. Louis. Schmutzer is based out of Los Angeles and is a commercial, editorial and fine art photographer. Eriksson, based in London, does a lot of photography for the music industry.

Chad Grohman’s list of high profile clients looks like a Who’s Who of the rich and famous—

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Cola offers new PR degree

RIT's College of Liberal Arts is offering a bachelor of science degree in advertising and public relations with a new approach reflecting today's media and communication needs.

The program is one of the few in the country to combine advertising, public relations and marketing in response to the growing influence of the Internet and the overlapping roles of public relations practitioners and advertisers.

The new major was formed through a close partnership between the department of communication in COLA and the department of marketing in the College of Business. A senior thesis requirement and 20 weeks of work experience through internships and/or co-ops further distinguish the program from others.

Student interest influenced the development of the degree program, says Rudy Pugliese, associate professor of communication and coordinator of the communication and media technologies master's program.

"Much of this is driven by student demand," Pugliese says. "They kept asking us about advertising classes. It seemed like a missing part of the puzzle."

Bruce Austria, chair of RIT's communication department, points to an increasing demand for communication specialists.

"As new media for communication opens up they enhance the number of career opportunities for people in PR and communication departments. We're not abandoning traditional outlets, we're adding a new medium."

The department of communication will continue to offer its popular professional and technical communication BS/MPA program, though both Austria and Pugliese expect an initial migration to the new major.

"Advertising and public relations seem as a form of a field for students who seek to specialize," Austria says. "RIT provides for students a broad background in communication proficiency with emphasis on written and oral skills."

Cybersecurity expert Etroy Nwoneu speaks Jan. 21

On Monday, Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., the 3-D Design Center will host "Computing and Cybersecurity," featuring Etroy Nwoneu, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science at RIT. Nwoneu will discuss cybersecurity and stopping hackers before they hit.

Nwoneu earned his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in computer science and is the founder of CyberWin, a company that builds cybersecurity training and assessment tools.

"According to the 2016 Cybersecurity Workforce Report, there is a shortage of 1.5 million cybersecurity professionals in the United States. RIT is leading the way in preparing cybersecurity professionals for the future," Nwoneu says. "The Cybersecurity certificate offered through the 3- D Design Center is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills in a rapidly growing field."

Tennis star serves as GCCIS faculty in residence

The R. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences will celebrate RIT's 175th anniversary in January. A "History of Computing" display will be featured in the Golisano College atrium.

Special events include:

• Lecture by Sidney Marshall about the history of computing, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 5, Golisano College auditorium.
• "Club Dice," Jan. 5, Golisano College atrium.
• "Movie Days," Jan. 10, 12, 24, 26, Golisano College auditorium.
• Comedy shows, 9-11 a.m., 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. Shows that relate to computing, animated features, dramas and comedies will be shown.
• "Computers in Women's Lives," 1:30 p.m., Jan. 14, Golisano College auditorium.
• "Computer Trade Show," 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 19, Golisano College atrium.
• "Computer Security," 5 p.m., Jan. 20, and 21, Golisano College auditorium.

The College of Computing and Information Sciences faculty, staff and students will center stage in a comedy written by Richard Evans.
RIT honors employees with Length of Service awards

A supportive audience filled RIT’s Fedora Lounge for the annual Length of Service reception, Oct. 5, honoring the dedication and longevity of campus employees. RIT President Albert.M. Tuerk addressed the crowd that came to salute and celebrate those employees honored for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to RIT.

Following the Length of Service reception, the 25-, 30-, 35- and 40- year employees attended a reception in the Fedora Lounge. The 25-year employees received a crystal tiger by Jeffery and, the 35- and 40-year employees received the Majestic Tiger crystal statue by Lemnos.

25 Years—Donald Baker, Gail Binder, Richard Chu, John Cox, Michael Kleper, Ann Nealon, Carl Spoto, Sarah Shively, Sarah Reynolds, Sandra Saari, Marvin Sachs, J. Wilson Saari, Pi Yang Tsang, Andrea Walter


William Osterman, Jeff Peltz, Kerry Phillips, Joseph Provenza, Stanislau Radziukowski, Peter Reich, Scott Roeger, Sidonie Rospele, Kathleen Ronnenberg, Robert Rothman, Nan Schiller, Jovita Scherrenborn, Harry Schery, Nora Shannon, Timothy Smith, Paul Steibitz, David Thien, Panchasakvan Kenramatham, Randolph Versautem, Barbara Worth, Donna Welch, Edward Knly White, George Zion


RIT's 25-year employees

RIT's 35-year employees

RIT's 35-year employees

09 December 2004 | www.rit.edu/news
Future scientists enlightened at professional conference

RIT’s ties to the Rochester area business community are numerous and strong, and this year’s list of the Rochester Top 100 companies illustrates that fact. Leaders of 13 RIT Top 100 companies—including the No. 1 firm on the list—are RIT alumni. These leaders make educational more accessible to greater numbers of students through increased leadership and support of scholarship funds. Sometimes the ability to stay in school depends on the last few dollars—money for books, rent, and deposit, and so on. Increased scholarships help support the American amount of education. While an individual’s ability to give financially may be insignificant. All gifts are equal.

Karen Black | kebnmr@rit.edu

Viewpoints

Canvassing Soda Bay at the end of the 1800s

Tom Lightfoot, RIT associate professor of art and a member of the Soda Bay Historical Society, took a two-month journey back in time to the Soda Bay area, circa 1890, to paint a 30-foot mural on a scene of historic buildings. It’s on display at the historical society’s Lighthouse Museum.

Get your bracelets here

Purchase an orange SPIRIT bracelet to support The Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong, and wear it with pride to show your support for RIT.

Bracelets are now available at the Student Alumni Union, and the proceeds will go directly to the hospital. The cost is $1; bracelets will be available while supplies last.

About the writer

Polly Spinelli is director of RIT’s human resources department.

RIT shines on Top 100 list

RIT’s Department of Online Sciences, history and government laboratories, inks and printing processes. Because of this grant money, the courses will become laboratory centric.

Atheneum open house

The RIT Athenaeum, located on East River Road, will host its seventh annual weeklong open house from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 17. Through this open house, visitors planning to stay the day are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch.

During these two events, members and newcomers are welcome to participate in as many classes as they wish. To help plan for adequate seating, call 292-8415 or visit www.rit.edu/athenaeum.

Online excellence

RIT’s Department of Online Learning was recently nominated by the Director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, for the 2004 eBusiness Executive Excellence award for its work in creating an online evaluation tool for distance learning courses.

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RIT scientist shares ‘insight’ on visual perception

Jeff Pelz and Mary Ellen Arndt demonstrate the wearable eye tracker in the Vision Perception Laboratory in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

RIT technology destined to enhance the readiness and efficiency of America’s military has been formally recognized by the National Center for Advanced Technologies. RIT’s Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies is one of the 2004 NCAT Defense Manufacturing Excellence Award winners.

Addition to print media school

Gravure research library opens in the spring

The Visual Perception Laboratory in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science has become a hub of research collaborations across campus. What motivates Jeff Pelz, director of the Visual Perception Laboratory, and his colleagues is the intrinsically complicated question of how we use our eyes to perceive the world. The means of gathering data to answer those questions were until recently rooted in artificial laboratory settings. Pelz argues that those experiments tell scientists little about how people use their eyes in daily life.

“Brutal perception is a question of how much of what we learn in the laboratory can we extend to the real world?” Pelz says.

New technology in the Visual Perception Laboratory is helping answer those questions for researchers who are studying the performance of Pelz’s lab in the College of Science is the wearable eye tracker, now in its third generation. This piece of equipment and its immediate predecessor have opened up new possibilities for research unavailable elsewhere.

The wearable eye tracker extends the laboratory to the real world by recording what people look at and how their eyes move as they perform a specified task. In other words, the device lets researchers pay attention to in order to gather information and how eye movements support everyday perception.

The second-generation tracker performs on-line processing in real time to track the subject’s eye position within an indoor setting not confined to the laboratory. The recently developed third-generation eye tracker takes the research outside under low-light conditions, but trades real-time processing for more portable equipment.

Developing wearable eye tracking technology has long been one of Pelz’s goals. His own research collected a boost from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, which established a cooperative agreement with Pelz’s lab to develop the wearable eye-tracking technology. One goal of that project is to study how people locate difficult-to-find objects in natural scenes.

“The means of collecting data to track the subject’s eye position is the wearable eye tracker, now in its third generation. This piece of equipment and its immediate predecessor have opened up new possibilities for research unavailable elsewhere,” Pelz says. “Brutal perception is a question of how much of what we learn in the laboratory can we extend to the real world?"

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Close to accomplishing their goal, Pelz and Jason Babcock ’00, ’02 (B.S. in optics and photographic science, M.S. in color science) have created a lightweight device that fits easily into a backpack and can be worn outdoors.

In addition to Pelz’s work with the Navy, the equipment has led to a variety of research projects for Pelz and his students, such as a collaboration with Marc Marschark and Carol Convery of NTID. This project, funded by the National Science Foundation and now in its second year, uses eye tracking with hearing and deaf students in a simulated courtroom. The study seeks to understand how deaf students divide their attention between instructor, interpreter and a graphic display. Mary Ellen Arndt, a graduate student in information technology with a concentration in human-computer interaction, took the lead in collecting and analyzing the large amount of data collected for that project.

Pelz and his students are also conducting basic research with CIMS graduate Constantine Rothkopf, now a doctoral student at the University of Rochester. This project uses the wearable eye tracker to model how people navigate and search for objects in complex natural scenes. A better understanding of how humans behave in the real world can help computer scientists develop “computer vision” for robotic systems.

In the newest incarnation of the wearable eye tracker, Pelz and imaging science undergraduate Steve Brokowy are using a binocular tracker that monitors both eyes to study how people move their eyes together to explore the third dimension.

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“This lets us identify the point in 3D space where they are paying attention instead of just in the 2D direction,” Pelz says. “We’ve learned a huge amount in the lab about what the visual system can do,” Pelz adds. “Now we’re beginning to learn what the visual system does in the real world.”

Susan Goedel | smguns@rit.edu

RIT defense research earns national recognition

The Marine Corps has expressed tremendous excitement with the development of these new technologies and the benefits that result from bringing them all together,” explains Nahid Nour, CIMS director. “The LA V project team has done that, and they have done it well.”

The CIMS research team initiated this program to assist the Department of Defense in developing new sustainable design strategies that extend the life cycle of existing military systems. Delphi Corp. provided advanced sensors that were integrated into RIT’s mesh of hardware and software vehicle support systems.

The Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., will have an opportunity to test the system first-hand. The Marine Corps is expected to fully implement the technology over the next five years.

Paul Stoeck | pbscom@rit.edu

Volpe pledge (from page 1)

Volpe’s addition, the Volpes recently gave a $5,000 grant to a fourth-year RIT engineering major to financially assist her in final-quarter studies. They are grateful for the continued generous support for RIT scholarships from Chuck and Andrea Volpe. “I thought FIRST would be the perfect fit because my son’s new school is close enough to campus so students can visit and watch me work. That’s the best way to learn.”

The couple also recently pledged a matching grant to help launch a FIRST robotics team at Red Jacket High School. FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—sponsors regional robotics competitions throughout the United States and an annual national competition. For the first time, RIT will host a regional competition next spring. The event is expected to draw up to 40 high school teams from as far as Northeast for competition, March 3-5, in RIT’s Gordon Field House. FIRST has secured initial funding of $6,000 from NASA, assuring receipt of an additional $50,000 from corporate sponsors. “I thought FIRST would be the perfect vehicle to stimulate interest in engineering and robotics,” Andrea Volpe says. “A FIRST Robotics team will be important for the local community to get involved and to help raise the next generation of engineers.”

Earlier this year, Volpe was named a founding member of RIT’s Mechanical Engineering Alumni Academy.

Ledong Dangrally Chay | Wendell Castle

Castle works now at MAG

Wendell Castle teases the mind as well as the eye with his playful and riveting works of art—ranging from functioning lamps, humidors and sculpture. He is noted for his examples of trompe-l’oeil, a French term that means “fools the eye.”

Throughout the past four decades, Castle has built a reputation as an artist who defies convention. Castle has also been actively involved with the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences—as a teacher for nine years in the 1960s and artist-in-residence in the School for American Crafts since 1984. The Memorial Art Gallery will celebrate his career with an exhibition, “Wendell Castle in Rochester,” which opened Dec. 8. Included are nine works from the gallery’s permanent collection, plus four works on loan from the artist. Also on view are preliminary drawings and photos of some of Castle’s large-scale commissions.

Through his career, Castle has shared his woodworking skills with RIT students. He says, “It’s the perfect fit because my son’s new school is close enough to campus so students can visit and watch me work. That’s the best way to learn.”

Castle is scheduled to talk at the Memorial Art Gallery at 7 p.m., Jan. 13. The event is co-sponsored by the Memorial Art Gallery, the School for American Crafts, and the Section of Art and Design.

Marie Murphy | impmurphy@rit.edu

Gravure research

Gravure is a printing process that has long been one of the most effective means of collecting data to track the subject’s eye position in order to gather information and how eye movements support everyday perception.

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In the newest incarnation of the wearable eye tracker, Pelz and imaging science undergraduate Steve Brokowy are using a binocular tracker that monitors both eyes to study how people move their eyes together to explore the third dimension.

The CIMS research team initiated this program to assist the Department of Defense in developing new sustainable design strategies that extend the life cycle of existing military systems. Delphi Corp. provided advanced sensors that were integrated into RIT’s mesh of hardware and software vehicle support systems.

The Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., will have an opportunity to test the system first-hand. The Marine Corps is expected to fully implement the technology over the next five years.

Paul Stoeck | pbscom@rit.edu

Brinkman Lab gets state-of-the-art machine tools

Giovanni Principe, an engineer with DMG America Inc., far right, demonstrates a machine tool to Pat Derleth, far left, and Roham Shad, both of East Side Machine Inc., in RIT’s Brinkman Manufacturing Lab in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies. DMG-Mori, a manufacturer of an open house commemorating the company’s equipment consignment and new partnership with RIT. “This equipment provides RIT engineering students an opportunity to be better prepared for today’s workforce,” says Don Miller, DMG area sales manager for western New York.

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These are the times that will shape your lives

by Eric Majewicz

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.

Grant funds resiliency study

The Teaching Learning Center is examining the resiliency of RIT students. The center recently received a $43,000 Perkins III grant to provide training that will address making students more resilient to adversity and inclined to persist and graduate from RIT.

“More than 30 years of research have proven that, more than education level, experience or training, it is a person’s thinking style that determines whether he or she succeeds or fails,” says Lynn Wild, assistant provost, Teaching and Learning Services. “A resilient thinking style is the greatest predictor of success. A critical variable in attaining new skills—in developing our students—is their ability to be optimistic and persistent. How do we help students stay focused and continue to believe in what they are doing when they are unable to see any growth on the surface or face failure?”

Given the mounting challenges, complexity, uncertainty and demands placed upon today’s students, it is understood that their ability to respond effectively to adversity will play a pivotal role in their resilience, effectiveness, performance and success, Wild says.

In November, 73 students and 24 faculty/staff participated in a pilot program conducted by Peak Learning Inc. The customized program incorporated technology, methodology and tools provided in the book, Adversity Quotient: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities. The specific goal of this project is to improve the retention rate of RIT’s student population through implementation of effective resiliency training.

Sixteen faculty and staff members, from Academic and Student Affairs and the President’s Office, have worked on a voluntary basis to coordinate the pilot project.

“RIT wants to further become the kind of school where students are eager to stay, where students increasingly believe they have been significantly prepared for the workforce, where students remain loyal after graduation, and where students recommend the university to other prospective students,” says Wild. “This pilot program attempts to address students’ faulty belief systems and defeatist behavior, making them more resilient to adversity and inclined to persist and graduate from RIT.”

Wild expects the project will improve retention rates by as much as 5 percent this year. A detailed assessment will evaluate the success of the students in the pilot program. They will be tracked and monitored throughout the school year and will participate in a 90-day web-based program to reinforce the concepts. The Teaching Learning Center is also applying for another grant to sustain and broaden the project.

RIT women ‘up and coming’

Cindee Gray: assistant vice president, Government and Community Relations, and Twyla Cummings, graduate coordinator, print media management program, were honored as “Up and Coming” Business women from the Rochester Women’s Network this fall.

The award recognizes 15 local women who have demonstrated professional and same career leadership potential. “Cindee and Twyla’s contributions to RIT and the Rochester community have been extraordinary and significant, and we know that they will continue to make an impact on the lives of current and future students and in the community,” says Deborah Stendardi, associate vice president for government and community relations.

Newly commissioned U.S. Army second lieutenants, from left, Brian Weiblinger, Randolph Naughton, Jelen Johns and Christopher Braunstein celebrate at a commissioning ceremony for RIT Army ROTC, graduating students on Nov. 12 in the Shaler Room of the Kilian F. and Caroline F. Braunstein Memorial Center.

Finnerty earns ‘40 under 40’

Robert Finnerty, RIT’s chief communications officer, was recently selected one of Rochester’s 40 Under 40 winners by the Rochester Business Journal. Finnerty, who has been at RIT for three years, previously worked as metro editor for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

“Bob is among a very prestigious list of honorees, and we are delighted to see him receive this well deserved recognition,” says Deborah Stendardi, associate vice president for government and community relations.

“I wouldn’t have been able to achieve this honor without the support of great people—from my past and current co-workers to my wonderful family,” adds Finnerty.

Having their cake (and eating it, too)

Cindee Gray, assistant vice president, Government and Community Relations, and Caroline F. Finnerty, who has been with RIT for three years, previously worked as metro editor for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

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Having their cake (and eating it, too)
I think you’ll agree that the holidays offers a great opportunity for both reflection and inspiration. So as we wind down from a particularly busy and fulfilling year at RIT, what better time to contemplate a bit over where we’ve been and where we’re going? RIT is in the midst of quite a celebration. Our 175th anniversary, which kicked off Oct. 15 and will remain in remembrance, has provided the campus community with a variety of different outlets to showcase our pride. Many more opportunities are planned for the remainder of the academic year, and I encourage everyone to revel in the excitement of this remarkable milestone.

I also want to again thank everyone who played a part this year in the creation of our strategic plan. Through your hard work, we are able to re-focus a commitment that everything we do at RIT be focused on our students. I fully believe this foundation will, over the next 10 years, lead us to our ultimate goal of becoming a “Category of One University.”

Carole and I anxiously await the blessings of the holidays, and we extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for peace and happiness this season. As we enter a new and exciting year, you will find us on the front line in 2005, and I encourage everyone to strengthen our resolve to continue to share our pride. Many more opportunities are planned for the remainder of the academic year, and I encourage everyone to reinforce our commitment to do our utmost to build a campus where students are at the center of everything we do at RIT.

To all our students, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

To all our faculty and staff, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

To our donors, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

To all of our alumni, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

To all of our friends, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

To all of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and donors, let me express my gratitude for all that you have done this past year in service to RIT and to others.

Thank you.

April J. Monroe
Vice President for Student Affairs

RIT delegation
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vision statement says, “RIT will lead higher education in preparing students for successful careers in a global society.” A Global Strategy Task Force, led by Trustee Jay Holmes, has been established to provide strategic oversight of international initiatives. The visit to Tianjin was coordinated by NTID’s PEN-International. The Postsecondary Education Network International is the first-of-its-kind international partnership of colleges and universities serving the post-secondary education needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students. James DeCaro, formerly dean of NTID, serves NTID and RIT as director of PEN.

Stan McKinzie, provost and vice president for academic affairs, led the RIT delegation for a two-day site visit, which culminated in the signing of a general partnership agreement.

Four members of the RIT delegation also visited the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, where RIT had previously established a relationship through the School of Print Media. In the city of Suzhou, RIT leaders visited the Gem Corporation initiative in the education/industrial park of Suzhou. Representatives of Gem visited RIT Dec. 3-5 as a follow up to RIT’s visit for purposes of identifying and pursuing matters of mutual interest. Based in Singapore and Shanghai, Gem manages education institutions of higher learning in Malaysia and China. Bill Wiig, vice chairman of Gem, is a member of President Albert Simon’s round-table advisory group.

Jim Miller, vice president of Enrollment Management and Career Services, says collaborations with China are part of a diverse comprehensive international strategy for the university. RIT will continue to build global relations so that it is not limited to one part of the world. “Certainly, there is more going on globally than ever before, and more rapidly,” he says. “We are networking all over the world.”

RIT leaders who visited China with Miller, McKinzie and DeCaro included: Alan Hurwitz, dean and vice president, NTID; Wiley McKinzie, dean, College of Applied Science and Technology; Harvey Palmer, dean, Kate Gleason College of Computing and Information Sciences; and Nebel Nast, assistant provost and director, Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies.

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Worsley leads team to victory
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This fall, RIT’s women’s volleyball coach Roger Worsley won his 200th career match at the helm of the Tigers with a 3-0 win over State University of New York at Oneonta. He becomes the fourth coach in the program’s history to win at least 100 matches and is ranked fourth on the all-time career-coaching list with 103 victories.

Worsley also helped guide the team to excellence in the classroom. In 2002 the Tigers were one of only 26 Division III teams to be presented with the Academic Award by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. The award is given to programs that maintain a team GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Roger Worsley
State University of New York at Oneonta.