

# RIT News & Events

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## Opening day talks emphasize key initiatives and strategic planning

The 2003-2004 academic year opened with speeches from RIT's top leaders, including RIT President Albert Simone, Commission for Promoting Pluralism Chair Alfreda Brown, Staff Council Chair Dave Edborg and Academic Senate Chair Carl Lundgren, on Sept. 4. Below are summaries of their presentations to the RIT community.

**Albert Simone, RIT President.** President Simone highlighted major initiatives for student success and retention, alumni relations and a new strategic plan during his opening day remarks. He reviewed RIT's achievements from the previous year and presented the major challenges and opportunities facing the campus in 2003-2004.

Simone said a new plan will advance RIT to 2015. "The next strategic plan will be more than a strategic plan," Simone said. "It will offer a dream, which will shape RIT's destiny." Simone identified 17 attributes that will define RIT's "greatness." A strategic plan steering committee has been formed that will eventually lead campus-wide town meetings. The July 2004 Board of Trustees meeting is the target date for campus endorsement and board approval. "RIT has been going through a culture change over the past decade," he said. "It must continue this momentum."

Student retention remains a major initiative for RIT. Simone is asking the provost and the deans to review all program curricula, with an eye on making them more streamlined, flexible and accessible to students. "Our peer institutions are well ahead of us in

this regard, with curricula that allow students to pursue minors, co-ops and even double majors and still graduate within four years."

Simone also announced he will appoint a campus-wide task force to develop a proposal to achieve the goal of alumni participation comparable to the best universities. Laurel Price Jones, vice president for development and alumni relations, will chair the task force.



Opening day speakers gather before the event. From left to right: Albert Simone, Alfreda Brown, Stanley McKenzie, Carl Lundgren and Dave Edborg

Current students, Simone noted, are "alumni in training." Yet Simone acknowledged that pride, tradition and loyalty at RIT are significantly less than among alumni at other universities. RIT's participation rate has grown from 7.8 percent to 11.3 percent in recent years. "This is a trend we must maintain," he said.

RIT's enrollment, Simone said, continues to be in the favorable position of increasing quality and diversity of programs and student body while continuing to grow. Among private universities in the United States, RIT ranks 20th in total enrollment; eighth in full-time undergraduate enrollment and fourth in student participation and placements in co-op positions per year.

RIT's total enrollment will increase to about 15,450 and the full-time equivalent figure is expected to reach an all-time high, exceeding 12,420. The freshmen class is the best qualified in RIT's history, with mean SAT scores rising from 1210 to 1220.

While RIT's overall AALANA (African American, Latin American, Native

American) student population continues to grow, so does the number of new minority faculty members. For the second straight year, new AALANA faculty exceeded 30 percent of all new faculty hires, drawing from a national pool of only 6 percent. Simone also noted the recent campus climate survey, where a task force is being formed to further study the results. "A case can be made that a lot of work needs to be done on a number of critical dimensions."

Simone emphasized that RIT has and will remain a teaching university. "This means that as we move ahead and innovate, we will remain a teaching university, albeit one which constantly changes its shape, form and substance."

The RIT community also learned that \$178 million has been raised toward the Capital Campaign goal of \$300 million. "I ask each of you here today to support the campaign in whatever way you can, and to engage your colleagues and friends on its behalf whenever possible," he said.

To read the full text of President Simone's opening day address, visit the Office of the President Web site at [www.rit.edu/president](http://www.rit.edu/president). The Web site features Simone's biography, speeches, white papers, news, photos and more.

**Academic Senate Chair Carl Lundgren.** RIT's milestone of 35 years at the Henrietta campus served as the inspiration for Lundgren, associate professor of manufacturing and mechanical engineering technology, College of Applied Science and Technology.

"Like people, the mid-thirties can be trying as things start wearing out," he remarked. "Witness the past two years of

renovations and improvements."

Much like the move from downtown helped to alter the public's perception of RIT, Lundgren pointed to the university's new

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**WORDS OF WISDOM FROM AN EXPERT . . .** One of RIT's welcome back events included the New Student Convocation held the afternoon of Sept. 4. In addition to presentations from RIT administration and Steve Shapiro, Student Government president, the event featured a keynote address from Thomas Brown, a lifelong student affairs and academic affairs educator. Brown encouraged the new students to manage their time wisely and find their passion. "It's OK to be afraid of this new experience," he said. "Without fear there can be no courage. And hard work will bring success."

## RIT now connected through universal calendar

Wondering when the Model Railroad Club meets again? Looking to see if the RIT hockey game conflicts with an academic conference?

Now the RIT community can stay connected with a new unified events calendar at <http://events.rit.edu>. The site will serve as the central calendar for all of RIT. A link to the site will be provided off the RIT home page as well as through the myRIT portal.

"The intention of the new events calendar is not only to have one site for users to find out what is going on at RIT but to make it as easy as possible for users to find

out what is going on at RIT," says Jeremy Trumble, the senior web applications manager for information technology services. "Whether you use one click from the RIT home page, or you have the Events Calendar portlet in your myRIT portal view, or you have subscribed to the e-mail update service, you will find it very easy to see what is going on at RIT," Trumble says.

Key features include:

- A search function allowing users to hunt for events in a variety of ways: date, event name and type of event
- A list of all public events for the current day
- A detail page that will give information ranging from any potential costs associated with the event
- The option of receiving e-mail updates of new events in selected categories
- A real-time portlet view of the Events Calendar from the MyRIT portal

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## Enrollment highlights

- Total enrollment of 15,450 students, up from 15,312 a year ago. RIT's full-time student equivalent is expected to reach an all-time high this year.
- Applications for freshmen admission totaled approximately 8,500, with the quality of applicants, admittees and incoming students the highest ever. Transfer applicants exceeded 2,800.
- RIT's freshmen class will number approximately 2,025, slightly less than projected; the transfer class will exceed 800, slightly more than projected.
- The average SAT score of the freshmen class is 1220, rising from 1210 last year.
- About 50 percent of the freshmen class come from outside New York state.
- The freshmen class contains 29 students who are National Merit, National Achievement or National Hispanic scholars, up from 25 last year.
- RIT's overall AALANA (African American, Latin American, Native American) population will continue to grow. Eight percent of the freshmen, 10 percent of the transfers and 9 percent of the entering graduate students are AALANA.
- RIT's Honors Program will welcome 84 new freshmen to the honors community.
- The international student population is expected to remain close to last year's record of 1,351 students.

## RIT welcomes the new freshmen class

On Sunday, Aug. 31, RIT welcomed more than 2,000 first-year students.

This year's move-in event was streamlined into one day, rather than the two days of previous years. Yet it was less chaotic, says David Campbell, a fifth-year computer science student and resident advisor in Building 30.

"The amount of organization that's gone into this is really impressive," he said. "It's a well thought-out machine and a great way to do it."

One hundred orientation assistants, 125

resident assistants and house managers, and staff from housing operations, campus



One of RIT's newest students prepares to move into the residence halls. At left, RIT's College of Applied Science and Technology hosted tours on the Sam Patch.



safety, food service, residence life, First-Year Enrichment and orientation worked in partnership to ease transition into college.

The opening event saw almost 4,000 parents and students fill the orientation tent and other events have been filled to capacity, says Robin Diana, associate director of the Center for Student Transition and Support, First-Year Enrichment and orientation.

Welcome events included field trips with college faculty, magicians and live music. n

## Activist, artist shows work at Bevier Gallery

Many years ago I said that my role as a member of the worldwide AIDS community needed to be defined never as a victim and always as a messenger. I hope this exhibit (Abataka) gives voice to messages that attract you, hold you, and perhaps disturb you into awareness and action.

—Mary Fisher

Mary Fisher seemed to have it all. Raised in a socially prominent family, she became an artist, photographer, former advance woman for President Gerald Ford, TV producer and a mother of two sons. When

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## Students say “show me the money” in new recycling program

Recycling for Cash—a catchy name, and a popular program in RIT’s residence halls.

But don’t worry—RIT students don’t have to be bribed into recycling. Instead, profits from redeeming recyclables go to refurbish something on their residence hall floor or is donated to charity, says Tara Loomis, associate director of residence life. Renovations include everything from new balls for the foosball table to soap dispensers for the bathrooms.

Recycling for Cash began last spring quarter, spearheaded by Jason Flynn, RIT’s recycling administrator. Flynn, a graduate student, works part time for Facilities Management Services. “Jason is responsible for this innovative program in the residence halls and his passion for this cause has helped make it a success,” says Loomis.



Garbage cans on each floor are labeled for recyclables and a designated recycler takes the cans and bottles back for redemption. Floors with overflowing bins are given 48 hours notice before house-keeping empties them.

Also new in the way of recycling at RIT is a better way to dispose of the many belongings that students leave behind at the end of the school year. During move-out last year, Flynn and Loomis set up cardboard boxes under residence hall stairwells and encouraged students to put unwanted clothes, books, appliances and other items in them. About 40 boxes containing more than 1,000 pounds of clothing and 200 pounds of food were donated to Goodwill and Open Door Mission,

instead of going in the dumpster. The program continues through the school year. <sup>n</sup>

## Gannett lectures kick off Sept. 25

Author and scholar Richard Robbins will kick off the College of Liberal Arts’ Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Series with his talk, *Citizen Activism and the Decline of Democracy*, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, in Ingle Auditorium in the Student Alumni Union.

Robbins, a distinguished teaching professor at the State University of New York at

Plattsburgh, wrote *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*.

A discussion group following the talk will include Sarah Brownell, an RIT alumna and social activist with Project H.O.P.E in Haiti; M. Ann Howard, associate



Richard Robbins

professor in the public policy and science, technology and society departments; and Wade Norwood, councilman-at-large for the City of Rochester.

The series for this year focuses on Globalization, Human Rights and Citizenship with an emphasis on citizen activism. Notes Paul Grebinger, Gannett lecturer and coordinator of Senior Seminar, “Policy is great, but what can you and I do as citizens? How can we influence policy? That’s where our discussants come in, because they’re activists, and they’ve done it already.”

The talk is free and open to the public. Visit [www.rit.edu/gannettseries](http://www.rit.edu/gannettseries) or call 5-2057. <sup>n</sup>

## Activist, artist show at Bevier Gallery (from page 1)

her world fell apart after learning she had contracted AIDS from her ex-husband, Fisher spoke at the 1992 Republican Convention and her emotive speech on HIV/AIDS hushed millions around the globe.

While Fisher’s *I’ll Not Go Quietly* autobiography is testimony to her ongoing courage, her creative energy in the past few years has also been focused on caregivers and patients with AIDS—taking photographs and narratives, weaving them into quilts and sketching them into sculpture.

The end result is a powerful and compassionate exhibition, Abataka, which runs from Sept. 19 through Oct. 15 at



*I’ll Not Go Quietly*, shown above, is just one of Mary Fisher’s fiber art creations that will be on display at her Bevier Gallery show.

the miracle of Abataka, we were soon bound in compassion and hope and even laughter: one community created from many cultures.”

For more information on the Mary Fisher exhibit, call Bevier Gallery at 5-7680 or 5-2646. <sup>n</sup>

**IT HAPPENS EVERY FALL . . .** And if you want to see what freshman looked like in the 1920s, or ’60s, or what activities took place during orientation way back when, or even what registration forms were required, Wallace Library has an exhibit you should see.

“*Frosh Find their Way: Freshman Orientation at RIT*” features photos, clippings, hats, tickets and other assorted memorabilia dating back to 1890. About 100 pieces are on display on the second floor of the library through early October.

“The exhibit is supposed to be fun,” says RIT archivist Becky Simmons. “It shows how things change, but how some things don’t change as much as you might expect.”

## Events calendar (from page 1)

• The ability to list events from the centralized Events Calendar on your own Web site using RSS or customized XML-feed.

“I think the new calendar will provide a one-stop source for event information for the entire campus community. It will be much more efficient for all users to be able to go to one site instead of the numerous sites online previously,” says Cindee Gray, director of community relations and

special events. “The key will be that everyone who plans events on campus will provide the event information needed to make the calendar a complete and valuable resource, and the calendar has been designed to make that as easy as possible.”

Most events entered into the new calendar must be forwarded via an online form first to the Office of Government and Community Relations. Campus Life will handle requests from students. Administrators from various campus organizations will have the ability to enter, modify or delete events in their categories.

The site was developed by ITS with input from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Student Government, Government and Community Relations, University News Services, Alumni Relations, Housing Operations and Athletics.

“I am confident the new calendar will assist students in easily locating activities and events of interest and will be an important tool in increasing student involvement and enhancing a greater sense of community,” says John Weas, assistant to the vice president for student affairs.

“The roll out of a single, Institute-wide events calendar will go a long way to address a common student complaint that they frequently don’t know what is happening on campus,” Weas adds. “The new calendar will easily allow students to keep abreast of the latest campus events and activities and students should never again have to feel out-of-the loop.” <sup>n</sup>

## Jennings shares inspirational story Sept. 19

Cedric Jennings, the main character of the best-selling book, *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* is the featured speaker for the Student Affairs Convocation program, Sept. 19.

Jennings will speak about his experiences as a self-professed “black kid from the ghetto” and how he was able to achieve great academic achievements despite the obstacles he faced, from 10 to 11:45 a.m. in Ingle Auditorium.

After the program, he will sign copies of the book, *A Hope in the Unseen*, in the 1829 Room of the Student Alumni Union. From 1 to 2:30 p.m., Jennings will have

lunch with several student groups.

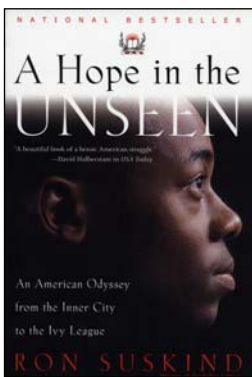
*A Hope in the Unseen* was written by prize-winning author Ron Suskind.

Suskind first wrote about Jennings in a pair of Pulitzer Prize-winning articles for the *Wall Street Journal*.

The book is the inspiring true story of a ferociously determined young man who, armed only with his intellect and his willpower, fights his way out of despair.

Jennings will also be on campus from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 for a late supper and chat with resident advisors and residence hall students.

For more information, contact the Student Affairs office at 5-5691. <sup>n</sup>



The book featuring Jennings

## A lesson in RIT history

RIT’s Nathaniel Rochester Society will host Memories of Influential Men and Women in RIT’s History, at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. Vice President Emeritus Alfred Davis will present this talk about RIT’s early history and the men and women who believed in RIT and helped develop the Institute. Doors open at 3 p.m.; a reception follows the presentation. To attend, contact Ellen McCracken at 5-5694, or e-mail [emmdsr@rit.edu](mailto:emmdsr@rit.edu).

## Hot off the press

Members of PUB want you to stay in touch with what’s happening at RIT and throughout the community. The student group’s 2003-04 wall calendar is ready for distribution. The calendar highlights important events on campus along with photography that features a variety of Rochester hot spots. As a special feature, first-year students will receive a copy with their names custom printed on the calendar’s cover.

PUB is an academic organization within the School of Print Media that focuses on the new media aspects of printing and publishing industries. More information on obtaining this year’s calendar is available by contacting [requests@ritpub.com](mailto:requests@ritpub.com).

## Look to the heavens

The RIT Observatory, located at 645 John St., will be open to the RIT community and general public from 8 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19. Mars will still be close to Earth and will shine a bright red over the southeastern horizon in the early evening.

A variety of telescopes will be available for viewing this and other celestial objects. The observing session will be held weather permitting. Cancellations due to cloudy or questionable weather conditions will be posted on [www.rit.edu/~ritobs](http://www.rit.edu/~ritobs) and 5-7828.

## Log on for sports info

As a new school year gets under way, it’s time once again for the fall sports season. More and more, people are relying on the Internet to give them fast, easy, accessible information, particularly when it comes to sports. RIT sports fans have easy access to schedules, rosters, scores, statistics and feature stories for all 24 intercollegiate sports by visiting the RIT athletics Web site throughout the season. For up-to-the-minute information on RIT athletics, log onto [www.ritathletics.com](http://www.ritathletics.com).

## Gallery r debuts

Gallery r, RIT’s student-run metro showcase for contemporary art at 775 Park Ave., has released its schedule of events for the year ahead.

The first show of the season, “Imaging City: 2003 Prints Competition,” runs through Sept. 21, with an opening reception scheduled for 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12. The exhibition features 45 contemporary prints selected for a collaborative display hosted by Gallery r and the Print Club of Rochester. For more information, call 242-9470 or visit [www.galleryr.org](http://www.galleryr.org).

## New writing club

New this year, the College of Liberal Arts’ language and literature department will launch a writing club for students interested in all forms of writing from fiction and non-fiction to poetry and creative non-fiction.

The club will meet at noon on every fourth Friday of the month at Java Wally’s, starting Sept. 26. The club will focus on student writing development, announcements of outside awards, contests and publication opportunities, and work with *Signatures* magazine. In addition, a guest editor will discuss preparing a professional manuscript.

For information, contact Rebecca Housel at [housereb@rochester.rr.com](mailto:housereb@rochester.rr.com).



# Viewpoints

## Living at RIT: An experience like no other

*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](mailto:newsevents@rit.edu).*

**by Howard Ward, director of housing operations**

The sounds of “Living at RIT” are in the air during what has been a magnificent fall opening. On Sunday, Aug. 31, freshmen and their families were greeted with a major festive extravaganza. Perfect weather, balloons, the smell of burgers and dogs on the grill, and even Krispy Kreme doughnuts awaited them on the residence hall side of campus. It was fantastic! Later that week, we welcomed our upperclassmen to the apartments and the RIT Inn & Conference Center after extensive preparation. They arrived to improved facilities and staff who truly understand that “It is all about OUR students.”

The beginning of a new academic year is one where “Living at RIT” means excitement and fun. To watch the huggin’ that goes on between old friends and new roommates reminds me that there truly is care and hope in our little corner of the world. The smiles on the students’ faces

make a thousand points of light look like a fading flame.

RIT has done so much this summer to create new beginnings and surprises for everyone associated with this wonderful academy. Students “Living at RIT” will find an eye-popping renovated Gracies along with creative new food dishes, a renovated Riverknoll, new walkways and

***“This is the time of year when I especially look forward to life at RIT. It’s a new beginning regardless of whether you’re a wide-eyed freshman or seasoned upperclassman.”***

quad areas and, of course, the incredible Paley sculpture. How could you not be excited about “Living at RIT” this academic school year?

There is also a renewal of spirit and pride as administrative staffs in Residence Life, Food Service, Admissions, Bursar, Campus Safety, First Year Enrichment and, of course, Housing Operations are all prepared for the emergence of what we expect to be a wonderful year for our

students. Personally, I can’t help but be excited because everything associated with the new year of “Living at RIT” has begun so well.

I believe that nothing will diminish the positive spirit that seems to be running amuck around our beautiful campus. It’s a great feeling. I strongly encourage every faculty and staff member, and especially students, to jump on board and contribute in whatever way possible to make this an outstanding new year at RIT.

Dr. Simone, our fearless leader, has charged us with moving “Living at RIT” to a level that is second to none. Like many of my colleagues associated with making life at RIT one in which students will enjoy and take pride in, I truly believe that we are on the right bus and scheduled to arrive on time.

Here is hoping that you will have a blessed year and will take full advantage of what RIT, an emerging “Good to Great” institution, has to offer for you this upcoming year. <sup>n</sup>

## RIT Annual Fund boasts impressive year of alumni giving

Results of the 2002-2003 RIT Annual Fund campaign, which ended June 30, are the best RIT has seen in the past several years.

Achievements include a 55 percent gain in new alumni donors (who never before made a gift) and a 35 percent increase in young alumni (1992-2002) donors. In total, 9,525 donors gave RIT \$2,042,554—18 percent more dollars than the previous year and the highest level in the last three years. The response requests increased overall alumni participation to 11.3 percent, up from 9.8 percent in 2002.

The boost in alumni response and donor dollars was due in large part to the Trustees Matching Gift Challenge. At the Board of Trustees meeting in July 2002, more than 30 trustees and other individuals offered to help RIT raise alumni responses to the Annual Fund campaign. They committed a total of \$300,000 to match gifts of \$25 or more from alumni who either had never made a gift or hadn’t made a gift in a year or more. The match was dollar-for-dollar for gifts from alumni who graduated before 1990, and two-for-one for gifts from alumni who graduated in 1990 or after.

The alumni response was outstanding: 3,123 donors (a third of the total) gave \$257,487. The final match was \$347,458—or 115 percent of the \$300,000 pledged by

the trustees. (The \$47,458 balance will be covered by the Institute’s unrestricted annual fund.) The \$300,000 in matching dollars, which began coming in this July, will be disbursed to the same 120 funds that alumni donors chose to support.

While every college benefited from the challenge, the three top performers were: Business, which brought in 21 percent of the overall response (for \$64,461 in matching dollars); Imaging Arts and

Sciences, with 15 percent (for \$50,104 matching dollars) and Engineering, with 10 percent (for \$33,800 matching dollars).

“This was a timely and very productive venture,” said Marisa Psaila, director of RIT Annual Giving. “Our trustees stepped up to the plate in a very difficult economic climate, and their leadership clearly helped many of our alumni understand that their support at any level makes a big impact on RIT.” <sup>n</sup>

## 175th anniversary planning in full swing

Planning for RIT’s 175th anniversary is in high gear, with only eight months remaining until the celebration kicks off during 2004 commencement ceremonies.

A 27-member planning team began meeting a year ago and was charged with developing a series of events and programming to commemorate the milestone year in RIT’s history. The group includes representatives from faculty, staff, students, retirees, trustees, alumni, the Nathaniel Rochester Society and the Institute of Fellows.

“The anniversary year is an opportunity to not only celebrate, but also to showcase RIT to the community, as well as the nation and the world. The committee has laid out a plan that reflects this goal, and also provides opportunities for all members of the RIT family to be engaged in a variety of events and activities throughout the year,” says Deborah Stendardi, associate vice president for government and community relations, and co-chair of the planning committee. “In addition, we hope to create some new traditions that will carry on beyond the anniversary year.”

The theme for the anniversary is “RIT: Celebrating 175 years of Education, Exploration and Innovation.” The anniversary will continue through the following academic year, concluding with Commencement 2005.

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

Landing a presidential debate in 2004 would be the highlight of the anniversary year. RIT submitted a proposal to the Commission on Presidential Debates in March to be the host site for one of the debates that will take place in the fall of

2004. A site selection team visited RIT in May and conducted a review of the proposed facilities, including the Gordon Field House and Activities Center (a virtual tour and hard hat tour of the building site), the Student Life Center and other additional facilities that would be needed. They were very impressed with the facilities and the enthusiasm and commitment of the RIT team, Stendardi says. A final decision on the debate sites will be made this fall by the commission.

Meanwhile, plans are moving forward on the following events, activities and promotional vehicles:

- A 175th anniversary Web site will be launched later this year.
- Special events to commemorate Founders Day (June 12) and Charter Day (Feb. 12)
- An anniversary lecture series
- A community open house during Brick City/Reunion weekend
- A worldwide community service day
- Expanded events for the Nathaniel Rochester Society
- A special commemorative edition of *The University Magazine*
- Exhibits on and off campus, reflecting the university’s history, growth and contributions of individuals who have had a significant impact on the institution

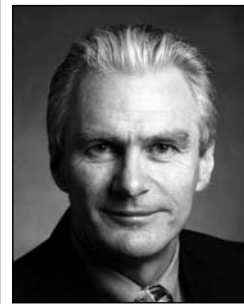
- A book and CD featuring public art on campus
- A traditional campus parade

RIT’s stationery will be also modified to incorporate the anniversary theme. More details on the anniversary year stationery, and when it can be ordered, will be forthcoming as well as additional information about the anniversary year activities.

“There will be plenty of opportunities for members of the campus community to participate in the planning and implementation of these events and activities,” says Stendardi, “and we look forward to a busy, but exciting year.” <sup>n</sup>

## Music exec to speak on intellectual property

Protecting intellectual property remains a top concern of senior executives in the international business arena. No industry may be as vulnerable as the music



Michael Smellie

business—witnessed through the recent crack down on file sharing.

Michael Smellie, chief operating officer of BMG, will share the music industry’s perspective during the latest

installment of the Forman Honored Speaker Series, sponsored by the Center for International Business in the College of Business. “The Management and Protection of Intellectual Property in International Markets” will be presented at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium.

In recent years, the Recording Industry Association of America has taken legal steps to target people who illegally share songs on the Internet. The RIAA estimates that the industry loses \$4.2 billion each year to worldwide music piracy, which includes online file sharing.

BMG, one of the world’s top five music companies, represents many artists like Christine Aguilera, Kenny Chesney, The Dave Matthews Band and Justin Timberlake. In his role, Smellie drives the international company from his office above Times Square in New York City.

During his lecture, Smellie will explore the current state of the music industry, copyright protection issues, and the strategies being used to combat music piracy. <sup>n</sup>



### OFF TO CLASS THEY GO . . . RIT

President Albert Simone offers students a ride to class in the “Presidential Golf Cart” on the first day of classes, Sept. 8. Driving is Robin Diana, associate director of the Center for Student Transition and Support, First Year Enrichment and orientation.



**TURNER’S WORLD . . .** Photographer Pete Turner shares a contrasting view from the normally glitzy city of Las Vegas. The renowned image-maker and School of Photographic Arts and Sciences alumnus returns to campus for a lecture sponsored by Epson and Nikon. His presentation is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, in Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Building.



## Survey reveals thoughts on diversity; studies continue

Strong support for diversity is expressed across all segments of RIT, according to the "RIT Climate Study: Perceptions of Faculty, Students and Staff." Yet the survey also finds that despite a clear support for the concept of diversity, there is more ambiguity about whether RIT places too much emphasis on racial/ethnic diversity.

These were among the many findings in the report, released to the campus community in the spring. Now, RIT's Commission for Promoting Pluralism, which initiated the study, wants to continue discussion on the survey results this fall.

"The survey was an important step towards providing the most effective education and environment for all RIT community members," says Alfreda Brown, chair of the commission.

Two open forums to discuss the survey will be held as part of Campus Week of Dialogue,

Oct. 27-31. A steering committee will be appointed in fall quarter for an in-depth review of the report. Subcommittees will be formed to focus on specific aspects of the RIT climate. The committee will prepare policy and action recommendations for the campus

**"We must remain cognizant of the importance of diversity, realizing that it provides the highest quality of education possible and should be made a part of everything that we do."**

—Alfreda Brown

community to consider. RIT President Albert Simone will chair the steering committee.

The report summarizes findings from extensive baseline surveys of the current climate on campus, particularly as it relates to cultural diversity and inclusion on campus. The report, conducted by the

Center for Governmental Research, documents the findings from surveys of students, faculty and staff.

The commission hopes to get accurate information about the general sentiment of working, living and learning at RIT. This study is one of the most important initiatives to date in achieving a pluralistic culture on campus, says Brown.

President Simone says the survey included "hard" data generated from the statistical compilation of responses to a questionnaire, as well as "soft" information developed from focus groups.

"We garnered a lot of useful information from the CGR study, which will serve as a foundation for immediate action and further analysis over the coming year," he adds.

The report can be found at [www.rit.edu/~020awww](http://www.rit.edu/~020awww).



**STAFF COUNCIL 2003-2004 . . .** Meet your new officers for this year's Staff Council. They are, from left to right, Kathy Estabrooks, at-large member; Liz Zimmerman, at-large member; Cindy Schultz, at-large member; Dave Edborg, chair; Tina Nelson, vice chair; Gus Weber, treasurer; and Ed Lincoln, at-large member. Missing from the photo is Jackie Montione-Baldwin, communications officer.

Call 5-7656 to reach the Staff Council office.

## Opening day talks

(from page 1)

plan to select an "institutional image." He reflected on efforts in the early 1990s to establish a strategic plan that resulted in programs that enhanced RIT's mission of preparing students for successful career development.

"For the past 10 years, RIT has enjoyed a remarkable growth in national recognition," he stated. "The size and diversity of the student body has increased, the quality of the program portfolio and the scholarship of the faculty has matured with the strategic plan and the institute vision."

Lundgren praised members of the RIT community for their contributions in moving the university forward, and he implored the administration to incorporate members of the campus in future planning. "There are few, if any, individuals in the RIT community who do not share the dream of RIT achieving the recognition as one of the great universities."

In closing, Lundgren speculated on how another inclusive planning process might bolster RIT as it moved toward its 200th anniversary.

"The efforts of the 11-person Strategic Plan Steering Committee can only be amplified by enabling broad campus participation," he said. "Buy in' isn't necessary when we own the plan."

**Alfreda Brown, chair, Commission for Promoting Pluralism.** Brown began her speech by speaking about the recent Climate Survey and mentioned two open forums in October that will be hosted by the Commission for Promoting Pluralism. (see related story above)

In a tribute to Isaac Jordan Sr., RIT's first chairperson of the Commission for Promoting Pluralism, a distinction in his honor was presented to recognize faculty and staff for significant contributions in enhancing RIT's diversity.

Nominees for the inaugural Isaac L. Jordan Sr. Faculty/Staff Pluralism Award included Latty Goodwin, Learning Development Center; Douglas Merrill, professor, biological sciences; Ila Parasnis, NTID research; Julie White, Women's Center, Student Transition and Support; Sarah

Reynolds, Wallace Library; Valerie Borum, social work; Luane Davis Haggerty, cultural and creative studies, NTID; Idalia Vasquez-Schofield, housing operations; James Bundy, campus safety; and Patty Spinelli, human resources.

This year's award, a sculpture created by RIT alumnus Len Urso, was presented to President Albert Simone.

"Dr. Simone has touched the lives of so many people at RIT. When most leaders would walk away, [he] held firm. With leaders, diversity can be what some identify as a non-issue and there are leaders who treat it as such. However, [he] struggled and deliberated on so many different levels to make diversity a part of the fabric of RIT," she said. An anonymous nominator stated, "Simone created an environment that is supportive of diversity and pluralism by implementing policies and procedures to ensure a fair process. He was never afraid to share his views on the topics and with a wide variety of constituents; and when looking at the diversity in our student body, staff and in particular in the faculty and administrative ranks, RIT under his personal leadership has made a quantum leap."

Brown praised Simone for acknowledging limitations and knowing that we can't be everything for everybody. She recognized the sincere will and Simone's passion to make diversity a priority. "He has provided the bridge between the leader and the community," Brown added.

**David Edborg, Campus Safety A-shift supervisor and Staff Council chair,** began his opening day remarks celebrating Staff Council's 10th year of existence. He lauded President Simone's vision for introducing staff council to the RIT community.

"In 1993, Dr. Simone came to RIT and

brought with him a firm belief in an all-inclusive, shared governance system," he said. "In June of that year, after preliminary work by some dedicated staff, Staff Council held its first election."

Since 1993, 162 staff members have taken leadership roles by serving on staff council, he noted.

Edborg thanked Simone for opening "the door of opportunity" for staff participation in RIT's shared governance and commended the leadership of previous staff council chairs.

"I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all you have done to make RIT Staff Council a respected partner in RIT's governance system," Edborg said. He firmly believes in the importance of staff participation in RIT's governance and noted that RIT is one of only a few universities that

include the staff in their shared governance.

"Shared governance is really shared decision making—each group provides the president with the perspective of their constituency on Institute issues, which enables the president to come to the best decisions possible."

Edborg attributes RIT's success during the last decade "to each and every one" of the staff and faculty. "The difference in the campus today—the physical changes and enhancements and especially the progress in student-centeredness—position RIT to be the place where students want to be—where students like to be," he said.

Edborg noted Simone's appreciation of the staff's hard work and dedication to RIT and his support of Staff Appreciation Day and staff recognition awards.

"In gratitude for these last 10 years, I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff, to say thank you, Dr. Simone, for your commitment to our students, your loyalty to us and your determination to see that RIT is led by the best and the brightest," Edborg said.

"Because of your vision and leadership, RIT is positioned for the future. You have shown us that greatness is attainable."

Finally, at Edborg's request, Simone agreed to extend RIT's holiday vacation through Jan. 2.



Throng of students march to opening day events.

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**ACADEMIC SENATE 2003-2004 . . .** Members of this year's Academic Senate executive committee are, from left to right, Liz Lawley, vice chair; Dino Laury, treasurer; Mark Price, communications officer; Carl Lundgren, chair; and Mike Lutz, operations officer.

For information about Academic Senate or for a meeting schedule, call 5-2016.

## Obituary

### Donald Hoppe

Donald Hoppe, an RIT retiree and former registrar, passed away suddenly in a boat-riding accident on Aug. 29. He was 76 years old.

Hoppe, a World War II Army veteran, began working at RIT in 1952 as director of traffic safety research. He retired in 1987 as registrar. He was also a member of Etolian Masonic Lodge No. 479 and North Chili United Methodist Church.

Contributions in Hoppe's name may be made to the RIT Scholarship Fund, 1 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, N.Y., 14623, or the American Red Cross, 50 Prince St., 14607.

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