R·I·T news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

February 21, 2008

FIRST Robotics returns to RIT

Robot creations, teams will face off March 7-8

The Gordon Field House and Activities Center will again echo with loud, pulsing music, exuberant cheers and grinding gears as 40 teams from across the Northeast United States and Canada compete for the title of Finger Lakes Region Robotics Champions. For the fourth consecutive year, RIT will host the annual Finger Lakes Regional FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—Robotics Competition, March 7-8.

Each year FIRST high school robotics teams are presented with a new game and a new set of rules, requiring them to devise a unique robot that will address the competition's task. This year's game, Overdrive, challenges teams to maneuver their robots around a rectangular track to complete laps while pushing large 'trackballs.' Teams accumulate points by moving the trackballs under or over an 'overpass' that bisects the track.

New to this year's competition will be a team from Rochester's Nazareth Academy, winners of the Rookie Award at January's RaChaCha Ruckus kickoff competition. The 12 Nazareth Academy students have partnered with 13 female mentors from Xerox Corp., comprising the first all-female student team in the Finger Lakes region.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Members of the Nazareth Academy FIRST Robotics team work on building their robot which will compete at the Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition March 7-8 at RIT. Forty teams from the Rochester area will compete at the event.

The addition of a robotics team is a natural extension of education at Nazareth Academy, which focuses on STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—initiatives in the classroom. This allows students to pursue opportunities in areas of study where they have not been traditionally guided. Through their involvement with FIRST Robotics, the students gain valuable hands-on experience in addition to their education in the

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WHAT: 2008 Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition

WHERE: RIT's Gordon Field House and Activities Center

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fri., March 7
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., March 8

COST: This event is free and open to the public

Visit www.firstrochester.org

Long wins coveted Oscar

Imaging team honored for film products

David Long, program chair of the digital cinema degree in RIT's School of Film and Animation, is an Academy Award winner.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honored Long, a former imaging scientist at Eastman Kodak Co., and three other Kodak employees for their work on Kodak's VISION 2 family of color negative films, the current standard in the movie industry.

Kodak chairman and CEO Antonio Perez accepted the Oscar on behalf of the entire team, which was in attendance in Hollywood for the Feb. 9 ceremony. Actress Jessica Alba was the mistress of ceremonies. A taped portion of the Scientific and Technical Awards ceremony will air during the Feb. 24 live telecast of the Academy Awards.

"To be recognized by the Academy for this work is an incredible honor," says Long. "So many fantastic technologies and so many impressive engineers and scientists have been a part of this tradition. It's very humbling to think that something I helped create would be considered so meaningful to the growth and vitality of our industry. And to be able to share it with my very good friends from Kodak made for a memorable evening, one I'll definitely never forget."

Long's roles as an imaging scientist on VISION 2 were understanding the physics of such components as color reproduction, light capture and image aesthetics and designing the photographic behaviors of the films so that images are reproduced the way a cinematographer wants.

Long, who earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in materials science, had come to love working in the motion-picture industry and wanted to steer his career toward academia.

"My grandfather was a chemist who worked in poultry science and researched food-borne pathogens and diseases for Campbell's Soup Co. and others for many years. When he retired, he began working with the poultry science department at the University of Arkansas. He loved the academic environment and his

Awards, page 4

Submitted photograph

Kodak VISION 2 Team honored with Academy Award. From left to right are Mike Ryan, Pat Jeffries, Antonio Perez, Jim Friday and RIT's David Long.

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

Exposure to toxic pollutants: How does your community rank?

Presenters: Bríd Gleeson Hanna, Daniel Hatch and Christopher Lominac. Hanna is a faculty member and Hatch and Lominac are students in the College of Liberal Arts.

Brief description: The study developed a measure of a community's exposure to toxic emissions from EPA-regulated industries. A ranking system allowed them to see how a community's exposure value ranks relative to all other communities in New York state, relative to all other communities with a similar average income with a similar industrial structure. The analysis will allow them to examine how exposure to toxic pollutants correlates with socio-economic characteristics of communities.

How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative: The measure of pollution exposure takes into account distance from the pollution source and meteorological conditions such as wind speed and wind direction. It also factors in differences in the toxicity of the various chemicals emitted by industries. The measure is based upon a model of air-pollution dispersal that is used in environmental science. The aim is to provide information on industrial pollution in a clearer manner than is currently presented, and to present it in a manner that is more meaningful to residents.

Exhibit experience for visitors: Results will be presented in the form of a set of maps allowing visitors to see how pollution varies over space and across income levels. The group is also building a database that will allow visitors to type in their zip code of residence and view a pollution exposure figure for that zip code with an explanation of what that figure means.

For more information on the Innovation and Creativity Festival, visit www.rit.edu/imagine. n

Student Spotlight

NTID student engineers a promising future

"Failure is impossible!" That famous quote from Susan B. Anthony is what inspires Jasmine Oregel to achieve her goals. "I want to be successful," she says.

And she's well on her way. Born in California, her family moved to Mexico before returning back to California when she was 3 years old. Her parents felt their five children would have better opportunities in the United States, especially for the three siblings, including Jasmine, who were deaf.

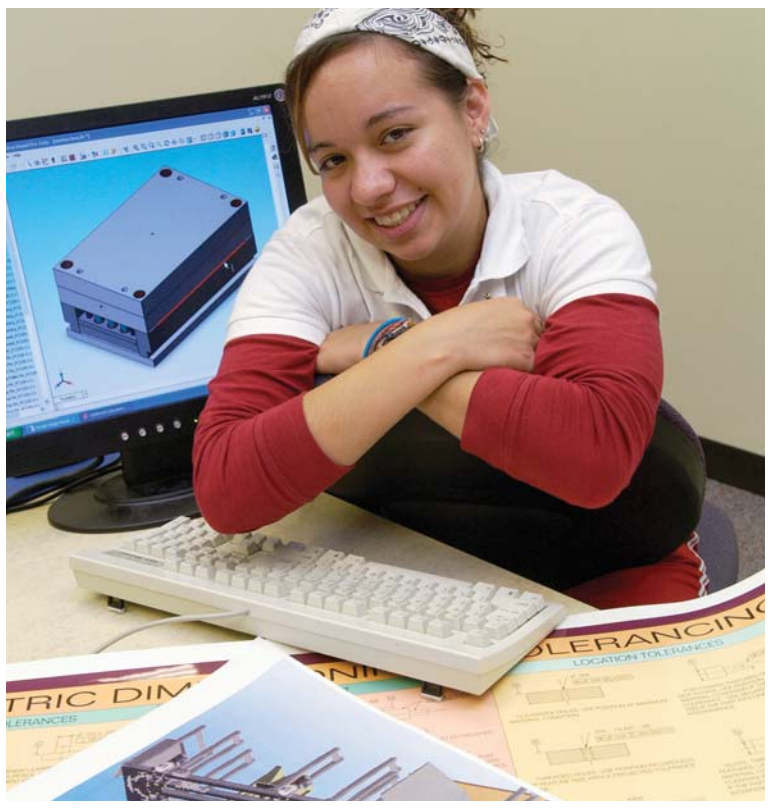
Now 22, Oregel is about to graduate from RIT/NTID with an associate degree in computer-aided drafting technology.

Oregel says she always loved math but never thought about a career as a child in Santa Ana, Calif. When she was a senior in high school, Oregel watched a television show featuring a 14-year-old girl who was working as an engineer helping construct buildings.

"I said, 'Wow, that girl can do that already? She's only 14. I want that,'" Oregel says.

She told her father she wanted to go to college and become an

Student Spotlight, page 4



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Jasmine Oregel surprised her parents when she announced she wanted to study engineering and computer-aided drafting. And she proved to her classmates that girls could do just as well as boys could. She'll graduate this spring with an associate degree and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in packaging science or mechanical engineering.

News briefs

Musical performance
The RIT Concert Band, directed by Jonathan Kruger, will be joined by the State University New York at Geneseo Wind Ensemble, directed by James Walker, at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 in Ingle Auditorium in the Student Alumni Union. The repertoire will include works by Ralph Vaughn Williams, Eric Whitacre and Dana Wilson.

Archimedes lecture Feb. 27
Roger Easton Jr., professor in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, will present "Archimedes CSI: Recovering the Ancient Text" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center as part of its Distinguished Scholars Lecture Series. Easton will talk about the 10-year project to read the overwritten Archimedes Palimpsest and the imaging and computational tools used to reveal the manuscript's secrets.

Project 'visionary' to speak
The Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Project "Visionaries in Motion" will continue next month with a lecture by John Maeda, the E. Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and faculty member at MIT's Media Lab since 1996. Maeda will present "Humanity, Simplicity, Technology" at 8 p.m. March 12 in Webb Auditorium in the James E. Booth Building.

RIT gets science funding
RIT is among 14 colleges and universities to win up to $60,000 from the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program, sponsored by the Merck Institute for Science Education and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The funding will provide stipends for six undergraduate researchers each year of the project period, as well as support a seminar series or workshops on topics of interest to faculty and students.

RIT to host photojournalism experts

RIT will host the National Press Photographers Association's Northern Short Course, the premier conference in photojournalism, March 13-15.

The 27th annual conference will feature keynote speakers from the industry, portfolio reviews and hands-on workshops in such areas as multimedia, lighting, ethics, business practices, audio, video and marketing.

Keynote speakers for Saturday, March 15, include award-winning photographers Kristen Ashburn, Al Bello, Olivier Jobard and Chris Usher. Jacki Lyden, senior correspondent at National Public Radio and alternate host of *All Things Considered*, will also be one of the keynotes.

"RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences has worked with the association for several years to bring this conference to Rochester, the city known as the world's image center," says Doug Rea, department chair of RIT's photojournalism program. "This event will put a focus on Rochester and showcase the collaborations between industry, the media and educational organizations. For me, the Northern Short Course is the richest educational experience I can bring to our photojournalism students."

RIT has an active student chapter with nearly 30 members. RIT photography students will serve as volunteers at the event and participate in the various sessions.

This year's multimedia workshop presenters are Chuck Fadely, photographer/videographer at *Miami Herald*; Jacki Lyden, National Public Radio; and Regina McCombs, multimedia producer at *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis, Minn.

RIT and Rochester's *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper are two of the sponsors of the 2008 Northern Short Course. Will Yurman, staff photographer at the *Democrat and Chronicle* and an adjunct professor at RIT, reprises his role as organizer of the multimedia workshops.

"It's a natural fit to have the event here in Rochester, with the area's long history in photography and as the home to Eastman Kodak, George Eastman House and RIT," says Yurman. "We are hoping to draw in people from the Midwest and Canada for the event."

The conference is open to anyone.

Photo submitted by Al Bello

A serve by Sebastien Grosjean of France at the 2007 U.S. Open

All workshops and presentations will be held at the Hyatt Regency Rochester on East Main Street in Rochester.

To register for the conference and see a complete list of the speakers and sessions, visit www.northernshortcourse.com. n

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu

News brief

Campus alert test, Feb. 21
RIT scheduled a test of RIT Alert, the new emergency mass notification system, on Feb. 21. The RIT Alert sends rapid messages via:

- Instant message (AOL, MSN, Yahoo)
- Text message to mobile devices
- Voice message (mobile or landline)
- E-mail (RIT official e-mail address)

"If you were not contacted during the test, it is vital that you sign up for the RIT Alert program," says Bob Finnerty, RIT chief communications officer. "For effective, rapid communication to work during an emergency, we need strong participation."

To learn more about RIT Alert, including instructions on how to update personal emergency contact information, go to http://finweb.rit.edu/buscont/massnotification.html.

For more information, contact ritalert@rit.edu.

An impressive stick save

Photo submitted by Jeff Rowoth

The next generation of Division I hockey players might include Andrew Beach, bottom right, who won an autographed hockey stick donated by the RIT Tigers men's hockey team and coaches and staff of the Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation—which raised $500 towards RIT's 2008 United Way Campaign. Sasha Malinchoc, student government vice president, far left, drew Andrew's name as he enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame with sister Emily and dad Andy '92 (printing management).

RIT community supports St. Jude's

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Organizers of the annual Up 'til Dawn fundraising campaign have been busy drumming up support in recent weeks. They even used a walking box to recruit the RIT community to participate in its letter-writing campaign Feb. 8, in which participants asked friends and family members to donate to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. More than 2,500 letters were written. Above, applied mathematics graduate student Justin Blackchief sports the box and teams with professional studies graduate student Carol Callesano to solicit support on the Quarter Mile. To participate, visit www.rit.edu/sg/uptilldawn for more information.

A day of love for the kids

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Love Day was filled with activities for students from Rochester schools. Antoine Brown, above, from School #2, joined RIT students from Delta Phi Epsilon and the Public Relations Student Society of America—RIT Chapter to create press releases. After being photographed in an outrageous monster costume, Antoine wrote his own copy about his experience. "This is the day I had so much fun" was the beginning sentence.

Sustainability students focus on local homeless

While the term "sustainability" is often used to define efforts to improve the environment, there is a growing understanding of the need for sustainable development in numerous cultural and societal areas. This concept includes addressing acute social issues such as homelessness and the services available to this population.

According to the Alliance to End Homelessness, more than 700,000 Americans were homeless in 2007, 41 percent of which were families. In Rochester, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates there are more than 1,000 families who are considered homeless, including more than 400 with children.

Within the past several years, a group of RIT students came together to form a local chapter of Engineers for a Sustainable World with the goal of promoting the social and environmental aspects of sustainability in the Rochester region and communities around the globe.

One of the group's central programs has been a partnership with Rochester's St. Joseph's homeless shelter. The group volunteers weekly at the shelter, assisting with their daily meal program, which serves more than 100, as well as cooking evening meals for the organization's 12 residents. Students are also preparing an energy audit of the shelter's facilities to reduce energy use and lower heating and electricity costs.

Submitted photograph

Jim Cezo, president of RIT's Engineers for a Sustainable World, conducts preparations for an evening meal at St. Joseph's homeless shelter.

"Most of us got involved with Engineers for a Sustainable World because we wanted to make our community a better place," notes Jim Cezo, president of the RIT chapter. "We all get a lot out of our work with St. Joseph's because we see the positive impact it has on people's lives and society as a whole."

"The assistance of RIT has been incredibly helpful in enhancing the services we can provide," adds Ralph Hemmerich of St. Joseph's. "We have a small staff and finite resources so the assistance with meals as well as the group's work with energy efficiency has helped us better address the needs of the homeless population."

The group originally found out about the work of the shelter through Sarah Brownell, a graduate of RIT's mechanical engineering program, who now works for the organization. They have also received assistance from faculty advisors Brian Thorn and Andres Carrano, who are helping to conduct the energy audit and providing ideas for additional energy efficiency and cost reduction opportunities.

"This group of students has worked very hard to provide quality assistance to St. Joseph's at a time when most are also taking classes and working full- or part-time jobs," says Thorn. "Their dedication exemplifies the best aspects of social sustainability and the impact it can have on communities." n

Will Dube | wjduns@rit.edu

Viewpoints

The road most traveled

by Midge Berfield

As I finish up my first month here at RIT as manager of employee health and wellness overseeing the new "Better Me" employee wellness initiative, what amazes me most are the wonderful facilities and resources that RIT has to offer its employees. Resources that serve as an employee benefit are available right at our fingertips. A state-of-the-art fitness center, personal trainers, rock-climbing facility, outdoor nature trails and extensive educational programming are all available through the Center for Professional Development. It's evident that we have a solid foundation upon which to build an outstanding employee wellness program.

A registered nurse by trade, I have always been passionate about instilling a state of health and wellness in my patients. At RIT, my passion is now focused on helping to instill a "culture of wellness" within our community.

The "Better Me" Employee Wellness Program was launched in October as a proactive approach to demonstrate our commitment to all employees by enhancing their quality of life. This is accomplished by encouraging each one of us at RIT to realize the potential and the power that we have in positively affecting our health. This is often the road less traveled for some, while others have chosen this as their road of choice.

The "Better Me" program currently offers fitness classes specifically for faculty and staff (yoga, pilates, kickboxing, spinning, Zumba), personal training services (individual and group) as well as additional programming such as Weight Watchers on campus and the annual Eat Well Live Well Challenge. Efforts are currently underway to enhance the programming that is offered to staff and faculty in order to meet the individual needs and interests of our employees in response to the results of an employee interest survey conducted last fall.

The 2008 Eat Well Live Well Challenge is set to launch March 16, with a kick-off planned from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 13 in Fireside Lounge, Student Alumni Union. All employees planning to participate are encouraged to attend. Weekly walks are planned during the eight-week challenge at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center from noon to 1 p.m. with a Mid-Challenge Celebration set for April 9 in the Field House Reception Room starting at 12:30 p.m., following the weekly walk.

This walk will be led by one of the Better Me personal trainers, Joe Delgado. We are so excited about these activities and hope everyone will help to support these efforts and, of course, help root for their team. For more information about specific events or programs, visit the Better Me Web site at www.rit.edu/betterme.

As I reflect upon my short time at RIT and look forward to the bright future and all the exciting things to come for the RIT community, I cannot help but to *imagine*. I can *imagine* an RIT where everyone chooses the road to health and wellness and makes it the road most traveled.

Berfield is manager of employee health and wellness overseeing the "Better Me" employee wellness initiative at RIT.

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

On the Pod

with ***Mike Saffran***

mjsuns@rit.edu

Have you ever wondered about the person whose name marks the campus roadway on which you drive or graces the building in which you sit? Perhaps you'd like to know the story behind an admired piece of campus artwork or find out if RIT *really* once had a live tiger mascot.

Answers to these and other questions can be found in RIT Archive Collections online exhibits: Art on Campus, Spirit of RIT (RIT Mascot Page) and What's in a Name?

On the RIT news podcast "Studio 86," RIT archivist **Becky Simmons** talks about each of the online exhibits, which are accessible at http://archives.rit.edu.

Also on "Studio 86," RIT Tigers men's hockey head coach **Wayne Wilson** gives his assessment of the season so far.

Coach Wilson told **Joe Venniro**, RIT assistant sports information director, and me that the Tigers' goal is a berth in NCAA tournament regionals next month. He also talks about the strong fan support for the Tigers and about Super Bowl-winning New York Giants head coach—and former RIT football head coach—**Tom Coughlin**.

On "Dateline: RIT – The Podcast," RIT alumnus **Mark McCabe** tells what it was like playing football for the RIT Tigers under Coughlin. And RIT professor emeritus **Jasper Shealy**, who's an expert on skiing- and snowboarding-related injuries, discusses the most common types of injuries incurred on the slopes and who's likely to sustain them.

To hear any RIT news podcast, visit www.rit.edu/news (see "Latest Podcasts").

See you on the pod!

Friendship fuels mission to give back to RIT students

The saying "If the shoe fits, wear it," has added meaning for James "Jim" Salzano and Daniel Tessoni, who established long-lasting rapport since their classroom days at the E. Philip Saunders College of Business in the late 1980s.

Jim Salzano, left, and Daniel Tessoni

Salzano was a public accounting major who worked as a co-op at Altiers Shoes until graduating from RIT in 1987, and "Dan Tessoni was my accounting professor and the most influential instructor of my life."

"He played a critical factor in my development, and he's right up there with family and friends," says Salzano, executive vice president of The Clarks Companies, N.A. "We've stayed in touch through the years, and Dan has followed my career from Price Waterhouse to Altiers, when it finally closed its doors in 1994, to a year at Paychex and finally to Clarks in 1995."

In lieu of their commitment to "giving back to RIT and the community," Salzano and Tessoni are co-sponsoring the Daniel D. Tessoni Endowed Accounting Scholarship in the Saunders College of Business.

"The $25,000 scholarship will help provide students with the economic strength to study at RIT, and it's my best legacy after 34 years of teaching," says Tessoni. "Jim and I hope by endowing this scholarship, it provides a vehicle for other Saunders alumni to give back to the college if they wish to do so."

Salzano has spent nearly as many years in the footwear business—29 to be exact. "My father managed all the Altiers stores and with a family of five boys, we often found ourselves working in the stockroom at Midtown on Saturdays," says Salzano, a native of Irondequoit who now lives with his family in Massachusetts.

At Clarks, Salzano manages operations for the $700 million business across North America. "We sell almost 20 million pairs of shoes, but helping to take care of people is just as valuable as the final numbers on a financial report," he says. "It's good business to give back to the community."

"It's also an ethical balance—taking responsibility—very much like Dan does in the classroom. If you're interested, he's got the time for you, and I hope many more students will have the opportunity to work with Dan."

"It's truly humbling for a professor to be viewed this way and to be rewarded with a generous gift from a student whom I've always regarded as having the highest level of integrity and standards," Tessoni says. "The learning is two-way now." n

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Catch the meaning

Julie Kang | photographer

A standing-room-only crowd turned out earlier this month for the performance of Poetry in Motion: The Flying Words Project. *Kenny Lerner, left, a visiting instructor in the Department of Liberal Studies at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, is a co-creator of the* Flying Words Project *and the "voice" for deaf poet and performance artist Peter Cook, right. Lerner and Cook have performed imaginative, visual poetry internationally since 1984. The event was sponsored by the Caroline Werner Gannett Project.*

New image archival research helps preserve contents of delicate documents

The products of research can branch off in many directions and provide a host of benefits to students, universities and the broader community. At RIT, there has long been a focus of developing research that can easily be applied to real-world problems.

The latest example is the new Rochester-based company NanoArk Corp. NanoArk is an image archival firm created by P.R. Mukund, Gleason Professor of Electrical Engineering; Roger Easton, professor of imaging science; and Ajay Pasupuleti, a graduate of RIT's doctoral program in microsystems engineering.

Pasupuleti developed a method for storing documents on silicon wafers as a replacement for standard microfilm and microfiche technologies. This methodology is currently patent pending. He first worked with Mukund and Easton to store images they had created through a research effort involving the digitization of ancient Hindu manuscripts.

"We used the process to store the manuscript images and then transfer them back to India to be used by Hindu scholars and students," notes Mukund. "The technology proved to be incredibly durable and much more adaptable than traditional micro fiche or film."

The project was so successful that the trio, along with Mike Toth, who recently retired from U.S. government service, decided to form a company to develop a mass-produced version of the system, including the wafers themselves, a process for archiving the information and a reader for studying the stored documents. The resulting technology is considerably more durable than standard microfilm. The Image Permanence Institute at RIT has estimated the wafers longevity at more than 500 years. In addition, the document reader allows for searching and magnification capabilities that greatly enhance image examination.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Ajay Pasupuleti demonstrates new technology created by NanoArk to members of RIT's registrar's office.

NanoArk has obtained first-level funding from angel investors and has developed a working prototype. The company is currently in the product-development phase with the hope of offering its initial products for sale this summer. NanoArk is also working with several local companies, including Advanced Document Imaging, which provides imaging analysis for the U.S. Census Bureau,

NanoArk, page 4

Fragile flowers

Sales blossomed on Valentine's Day as students from RIT's Glass Guild sold handblown, multi-colored glass flowers. The sale was a fundraiser for the School for American Crafts student trip to the annual Glass Art Society Conference in Portland, Ore.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

A love for learning

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Students from Fyle Elementary School in Henrietta were delighted to receive new books for the school's library. RIT faculty and staff from the computer science department's S.O.A.R. (Student Outreach, Recruitment and Retention) Committee presented the books and a check to the school on Feb. 15. The committee raised $700 by selling candy bars and collecting donations and books from the entire B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Fyle Elementary will use the money to purchase a series of books about the sciences.

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Student Spotlight *from page 1*

engineer. "My dad laughed at me. I told him, 'I can,'" she says.

Her close-knit family didn't want her to go to school so far from home, but Oregel secretly applied to RIT/NTID and was accepted. To help pay for college, Oregel received a scholarship from the Max Factor Family Foundation, which helps underserved students in the Los Angeles area to go to college. She became the first in her family to go to college out of state.

But once school began, she found herself struggling in class. "It was hard for me."

To compound matters, she says the other students in her class—six boys—thought they were better than the girls. Oregel eventually considered dropping out of her manufacturing computer-aided drafting class.

"In the beginning, it was a struggle for her," says her teacher, Marcus Holmes, a lecturer in the engineering studies program. But Oregel credits Holmes for encouraging her to continue.

"I saw the potential in her," Holmes says. "I told her if she had a goal, to go for it. And the more she would study and persist, the better she will become. So she started seeing me more and asking questions and participating more in class."

Oregel's class projects included designing a machine gun, a bicycle and an automation machine, complete with conveyor belt and robot arm.

"She worked to become the strongest student in the whole class," Holmes says. "When I asked a question, she always would be the first hand up. I told her to give other people a chance. She came a long way and fought her way up. I think she has a bright future. She's ready for the working environment and she has the skills and knowledge for the job."

And, Holmes says, he knows she is a good role model for other girls wanting to join the male-dominated field of engineering.

Oregel plans to pursue her bachelor's degree in packaging science or mechanical engineering; her dream job would be working for an automotive manufacturer in California or Hawaii.

Oregel belongs to the Alpha Sigma Theta sorority, where she served as vice president. And she enjoys playing softball, basketball and paintball and going shopping.

She still misses her family in California, but keeps in contact with them daily via video phone.

And the attitude among her peers in class has changed. "A lot of the boys have respect for me now," she says. n

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NanoArk *from page 3*

to develop additional business opportunities.

The company is currently housed in RIT's Venture Creations business incubator and is working with the incubator staff to further develop their business plan and seek out potential clients.

"NanoArk has a very interesting product that has strong market potential," notes Jerry Mahone, director of Venture Creations. "We are very proud of their initial success and look forward to promoting their business goals in the future."

Mukund believes the firm's success not only enhances the Rochester economy but also continues to provide benefits to RIT faculty and students. NanoArk has utilized a number of co-ops and interns on various projects and worked with the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the Center for Imaging Science to enhance their technology development.

Mukund also notes that the company recognizes the tremendous assistance received from so many in the RIT community and NanoArk is committed to giving back. So far, the firm has donated more than $75,000 to different research programs and plans on providing additional assistance in the future. n

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Awards *from page 1*

enthusiasm really inspired me to pursue a career in academia myself, but I hadn't found that niche until this opportunity at RIT came along."

The B.S. degree program in digital cinema is in its infancy, with 16 students enrolled in the program. Students immerse themselves in three core areas: the fundamentals of filmmaking, the fundamentals of imaging science and the technologies of motion picture that bring them all together.

"It's essentially an engineering degree, but for those people who are creatively inclined, it's the perfect combination of engineering courses with film and animation fine-arts courses. The curriculum collaboration with RIT's Center for Imaging Science makes this degree truly unique."

For more information about the degree program, visit http://cias.rit.edu/~sofa/undergrad. n

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Obituaries

Ralph Armstrong, RIT's first men's lacrosse coach, Jan. 10.
Robert Brown, professor emeritus, political science department, Feb. 12.
Neil Croom, former professor, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, Jan. 27.
Heinrich Klinkton, associate professor, graphic design department, Jan. 27.
Elaine Merritt, staff assistant, psychology department, Feb. 13.
Jane Parshall, retiree, Facilities Management Services, Jan. 8.

FIRST *from page 1*

classroom.

"FIRST provides the young women with an excellent exposure to technology and allows them to explore whether or not it's an area they want to continue pursuing," says Mary Ziewars, a team mentor from Xerox.

Within the team, many real-life processes and jobs are addressed, taking students through the stages of production on their robot, TYRA, and with the design of T-shirts, buttons and other apparel, which has become an essential part of FIRST competition.

"Whether they're working on the robotics team or on publicity and advertising, FIRST provides a great avenue to develop leadership skills," says Laurine Barnes, a team mentor from Xerox.

Winners of the regional event will advance to the National Competition, April 17-19, at Atlanta's Georgia Dome. n

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Newsmakers

Margaret Bailey, the Kate Gleason Endowed Chair in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, and **Elizabeth DeBartolo,** associate professor of mechanical engineering, gave the presentation "Using the experiential learning model and course assessment to transform a multidisciplinary senior design course sequence" at the 2007 Annual Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Mark Coleman, senior program manager with the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, gave the presentation "Gaining competitive advantage and new growth from emerging opportunities in alternative and sustainable energy" at the annual meeting of the Upstate New York Tooling and Machining Association in November.

Andrew Davidhazy, professor of imaging and photographic technology, has a solo photography exhibition at the University of the Pacific in Lima, Peru. For the exhibit opening in November, Davidhazy made a virtual visit to the reception thanks to the Internet.

Roger Gaborski, professor of computer science, presented the paper "Biologically Inspired Object Categorization in Cluttered Scenes" at the Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Annual Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Edith Hemaspaandra, professor of computer science, was awarded a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award by the Humbolt Foundation in recognition of her accomplishments in research and teaching.

Kathryn Howard, an environmental health and safety specialist at the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, had her article, "Operated by enlightenment: RIT students team up with visually impaired workers to ensure safety" published in the November issue of *Industrial Engineer*, the national publication of the Institute for Industrial Engineering.

Trudy Howles, professor of computer science, presented the paper "Work in Progress-Learning Community and Active Learning Study" at the 2007 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference in Milwaukee.

William Johnson Jr., distinguished professor of public policy and urban studies, is a member of the panel that makes up the New York State Commission on Government Efficiency and Effectiveness, which was appointed by Gov. Spitzer to identify ways to streamline the state's network of more than 4,200 units of local government.

Dhireesha Kudithipudi, assistant professor of computer engineering, presented "On Estimation and Optimization of Leakage Power in CMOS Multipliers" and "Minimum Leakage Vector Pattern Estimation" at the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineer's Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems, in August, in Montreal.

Michael Kuhl, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering, had a paper he co-authored, "Organ Transplantation Policy Evaluation," selected as a landmark paper in system simulation in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Winter Simulation Conference. Kuhl's paper was originally published in the Proceedings of the 1995 Winter Simulation Conference and was one of only 10 selected. The Winter Simulation Conference is an annual international symposium sponsored in part by the National Institute for Standards and Technology and the Institute for Industrial Engineers.

Santosh Kurinec, professor and department head of microelectronic engineering, gave the presentation, CMOS and Nanotechnology Convergence: The Role of Academic Research, as part of the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center's 2007 seminar series. The center is a joint effort of Columbia University and the National Science Foundation Center for Electron Transport in Molecular Nanostructures.

Davor Ljubimir, professor of philosophy at American College of Management and Technology, recently presented a paper, "Poseidon in Delphai," at a philosophy conference in Peljesac, Croatia.

Robert Manning, research professor and director of consumer financial services in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business, has been named a Filene Research Fellow at the Filene Research Institute in Madison, Wis. The non-profit organization is dedicated to analysis about the future of consumer finance and credit unions, and addresses public policy issues.

Jennifer Matic presented a paper titled "Participative Management and Organizational Success" at the Enterprise in Transition conference organized by the University of Split, Croatia.

Thomas Moran, associate professor in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, and **Jeffrey Wagner,** associate professor of economics, co-authored and presented a paper titled "Unlikely Partners—An Experiment in Multi-disciplinary Classroom Experience" at the Engineering, Teaching and Learning Practices 2007 St. Lawrence Section Conference in Toronto.