

New master's degree studies human-computer interaction

Relationship between 'man and machine' explored

Human-computer interaction, the study of design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems to benefit the end user, is the focus of a new Master of Science degree offered through the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. The degree is available either on-campus or online. "Companies such as Google, Yahoo, Adobe and Oracle are looking for people with in-depth knowledge and skills in developing computing systems that people will enjoy using and want to use," says Evelyn Rozanski, professor of information technology and a developer of the degree program. "Companies have come to recognize the return on investment from adopting user-centered design and usability testing practices. Products with poor usability are costly in terms of errors, unfinished tasks, frustration and even safety."

The curriculum for the degree includes studies in such complementary areas as software development, learning and knowledge management, cognitive psychology, industrial design and game design. RIT first offered a master's concentration in

human-computer interaction more than five years ago.

Melissa Spike, a content producer at Fisher-Price, graduated from RIT in 2003 with an M.S. degree in information technology and concentrations in human-computer interaction as well as learning and performance technology and multimedia programming.

"From my classes in human factors and interface design, I learned principles of design that apply directly to my current job at Fisher-Price," says Spike. "I work on some of the more complex toys with speech and multiple modes of play, kid-friendly electronic video games and personal computer software. With more and more computers in homes and so much competition with Web sites and software, consumers are starting to demand interfaces that are easier to use and industry is taking notice. This is only going to increase the need for graduates with degrees in human-computer interaction."

The degree requires completion of 52-credit hours and a capstone project in which research will be completed in university labs, including the Usability Testing Laboratory and labs within



Submitted photo

Melissa Spike '03 (information technology) demonstrates a typical eye tracking environment. Usability specialists sometimes use eye trackers as a method to "see" where users look to understand user behavior during task performance.

the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure.

For information about the program, call 475-6791 or visit www.rit.edu/emcs/ptgrad/online. ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu



Photo courtesy of RIT Archives

New York Giants football coach Tom Coughlin, who coached his team to victory Feb. 3 in Super Bowl XLII, began his head coaching career with the RIT Tigers from 1970-1973, compiling a 16-15-2 record. Pictured is Coughlin, second from right, with his coaching staff, from left, Gary Fredericks, Greg Connor, Bud Sims and Russ Romano.

Former RIT coach leads Super Bowl champions

More than 70 former members of the RIT football program gathered Feb. 3 at the Radisson Hotel on Jefferson Road.

They included players and assistant coaches, athletic trainers and cheerleaders. They came from Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio and all over New York state—all on a moment's notice.

They were there to watch one of their own, New York Giants head coach and former RIT Tigers head football coach Tom Coughlin, reach the pinnacle of the football world.

And they didn't leave disappointed.

Coughlin led the Giants to a 17-14 victory over the previously unbeaten New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII, a win that some pundits are

calling the greatest upset in Super Bowl history.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock in Glendale, Ariz., the Radisson was filled with cheers and tears.

"We all went crazy. There wasn't a dry eye in the place," says Mark McCabe, who played linebacker and defensive end for Coughlin from 1972-1973. "We all looked at each other and said, 'From RIT to the Super Bowl!' We were the team that he started with and we were there to celebrate it together."

Coughlin's RIT connection made national news in the week leading up to the Super Bowl. It was featured in newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *Newsday* and *Chicago Tribune*. Coughlin, page 4



Each issue of *News & Events* will feature a project to be showcased at RIT's Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3. This week's spotlight:

The Steel Bridge

Presenters: Christina Englert, Steve Bogart, Brandon Cole, Justin Hsieh, Brian Miller, Daniel Penza, Matthew R., Kenneth Silver, Jonathan Wilson and Johnny Zaho. All are RIT students from the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Brief description: Students will design and build a steel bridge according to specifications from the American Institute for Steel Construction. The students will also be timed. After erecting the bridge, it will be subjected to a 2,500-pound load; the vertical and horizontal deflections will be measured. Bridges are judged on the basis of stiffness, construction speed, aesthetics, structural efficiency and overall performance.

How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative: Creativity is required by both the design and construction teams in order for the bridge to meet the stringent guidelines. There are several limitations related to the *Project spotlight, page 4*

Former NTID leader's story provides 'inspiration to all'

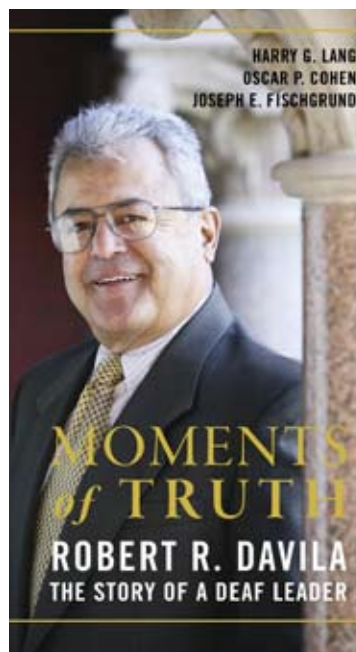
RIT Press has published *Moments of Truth—Robert R. Davila: The Story of a Deaf Leader*, a biography of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's first deaf chief executive officer, who overcame poverty to become a national leader in education and a role model for Hispanic youth.

Davila, the first deaf Hispanic to earn a doctorate degree, became CEO of NTID in 1996, a position he held until his retirement in 2004. Albert Simone, who was RIT president at the time, commissioned the biography, saying Davila's story was "both inspirational and motivational."

Davila is now president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

"I was, frankly, flabbergasted," he said upon learning his biography would be written. "I had not considered then what value or impact my life's examples might have on people. Now that the book is out, I realize that its greatest value is in its potential to inspire and motivate young deaf and hard-of-hearing students to strive for high achievements."

Former President George Bush, who in 1989 appointed Davila as assistant secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services for the U.S. Department of Education, provided an endorsement of the



biography, saying Davila remains "an inspiration to all who know him. His story is proof that hard work, determination and courage can overcome even life's toughest challenges."

Alan Hurwitz, NTID's current CEO, and dean and vice president of RIT for NTID, called Davila "a remarkable leader and an inspiration."

Davila, page 4

NTID alumnus makes Super Bowl pre-game appearance



Photo courtesy of Pepsi

Former students from the RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf were featured in a Pepsi commercial during the Super Bowl's pre-game show Feb. 3. There was no sound during the 60-second ad, but the sign language used was captioned. The commercial is a take on a popular joke in the deaf community and features Darren Therriault '89 (electrical engineering), left, an application configuration specialist for Pepsi. Wayne Betts Jr., a former RIT/NTID student who studied at the School of Film and Animation, was a production assistant during filming. In case you missed it, visit www.pepsi.com/bobshouse.

Gallery shows

Gallery r and Bevier Gallery offer new exhibits, *page 2*

Viewpoints

Honoring the work and spirit of alumnus Bernie Boston, *page 3*

Scholarship and Research

RIT professor makes 'mini-movies' to bring black holes into view, *page 3*

Photo spotlight

RIT President Bill Destler shows his true colors, *page 4*

News & Events goes 'green'

News & Events is now being printed on 100 percent recycled paper resulting in favorable effects on our environment. For the 16 issues of *News & Events* produced each year:

- 78.34 trees will be saved
- 3,682 pounds of solid waste will not be generated
- 7,249 pounds net of greenhouse gases will be prevented

Historian to speak Feb. 7

Martin Melosi, Distinguished University Professor at the University of Houston, will be speaking at 4 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. A reception will follow in the atrium. A global authority on pollution, urban technology and sanitary engineering, Melosi is author and editor of books ranging from environmental history to public history and policy. His lecture will examine the rise and meaning of sanitary engineering and public policy initiatives in American cities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

PI reception Feb. 21

RIT's Office of the Provost sponsors its annual salute to faculty and staff engaged in sponsored research. The 2007 PI Reception, which recognizes principal investigators who submitted grant proposals last year, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences auditorium. To attend, contact Kelly Evinsky at 475-7983 or keesrs@rit.edu.

Jazz performance Feb. 23

The RIT Music Program will present a concert featuring the RIT Jazz Ensemble and the New Energy Jazz Orchestra at 3 p.m. Feb. 23 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. The New Energy Jazz Orchestra is a professional group, co-led by RIT music professors Jonathan Kruger and Carl Atkins. The RIT Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jon Kruger, will open the concert, performing several works, and will be joined by members of New Energy to perform a final piece. The New Energy Jazz Orchestra will play original compositions by Kruger, Atkins, and trombonist Dave Gibson, from its new CD, *Sands of Time*. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Atkins at 475-4439.

Communication honors

The Department of Communication in the College of Liberal Arts was selected by the National Communication Association as a recipient of the 2007 Rex Mix Program of Excellence Award, which honors innovation and commitment to position the field of communication as indispensable in a technological world. The department was commended specifically for "using superior instruction, pioneering research and practical application evaluated through clear assessment methodology."

RIT and Wake Forest University were selected to receive the award from a national pool of nominees.



Submitted by Willie Osterman

Professor Willie Osterman photographed student Eric Ruby while he was busy taking his own pictures on the streets of Dubrovnik.

Gallery r show documents culture in Dubrovnik

"Wow. Such an experience the students and I will never forget," is all Professor Willie Osterman can say about his three-month sojourn to Dubrovnik, Croatia, with a dozen students from RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

Their study-abroad experience last spring was part of a six-credit photography course documenting the culture, food and people of Croatia. It also meant participation in the making of RIT's 23rd Big Shot, where the students helped illuminate the historic city wall of Dubrovnik with camera flash units for the acclaimed "painting with light" project.

The students and Osterman's spectacular images will be showcased in a Gallery r exhibition, "Photography in Dubrovnik," which runs Feb. 14 through March 13, with an opening reception scheduled from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15.

Although the students attended six hours of weekly photo-session classes at RIT's "sister school in Croatia," The American College of Management and Technology, they

spent "seven out of 10 weekends with an activity that ranged from a few hours to four days"—from meeting the curator of the Museum of Modern Art in Dubrovnik to bus excursions in Bosnia and Sarajevo, Osterman explains.

Besides capturing the essence of the city, the students were required to further submerge themselves in the culture by creating a portrait of someone "local" in the community.

"I also asked the students to create a documentary of something that they would miss once they were gone," Osterman says. "This idea was based around documenting what has become familiar and soon would be lost: the architecture, the apartment, the walk to the college, new friends . . . it was a very meaningful assignment and the results were excellent. We'll be displaying some of them during our exhibition at Gallery r."

For more information on Photography in Dubrovnik, call Gallery r at 242-9470 or visit cias.rit.edu/~galleryr.

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu

'This is Jeopardy!'



Submitted photo

An RIT multidisciplinary senior design team, pictured at right, was featured in a clue that appeared on the nationally syndicated game show Jeopardy last month. The team was filmed by a Jeopardy crew at the Environmental Protection Agency's P3 conference in Washington, D.C., last April. A solar-powered pasteurizer, the student's team project, was featured as the \$2,000 clue in a Double Jeopardy category devoted to the P3 conference.

Bevier Gallery welcomes Finger Lakes exhibitors

Bill Stephens is an art teacher at Webster Schroeder High School, and during his 32-year tenure, he's seen a lot of talent pass through his classroom. Right now he has 20 students in his Advanced Placement Portfolio Class, three of whom will be showcasing their work in a February exhibition at RIT.

"Art has changed with the advances in technology because more reference materials are available to artists," explains Stephens, who received his Masters of Science in teaching from RIT in 1974. "For instance, a student who wishes to paint a self-portrait can study their images taken with a digital camera instead of looking into the mirror. Plus there are programs like Photoshop where you can alter or

modify the image to enhance quality."

Middle- and high-school students from Webster Schroeder to Rush-Henrietta to Wayland-Cohocton and beyond will be participating in RIT's Rochester-Finger Lakes Regional Exhibition, which runs through Feb. 27 at RIT's Bevier Gallery.

"They are the Rodins, Picassos and Spielbergs of the future," says assistant dean Deb Kingsbury, from RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, which is hosting the event. "It's important to recognize and encourage the talent of these emerging artists and to salute their very dedicated teachers."

For more information, call the Bevier Gallery at 475-2646. ■

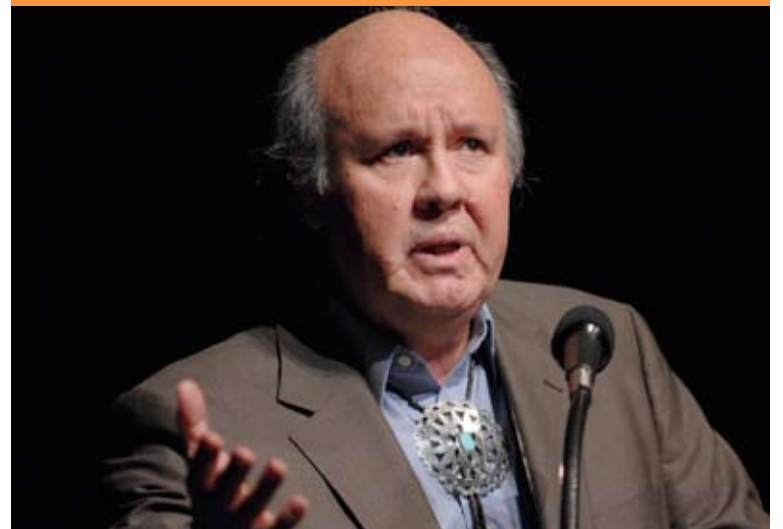
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Submitted by Courtney Fitzpatrick

The Rochester-Finger Lakes Regional Exhibition features more than 160 pieces of artwork, including Apple by Courtney Fitzpatrick of Wayland-Cohocton.

Honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

G. Peter Jemison addressed the crowd in RIT's Ingle Auditorium Jan. 15. Jemison was this year's keynote speaker for RIT's Martin Luther King celebration. Performances by the RIT Gospel Ensemble and Thomas Warfield, chairperson of RIT's Commission for Promoting Pluralism, were part of the program.

Fundraising efforts will help victims of fire

Students in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences are helping a fellow student recoup his art supplies destroyed in the fire off-campus last November. The Dollar and a Dream Fund hopes to raise \$1,000 for Michael DiCocco, a fourth-year industrial design major, one of the RIT students who survived the house fire on Upton Park.

Collection boxes are located in the CIAS department offices, the Dean's office, Co-op and Career Services and Student Services.

"My roommates and I just want to thank everyone in the RIT community for their generosity and concern," says DiCocco. "We are settling back into our winter quarter classes. Although it is difficult to soften the blow of such a tragedy, all of the help we have received has alleviated some of the stress we have been dealing

with in trying to get back into our daily routines."

Donations can be made through the end of the winter quarter. ■

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The Seth Policzer-Syed Ali Turab Endowed Memorial Fund has been created to honor the memory of Seth Policzer and Syed Ali Turab, two RIT students who lost their lives in a fatal house fire in a Rochester neighborhood in November.

The fund is established to provide students financial assistance for non-tuition related expenses including academic supplies such as books and technology needs.

To make a gift, visit www.rit.edu/makeagift or call (800) 477-0376.

Bernie Boston '55, the photojournalist who twice was honored as a Pulitzer Prize nominee, died on Jan. 22, at his home in Bayse, Va.

Throughout his 40-plus year career, Boston instinctively understood that photographic reportage was synonymous with picturing history. As a young staff photographer with *The Washington Star* in the late 1960s, he was dispatched to capture the personalities and events of the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. His memorable images gave voice to an important period

in American history, including portraits of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., his wife Coretta Scott King, and the Poor People's Campaign marchers.

While attending an anti-war demonstration outside the Pentagon in 1967, Boston seized upon a dramatic scene of a standoff between a rifle-bearing National Guard detail and youthful activists with flowers. He once remarked, "I knew I had a good picture." The resulting "good picture," known as Flower Power, is today considered a cultural icon, a pictorial touchstone of young

Americans' newfound influence in shaping political and social opinion.

For much of his career, Boston served as a White House photographer, first with *The Washington Star* and later for the *Los Angeles Times*. He photographed every seated president from Lyndon Johnson to Bill Clinton, providing an insider's view of the momentous and everyday events informing a president's tenure in office. But as a photojournalist, Boston concerned himself with more than the politically famous and socially influential. Upon retirement in 1993, he, along with wife, Peggy, bought and operated a regional Virginia newspaper, the *Bryce Mountain Courier*. As publisher and photographer, Boston chronicled the small town rhythms of the rural community in the Shenandoah Mountains he called home.

Whether it was the national or local stage, Boston was the consummate photojournalist, eager to "tell" a story by capturing its most crucial human element, as in *Flower Power*. Similarly, he was always enthusiastic to share his experiences and knowledge with others, especially students and faculty in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Few who met Boston will ever forget his boisterous laughter and love of spinning a tale; his ever-present cowboy boots and the camera slung over one shoulder, always at the ready. He lived a life filled with passion for pictures and for the ways in which



pictures can inform and inspire life itself.

An archive of his distinguished work, established by Boston and his wife, Peggy, at the RIT Archive Collections in 2006, serves as monument and encouragement to succeeding generations of photographers for whom pictorial journalism is a significant form of enduring cultural and human expression.

Mulligan is a professor in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences and director of SPAS Gallery.

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail newsevents@rit.edu.



Submitted by Rich Dooley/Northern Virginia Daily

Portrait of Bernie Boston with his iconic photograph, Flower Power, in the background.

Black hole 'mini-movies' help bring phenomena into view

Hans-Peter Bischof brings black holes into view in mini-movies that translate complex astrophysical research into computer graphics.



Hans-Peter Bischof

Bischof, associate professor of computer science in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, works closely with his colleagues at the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation to illustrate the computer code they use to simulate various black-hole scenarios. The center, located in the School of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Science, explores Einstein's theory of general relativity using supercomputers to simulate black hole mergers and resulting gravity waves.

"The science done at the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation is very difficult to explain to the general public," Bischof says. "A movie is one way to capture the essentials and let it speak for itself. This is one way to show what kind of work is executed at the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation."

Serendipity led Bischof to visualizing black holes. In 2003, David Merritt, professor of physics, needed someone to illustrate his research. He asked Bischof if he knew somebody who could write a visualization system for a specific data set, and Bischof volunteered.

"I promised him a movie by the end of the quarter," he said, "The movie was created and it went from there."

The mini-movies Bischof made for Merritt are among the first to depict gravity-force calculations of such large size. In December 2007,

History Channel's series *The Universe: Cosmic Holes* featured some of Bischof's more recent visualizations of black holes based on data produced by RIT scientists Manuela Campanelli, Carlos Lousto, Merritt and Yosef Zlochower.

"Bischof's work is crucial because it provides new tools for visualizing and analyzing very complex data from astrophysical simulations," says Campanelli, director of the center.

Bischof takes a new approach to visualizing scientific data. Instead of using existing programs, Bischof created a framework system called "Spiegel," German for "mirror," coined by Jonathan Cole, the first student to work with Bischof on this project. (Cole was, at the time, in Germany on a study-abroad program that Bischof himself created.) The framework gives Bischof complete control and flexibility to add components and functionality. It serves like an operating system that executes visualization programs he and his student assistants make.

According to Bischof, creating a single movie can take minutes or weeks, depending on the kind of data and images required. He is currently in the process of visualizing 3-D gravity waves, a program that will take weeks to write and weeks or months for his computer to execute and create the movie.

In addition to galactic events like galaxy mergers, black hole mergers and gravity waves, Spiegel also can make movies of scenarios closer to home, such as how a mine looks like after a collapse, the structures of a protein, and how a rumor spreads through a social network. Other applications of Bischof's framework could extend to tracing the plague's path through Europe, poison moving in a river and the migration of the monarch butterfly. ■

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RIT's 'great debaters'



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT hosted a mock presidential debate the week before Super Tuesday—the 24 state primary/caucus bonanza on Feb. 5—featuring representatives from two of the 2008 presidential candidates. Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel, shown above at left, represented Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign and University of Rochester student John Pellito, second to left, debated on behalf of Sen. Barack Obama. Members of the RIT Debate Team—shown above third from left to right, Matthew Colaprete, Kevin Tierney, Chris Tosswill and Pat Ryan—stood in for the various Republican campaigns, all of which declined the invitation to attend. RIT students from Introduction to Public Policy, taught by William Johnson Jr., distinguished professor of public policy, asked hard questions about health care reform, offshore outsourcing, the war in Iraq, education and campaign funding.

Best of the best



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Richard DeMartino, associate professor at the E. Philip Saunders College of Business, and Gina O'Connor, associate professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, received an award for "Best Journal Article of the Year" in PDMA's Journal of Product Innovation Management. PDMA's vice chairman Rich Notargiacomo presented the award Jan. 10.

Ethics lecture Feb. 14

The Ezra A. Hale Ethics Lecture Series will present a panel discussion on "Ethics, Truth and Falsehood" with RIT philosophy professors Jesús Aquilar, John Capps, David Suits and Wade Robison, the Hale Chair in Applied Ethics. The discussion will take place at 4 p.m. Feb. 14, in the Carlson auditorium. Contact Cassandra Shellman at cls3740@rit.edu for more information.

Vagina Monologues show

RIT Women's Center is presenting Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* 8 p.m. Feb. 15-16. This year's production team is led by director Luane Davis Haggerty supported by students Gabrielle Nocciolino, Michelle Gerson and Women's Center staff member E.W. Quimbaya-Winship. This year's production also features cast members Rebecca Johnson, Ellie Rosenfield, Vicki Hurwitz, Mary-Beth Cooper and Idalia Vasquez. The performance will be held in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. Tickets are \$8 for RIT students, \$12 for RIT faculty, staff and alumni and \$15 for the general public.

SportsZone 'best of show'

RIT SportsZone received a Platinum Best of Show award at the 2007 Aurora Awards for their outstanding graphics and design. The annual Aurora Awards honor excellence in local television programming by college and professional groups. In addition to the Platinum award, SportsZone also received two Gold awards, signifying second place in the categories of sports production and direction.

Condor 1000 taps unused resources

The concept behind "strength in numbers" applies to more than just manpower. Success in research computing is driven by access to a large supply of individual processors, which is the incentive for RIT's Condor 1000 project.

As part of this effort, the university recently surpassed its goal of harnessing the power of 1,000 processing cores by tapping into unused computing cycles at RIT. Condor 1000 allows researchers, including students, to run as many jobs as possible at the same time. The easiest way to do that is to tap into computers on campus when they're not being used. In many cases, those opportunities occur overnight.

"Multiplying the power of a single desktop computer by 1,000 or more is a tremendous increase in personal computing capacity and extends the boundaries of research problems that can be computed," explains Gurcharan Khanna, RIT's director of research computing. "Essentially, this is a campus computational grid."

Certain types of computer problems are ideal for the Condor environment. These problems can be separated into hundreds or thousands of little jobs that run independently, but the results can be aggregated at the end. The ability to do this at relatively little cost is another of the project's benefits.

The RIT Condor pool continues to grow as additional departments grant access to their computing resources. For more information, visit rc.rit.edu/condor1000. ■

Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT President Bill Destler got a dye job during halftime of the RIT men's basketball game on Jan. 19. He had agreed to dye his hair orange if both women's and men's basketball games that day had full attendance. The men's game was full but the women's didn't quite make it. Compromising, Destler had three-quarters of his hair colored by Vice President for Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper. The challenge was to encourage more support at RIT basketball games and other athletic events.



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Project spotlight

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member sizes, weights, penalties, assemblies, connections and how the bridge is built that add to the challenges of designing and building this bridge. Creativity plays a role as the team will attempt to build a bridge with very little deflection but with the least weight possible.

Exhibit experience for visitors:

The visitors viewing this bridge will experience the innovative structure that RIT students design and construct following stringent specifications.

For more information on the festival, visit www.rit.edu/imagine. ■

Coughlin

from page 1

"Playing for Coughlin was a great time in my life," says Pete Van Peurse, a Tigers defensive tackle from 1972-1975. "I'm very happy for him and very proud of him."

The day before the game, word of the RIT reunion reached Coughlin in Arizona. He took the time to answer a question about the reunion that was posed to him through a team spokesman.

Coughlin was "really touched by this," the spokesman told the Middletown, N.Y., *Times Herald-Record*. "Those guys played the game in its purest form," Coughlin told him. "It was club ball going to varsity. To think that they learned some life lessons that they still practice and are passing along to their children means a lot to me. That was a special group of young men who loved the game for the game."

Hundreds of other media requests went unanswered that day.

McCabe says he and his teammates were touched by Coughlin's remarks. He plans on reaching out to Coughlin soon and sending him one of the commemorative T-shirts that RIT Athletic Director Lou Spiotti, who replaced Coughlin as RIT head football coach, had made for the event.

McCabe hopes that Coughlin enjoys the shirt as much as his former teammates enjoyed cheering on their old coach.

"We're always going to remember the thrill of being with our teammates when one of the members of our team won the Super Bowl," McCabe says. ■

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Student Affairs honors dedicated members

Awards presented to those who exemplify division mission and goals

Four awards were presented at the annual Student Affairs Recognition Event honoring exceptional contributions from staff and faculty that embody the mission and goals of RIT's Division of Student Affairs. Below are selected excerpts from the nomination letters of the 2007 recipients:

Faculty Award for Promoting Learning Outside the Classroom—Heidi Nickisher, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences

"When Lisa Bodenstedt, a First-Year Enrichment instructor, observed that a number of students were struggling with the art history class, she initiated an Art History Study Hall that met on Saturday mornings," says Latty Goodwin, director of First-Year Enrichment. "An invitation was also extended to Heidi, who was one of the art history professors. The study hall is now in its third year and meets prior to each exam. That 18 to 25 students are willing to get up on Saturday mornings and attend a review session is amazing, but that a faculty member is an enthusiastic participant demonstrates a commitment to students that goes above and beyond."

New Staff Outstanding Support Service Award—Deidre Serrano, International Student Services

"Deidre epitomizes the Student Affairs mission at RIT," says Jeff Cox, director, International Student Services. "She developed some exceptional programs that have enhanced our students' abilities to become productive members of a global society. She has also developed innovative approaches that enhanced some of the ways in which our

office serves a growing and diverse population of RIT students."

Excellence in Service Award—Susan Ackerman, Disability Services Coordinator

"Creating and enhancing the RIT community is a key facet of Sue's work in disability services as well as her previous work with the Bader Team and with FYE," says Kathleen Crouse of Disability Services. "Ensuring that qualified individuals in the community receive appropriate accommodations and services on campus guarantees that all eligible members of our community are able to fully participate in community activities and events. Their inclusion further serves to enhance the entire community by ensuring that our diversity is rich and complete," adds Nicole Boulais, coordinator of assessment.

Outstanding Support Service Award—Pat Marini and Carol Thayer, Counseling Center

"Pat and Carol are invaluable in their ability to respond to an increasingly diverse and complex set of student issues," says John Weas, director of the Counseling Center. "Whether it is answering calls from students, parents or members of the campus community who may be distraught or effectively managing walk-in emergencies, Pat and Carol are the Counseling Center's first contact with clients." ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu



Heidi Nickisher



Susan Ackerman



Pat Marini



Carol Thayer

Newsmakers

Mary Boyd, associate director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, and **Michelle Firnstein** and **Abby Berner**, academic advisers in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, presented "Navigating through Uncharted Waters: Utilizing Prior Learning Assessment at a non-PLA Institution" at the National Academic Advising Association conference in Baltimore. Boyd also coordinated and presented, in cooperation with Project Solutions LLC and PMI-Rochester, a full-day Project Management Collaborative on the RIT campus.

Ambroz Civljak, a professor of mathematics at American College of Management and Technology, was recently elected to the Croatian title of *predavac* (lecturer).

Luane Haggerty, NTID assistant professor of cultural and creative studies, received an "Innovative Electronic Theses and Dissertations" award from the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations recognizing efforts to "transform the genre of the print dissertation through the use of innovative software to create multimedia ETDs."

Fei Hu, assistant professor of computer engineering, and **Justin Madigan**, a computer engineer in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, had their article, "Wireless video telephony performance enhancement: Towards an applied network engineering approach," published in the fall issue of the *Journal of Applied Science & Engineering Technology*.

Don Hudspeth, president and dean of the American College of Management and Technology, presented "The American College of Management and Technology: Ten years of Croatian Experience Increasing U.S. and Croatian Cooperation in the ICT" at the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industries conference in Split, Croatia.

Satish Kandlikar, the James E. Gleason Professor of Mechanical Engineering, received a Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Wilma King, associate professor of communication, was appointed chair of the Teaching Innovation and Resource Committee for the International Textile and Apparel Association. **Christie Ong**, an advertising and public relations student, attended the association's annual conference, in November, in Los Angeles with King as a member of the special topics panel session: Disability: How do textiles and apparel scholars address this issue in the classroom, in their research/creative work, and in their outreach to the community and the textiles and apparel industry?

Marc Marschark, director of NTID's Center for Education Research Partnerships, has been named an honorary professor at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. His work will focus on enhancing educational access, examining cognitive and social foundations of learning, and fostering teaching practices to better support deaf students in all aspects of their development and learning. Marschark also is an honorary professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Matthew Marshall, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering, and **Jin Qin**, a graduate of RIT's master's program in industrial and systems engineering, presented their research on the affect of stress on the biomechanics of sign language interpreters at the 2007 biennial conference of the Registry of Sign Language Interpreters this past summer.

Sam McQuade, graduate program coordinator in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, and **Dave Pecora**, associate director of Information Technology Services, presented preliminary research findings and community partnership implications affecting higher education, as determined through their involvement in the RIT-led Rochester Regional Cyber Safety and Ethics Initiative, at the National EDUCAUSE Conference in Seattle.

Davila

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The book was written by lead author Harry Lang, a faculty member in NTID's Department of Research and Teacher Education, with Oscar Cohen and Joseph Fischgrund, active in education for deaf students in New York City and Philadelphia.

"We quickly realized, especially after researching Bob's early life experiences in the barrio, that his biography revealed a sense of resilience parents and teachers would want to see in all children faced with

similar challenges," Lang says. "That potential for inspiring other children was the primary 'perk' in writing this book. It recommitted the teacher in each of us."

Moments of Truth—Robert R. Davila: *The Story of a Deaf Leader*, is available in paperback or hard cover at RIT's Campus Connections bookstore, the RIT Press Web site at carypress.rit.edu and at www.amazon.com. ■

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