

# RIT News & Events



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## RIT develops innovative tool to aid wildfire detection

When the wildfire season begins, the United States will be drawn into a territorial battle that has become an unfortunate rite of spring.

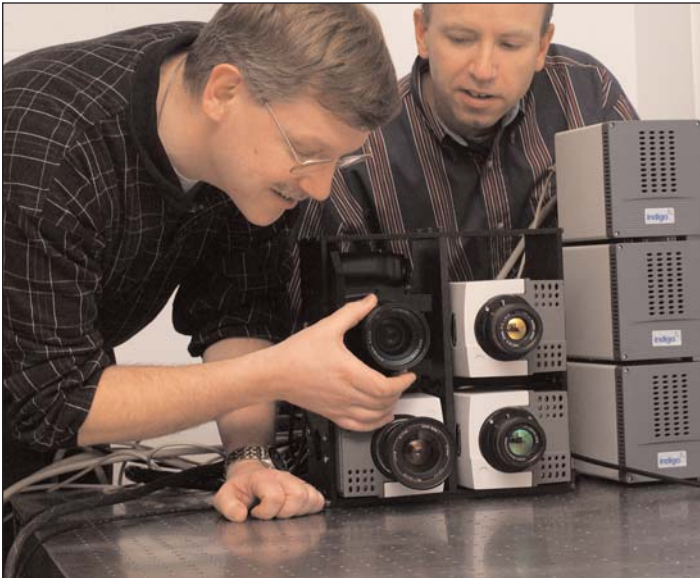
The U.S. Forest Service soon will have the advantage of an entirely new tool that will identify and locate wildfires as small as 8-to-12 inches in diameter from 10,000 feet altitude. Scientists at RIT are creating a prototype of this new remote sensing system for trial by the Forest Service with \$1.4 million from NASA.

The project, known as the Wildfire Airborne Sensor Program (WASP), is being conducted at RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. This research program was made possible through the efforts of Congressman Jim Walsh, chair of the House VA/HUD Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, who has provided nearly \$8 million through the NASA budget over four years to support the project. The WASP program is an extension of the Forest Fires Imaging Experimental System research initiative that provided the foundation for the sensor device being developed through WASP.

Project directors Donald McKeown and Michael Richardson, RIT distinguished researchers, updated the Forest Service on WASP at the organization's annual Geo-

spatial Conference, April 7-10, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

WASP, now in phase one of a two-phase project, will be a multispectral mapping system. It will combine infrared and high-



Don McKeown, left, and Mike Richardson examine a new fire-detection sensor system that RIT is designing for the U.S. Forest Service.

resolution visible digital "mapping" cameras with a geographic positioning system.

The suite of cameras will be mounted on a gimbal, a pointing mechanism, on an aircraft. The cameras will take a series of snap shots as the cameras pivot back and

forth, sweeping across the line of flight. Automated software will stitch the images into a mosaic and combine them spectrally to detect the presence of a fire.

Each camera will read a different spectral band: three infrared cameras from Indigo Systems Inc. will detect fires by "seeing" heat in the short-wave, mid-wave and long-wave bands of the electromagnetic spectrum; a high-resolution digital camera from Pixel Physics will map the terrain in the visible spectrum.

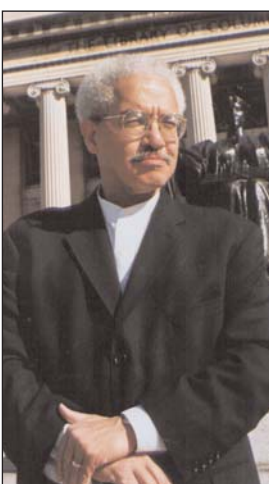
Critical to the system is an inertial measurement unit, a precision instrument from Applanix Corp. that will pinpoint the exact location of the high-resolution digital "mapping" camera each time a picture is taken.

"We'll be able to correlate every pixel and every image to a place on the ground, longitude and latitude, so we can go from an image to a map," says McKeown, who is also director of RIT's Laboratory for Imaging Algorithms and Systems, where WASP research takes place.

The two scientists expect to have the system installed on an aircraft in June for flight testing, data collection, and system characterization and calibration. To avoid taxing Forest Service resources, they will wait until the end of the fire season to try out the equipment on a Forest Service plane. ■

## Achieving diversity is conference focus

How do we reconcile differences in democracy? What can be done to make



Manning Marable will address the campus April 14.

the most out of diversity training? How can we experience diversity through civic engagement? These questions, and many more, will be examined at RIT's weeklong Expressions of Diversity Conference, April 14-18.

The conference kicks off at 9 a.m. on

Monday, April 14, in RIT's Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union, with the keynote address delivered by Manning Marable, a history and political science professor from Columbia University, and founding director of the Institute of Research in African American Studies. His talk, Diversity and Democracy, will focus on how differences are coded in various ways and how race and diversity play a role in American democracy and society. Manning has written and edited nearly 20 books and anthologies and is often featured in the national and international media as an expert on the history and politics of race in the United States.

The conference continues with a series of workshops and presentations held throughout the week. A complete list of sessions is at [www.rit.edu/diversity](http://www.rit.edu/diversity).

Pre-registration is encouraged; seating is limited. Interpreting services have been requested and are subject to availability. To register, call 5-5453 or e-mail [tswpro@rit.edu](mailto:tswpro@rit.edu). ■

## Colloquium to discuss "invisible computers"



Jorge Díaz-Herrera, dean of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, will be the next presenter at the Presidential Colloquium series. Díaz-Herrera's lecture, "The

Invisible Computers in our Lives," will be at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, in room 1400 of Building 70. The event, which is followed by a reception, is free and open to the public.

Prior to joining RIT last summer as dean of the Golisano College, Díaz-Herrera served as department head of computer science at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Ga. He was also program coordinator of the university's Yamacraw project, an economic development initiative to establish Georgia as a world leader in the design of broadband infrastructure systems, devices and chips. ■

## Heidelberg dedication set for April 25

RIT's print media program enters a new era of excellence with the opening of the Heidelberg Web Press Laboratory. The recently completed facility will be formally dedicated at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25, outside the Louise M. Slaughter Building.

The centerpiece of this state-of-the-art laboratory is a Heidelberg Sunday 2000 web press system. Following an agreement announced in 2001, the company made available its most advanced commercial web press to RIT's Printing Industry Center. Installation of the system was completed earlier this year.

The Sunday 2000 offers practical educational opportunities for students within RIT's School of Print Media and members of the printing industry. Also, RIT's Printing Application Laboratory will use the system in collaboration with web offset printers and suppliers on applied research projects.

Albert Simone, RIT president; Bruce James, U.S. Public Printer and RIT Board of Trustees chair; and Bernhard Schreier, Heidelberg Management Board chairman, will participate in the ceremony. Students will take part, as well, through a design contest documenting the Heidelberg Web Press Laboratory project.

In conjunction with the dedication, the

Printing Industry Center is sponsoring Print Media Industry Futures: Challenges and Opportunities. This industry symposium will be held on campus from 8 to 11:45 a.m. in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

For more information on the dedication and industry symposium, contact the Printing Applications Laboratory at 5-2690. ■

## NTID's Davila announces June retirement

After seven years of service, Robert Davila, the first vice president for NTID, will retire June 30, RIT President Albert Simone announced.

"Many of NTID's accomplishments over the past several years are attributable to Bob's insight, energy, network, and the respect he commands nationally and internationally from leaders in all facets of academia, government and business," Simone says.

Davila led NTID's first private fund-raising campaign, securing \$11.5 million to bolster scholarship funds, enhance technology, further research and development efforts, and support special programs.

He played a critical role in securing the Dyer Arts Center—the world's largest art gallery devoted to exhibiting significant works by deaf artists, located in NTID's main academic building.

He helped double NTID's endowment, and increased the college's number of minority students and employees.

Davila also implemented the college's

strategic plan, increased the number of secured grants and contracts, helped make NTID a more integral part of RIT, and

nurtured NTID's master of science degree program in secondary education.

He secured funding through the George Soros Foundation for a model program supporting deaf students in Eastern Europe, as well as support from The Nippon Foundation in Japan to create the Postsecondary Education Network International, housed at NTID, to help

other countries develop programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Following his RIT retirement, Davila will serve on the National Council on Disability.

A national search has begun for Davila's successor.

"In my judgment, it will not be possible to find the equal of Bob Davila in all of his brilliant dimensions," Simone says. "But we shall find someone who is very good and who will know how to build upon the tremendous foundation that Bob has constructed." ■



Robert Davila, left, chats with an NTID student.

## RIT trustee and alumnus to head AP

On June 1, RIT Board of Trustees Vice-Chairman Tom Curley, president and publisher of *USA Today*, succeeds Louis Boccardi as president and chief executive officer of the Associated Press, the world's largest news organization. Curley, who holds an MBA from RIT, will serve as only the 12th head of AP since its 1848 inception.

The AP, a nonprofit news cooperative, serves more than 15,000 media outlets with news items. To read the whole story, visit [www.rit.edu/~930www/docs/curley.pdf](http://www.rit.edu/~930www/docs/curley.pdf).



Tom Curley

## Three RIT employees work hard to live healthier lives

Challenging RIT faculty and staff to live a lifestyle of activity and well being, the Center for Human Performance's Faculty/Staff Fit and Well Challenge highlights those who do.

This month's spotlight falls on Patty Spinelli, director of human resources; Judy DeCoursey, senior benefits specialist for human resources; and Eugene Lylak, associate professor in NTID's English department.

**Patty Spinelli** joined RIT's Weight Watchers group last October with a group of colleagues, encouraged by Judy



Patty Spinelli

DeCoursey. While DeCoursey gets the credit for getting them started, Spinelli says it's the camaraderie and group support that keeps her going. She's found that changing her lifestyle and including exercise in her regimen is the key to being healthy

and keeping her blood pressure and cholesterol levels in check.

Spinelli walks, increasing her frequency, distance and pace, and uses the stationary bike and treadmill at the Student Life Center and at home.

**Proudest fitness accomplishment:** The continued commitment to her peers and friends to encourage and support each other.

**Fitness tips to stick with it:** Find a buddy and make the commitment to someone else that you'll work out with them. Keep a journal and celebrate success.

Exercise was never part of **Judy DeCoursey's** life, unless you count walking from the parking lot to the Eastman Building. But she lost more than 50 pounds through Weight Watchers since last October when she



Judy DeCoursey

encouraged a group of colleagues to join with her. After that success, she decided she needed to expand her new healthy lifestyle to include exercise. With the encouragement of another colleague, she started going to the Student Life Center in February.

Her first time there, she planned to use the elliptical trainer for 25 minutes. After about three minutes, she thought she was going to pass out. But with frequent breaks, she made it through and can now do a 20-minute workout without stopping and feel like she's ready for more. DeCoursey visits the Student Life Center at least three days a week, fitting it in between personal and business commitments, using the recumbent bike, elliptical trainer and weight machines.

**Fitness tips to stick with it:** Involve other people. They'll encourage you to keep working out and make the whole experience a positive one.

**Fitness confession:** While she never really wanted to exercise before, now DeCoursey says she's having fun and really wants to go work out. Fun and exercise were two words that never went together. Now they do and she's still surprised by it.

**Eugene Lylak** started walking as part of an exercise program based on his doctor's advice in 1994 after being diagnosed with high blood pressure. He alternated one-minute walking with one minute of slow jogging until he was able to jog for 20 minutes without stopping. It took about two months to get there.

Since then, he's been exercising, paying attention to his eating habits and meditating.

**Fitness workouts:** Lylak tries to get a



Eugene Lylak

minimum of 180 minutes of aerobic exercise three or four days per week. He starts out by stretching and warming up his muscles and then mixes up a routine of jogging, Stairmaster, swimming, weight training, rowing and the elliptical trainer.

**Proudest fitness accomplishment:** Lylak became a certified "Cooper Fitness Trainer" through a program offered at RIT in the summer of 2000, and ran his first Boilermaker marathon in Utica in July 2002.

**Tips to stick with it:** Get to the gym as often as you can and vary your work outs. Ask for advice in the areas you want to improve. Lylak says he

has the weight-room staff and Center for Human Performance fitness instructors to thank for improving his running times in the road races he often enters. ■



**GET AWAY TO HENRY'S...** Henry's Hideaway, on the fourth floor of the George Eastman Building, opened for spring quarter on March 25. Above, from left, are patrons Shannan Hawes and Ben Domin and waitress Sarah Messina. Operated by RIT hospitality and service management majors, the eatery serves lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through May 13. For a menu and more information, visit [www.rit.edu/~henrys](http://www.rit.edu/~henrys).

## Fraternity asks community to walk for a cure

On May 10, RIT fraternity Phi Sigma Pi is sponsoring Karen's Walk, a fund-raiser for cardiomyopathy—a rare heart disease that affects the functioning of the heart and can be fatal.

The walk is held in honor of Karen Decker, a friend of a fraternity member who passed away last year from postpartum cardiomyopathy at the age of 22 after giving birth to a baby girl, Hannah. Last year, the fraternity held a walk for Hannah, raising \$3,500 for her college fund.

All proceeds from this year's walk will be donated to Strong Hospital for cardiomyopathy research.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. for the

11 a.m. walk starting behind Grace Watson.

Pledge forms are available at the Student Volunteer Center in the SAU or at [www.myphisigmapi.com/karenswalk](http://www.myphisigmapi.com/karenswalk).

For information, e-mail [karenswalk@hotmail.com](mailto:karenswalk@hotmail.com). ■



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## Fund-raising walk

Dolores Ames lost her life to scleroderma—an auto-immune disease affecting 300,000 Americans—in September 2002. Her niece, Ginny Orzel, a graduate assistant in campus life, wants to find a cure and educate people about the early-warning signs.

The Dolores Ames Scleroderma Walk to raise money and awareness for the disease will take place April 12 at RIT. Supported by the Scleroderma Research Foundation, all of the proceeds from the walk will go towards research for a cure at Johns Hopkins University.

To sign up for the walk, or make a donation, contact Ginny Orzel at 5-7058 or [orz2001@yahoo.com](mailto:orz2001@yahoo.com).

## Free Gosnell lecture

The Gosnell Lecture series will feature the talk, Designing International Environmental Agreements, by Charles Kolstad, from 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16 in the Carlson Auditorium.

Kolstad is professor of environmental economics and policy at University of California at Santa Barbara and a visiting professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The talk is free and open to the public.

## CLA student research

Student research with a liberal-arts twist will be spotlighted at the fifth annual College of Liberal Arts Student Research Conference, Monday, April 21. Panels of students from across campus will present a variety of work undertaken this year in CLA classes. Talks will range from research on Hayden to issues in environmental science.

The event, free and open to the public, will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Alumni Union, in the 1829 room, and Clark A and B.

## Globalization talk

Author and scholar Frances Fox Piven will present Globalization and Poverty: Civic Engagement in an Era of Declining Expectations, Thursday, April 24, as part of the Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture series. The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building.

Piven teaches political science and sociology at City University of New York. Her most recent book is *Work, Welfare and Politics*.

For more information, visit [www.rit.edu/gannettseries](http://www.rit.edu/gannettseries) or call 5-2057.

## Lecture series helps celebrate Math Awareness Month

Math is everywhere. It's in the Mobius sculpture that stands in the quad and in the sundial near the dorms. Mathematics is also in every work of art that uses perspective, spirals, symmetry and the

repetitious patterns made famous by Dutch artist M.C. Escher.

Math departments across the country are celebrating April as Mathematics Awareness Month and the intrinsic link between math and art.

RIT's Department of Mathematics and Statistics is marking the month with a lecture series featuring experts on literature, painting, music, photography and



Andrew Davidhazy used his images like the one above to illustrate his talk about the mathematics involved in scanning photography.

mathematics. The monthlong series will be held every Friday at 1 p.m. in the Gosnell building, room A300.

Upcoming talks will include:

- The Mandelbrot Set: Representations in Art, Music and Poetry, by Anne Coon, professor of language and literature, and Marcia Birken, professor of mathematics and statistics, April 11;

- Mathematics and 20th Century Music,

by Ciro Scotto from the Eastman School of Music, April 18;

- Mathematics and Painting, by Cathy Sweet, from the Memorial Art Gallery, April 25.

For information, contact David Ross at 5-7531. To request a sign-language interpreter, contact Shelly Cicero at 5-2498. ■

## Achieving faculty diversity—the journey continues

RIT's diverse faculty initiative took another step forward March 28 with the unveiling of key action plans drafted by three diversity task forces.

The task forces were created last year as a result of the "Achieving a Diverse Faculty Program," hosted by the Board of Trustees. The charge of the task forces: develop action plans for recruitment, retention and the creation of a pluralistic environment for minority faculty. The action plans include a range of recommendations.

RIT had a record year in hiring minority faculty in 2002 when 26 of 84 (31percent) of new full-time faculty hires were African American, Latin American or Native American. Minority hiring for 2003 is also progressing, but it is no time to become complacent, say RIT leaders.

"We are not where we want to be, but thank God we are not where we were," Eulas Boyd, assistant provost for diversity, told about 500 people at Ingle Auditorium who attended the event "Building on Success: Achieving a Diverse Faculty at RIT."

"By recruiting more students, faculty and staff from diverse groups and graduating students who are upwardly mobile and can contribute to society's multi-ethnic evolution, RIT makes the world a better place," said President Albert Simone. ■



**YOUNG HISPANICS LEARN ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION...** The Puerto Rican Youth Development and Resource Center sponsored the 22nd annual Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference at RIT on March 27. Nearly 175 Hispanic youth from Monroe County and other outlying areas attended the conference designed to give Hispanic students with leadership potential the tools and resources needed for a successful future. Workshop presenters and conference speakers covered areas like career exploration, self-esteem building, cultural enrichment and healthy relationships. The conference is the effort of Enrollment Management and Career Services, Office of Assistant Provost for Diversity, and Division of Student Affairs-North Star Center.

## RIT to host two cutting-edge conferences

Leading fuel-cell researchers from around the world will converge at RIT this month for two conferences.

The first International Conference on Fuel Cell Science, Engineering and Technology will be held April 21-23. Ramesh Shah, research professor of mechanical engineering, and Satish Kandlikar, professor of mechanical engineering, are co-chairs of the conference, anticipated to draw 225 researchers. Advances in design, analysis, modeling and optimization of fuel-cell systems and components will be discussed.

The first International Conference on Microchannels and Minichannels will be held April 24-25. More than 150 researchers from 10 countries are expected at the conference, chaired by Kandlikar. Minichannels and microchannels are key components in fuel-cell stack design, he

says. Also addressed will be challenges in the fabrication and operation of microchannels and minichannels and their application in refrigeration, heat exchangers, electronic cooling and biomedical devices.

"RIT is taking the lead in organizing these two international conferences," Kandlikar says.

Both conferences are sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and will be held at the RIT Inn & Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.asme.org/events](http://www.asme.org/events).

RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering and College of Science recently created the Advanced Fuel Cell Research Laboratory for industry and government-funded applied research into fuel-cell technology for automotive and stationary power-generation applications. ■



**HONORED ALUMNUS...** Joseph Lobo, second from left, displays the 2003 Herbert W. VandenBrul Entrepreneurial Award during a recent luncheon in his honor. Presented annually by RIT's College of Business, the award acknowledges outstanding contributions made to the local business community. Lobo is founder and CEO of JML Optical Industries Inc. and is a '95 graduate of RIT's Executive MBA program. Among those honoring Lobo were (left) Thomas Hopkins, COB dean; Bill VandenBrul, the late Herbert VandenBrul's son; Kristin VandenBrul, Herbert VandenBrul's daughter; and RIT President Albert Simone.

## Student design teams face tough national competition

RIT engineering and engineering technology student design teams are getting ready to hit the road. And the dirt track. And the water. And the sky. It must be spring.

• **"In the likely event of a water landing, use your mini Baja as a flotation device"**

RIT mini-Baja designers knew that water obstacles not only were likely, they were guaranteed at the Mini Baja East last weekend at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The category even has a name: deep-water maneuverability. In preparation, students designed flotation devices and fiberglass rear fenders and added wider tires to channel water during the aquatic challenge. Other refinements include a newly designed frame and enhanced braking and suspension systems—small improvements on good design, says Lee Gagne, third-year mechanical engineering major and transmission team leader.

Changes paid off: RIT earned first place for acceleration and grabbed top-10 finishes in endurance, sled-pull, suspension, traction and top-speed contests. In a

new category this year, unique to the Mini Baja East, RIT took eighth place in the mud bogs challenge. Overall, competing



Jeremy Swerdlow drives RIT's mini-Baja car on the water maneuverability course at the Mini Baja East in Orlando, Fla., on April 6.

among 49 teams, RIT earned seventh and 15th places.

RIT will enter two mini-Baja cars—one painted in traditional RIT orange and brown and one painted in patriotic red, white and blue—in remaining spring contests: the Mini Baja West, May 8-10,

in Provo, Utah, and the Midwest Mini Baja, June 5-8, in Troy, Ohio.

• **"That's one small step for RIT, one giant leap for engineering"**

For the fourth consecutive year, a team of RIT mechanical engineering students is competing in the Great Moon Buggy Race this weekend at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. RIT entered two moon buggies, says Krista Rivet, fifth-year ME major and one of four female students comprising RIT's 10-member team. Students will peddle their two-seated, human-powered buggies, featuring improved turning capability, handling and suspension, over a half-mile simulated lunar-terrain surface. They'll challenge teams from schools in 20 states and Puerto Rico for quickest assembly and course completion times and best design.

• **"Planes, Canoes and Automobiles"**

Other design teams readying for spring contests include RIT's aero design team, which will compete in the annual Aero Design East, May 2-4, in Dayton, Ohio, and Aero Design West, June 6-8, in Palmdale, Calif.

RIT's concrete canoe and steel-bridge teams are set for regional competition, April 25-26, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Students aim to advance to the annual National Concrete Canoe Competition, June 20-22, in Philadelphia.

RIT's Formula race car team is preparing for the annual Formula SAE, May 14-18, in Pontiac, Mich., and Formula Student competition, July 4-7, in Leicestershire, England. ■

## NTID series earns renowned Telly Award

The first of a five-volume videotape series highlighting the careers of deaf and hard-of-hearing people worldwide and produced by NTID has won a bronze Telly Award, which recognizes outstanding non-network and cable television work worldwide.

*Achieving Goals! Career Stories of*

*Individuals Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing* is a joint project of NTID and the Northeast Technical Assistance Center, a federally funded program that helps deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The award-winning video

features deaf professionals from traditionally under-served populations, and includes an optometrist, an attorney, a pediatrician and a veterinarian. The second volume includes NTID/RIT graduate Jimmy Libman, owner of Gimmee Jimmy's Cookies in West Orange, NJ.

NTID Producer/Director David Conyer and Videographer/Editor Don Feigl, of NTID's instructional television department continue to work with Billies to finish the series.

For information and to read career stories of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, visit the Web site <http://netac.rit.edu/goals>. ■



## New e-mail, calendaring system soon available

The RIT community will soon be able to enjoy a standard, institute-wide e-mail and calendaring system with Microsoft Exchange. ITS, partnering with colleges and divisions across the campus, will launch its e-mail replacement project this spring.

The new e-mail solution and the rollout of directory services will enhance mobile computing capability, as well as integrate an upcoming file-sharing system explains Diane Barbour, chief information officer. "ITS is working to build an infrastructure that will enable the accessibility of information anywhere, anytime."

The switch to Microsoft Exchange will achieve the following goals:

- Create a more stable mail environment
- Build a scalable environment that can

accommodate planned growth at RIT

- Build a robust system that brings new functionality to the desktop for all platforms
- Implement an easier and more efficient mechanism for communication and collaboration

"The growth of the campus family has seen a growth in the need for a more robust e-mail system," says Barbour. "One of the ways ITS seeks to improve communication with and between customers is to develop and implement an improved e-mail system. We will roll out a system that has enhanced features and is scalable, faster and more reliable."

RIT students, faculty and staff have been asking ITS for a system that has better and more reliable performance and tools, says Shannon Robinson, e-mail replacement project manager. Faculty and staff will be migrated to the new system first and will be contacted on a staggered basis when their implementation is scheduled to begin. Students will make the switch by summer of 2004. Desktop visits by the Exchange migration team will work to ensure a seamless transition.

Exchange is a Microsoft technology that allows for integration of several business related functions. Exchange can do several things besides e-mail including calendar functions and task management.

The new e-mail will be accessible from a wide variety of mail client programs, including Outlook, Netscape, Eudora, Macintosh OS X mail and others. Web browser-based access will also be available. A single Exchange infrastructure will be deployed, and each college and division can manage its own set of public folders within the environment.

Meanwhile, it will be much easier to tell people your e-mail address. Addresses will be simplified to include your name, i.e. John.Doe@rit.edu.

For more information on the e-mail project, visit [www.rit.edu/its/news](http://www.rit.edu/its/news). ■



**TAXING TIMES...** Yi Yang, MBA student, assists Jen Dixon, third-year biomedical photography major, in filling out this year's tax forms. Nearly two dozen members of the Next Generation of Accountants from the College of Business volunteered their tax preparation expertise, leading up to next week's filing deadline. Four open sessions were held on campus to help RIT students, faculty and staff settle up with Uncle Sam.

## Blood drive, April 17-18

The American Red Cross is experiencing blood shortages, especially for A and O blood types. RIT's co-ed honor fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi, is sponsoring a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 17 and 18, in Fireside Lounge, SAU.

## Artistic impressions

ImageMovementSound 2003 Festival, uniting motion picture/image makers, composers and choreographers, will offer up an array of collaborative works to stir the senses.

Forty-five students and faculty members from RIT's School of Film and Animation, the Eastman School of Music, and State University of New York College at Brockport's dance department have created 15 works that combine these diverse artistic media.

The festival debuts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, in Hartwell Hall of SUNY Brockport's campus. An encore presentation, 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, will take place at the Little Theater in downtown Rochester. Admission for either performance is \$5; students showing ID are free.

For more information, visit [www.esm.rochester.edu/ims2003/](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/ims2003/) or call 5-2743.

## Puttin' on the glitz

RIT's School of Hospitality and Service Management hosts its 18th annual Puttin' on the RITz dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, at the RIT Inn & Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road. John Del Monte, president and chief operating officer of E.J. Del Monte Corp., is honorary chairman for this year's event, organized by students.

The gala features a "Ritzopolis" theme and the Tambo Band from RIT's American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and the blues band, The White Hots.

Proceeds benefit educational student travel, undergraduate and graduate awards, equipment and scholarships. For more information, contact Diane Sommers at 5-2608.

## Rollerblade to Geneseo

The Delta Phi Epsilon sorority is sponsoring the 10th annual Rollerblade to Geneseo on Sunday, April 27.

The cystic fibrosis fund-raiser kicks off behind Wallace Library at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast. The 23-mile ride to Geneseo begins at 9 a.m. The \$15 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and a student-designed T-shirt. Proceeds will go to cystic fibrosis research.

At an approximate speed of 8-miles-an-hour, about as fast as a rollerblader travels, the trip will take just under three hours.

To participate, sign up in the SAU starting two weeks prior to the event, visit <http://www.rit.edu/~dphiewww/o> or contact Carrie Senise at 314-6935 or [cms4059@rit.edu](mailto:cms4059@rit.edu).

# RIT community members share their stories as part of United Way campaign

As a nation we are facing a monumental time in history—one that calls for the RIT community to unite and strengthen our home front.

By pledging support to RIT's United Way campaign, you are helping people like Michael Finch, Bianca Worsham and their families, who never imagined needing the services offered by United Way-funded agencies.

Michael and Bianca have decided to share their personal and poignant experiences and you can read about them on the United Way posters that are located around the RIT campus.

When Michael turned 19, his life changed dramatically when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The devastating signs were there—exhaustion, numbness in the limbs, blurred vision—yet Michael's mother could not believe her son was suffering from MS.

"He was diagnosed in 1998," says Karen Finch, an NTID interpreter. "After our shock and denial, we contacted the MS

Society, a United Way-supported agency, which became our primary resource."

Michael has had three major relapses, but remains active and upbeat. He has worked as a missionary in Ukraine, studied art history in Russia through RIT and continues his master's degree studies in journalism. "The MS Society taught me how to live with the disease," says Michael. "Our family was never aware of how United Way helps until it became a big player in our lives."

Likewise Bianca, a fourth-year manufacturing engineering student at RIT, and her three-year old daughter, Jamir Knowlin, have also benefited from United Way funding.

Jamir is an imaginative student who majors in "pretend" at Margaret's House, RIT's on-campus child care facility. She loves her school and has noticeably bonded with her playmates since starting the program at nine months old.

"United Way funds, which are directed

to support day care at Margaret's House, assist students like myself by defraying



Bianca Worsham and her daughter, Jamir

some of the costs," says Bianca. "Margaret's House is a safe and convenient environment for Jamir, and as long as I'm on campus, that's where she'll stay."

## Lamas named UW loaned executive

Frank Lamas, RIT's associate vice president of student affairs, has been selected to serve as this year's faculty/staff loaned executive to the United Way of Greater Rochester.

RIT is a proud sponsor of the loaned executive program, which



Frank Lamas

has been the heart and soul of the annual campaign since the program's inception in 1973. As this year's honoree, Lamas will have the opportunity to enhance his professional development, sharpen leadership skills and develop a broader understanding of our community and its human service needs.

Before he returns to campus in mid-May, Lamas will assist United Way staff in planning, implementing and evaluating 2003 fund-raising efforts while working with companies and volunteers in the Rochester community to help make this year's campaign a success. ■

Modeling herself after her studious mom, the spirited Jamir insists she attends school every day, not day care.

"She has certainly adapted to campus life," says Bianca with a laugh. "It's nice because it just so happens that her school is within my school." ■

## Bader Foundation gives RIT \$250K

The Milwaukee-based Helen Bader Foundation has awarded RIT \$250,000 to create scholarships for qualified undergraduate African American, Latino American, and Native American (AALANA) students.

The Helen Bader Scholarship program will be the largest endowed-fund scholarship targeted for undergraduate AALANA populations at RIT. The scholarship is distinctive in its flexibility as it will create opportunities for promising students who may not have been previously recognized for their potential and provide assistance to current students who experience changes in their financial circumstances that might otherwise affect their ability to continue their studies. Scholarship recipients will also have access to the academic support services and resources provided by RIT's North Star Center for Academic Success and Cultural Affairs.

RIT is committed to creating a diverse educational environment that is inclusive and welcoming to qualified students from underrepresented groups. Through increased recruitment efforts and results and the implementation of a comprehensive retention plan that features the establishment of the North Star Center, RIT has made significant strides in providing assistance to qualified AALANA students and enriching the multicultural learning environment for all students. The growing number of qualified AALANA students enrolled at RIT and their rising SAT test scores indicate that promising students from underrepresented groups increasingly choose RIT.

The financial aid office will administer the Helen Bader Scholarships. Qualified students in good academic standing will automatically be considered each year as they apply for admission and for financial aid. No separate application form will be required. ■

## 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 Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for student affairs



Mary-Beth Cooper

What do participating in the Ghost Walk at Mt. Hope Cemetery, the Blimp project, a program focused on credit card debt and a coffee hour held for students and faculty in the

College of Engineering have in common? The answer is simple: these initiatives were sponsored with Interactive Learning Support Funds from the Division of Student Affairs.

Support for student success is seen at RIT in a variety of places, many of which are not even on our campus. The Interactive Funds assisted students in visiting Rochester landmarks, attending leadership conferences and sponsoring cultural events, and has funded opportunities for student research projects. The key component to these grants is that funds were only disbursed to initiatives that had an interactive component: *students interacting with other students and faculty/staff.*

Grants approved this year include a

wide variety of events. We helped students collaborate with each other in efforts such as the RIT Calendar production, fund-raising initiatives, such as the program on learning to knit (we also provided the yarn used to create scarves sold as a fund-raiser for Alternatives for Battered Women) and interactive events between deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing students. These events promoted co-curricular engagement and community building activities between students, faculty and students. All grant proposals need to demonstrate that the event will complement existing curriculum and/or enhance faculty and staff interaction with students.

This initiative has been in place for a number of years and many members of the RIT community have applied for funding. In national research regarding what impacts student satisfaction, the opportunity to interact with faculty and staff rates highly every year.

Our theme in student affairs is "Students Matter." We believe the interactive learning program clearly meets that objective. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve student success at RIT, please contact me at 5-2267 or mbcvsa@rit.edu.

## RIT and Operation Iraqi Freedom

### Reaching out to friends and family in Iraq

The war in Iraq has called upon RIT community members, from employees and students to alumni and other friends. If you have a family member, friend or colleague serving in Iraq, feel free to share their contact information via e-mail, [ritalum@rit.edu](mailto:ritalum@rit.edu). The university will send them, periodically, boxes of comfort items and general letters of support.

### RIT alumnus killed in Iraq

RIT business alumnus Eric Allan Smith was killed in Iraq on April 2. A 1984 and '85 graduate, with an associate degree and bachelor's degree from RIT's College of Business, Smith, 41, served as an army warrant officer in the U.S. Army and was the pilot of a Black Hawk helicopter downed in central Iraq.

"We grieve with Eric's family and pray for a swift end to the war in Iraq," said RIT President Albert Simone.

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