

2 "Sydney" set to music



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RIT Lincoln scholar talks about the 16th U.S. President

RIT displays sampling of 120 rare black-and-white Lincoln prints

RIT offers a rare look at 120 copy photographs of the 16th president of the United States on Monday, Feb. 17, coinciding with a 7 p.m. talk by Lincoln scholar Joseph Fornieri. In honor of Presidents' Day and one week after Abe Lincoln's birthday, RIT's Wallace Library hosts the discussion of "Why Lincoln Matters" and presents an unusual collection of black-and-white prints made by a 1906 Mechanics Institute alumnus.

The one-of-a-kind assemblage of Lincoln copy prints, donated to RIT in 1977 by photo buff and mechanical engineering alumnus William

Carleton Alband, date to the 1920s and '30s. Alband made the prints from the Meserve Collection and War Department files while working for the U.S.



Joe Fornieri has written two books on the famous leader: Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith and The Language of Liberty: The Political Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln.

War Department.

Fornieri—Eisenhart award-winner and political science professor in the College of Liberal Arts—has written two books on Abraham Lincoln that will publish in May. His passion for one of America's most famous presidents infuses his teaching and writing. Fornieri says, "No one understood democ-

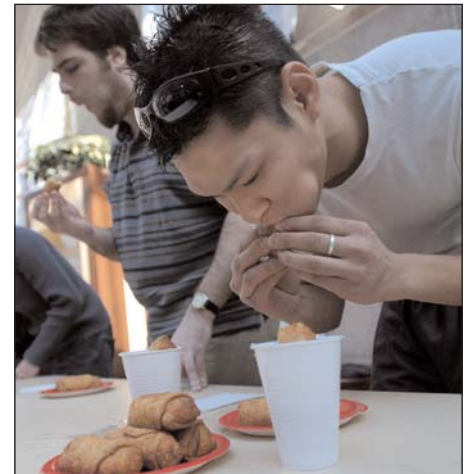
racy as well as Lincoln did, and its potential for both good and evil.

"These photos of him are amazing; there are a few I've never seen before," says Fornieri. With photography a new and exciting technology in the mid 1800s, Lincoln was a well-photographed president, he notes. "The fact that Mr. Alband cared enough to make this collection—all the time and work that entailed—says a great deal about how much Lincoln meant to him, and to the nation."

The pictures will be displayed all day in the Idea Factory, first floor/Wallace Library. The free, public event will conclude with refreshments, including Java Wally's coffee. ■



This copy of a photograph of Lincoln and his son was taken by Mathew Brady in 1864.



HERALDING A PLENTIFUL NEW YEAR... Simien Lin, a fourth-year student, won the Asian Culture Society's egg-roll eating contest, Jan. 30, in the Student Alumni Union. Lin ate six egg rolls in two minutes. His prize? A \$30 gift certificate for The King and I restaurant.

NTID award to help deaf education globally

Japan's The Nippon Foundation has awarded RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf \$1.19 million to continue its leading role in improving education and career opportunities for deaf people around the world.

To date, The Nippon Foundation has awarded NTID \$3.28 million to help colleges across the globe improve technological education for their deaf students through a program called Postsecondary Education Network International (PEN-International), conducted in partnership with Tsukuba College of Technology in Japan.

Deaf students attending a specific college in Japan, China, Russia and Philippines have benefited from PEN-

International's expertise through improved curriculum, increased access, new high technology, multi-media labs and trained faculty. This year, work will continue in those and additional programs in Beijing and in Prague.

"Each country is in a different stage of educating deaf people at the college level. Each has its own set of goals," says James DeCaro, former dean of NTID and director of PEN-International. "Add to that mix each country's unique written, spoken and signed languages, its own culture and technical knowledge, and it becomes a very exciting, multi-layered project."

For more information about PEN-International, visit www.pen.ntid.rit.edu. ■

Lobozzo wins COB's VandenBrul Award

Joseph Lobozzo II, founder and CEO of JML Optical Industries Inc., has won the 2003 Herbert W. VandenBrul Entrepreneurial Award, presented by RIT's College of Business.

This year's award takes on added significance with the death of Herbert VandenBrul on Jan. 24. Co-founder of RF Communication Inc., now a division of Harris Corp., VandenBrul created the award through an endowment fund established in 1984.

"Herb VandenBrul's life accomplishments are an inspiring example of the entrepreneurial spirit," says Thomas Hopkins, dean of the College of Business. "He, along with the many past VandenBrul Award winners, blazed a path of success for today's students. Joe Lobozzo is a worthy recipient who will help carry on this important tradition."

Since starting JML Optical in his home, Lobozzo has guided the firm through more than 30 years of growth and profitability. The company, which designs, manufactures and distributes precision optical components and systems, employs about 80 professionals.



Joseph Lobozzo

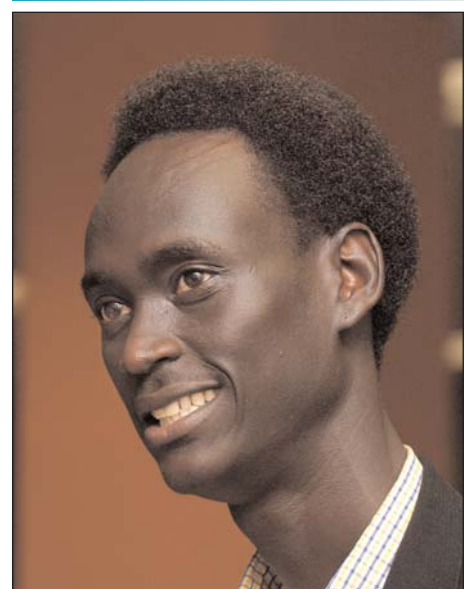
"It's the story of a boy from South Bronx who makes good," says Lobozzo. "I've always felt that in my heart, but it's something quite different when peers acknowledge one's

success and community involvement. To receive this year's VandenBrul Award is very humbling."

Lobozzo maintains many professional and community interests—including RIT. In 1995, he graduated from the Executive MBA program. He later joined the RIT Board of Trustees and the advisory council for the College of Business. Ever since, Lobozzo has enjoyed visiting campus to speak with business students and sparking their entrepreneurial spirit.

"The fact that I started without any outside equity really inspires them," he reflects. "You can't overfill them with information."

RIT's Herbert W. VandenBrul Entrepreneurial Award goes annually to an individual who successfully developed a business that improved the Rochester economy or whose innovative management skills have changed the course of an existing business. ■



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS... Former slave and abolitionist Francis Bok spoke about life as a slave in Sudan in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 10. Other Black History Month events included Gospel Fest featuring the College Gospel Mass Choir, Richard Smallwood and The Vision, and the Unity House's fourth annual Tribute to Black Art and Music.

New program option teams engineering with medicine and biology

What do you get when you cross engineering with biology and medicine? State-of-the-art technology and one of the hottest fields of the early 21st century: biomedical engineering.

A new biomedical engineering option, launching spring quarter in RIT's electrical engineering department in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, will give students expertise in the design of components for potentially life-saving medical devices used for critical-care monitoring, diagnostics, implantation and remote surgery.

"The attributes of modern, integrated, microelectronic technology are ideal for engineering solutions to an array of human medical conditions," says Robert Bowman, professor and head of electrical engineering. "Implantable medical devices—small in size, low in power and with the ability to sense, process and control electrical signals—will continue to evolve and replace defective biological parts in the human body." Biomedical engineering studies are usually offered at the graduate level, he adds, making RIT's option for undergrads unique.

Biomedical Instrumentation, the first of five new courses comprising the option, is

slated for spring quarter. Dan Phillips, assistant professor of electrical engineering, will teach principles of electronic instrumenta-

tion and design for biomedical measurement and monitoring devices.

Continued on page 4

Former Gannett chief talks on diversity

Al Neuharth, former chairman and CEO of Gannett Co. Inc. and founder of USA Today, returns to Rochester for an RIT Presidential Colloquium on diversity.

Neuharth will address the importance of diversity in today's world by explaining the critical role it plays in newsrooms and classrooms during his keynote speech, "Coloring Newsrooms and Classrooms."

The colloquium begins at 3 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 20, in Ingle Auditorium. RIT President Albert Simone will moderate the colloquium.

"The quality and preservation of economic, social and civic life for all Americans depends on the access to and quality of higher education for all



Al Neuharth

Americans," says Simone. "It also depends on newsrooms that understand the critical importance of a society which is diverse, inclusive and welcoming to everyone."

Neuharth led Gannett to many award-winning diversity initiatives that began more than two decades ago. Under his leadership, newsrooms began adding more women and minorities to not only change the face of newsrooms, but also the way news was gathered and presented.

Neuharth continues to write columns for Gannett newspapers. He is also former chairman of the International Freedom Forum, a foundation that promotes free press, free speech and free spirit around the world. ■

Performing Artists concert to mix music with poetry

The Performing Artists Concert Series continues with the Equinox Symphony Chamber Orchestra at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, in Ingle Auditorium in the



Paul Stuart

Student Alumni Union. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Paul Stuart will conduct an evening of C.P.E. Bach, Schubert, Vivaldi and Johann Strauss and introduce "Sydney the Sea Squid," a poem by local author and playwright Barbara Stewart, with accompanying music composed by Stuart.

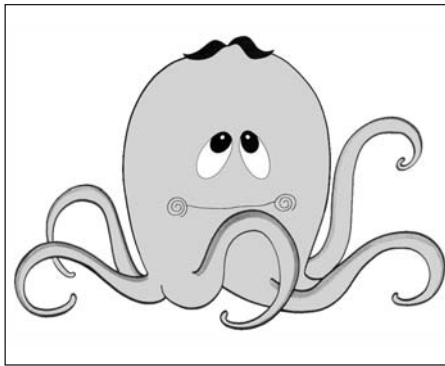
The piece was specially commissioned by RIT for the Performing Artists Concert Series.

Featured artists are violinist Jassen Todorov who will perform on a Stradivarius violin and New York City actor Patrick Tull who will narrate the poem.

The Equinox Symphony is a local chamber orchestra, composed mostly of Eastman School graduate students. For

this performance, there will be six violins, two violas, two cellos, a bass, two flutes, two oboes, two horns and a bassoon.

The program includes *Five German Dances* by Franz Schubert, *Spring* and *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi, *Symphony No. 2 in E flat major, Op. 183, No. 2*, by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, *Voices of Spring* by Johann Strauss Jr.



"Sydney the Sea Squid," a poem commissioned by RIT, will be read by local author Barbara Stewart.

and "Sydney the Sea Squid" by Barbara Stewart, music by Paul Stuart with Patrick Tull narrating.

Tickets—\$5 for students, \$10 for faculty/staff/alumni and \$20 for the public—are available at the candy counter and game room in the SAU or at the door on concert night. Call 5-2239 for Visa or Mastercard phone orders.

The RIT Student Music Association will offer refreshments at intermission and an after-concert reception in Fireside Lounge.

For more information, visit www.davidigital.com/concert. ■



PAINTERLY ADVICE... Janet Fish, world-renowned artist, met with College of Imaging Arts and Sciences students from professor Alan Singer's painting class on Jan. 30. A realist, Fish is well known for her richly executed oil paintings and pastels of glass objects, fruit and flowers.

Tiffany donation helps educate "diamonds in the rough"

Tiffany & Co. has awarded a rare "gem"—a \$100,000 scholarship—to RIT's School for American Crafts.

Daniel Randall, a fourth-year student in the metals and jewelry design program, will receive the first \$5,000 from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation Metals and Jewelry Design Endowed Scholarship. Randall, who grew up in rural Vermont, hopes to join the ranks of Tiffany's master artists and designers, creating his own trademark of excellence in the world of wearable and functional art.

Joan Stone, CIAS dean, says the Tiffany scholarship will give metal and jewelry design students like Randall the support and recognition they deserve.

"RIT has enjoyed the support of Tiffany & Co. for more than a decade, with gifts of equipment for our facility on campus," says Stone. "This generous grant creates a new level of collaboration between RIT and Tiffany & Co. In recent years, 11 graduates of SAC have been placed at Tiffany and Co. where they have served as silversmiths, spinners and designers and in product development, product quality, repair and finishing."

With little exposure to the outside

world, Randall found his talent early on.

"We couldn't get a TV signal in Roxbury," explains Randall. "So, instead of doing what most kids did, I spent a lot of time drawing and thought of becoming an illustrator. That was until I learned jewelry making in high school and later became fascinated with designing Danish modern tableware, such as cups and saucers, silverware and teapots."



Daniel Randall is the first recipient of the Tiffany & Co. Foundation Metals and Jewelry Design Endowed Scholarship.

Leonard Urso, the Ann Mowris Distinguished Professor of Contemporary American Crafts, and head of the metals and jewelry design program, says Randall has an eye for detail in metal crafts that will ensure a

successful career.

"Dan is one of many creative and committed students in the Metals program at RIT and his ability to create modern works with a sense of timeless quality is what sets him apart," Urso says. "Each piece he makes—whether it's a ring or a spoon—is perfectly balanced."

Says Randall, "This grant will do a lot to help students here at RIT and I can't thank Len Urso enough for taking an interest in my work. He's the reason I came here to study."

Although Randall is considering several opportunities after he graduates this year, he is especially interested in spending time abroad to continue his education in Denmark or Northern Europe.

"I want to expand my designs in tableware, keeping them functional but interesting to look at," says Randall. "If I get real lucky, maybe someday Tiffany will be selling my teapots." ■



BIG DEMAND FOR LITTLE YELLOW BOXES AND THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THEM... Abhishek Gautam, RIT packaging science graduate student, left, and Steve Warren of Eastman Kodak Co., talk at RIT's 13th annual Packaging Science Career Fair, Feb. 5. The event attracted 18 companies and more than 100 RIT packaging science majors and high school counselors and students.

Kodak's package engineering and graphics design department employs many RIT graduates, says Don Appleton '83, '97 (BS and MS), from Kodak. Ryan Tesiero '95, senior manager of display services for Wyeth Consumer Healthcare, says the career fair is one of the best for recruitment.

RIT shines on ESPN2

Coming soon to a TV near you—the RIT Sports Zone on ESPN2. A student-produced program, *Sports Zone*, will take a behind-the-sports look at RIT athletics in a sports magazine format.

The show premieres at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 22, on ESPN2 in the Time Warner Finger Lakes region. It will air every other Saturday through the school year, and will run weekly beginning next fall.

See the Feb. 27 issue of *News & Events* for the full story.

Feb. 20 seminar to explore compliance issues

RIT's Principal Investigators Institute will host a seminar, Human Subjects Research and Other Compliance Issues, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, in room 2220, Louise M. Slaughter Building.

Topics to be covered include human subjects research, hazardous materials and RIT's environmental health and safety program, research oversight policy and notices of award, conflicts of interest and

how to manage them, intellectual property policy and misconduct in research and scholarship.

Presenters are Richard Doolittle from the medical sciences department; Sandra Rothenberg from the College of Business; Amit Ghosh from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering; Helen Revelas from the environmental health and safety program; and Marjorie Zack, director, Grants, Contracts and Intellectual Property.

To attend the morning or afternoon session, contact Marsha Konieczny at 5-7983 or mmkgcip@rit.edu. Seating is limited for each session, and interpreters will be provided.

This session is the fifth in a series of seven seminars offered throughout the year as part of the PI Institute, a vehicle for all faculty and staff who are interested in securing outside funding to support their students, curriculum and laboratories, and research. To see previous seminars in Power Point format, go to www.research.rit.edu. Upcoming seminars include Managing Your Funded Project, March 20, and Contracting with Industry, April 17.

The PI Institute is organized by Grants, Contracts and Intellectual Property and co-sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development. It is also promoted by RIT's Center for Professional Development. ■



LOCAL TEENS EXCEL IN THE FINE ARTS... Top winners of the 2003 Scholastic Art Awards and Exhibition were honored at an award ceremony in Webb Auditorium on Feb. 1. Judges critiqued nearly 1,400 works of art created by students from 200 schools in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region. Prize-winning entries from the RIT-sponsored exhibition will be on display in the Bevier Gallery through Feb. 19.



Blood drive, Feb. 13-14

Phi Sigma Pi and the Black Awareness Coordinating Committee are sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14 in Fireside Lounge, Student Alumni Union.

Fine cinema and pizza

The RIT community is invited to view the film, *Mexico: A Story of Courage and Conquest*, at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17, in the Liberal Arts Building, room 3225, as part of Peliculas y Pizza, a Spanish film series sponsored by the language and literature department. The film is in English with closed captioning for the deaf. For information, call 5-6765.

Most valued customer

RIT has been named Wegmans' 2002 "Most Valuable Customer" for their Hylan Drive location. The honor was presented to RIT representatives in a ceremony on campus in January. Factors including total amount of purchases made at the location, in addition to proximity to the RIT campus, helped in the decision.

Research findings online

Research conducted during the inaugural year of the Printing Industry Center at RIT is now available online. Full monographs can be accessed from the center's Web site at <http://print.rit.edu>.

The research helps establish a long-term agenda for the center, which is focused on supporting the growth and profitability of the printing industry. For more information, contact Adrienne McHargue at 5-4231 or apmpph@rit.edu.

Military leave info

Regular full-time employees who are called to active duty should refer to RIT's Policies and Procedures Manual for information about eligibility of benefits including life insurance, health insurance, vacation and sick time and social security and annuity contributions.

Employees can also contact human resources at 5-2424.

Viewpoints

Understanding your civic responsibility

This column presents opinions and ideas from your peers on issues relevant to higher education. We welcome response and hope "Viewpoints" inspires discussion among you, the RIT community. To suggest an idea for a column, e-mail to newsevents@rit.edu.

by Lyndsey Fisher, second-year public policy major and Student Leadership Corps coordinator

When attending RIT, you become an integral part of many communities. Within each college, major and classroom there is a community; every club or sports team forms a community; the entire city of Rochester also becomes every student's community. No matter how large or small a community may be, it will only reach its greatest potential if its members are engaged in the issues at hand and work together. There are already many successful communities on campus and every one of them has the potential to make a difference.

Lyndsey Fisher

Civic engagement within communities can be achieved through a number of different actions. Expression of civic beliefs can be shown through voting, rallies, debates, workshops, festivals, petitions and many more events. Activities such as these develop a sense of belonging within communities and are important venues for discussing and acting on positive change in today's society.

Student civic engagement can be an essential ingredient to community efforts. The diverse abilities and knowledge available on a university campus are extraor-

dinarily effective when brought together as one voice. Raising your voice and encouraging others to join with you not only influences leaders and decision makers but also creates bonds and breaks down barriers.

One community alone, however, may not have the expertise or abilities to participate in every event or act on every issue raised. Partnerships between communities demonstrate civic engagement in the highest form. This high level of civic engagement was demonstrated right here when RIT and the NorthEast Neighborhood Alliance (NENA) in the city of Rochester declared a partnership. Together, both organizations have accomplished amazing tasks and found inspiration from working everyday with involved faculty, students and community members. Some of these classroom-community accomplishments include the publishing of the NENA news-magazine, *Ten*, which was redesigned by an RIT visual journalism course. Also, a neighborhood mapping project was designed in a Geographic Information Systems course, the Public Market office space owned by NENA was redesigned by a senior interior design class, and various community research projects for the NENA neighborhood are

underway through the special-topics course, Sustainable Communities.

Civic engagement is happening outside the classroom, as well. The Student Leadership Corps is an RIT and Learn and Serve America organization facilitating student participation into local NENA projects. Through the Leadership Corps, students learn more about community-based initiatives and work closely with community youth. The accomplishments of the NENA/RIT partnership, the relationships forged and the unique learning experiences for students all attest to the importance of civic engagement.

Civic engagement on a university campus is about real-life learning experiences that cannot be found in a textbook or on a computer.

To learn more about becoming involved at RIT and in Rochester from students already engaged in their communities, join Raise Your Voice at RIT from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, in the Student Alumni Union cafeteria. ■

Student Affairs VP to teach MBA leadership class

The glass ceiling is shattered. Women are making their mark as leaders at nearly every level of industry, government and society.

Students in the College of Business have the opportunity to explore the impact of this important trend. Women as Leaders, a graduate-level seminar course, is offered to all MBA students for the spring quarter. Mary-Beth Cooper, RIT's vice president for student affairs, serves as the class instructor.

Women as Leaders will focus on the leadership qualities, strategies and career paths that females pursue across a variety of fields. Business leaders such as Anne Mulcahy, Xerox chairman and CEO, and Oprah Winfrey are high-profile examples of the varying styles and approaches that women bring to these roles.

The course also examines the hidden influence of other female posts. While many people ponder the possibility of

electing a woman president in the near future, Cooper indicates that many former first ladies have subtly impacted issues like foreign policy.



Mary-Beth Cooper will share her expertise on women as leaders with graduate students.

"There is reason to believe that women have already had a great deal of influence at the executive level of our nation's government," she says.

Despite the title, the course is not intended solely for women. Men are strongly encouraged to enroll in the class. "It's not just focused on women's issues," explains Cooper. "Whether you report to a woman on the job or work alongside a woman, our discussions should prove quite relevant." ■

Marathon runners share wellness challenge spotlight

The Center for Human Performance's Faculty/Staff Fit and Well Challenge highlights RIT faculty and staff who exemplify living a lifestyle of well being and activity.

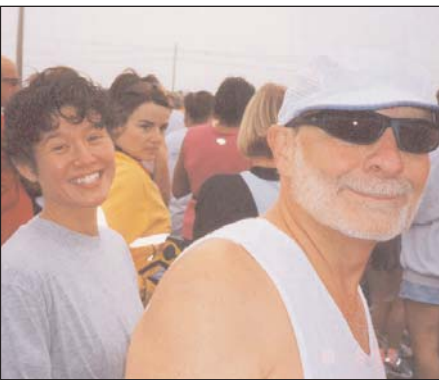
This month's spotlight falls on Bruce Oliver, professor of accounting and director of the College of Business Center for Business Ethics, and Cha Ron Sattler, assistant director of Residence Life Apartment Area and advisor to the Off-Campus and Apartment Student Association and Asian Culture Society clubs.

Bruce Oliver likes running. It's something he started doing four years ago to fight the "battle of the bulge" and rise to the challenge of competing in the Chase Corporate Challenge with other RIT faculty and staff. He lost almost 20 pounds and gained a love for marathons. At 61 years old, Oliver runs a race about every other weekend.

Exercise tips: Vary your routine. It keeps it interesting and lessens the chance of overworking any group of muscles.

How he sticks with it: The deep and abiding sense of personal accomplishment in

meeting the challenge of preparing yourself physically and mentally to race. It is the courage to start and finish that fulfills one's soul, Oliver says.



Both Bruce Oliver and Cha Ron Sattler say that marathon training has changed their lives.

The "ugly duckling of gym class," Cha Ron Sattler was always the last one picked. She started swimming and jogging in junior high to improve her lung capacity for playing the horn. Now she runs four times a week and cross-trains with swimming, cycling, weights and yoga.

How exercise has helped her: Training

for a marathon, she says, has changed her life. She's developed a healthy and realistic attitude about her body image. When preparing for a long run, you watch what you eat because you want the food to work for you, she says.

Exercise tips: Have fun. Find friends and exercise-oriented groups to work out with. Never criticize yourself because someone else is fitter, stronger or faster. There are plenty of people who would wish for your opportunity and ability.

Inspirational exercise quote: "The inspiration is not in the strength to finish, but in the courage to start." ■

Students to share thoughts on civic engagement

Community involvement is an important part of life for many RIT students like Lyndsey Fisher, a second-year public policy major and Student Leadership Corps coordinator. Fisher and other students involved with SLC will share their experiences with the RIT community during National Student Civic Engagement Week, Feb. 16-22.

RIT's SLC and the Learn and Serve America project, a community-based learning program in the College of Liberal Arts, will

sponsor student and community forums to inspire other

students to get active. Fisher, M. Ann Howard, associate professor and Learn and Serve America project director, and the Division of Student Affairs organized the events with help from a grant from the New York Campus Compact, supported by Pew Charitable Trusts.

A forum on civic engagement will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, in the Student Alumni Union cafeteria to introduce several perspectives on community participation. Student panelists include Joe Abbate, fifth-year electrical engineering

major; Dave Campbell, fourth-year computer science major; Bryan Barnes, first-year mechanical engineering student; Erick Littleford, fourth-year public policy major; Denisha Flanigan, third-year business student; Matt Howard from Edison Tech High School; and Cortez Jones from East High School. The featured speaker will be Genoveva Aguilar, a University of California at San Diego student, whose community activism earned her the 2002 National

Campus Compact Howard R. Shearer Award.

Fisher hopes the

event will encourage more students to become involved in community activities. Among other out-of-classroom learning opportunities, SLC recently created a youth-to-youth program that brings together RIT students and students from the Rochester public school system.

"Just the personal relationships motivate me," Fisher says. Community involvement, Fisher adds, can break down a lot of barriers. "It opens peoples minds. You get a better idea of what Rochester is and can be."

A community forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 17 in Rochester's north-east neighborhood, at the Freddie Thomas Learning Center, to highlight RIT's partnership with the Northeast Neighborhood Alliance. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter will give the keynote address.

Transportation will be available for RIT students. For information, contact Fisher at lmf9869@rit.edu. ■



EMPHASIZING TEAM . . . Jim Janicki '93, left, shares some thoughts with Dean Jorge Diaz-Herrera prior to Janicki's presentation at the Dean's Lecture Series. During his talk, *The Importance of Process in Software Development*, he emphasized the impact of team activities in successful projects. Janicki earned an MS in computer science at RIT and is co-founder of Real Time Enterprises Inc. The Dean's Lecture Series is sponsored by the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

Regalia rental procedure

With Commencement 2003 a mere three months away, it's time to mark the dates—May 23 and 24—and, for anyone needing regalia, to make your order as early as possible on the new online system that requires log-in/DCE password.

Requests for regalia rental for all future ceremonies are now taken via this Web site: <http://finweb.rit.edu/bookstore/regalia.html>. Users are able to build their own "profile" which is captured for use when renting regalia for any ceremony. Users are able to edit their profile information and rental requests up to the rental cut-off date for a particular ceremony.

You can fill out your profile information and rent regalia for these ceremonies: Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award ceremony, April 3—registration cut-off is Feb. 14; Academic Convocation and Commencement ceremonies, May 23-24—registration cut-off is March 14; Executive Leader ceremonies, Aug. 16—registration cut-off is June 27.

Regalia must be worn by all faculty and staff participating in commencement ceremonies. If you do not have your own regalia, RIT will rent regalia for you.

If you do not have or know your DCE username or password, contact the ISC HelpDesk at 5-4357.

The Olsens aren't coming, but RIT has its own talented twins

The famed Olsen twins may not attend RIT (as a fake CNN Web site recently claimed), but a duo—make that two sets—star in their own rights as four RIT freshmen who happen to be blonde, blue-eyed, 18-year-old athletes.

Jennifer and Kimberly Teuscher, both art majors, started at RIT this fall, following their older sister, Christine, a junior in packaging science. With a clear penchant for finishing each other's sentences, Kim and Jen explain their enjoyment of art, movies, Spanish and history.

"We're interested in a whole span of things; a lot of things catch our eye," says Kim.

The subject, though, that most animates the girls is sports. They positively light up when listing sports interests—from rollerblading and biking to jet skiing and snowmobiling to volleyball, track and basketball; the last three they



Jen and Kim Teuscher love sports and art.

played in high school in Avon, N.Y. Their dad, Bruce, works in RIT's Facilities Management Division.

Dana and Nicole Wisniewski hail from Toledo, Ohio, and came to RIT to study science. Though a mutual "love of the lab" motivates their studies, hockey fuels their extracurricular passion. "We're both on RIT's women's hockey team," says Dana. "Hockey has been the thing for us since junior high," explains Nicole.

Both sets of twins tend to do the "twin thing," wearing the same clothes, possessing similar interests, and enjoying life with a "matching" sister.

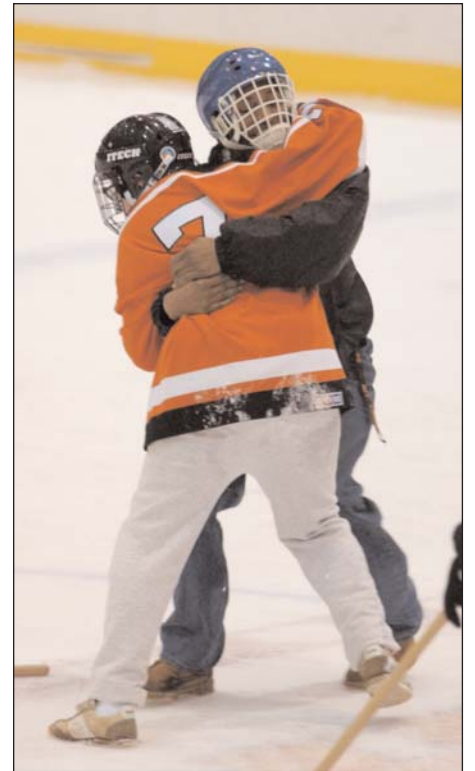
"I guess we don't think about it much," says Kim, brushing a speck from Jen's face. "We're a pair; I can't imagine not being together or at least always being in touch," adds her sister.



Dana and Nicole Wisniewski are passionate about hockey and science.

What about fame and fortune, à la the Olsen twins? "Well, we've thought about getting into modeling," Jen says, while Kim notes they modeled for Kodak as children. Dana offers, "We want to work in the medical profession and help people."

With a grin, Nicole says, "But, maybe we can be in movies like the Olsens, but as scientists—hockey-playing scientists." ■



DOING THE HOCKEY DANCE... President Albert Simone and Student Government President Erick Littleford pretend to be in a brawl during the annual Student Government vs. RIT administration broom-ball hockey game. The students had the last laugh with a 3-0 victory.



LEADING THE TEAM TO VICTORY... First-year head women's basketball coach Deborah Buff guides RIT as the team improves on last year's record. The Tigers are off to their best start since the inception of the program in 1987-88, when the team went 2-13.

The Tigers have already captured five wins compared to last year's 1-23 season. RIT will close out the regular season Feb. 28-29 when the Tigers take on Empire 8 rivals Elmira and Ithaca.

Biomedical engineering option (from page 1)

"Engineering is finding and developing ways to apply science and technology to solve problems and answer challenges for the benefit of humankind," Phillips says. "There are infinite opportunities for applying basic principles of electrical engineering to biology and medicine."

Students choosing the option will study artificial intelligence, remote sensing and manipulation, wireless technology, micro-electromechanical systems, and fabrication for applications such as online monitoring and diagnosis of cardiac function; invasive diagnostic devices; advanced prosthesis design using neural inputs; medical information entry, retrieval and verification; "smart" sensors and instrumentation for basic physiological and medical research.

Another application is telepresence for image analysis and surgery—using instru-

mentation for detection and manipulation in remote surgery or examination via remote communication, such as an Internet connection, and a robotic arm.

Courses can also be professional electives for students not enrolled in the biomedical engineering option.

RIT's mechanical engineering department is also developing a biomedical engineering option that would include multidisciplinary courses in electrical engineering, industrial and systems engineering, and courses offered through the College of Science, says Ed Hensel, professor and mechanical engineering department head.

"Our goal is to create a cross-disciplinary collaboration in biomedical engineering that capitalizes on close relationships in engineering with this important field," says Harvey Palmer, dean. ■

Focus on RIT student success

This Student Success column, addressing the issue of retention and student success, will appear in News & Events on a regular basis.
by Albert Simone, RIT president

Increasing retention and supporting student success is a key objective at RIT. Our overall goal is to increase the retention rate from 56 percent in 2000



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to 75 percent by 2007. We are now seeing encouraging signs that we are heading in the right direction. The freshman year to sophomore year retention rate has increased from 84.7 percent in 2000 to 87.6 in fall 2001. We measure retention in terms of seven-year cohort groups (for example, students who study from 1994 to 2001).

I define student success as students entering RIT, graduating from RIT and feeling very satisfied and good about their time and experience overall at RIT.

If we achieve student success in these terms, our alumni have every chance to be successful and happy in their lives and careers and, hopefully, be appreciative, loyal and supportive alumni over their lifetimes. Student success is the key to our core values at RIT, and indispensable if we are to achieve our goal of every graduate considering RIT his/her second "family" as they progress through life.

Here are a few approaches we have recently taken to improve retention and address student success:

- We have piloted an Early Alert and Intervention System to identify all students who received a grade of "F" or "W". The system is to be used by faculty for all students, with the emphasis on freshmen.

- We have made major improvements to our facilities, including residence halls, apartment complexes, athletic facilities and the Student Alumni Union. We have increased individual and team student study spaces within colleges, and we made major improvements in the aesthetics around campus. The \$25 million Gordon Field House will serve as a focal point for the entire campus when it opens in 2004.

- The First Year Enrichment Program, emphasizing coaches and mentors for each freshman student, continues to evolve and be fine-tuned.

- RIT has increased the number of computer labs and available hours, and made wireless connections in Wallace Library, Java Wally's and many of the colleges.

The above list is just a sampling of the many initiatives now underway. We have a lot of work to accomplish. You will soon be hearing more about our student success initiatives from various RIT leaders in upcoming editions.

And if you have ideas or suggestions, please e-mail my executive assistant, Barry Culhane, at brcnge@rit.edu.

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