

## RIT appoints new provost

Jeremy Haefner, a veteran administrator and educator from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, has been appointed RIT's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

President Bill Destler announced the selection on March 10. Haefner was chosen from a field of five finalists and officially begins his new role on July 1.

"I am absolutely thrilled," states Haefner. "RIT's rich history, President Destler's laser vision for the future, the renowned faculty, its superb students, along with a strong community connection is a powerful combination for future success. Finding creative and innovative solutions to affect positive impact is my passion. My experience, values and goals are closely aligned with those of RIT."

Haefner currently serves multiple appointments at UCCS as associate vice chancellor for research and innovation, dean of the Graduate School and dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

According to Destler: "Dr. Jeremy Haefner has all of the experience necessary to fulfill the multiple responsibilities of RIT's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. He is an experienced administrator, educator and researcher



Photo courtesy of University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Jeremy Haefner begins his post July 1.

who, in his various roles, has materially advanced educational and research programs at UCCS. He has initiated an innovative new Bachelor of Innovation program, and he has encouraged increased technology transfer and entrepreneurial activity among faculty and students. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Haefner into the RIT family."

During Haefner's six years as engineering dean at UCCS, the college's increasing prominence put it among the top 10 public institu-

Haefner, page 8

## RIT plays a hand in N.Y. pollution prevention

Through a recently announced New York state initiative, RIT will play an integral role in the development of technologies and processes designed to prevent pollution. RIT will host the newly created Pollution Prevention Institute, a statewide research and development center that will design and test green manufacturing methods and give technical support to businesses to reduce pollution.

As it assists industry, the institute

will help clean the environment by decreasing the use of toxic chemicals, cutting waste generation, decreasing exposure risks to workers and promoting more efficient use of raw materials and energy. Center activities will include the identification and implementation of practical prevention methods, cost-effective equipment and safe materials, the development of professional educa-

Pollution, page 8



Photo submitted by Laura W. Nelson

A student cleans components for fuel cells as part of a green cleaning project at RIT. The university's efforts in clean-technology development will be one of several components of the new Pollution Prevention Institute.

## PAETEC leads sponsorship of Innovation and Creativity Festival

Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is poised to become the new annual kickoff to Rochester's rich festival season.

Imagine RIT, which will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, on the RIT campus, is designed to demonstrate what can be accomplished when, as RIT President Bill Destler likes to say, "the right and left brain collide."

More than 400 interactive exhibits and displays will be featured in various locations across campus. Topics include new ideas for products and services, the creative arts, research and design projects and unique performing arts productions.

"The festival's mission goes beyond showcasing the thriving RIT campus. We see it as a call to national service," Destler says. "Innovation is one of our country's last competitive advantages. Young Americans walk to the beat of their own drummer, and their desire to be different is an innate American characteristic. Channeling that passion in constructive ways will foster the United States' leadership in technical innovation and creative ideas for new products and services."

Imagine RIT and its premier sponsor, PAETEC, was unveiled during a March 11 news conference.

"There's a reason we look to RIT for potential employees, and that is the ability these graduates have to approach problems from many angles and to not be afraid to try something new," says Robert Moore Jr., chief information officer for PAETEC. "We are proud to support Imagine RIT and want the community to experience the innovation and creativity found on this campus."

The Imagine RIT experience will



**Above:** RIT unveiled its Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival to the Rochester community during a news conference on March 11. Fifth-year mechanical engineering student Lawrence Litchfield, left, and fourth-year mechanical engineering student Ryan Baldi show off their Formula racecar to PAETEC Chief Information Officer Bob Moore. PAETEC is the premier sponsor of the festival.

**Right:** RIT President Bill Destler and Moore arrived to the news conference in style. Destler rode an electric bike that was built by NTID's electric bike club and Moore rode a Segway.

be divided into 10 themes, as festival-goers will be asked to Imagine...

- **Being Green:** alternative energy and sustainability
- **Healthy Living:** sports, nutrition and other wellness-related topics
- **A Global View:** diversity and multiculturalism
- **Innovative Science and Technology:** groundbreaking scientific research and cutting-edge technology
- **Creative Play:** interactive fun



Photos submitted by Elizabeth Lamark

for all ages

- **A Communication Revolution:** social networking and other new communication mediums
- **On Stage:** musical and theatrical performances
- **Artistic Visions:** woodworking, ceramic and glass sculptures, photographic exhibits, student-produced films and more
- **New Ventures:** start-up businesses from RIT's incubator, innova-

PAETEC, page 8

### Student Spotlight

### Student stays the course until the job's done

Becca Nelson has taken the term distance learning to a new level.

Nelson has been pursuing her master's degree while conducting missionary work in Nairobi, Kenya—taking the skills she's learning in her virtual classroom and putting them right to work in a real-life setting.

"Because I'm in the professional studies program, I'm crafting my own degree based on things that I want to know and learn," says Nelson, who is teaching pastors and laypeople from churches in impoverished areas how to use computers in addition to designing Web sites for a number of ministries.

"The classes I am taking for my degree are in design and in project management—just what I needed to learn."

Nelson had originally planned on returning to RIT for the start of the



Photo submitted by Becca Nelson

Becca Nelson, pictured here in a lighter moment with a giraffe, has spent the past several months in Africa using the skills she's acquiring in her degree program to help the people of Kenya.

spring quarter. However, she still saw much work to be done in Kenya. That's where the flexibility of her degree program came in. Instead of coming home, she enrolled in online

classes.

"The online classes have enabled me to stay until my students are comfortable working on their own

Student Spotlight, page 8

### Awards, distinctions

Service awards given to faculty, student role models, page 2

### Viewpoints

Finding the right foundation for your cause, page 3

### Scholarship and Research

Professor uses 'smoking machine' to study effects of nicotine on the human body, page 3

### In the community

RIT's United Way families share stories of hope, page 6

# DeCaro, student Faulkner win service awards

RIT will honor James DeCaro and student Angelina Faulkner with this year’s Alfred L. Davis Public Service Awards. The awards, created by Vice President Emeritus Alfred Davis in tribute to the four RIT presidents that he served in his career, recognize those individuals who personify the spirit of public service. DeCaro and Faulkner will receive their awards during a ceremony set for March 18.

DeCaro, senior research professor for RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf and director of the Postsecondary Education Network-International, or PEN-International, has earned the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award, which recognizes a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated a commitment to public service.

DeCaro began his career at NTID in 1971 as a civil engineering technology instructor. During his tenure at NTID, DeCaro served as dean for 14 years—two of those years as interim director and CEO.

DeCaro became director of PEN-International and the Center

on Access Technology at NTID as a result of a partnership between the Nippon Foundation of Japan, RIT/NTID and Japan’s Tsukuba College of Technology. The organization’s goal is to develop a worldwide university network to help improve education and career opportunities for millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing people worldwide.

“Jim DeCaro has dedicated his life to improving educational and career opportunities for deaf individuals in the United States and around the world,” says Alan Hurwitz, CEO/dean of NTID and vice president of RIT for NTID, who nominated him for this award. “He has been recognized nationally and internationally for his tireless work on behalf of young deaf and head-of-hearing men and women at home in our global community who require access to education



James DeCaro



Angelina Faulkner

to better their lives. We are extremely proud of Jim and the contributions he has made here at RIT/NTID and in the field of deaf education around the world.”

DeCaro previously served as chairman of the board of Highland Hospital, was a member of the Strong Partners Health System Board and served on the Professional Advisory Committee of the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America.

He is past chairman of the Rochester Hearing & Speech Center board which honored him in 2007 with the inaugural James J. DeCaro Leadership Award.

Last year, he was named Ambassador of Goodwill for People who are Disabled by the city of Tianjin, China, where he is an honorary professor at the Tianjin University of Technology.

Angelina Faulkner is the recipient of this year’s Bruce R. James ’64 Distinguished Public Service Award. The award was established by Davis to commemorate the distinguished public service of James, who was chairman of the RIT Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2005.

Faulkner, a senior visual media major in RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, serves as president of the College Panhellenic Council, where she has been instrumental in numerous service projects including Walk with Me, the silent march to promote awareness about domestic violence, the Adopt-A-Family program and a “clothing swap” to raise money for Goodwill Industries.

The following is a quote from the citation:

“Angie is someone who works extremely hard to live out her personal values. She believes in giving back to her campus and community and is always willing to learn from every situation she faces.” ■

Vienna Carvalho | vnccom@rit.edu

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

## All-stars take the stage



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT’s School of Mathematical Sciences hosted the Monroe County Math League All-Star Competition March 4 for the seventh consecutive year. Approximately 650 high-school students from more than 35 school districts participated. Winners advanced to higher levels throughout the day and faced each other in the closing competition. The top competitors will attend the state-level competition. Here, Matt Hill, a sophomore, tied with senior James Dobler in the final Buzz contest.

## ‘Visionaries’ to share love of photography

Olympus Visionary photographers John Isaac and Ian McDonald-Smith will visit RIT March 27 to talk about their life’s work in photography. The free lecture will be at 6:30 p.m. in room A205 in Building 6 on the RIT campus.

Isaac’s photography is known around the world and he has captured some of history’s most remarkable moments as the former chief of the United Nations photo unit. Since 1998, Isaac has focused mostly on nature photography, though he has also worked extensively in Kashmir, the disputed border area between India and Pakistan. His passion to document and help the people of Kashmir will be documented in a new book to be released this fall.

McDonald-Smith specializes in abstract and graphic photography, as well as subjects in landscape, architecture, travel, history and the environment. Passionate about preservation and the environment, McDonald-Smith has dedicated much of his career to documenting both subjects. He established the Global Archive Foundation to catalogue “then and now” images of every possible location on earth to demonstrate how the world is changing.

Isaac and McDonald-Smith will host portfolio reviews for photography students March 28. Students should call 475-2884 to register. ■

Kelly Downs | kaduns@rit.edu



John Isaac is known for his nature photography and his work in Kashmir.



Ian McDonald-Smith specializes in abstract and graphic photography.

## Pathways helps define women’s roles at RIT

There is a new venue designed to showcase the work of women at RIT.

Pathways: A Century of Women at RIT is a collaborative effort between the RIT Women’s Center, the RIT Archives and the women and gender studies program that highlights and celebrates the roles that women have played on the RIT campus since 1885.

“We decided to name the event Pathways because we wanted to demonstrate how the event is going to be looking back and ahead at the same time,” says Donna Rubin, director of the Women’s Center. The event, which kicks off at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 in the Wallace Library’s Idea Factory, will include an exposition of student projects and will be followed at 4:30 p.m. with the opening of a new exhibit in the RIT Museum on the third floor of Wallace Library. It will feature historical items from the RIT Archives that illustrate the various roles women have played at RIT in governance, administration and as faculty and students, in addition to a collection of student work, including papers, poster projects and artwork.

All work that is displayed will either be related to women or done by women students.

For example, one project by third-year business student Emily Hughes is entitled Empowered Women



A special exhibit will open in the RIT Museum March 20 helping to celebrate the history of women at RIT.

Oral History Project. It is a series of three interviews conducted with women who are currently on the RIT campus. Another project, Women of Rochester Institute of Technology during the Arts and Crafts Movement, by College of Imaging Arts and Sciences graduate Jenny Hung, draws on original research done in the RIT Archives.

Rubin cites RIT faculty as a major reason the event is possible. Led by Tina Lent, the chair of the women and gender studies program, many faculty members were able to incorporate projects into their courses that will be on display in the exposition.

“We’re excited to provide another opportunity to have the campus recognize the accomplishments of women at RIT,” says Rubin. ■

John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

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:

### Human Everyday Movement: Behavior as Dance

**Presenter:** Thomas Warfield, NTID Performing Arts, with participation from student members of the RIT/NTID Dance Company.

**Brief description:** The interactive workshop and demonstration utilizes gestures we use everyday (brushing hair, tying shoes, putting on a coat, etc.) to help provide context for creating new and innovative meaning and understanding about non-verbal communication through the abstraction of real habitual movement shared by humans in many cultures and societies. People passing by will be encouraged to



become participants with student members of the RIT/NTID Dance Company. Warfield will guide participants to manipulate gestures into more abstract movement building intention and meaning to ultimately create a dance.

**How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative:** According to Warfield: “This is creation in the moment. It is innovative because it breaks the artist and

audience barrier by allowing the audience to become the artist as well. One of the true outcomes is that the participant will discover their own innate potential for creativity. Through this transformative movement workshop, easily accessible to all with or without dance experience and to people of all abilities, a greater appreciation for and comprehension

of the art of dance and the shared creative process is made visible.”

**Exhibit experience for visitors:** This demonstration gives both participants and audience viewers an insight to the creative process and their potential as creators and innovators.

For more information on the Innovation and Creativity Festival, visit [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine). ■

## FIRST teams challenge their robotic creations



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

DynaMOE, a robot built by a FIRST Robotics team from Wilmington, Del., captures a ‘trackball’ during the Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, held at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center, March 7-8. Teams from Rochester’s Nazareth Academy, Churchville-Chili Senior High School, Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School (Rochester City School District) and Penfield High School will all advance to the national FIRST Championship, April 17-19, in Atlanta.

Private foundations, established to give away money, often support faculty scholarship in its broadest terms—not only research, but also program and curriculum development, publications, conferences and symposia. Each is required by law to give away at least 5 percent of its assets annually. In 2006, America’s 71,000 grant-making foundations—independent, corporate and community—gave away \$41 billion.

Happily, RIT’s piece of that pie is growing. During the last capital campaign, grants from the Gleason Foundation totaled almost \$20 million. Grants from the Nippon Foundation (Tokyo) reached nearly \$7 million, while research support from the Mellon Foundation exceeded \$5.4 million. Major support from the Emerson and Davenport-Hatch foundations helped underwrite the cost of the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. A \$2 million grant from the McGowan Fund enabled us to move forward with the new College of Applied Science and Technology building, scheduled for dedication in April. A \$1 million commitment from the Starr Foundation endowed the Conable Chair in International Stud-

ies. Major support from the Sloan Foundation established a prestigious Sloan Industry Center at RIT, now the nation’s premier research center for the field of printing.

Closer to home, the Carlson Charitable Fund endowed scholarships for students pursuing degrees in imaging science, while the Schmitt Foundation endowed the work of Campus Ministries.

Our success continues today, due to the vision of the university’s leadership and the expertise of faculty and staff who transform vision into reality. We in the Office of Development can identify foundations to approach, arrange meetings with their presidents and program directors and work with you to develop proposals. We are only the facilitators, however. It is you who provide the vision, scholarship and can-do spirit that is redefining RIT as the university of innovation and invention.

The RIT Web site enables you to search the Foundation Center Database of 600 foundations to find those best suited to meet your need. This resource is available to anyone with an RIT username and password. You can search by purpose of grant

(technology, minorities, visual arts, for example) and access foundation assets, sample grants, board membership and more. The beauty of you doing this yourself is that you know your project much better than anyone else. Here’s what you do:

- Go to [www.rit.edu](http://www.rit.edu) and click on Academics, then Wallace Library
- Under Databases & Resources, click on Databases: Find Articles
- Scroll through A-Z Quick Finder and select Dialog1
- A window will pop up; fill in your RIT username and password
- Click on Search this Database
- Click on Business Intelligence, then on Foundations Making Grants
- Enter what you know—such as a key word under Purpose of Grant—and hit Search

Once you’ve identified foundations that look promising, contact us in Foundation Relations before approaching them with even a phone call or e-mail. We have strong relationships with many foundations that can pave the way for you. We also know which ones will consider multiple proposals. Contact me at [susan.moline@rit.edu](mailto:susan.moline@rit.edu), Meaghan de Chateauvieux at [meddar@rit.edu](mailto:meddar@rit.edu), or the director of development for your



college or division. We’re here to help you succeed.

*Susan Watson Moline is executive director of foundation relations for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.*

*This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail [newsevents@rit.edu](mailto:newsevents@rit.edu).*

**Diversity Day, April 28**  
Mark your calendars for RIT’s annual Diversity Day. This year’s celebration will be held 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, April 28. The theme is Diversity Drives Innovation and the keynote address will be delivered by Frans Johansson, an entrepreneur, thought leader, author and businessman. More information on Diversity Day 2008 is forthcoming. The event is sponsored by RIT’s Board of Trustees.



High-tech resident makes social networking a breeze

He’s small, round and lovable. His name is Digsby and he may be the best thing that has happened to e-mail and Facebook—since e-mail and Facebook.

Digsby is the latest product to launch from Venture Creations, RIT’s high-tech incubator, which assists students, faculty and staff with the growth and success of new enterprises. The free, downloadable program allows users to link their various e-mail accounts, social-networking sites and instant-messenger clients, creating easy management of all programs through a single desktop widget.

“Anyone who has ever tried to manage multiple e-mail accounts, networking sites and messenger programs knows exactly why we created Digsby,” says Steve Shapiro, a 2004 graduate of RIT’s information technology program and creator of Digsby. “Not only does it save time, but it also makes staying connected easier.”

Along with a team of fellow RIT alumni, co-op and graduate students, Shapiro has taken Digsby from a concept he began developing in Senior Vice President James Watters’ entrepreneurship class to a fully functional product receiving significant buzz throughout the industry on technology blogs and review sites like CNET.com.

For a free download of the program, visit at [www.digsby.com](http://www.digsby.com).

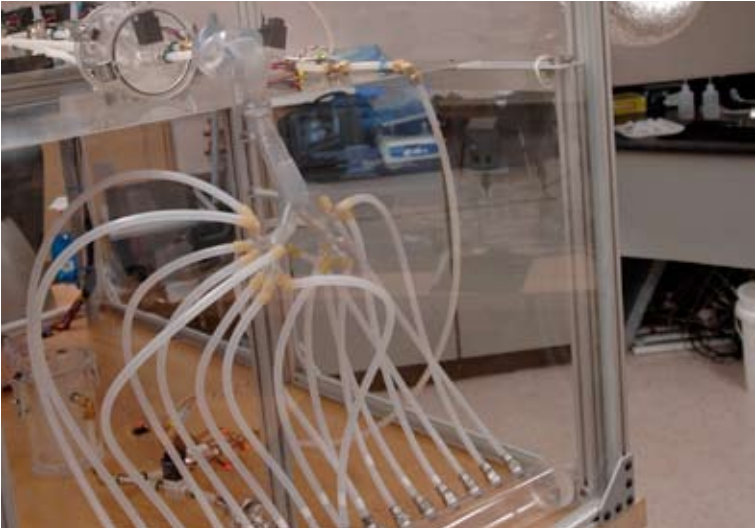
Brandon Borgna | [bmb9935@rit.edu](mailto:bmb9935@rit.edu)

Professor takes methodical approach in smoking study  
‘Smoking machine’ measures particle inhalation and effects on human body

Research at RIT is seeking to enhance knowledge surrounding the impact of smoking on human health. Risa Robinson, associate professor of mechanical engineering, is utilizing computational modeling, medical imaging and mechanical simulation to illustrate how individual particles inhaled with cigarette smoke affect the body and how they travel from the lungs to other organs.

The effort includes the construction of a smoking machine, built and designed by RIT students, which will be used to simulate how these particles build up over time and the impact the process can have on damaging the body’s particle-clearance mechanisms. They are particularly interested in the impact smoking has on teenagers, whose lungs are affected to a greater extent due to having smaller airways. The research is funded through a grant from the American Cancer Society and is being conducted in cooperation with RIT’s Departments of Medical and Biological Sciences and Medical Illustration.

“Previous research on the impact



A. Sue Weisler | photographer  
*RIT students constructed a smoking simulation device which models how cigarette smoke impacts individual organs in the body.*

of particle deposits has focused on inundating laboratory samples with toxins and studying the response, the so-called ‘avalanche’ approach,” notes Robinson. “The work at RIT uses a ‘snowflake’ method whereby particles are allowed to build up over time, as they would in the body.”

Robinson believes her research can provide better evidence of the real-time effects of smoking and more properly link how particle buildup impacts numerous systems in the body. She also hopes to shed light on how these particles can impact passive smokers, through

secondhand smoke, and use her data in additional types of particle analysis, including studying the impacts of nanoparticles and allergens.

“Through the use of new computational and imaging technologies we can learn more than ever before about how particle inhalation and buildup affect human health,” Robinson adds. “This information will increase our knowledge of the negative effects of smoking and air pollution, while also providing needed information to enhance treatment, including better application of inhaled medications.”

Robinson’s collaborators include Kathleen Lamkin Kennard, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and Richard Doolittle, professor and head of the Department of Allied Health Sciences, both at RIT; Todd Pagano, assistant professor of science and mathematics and Director of the Laboratory Science Technology program in RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and undergraduate and graduate student researchers.

Will Dube | [wjduns@rit.edu](mailto:wjduns@rit.edu)

Student uses technology to create poetry

*Most men resort to candy and flowers  
For Valentine’s Day, those are their powers.  
Josh Allmann says he’s a regular guy  
He’s bright but admits he’s a little bit shy.  
So he uses a laptop to help get a date  
Using his software to determine his fate.*

A self-described computer geek, Josh Allmann, a computer science major at RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf, used his passion for software and algorithms to help him score points with his girlfriend by creating poems in the style of her favorite poet.

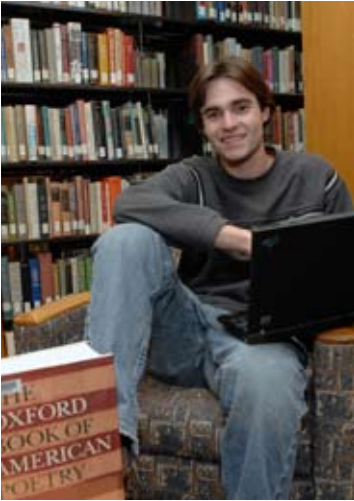
The idea was born around Valentine’s Day, two years ago. “I wanted to do something that was really nice,” Allmann says. “I thought it would be good to give her something from the heart. I don’t have a lyrical bone in me, so I decided the next best thing would be to write a poem to write a poem.”

He took 10 different poems from her favorite author, entered them into his computer program and generated a new poem. The technique wasn’t new, but its application was rather unique.

The computer studies how many words are in a sequence and looks at the probability of a specific word appearing in the next sequence. “Ninety percent of the time, it makes no sense. But once in awhile, we have a few gems that really wow people,” Allmann says.

A couple of lines the computer randomly spat out read: “I also keep forming you, poking out your elbows ...” After a few revisions, he presented his girlfriend at the time the computer-generated poem made just for her.

“At first, she didn’t understand it. I explained it to her and she was overwhelmed. ‘Oh, you wrote me a poem?’ I guess she liked it”



A. Sue Weisler | photographer  
*Computer science student Josh Allmann combined technology with literature to create a poetry program.*

Allmann, from Irvine, Calif., plans to demonstrate the program *Poetry, page 8*



Photo submitted by Debra Ruzinsky

*Two RIT students will showcase their work at NTID Dyer Arts Center through March 26. Sweet Reassurance, an MFA thesis exhibition by Debra Ruzinsky, features kiln-cast glass and mixed-media work, including Apparition, pictured above. BFA senior Jeremy Quiroga will also be highlighting mixed-media work including wood, metals and paint in his exhibition, (Arte de’Q) Subconscious.*



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Members of RIT's student team competing in the Northeast Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

## Student 'techies' prove their worth in cyber security

A good defense proved to be the best offense for a team of RIT students who "outsecured" and outscored five other universities from the Northeast to advance to the finals of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition next month in San Antonio.

RIT hosted student teams from Northeastern University, Polytechnic University, Syracuse University, Champlain College and Norwich University for the regional competition Feb. 29 through March 2.

Each student team member assumed the role of a network administrator in a mock information technology department of a small company. Throughout the three days, student teams had to maintain and protect computer networks from an outside team of attackers while carrying out everyday business tasks similar to day-to-day operations at a corporation.

"The first day of competition was very intense," says Ron Valente, RIT fourth-year applied networking and systems administration major. "We only had an hour to lockdown our system and apply passwords to all our network devices. It's quite stressful when someone is attacking your system, and not knowing where the threats are coming from."

Much like real-life computer security threats, the student teams didn't know their attackers. The attack team was comprised of experts in the computer security industry who work for corporations and the military.

"I think this competition is the closest to real life I have ever seen," says David Wilson '04 (B.S. information technology), PAETEC senior network security engineer. "The students were put into a stressful, challenging and fast-paced environ-

ment that required results. This is what we as professionals deal with on a daily basis."

Simultaneously, another team made up of industry and RIT professors required each team to execute numerous business tasks such as setting up e-mail accounts, file-share accounts and Web sites.

"For example, we ran an e-commerce application, similar in principle to an amazon.com site," says Jason Koppe, RIT team captain and first-year master's degree student in computer security and information assurance. "Customer security is paramount so we protected the Web site while adding new products and customers. It was difficult to make sure the business injects were being accomplished while maintaining the security of the data."

Teams were scored on such criteria as keeping required services running, preventing unauthorized access and completing business tasks.

Representatives from Cisco, McAfee, PAETEC, Dox Electronics, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Symantec, Innovative Solutions, The Technology Company and Wegmans participated in the competition. The event sponsors were McAfee, Harris RF Communications and Cisco.

"It was an intense weekend, but a very good learning experience from both a teambuilding and technical perspective," says Koppe. "We have some modifications to make as we get ready to go to nationals. We are excited."

Northeastern University placed second and Norwich University took third. The national competition is April 18-20. For information, visit [www.nssa.rit.edu/neccdc](http://www.nssa.rit.edu/neccdc). ■

Kelly Downs | [kaduns@rit.edu](mailto:kaduns@rit.edu)

## RIT partners with Peru university

RIT has formed a partnership with the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola in Lima, Peru. The agreement will allow qualified Peruvian students to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees from RIT.

About 15 to 20 Peruvian students attend RIT annually. The new agreement assures the yearly total will increase with many Peruvian undergraduate students transferring by way of Tompkins Cortland Community College to RIT through the Global Connections Program, while graduate students from USIL seek direct entry into selected RIT graduate programs.

The agreement also provides opportunities for USIL faculty development through advanced degrees or visiting scholar status at RIT. The feasibility of offering RIT students and faculty time-shortened Peruvian cultural and Spanish language immersion at USIL's Cusco-Machu Picchu location will also be explored.

Jim Miller, senior vice president for enrollment management and career services; Raul Diez Canseco, president of the board of San Ignacio de Loyola; and Rectora (Chancellor) Lourdes Flores signed a partnership agreement in February in a ceremony



Submitted photo

Jim Miller, RIT senior vice president for enrollment management and career services, far right, Raul Diez Canseco, president of the board of San Ignacio de Loyola, and Rectora (Chancellor) Lourdes Flores signed a partnership agreement in Lima.

ny in the capital city of Lima.

The USIL initiative builds on and complements more than 60 existing partnerships and agreements RIT has established with foreign universities, international organizations and government agencies spanning five continents, says Miller.

"As RIT continues to push forward with implementation of the global dimension of our strategic plan, agreements like the USIL/RIT agreement will continue to be added when

they are of mutual interest to the partners and advance RIT's presence and brand throughout the world," adds Miller.

RIT currently enrolls approximately 1,500 foreign students representing 95 countries in undergraduate and graduate programs in Rochester. More than 900 additional international students are pursuing RIT degrees at existing international locations. ■

Bob Finnerty | [refuns@rit.edu](mailto:refuns@rit.edu)

## Newman brings to light life of former slave

As the forerunner of Frederick Douglas and Martin Luther King Jr., Bishop Richard Allen has an awe-inspiring résumé attached to his name. Allen—a former slave who bought his freedom during the American Revolution—became one of the first major black activists, one of the first black authors to copyright an anti-slavery pamphlet and the first to write a eulogy of President George Washington. He also founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Richard Newman

Now, in a biography of Richard Allen, historian Richard Newman suggests another appellation for the early African American leader: black founding father.

Newman's *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church and the Black Founding Fathers* uses new information from the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin and the nation's first lending library, to situate Allen among the nation's founders.

"Richard Allen is what I call a black founding father who tries to reestablish the foundations of the country and say slavery is wrong, and that black-and-white equality is

the order of the day," says Newman, an associate professor of history at RIT. "A lot of white statesmen disagreed with him. What we see when we study Richard Allen is that the founding fathers had a big problem with slavery, but they really chose consciously to ignore it. And you can say that helped lead to the coming of the Civil War."

At the Library Company, Newman unearthed several important documents relating to Allen's abolitionist activity.

For example, Newman notes, the enterprising Allen ran a chimney sweeping business that cleaned George Washington's chimneys during the 1790s. "Allen collected money from the president's house twice, and he had a chance to see where nine of Washington's Virginia slaves lived."

When Washington died in 1799, and left a will liberating his slaves (after the death of his wife), Allen gave a eulogy of him in Bethel church—the first-ever presidential eulogy by an African American.

Prior to his eulogy of George Washington, Allen and Absalom Jones made history as the first black authors to co-author and copyright an anti-slavery pamphlet in 1794. Nearly 40 years later, Allen became the first free black leader to write an autobiography of his struggle for justice.

In Philadelphia in the 1790s, Allen started what would become the largest black church in America, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, after tiring of his former church's practice of segregating the congregation. According to Newman, the AME became Allen's spiritual and protest home where many significant abolitionist meetings occurred.

Pennsylvania gradually abolished slavery during Allen's lifetime but Northern racism and Southern slavery grew steadily during the early 19th century. Before Allen died in 1831 at the age of 71, he had even flirted with the idea of leaving the United States to attain black freedom.

"His idea that blacks and whites could live together agitated people," Newman says. "He was accused of being a runaway slave and only spared because someone recognized him. Throughout his life, he always faced racism. Allen is the first public leader to express his double identity as American and African."

Allen returned to the idea that both the Declaration of Independence and the Bible mandated racial equality. Allen inspired many famous abolitionists who followed him, including Frederick Douglass, who hailed him as the author of "a new Declaration of Independence" guaranteeing equality to all citizens regardless of race, Newman says. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | [smguns@rit.edu](mailto:smguns@rit.edu)

## Climate-change forum features RIT professors

Two RIT professors will talk about climate-change policy and the automotive industry at a national forum evaluating the impact of global climate change on industries critical to United States' economic success.

Sandra Rothenberg and James Winebrake will lead a discussion on sustainable transportation at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Industry Studies Workshop "U.S. Industry and Climate Change: Impacts, Policies and Responses" hosted by University of California at Berkeley April 3-4. The invitation-only event will be attended by leading academic and industry thinkers.

Rothenberg and Winebrake will focus on how new efforts to curb emissions of greenhouse gases are

changing the automotive industry by moving companies towards more sustainable technologies and practices. Their talk is based on research they are conducting through the Sloan Foundation's International Motor Vehicle Program and a related National Science Foundation-project housed at RIT's Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making.

"We will be discussing the sea-change that the auto industry will be facing in the coming years, driven primarily by climate-change issues and a desire for energy independence," says Winebrake, professor and chair of the Department of Science, Technology and Society/Public Policy in the College

of Liberal Arts and co-director of the RIT Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making. "Everything from biofuels to electric vehicles will be talked about in a forum that allows for intense debate and deliberation."

"This is a great opportunity to present to some of the leading academic and industry thinkers on climate change and its impact on U.S. industry," says Rothenberg, an associate professor of management in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business. "We also hope to bring back some of the ideas cultivated at the workshop in order to expand our research capacity in this area here at RIT." ■

Susan Gawlowicz | [smguns@rit.edu](mailto:smguns@rit.edu)



Ken Huth | photographer

RIT students thousands of miles away celebrated the declaration of Kosovo's independence Feb. 17. RIT's sister university, the American University in Kosovo, closed for two days to allow students, faculty and staff to celebrate this historic moment.

The declaration was celebrated by the RIT community on this side of the ocean, as well. Above, Jim Myers, director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, proposes a toast to celebrate Kosovo's independence.

Since 2000, RIT has been the recipient of a grant provided by the Helen Bader Foundation, focused on alcohol education for a number of high-risk student groups on campus: first-year students, Greeks, athletes and deaf/hard-of-hearing students. This grant will close at the end of the academic year, but the impact this grant has had on our student community will not be forgotten.

The Helen Bader Foundation began as a philanthropic organization by the Bader Family of Milwaukee, Wis. as a tribute to Helen Bader, who passed away in 1989. Her humanitarian work, with a focus on family, community and social causes was an inspiration to those around her. The foundation focused most of its work in the area of social-justice issues, both in Milwaukee and in Israel.

Daniel J. Bader, president and director of the Helen Bader Foundation, became a member of the RIT Board of Trustees and, in 2000, approached our campus and offered to fund an alcohol education program, after reading about a number of college students who had died from alcohol poisoning throughout the country. Members of the Division of Student Affairs were asked to write a grant proposal, and in a few short

months, we were awarded our first round of funding from the Helen Bader Foundation. During the past eight years, the foundation awarded our campus two follow-up grants, totaling close to \$500,000 in support of alcohol education.

During the life of the grant, we accomplished more than we had hoped for.

The Task Force, comprised of professionals from Student Affairs (Student Conduct, Student Health, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Residence Life, Academic Support Center, Athletics and Campus Life) and NTID (Student Life Team and SAISD) provided programming, with both national and regional speakers for over 15,000 students, including Dr. Drew Pinsky. We created RIT’s first substance-free outdoor dance party during Orientation, drawing more than 2,000 students during the first week of each Orientation session, creating a new RIT tradition. We have co-sponsored more than 300 events on campus, connecting with the colleges, Athletics, Campus Life, Residence Life, NTID, and student organizations to provide alcohol-free events for students to attend. From ice-skating parties with chocolate desserts, to Brick City events, to

Applefest for NTID, the Bader Grant has supported it all.

Two of our proudest accomplishments involve connecting with students. The Bader Grant Task Force developed our own “homegrown” alcohol education program, known as “SpiRITs,” after sampling countless nationally packaged programs that just did not fit the needs of our student population. SpiRITs has now been incorporated into Orientation, reaching each and every first-year student as they arrive at RIT. We also created a student peer support group, known as Tiger PAWS. This student group attends all alcohol-related programs on campus, supporting student responsibility and positive peer decision-making.

The long-term impact of the Bader Grant has been an eight percent decrease overall in the number of alcohol-related incidents on campus (with some of our special populations, like deaf/hard-of-hearing students, having more than a 10 percent drop in alcohol-related violations). Greek organizations have become reliant on the speaker series we host each academic year for their risk-management training. Supporting late-night events for the NTID community has become a regular project for the Bader team.



The grant will end with a regional symposium, entitled “Campus Alcohol Education and Wellness Initiatives Conference,” set for April 3-4 at RIT. We are anticipating over

*Viewpoints, page 8*

*This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail [newsevents@rit.edu](mailto:newsevents@rit.edu).*

# RIT students heralded for ‘bright ideas’

The growing spirit of innovation on campus is validated through the results of a recent contest sponsored by Digital Rochester.

RIT students swept the various award categories at “A Bright Idea” exhibition, held Feb. 5 in the Louise Slaughter Building. Students at all regional colleges were invited to enter their most innovative ideas for products and services.

Eric Goldman, a fourth-year applied networking and systems administration student, won the Global 360 Award for digital labeling; Kelly Johnson, a fourth-year microelectronics engineering student, earned the ASE Optics Award for easy access to implantable health data; James Barnum, an industrial engineering graduate student, received the Sun Microsystems Award for his smart meter; Sunwoo Lee, a second-year microelectronics engineering

student, won the Association for Women in Computing Award for use of piezoelectricity as an alternative energy source; and William Schneider, a fourth-year business management student, earned the PAETEC Award for a syrup evacuator.

“A Bright Idea is designed to both reward student innovation and to help slow the brain drain of bright young graduates from our community by helping them to discover the exciting small to mid-sized employers in the region,” states Juli Klie ’89 (computer science), a Digital Rochester board member.

Each of the winning students received a cash award of \$750. Digital Rochester is a non-profit economic development organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for Greater Rochester’s technology sector. ■

Paul Stella | [pbscom@rit.edu](mailto:pbscom@rit.edu)



Photo submitted by Paul Stella

Representatives from dozens of the Finger Lakes region’s wineries enjoy an opportunity to sample New York state wines. The tasting session was part of a training program at the New York Wine & Culinary Center in Canandaigua, presented in partnership with RIT.

# RIT partnership uncorks potential of N.Y. wineries

Vinny and Kim Aliperti have little time these days to toast their good fortune. Some unexpected circumstances last year presented the couple with an opportunity to go into the winery business. Today they’re busy running Billsboro Winery, located along the Seneca Lake Wine Trail, just south of Geneva.

“We just realized that something great was dropping in our laps,” recalls Kim Aliperti. “If we did not take advantage of it, that wasn’t going to happen again.”

Now the former English teacher is supervising Billsboro’s tasting room and is training to manage the winery’s bookkeeping. “This is really new to me,” she admits.

That’s what encouraged Aliperti to take advantage of a new effort targeting the state’s burgeoning wine industry. On Feb. 27-28, she joined nearly 50 of her peers in Canandaigua for an education and training program, created through a partnership between RIT and the New York Wine & Culinary Center.

The New York Wine and Grape Foundation sponsored the initiative through a \$100,000 grant. The foundation’s goal is to increase the state’s competitive position by teaching and instilling quality among its wineries in various aspects of the business. The program is also being conducted in Long Island and the Hudson Valley.

“RIT and the New York Wine & Culinary Center assembled a group of experts to address a broad range of industry-related issues,” explains James Myers, director of RIT’s Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. “The result is a highly dynamic instructional experience that is having an immediate impact on the business performance of the attending wineries.”

Joining Myers as members of the training team are Lorraine Hems and Rick Lagiewski, faculty members in RIT’s School of Hospitality and Service Management; Shannon Brock, wine coordinator for the New York Wine & Culinary Center; Paul Stella, director of RIT University News; and Kitren VanStrander, director of RIT Outreach Education and Training.

Sessions emphasize tasting operations, electronic marketing, trade relations, media relations, wine competitions and label design. Discussion in all areas focuses on how wineries can increase quality as well as project a quality image.

That focus is already being reflected at Billsboro Winery. “I took home a bunch of little tips that I could implement right away, and I took home some things I can implement over the long term,” says Aliperti. “So this is really an investment in the business for me.” ■

Paul Stella | [pbscom@rit.edu](mailto:pbscom@rit.edu)

## Mini golf on campus

Small ball anyone? Join students, faculty, staff and retirees for 18 holes of mini golf in the sixth annual RIT United Way Miniature Golf Tournament from noon to 9 p.m. on March 19 in the Student Alumni Union and Fireside Lounge. Putters and golf balls will be provided. Tee times will be available every five minutes through 8 p.m. The cost is \$3 for faculty and staff, \$2 for students. Registration is available in the SAU Lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 17 and 18; walk-up registrations will also be accepted on March 19.

## Ethics lectures on deck

Truth, trust and issues of moral responsibility will be discussed during the upcoming Ezra A. Hale Ethics lectures: “Truth and Trust,” by Wade Robison, the Hale Chair in Applied Ethics in the College of Liberal Arts, 4-5:30 p.m., March 20, Xerox Auditorium in the James E. Gleason Building; “Is the Right to Have an Abortion a Positive or Negative Right?” by Christopher Kaposky, professor of philosophy at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, 4-5:30 p.m. Xerox Auditorium. “The Assumption of Individual Moral Responsibility in Group Military Action,” by John Protevi, professor of French studies at Louisiana State University. To request an interpreter for the free lectures, contact Cassandra Shellman at [cls3740@rit.edu](mailto:cls3740@rit.edu).

## Imaging science lectures

The Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science Seminar Series presents “Visual Perception: Bilateral Symmetry Detection and Possible Implications,” by Andrew Herbert, associate professor of psychology at RIT, March 26; and “Imaging Science in Xerox Product Development,” by Stephen Hoover, head of Xerox Research Center in Webster, April 2. The lectures will be held at 4 p.m. in the Carlson auditorium. For more information, contact coordinator Mitchell Rosen at [rosen@cis.rit.edu](mailto:rosen@cis.rit.edu) or 475-7691.

## RITz dinner March 29

Students in the School of Hospitality and Service Management are hosting their 23rd annual Puttin’ on the RITz dinner at 5:30 p.m. March 29 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. The theme of this year’s event is Tastefully Green: Celebrating the Heritage of Food. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased by visiting [www.rit.edu/~RITZwww](http://www.rit.edu/~RITZwww).

## Time Warner lends support

Time Warner Cable of Rochester has assumed a key leadership position in the RIT-led Rochester Regional Cyber Safety and Ethics Initiative. Time Warner is assuming a position on the initiative’s executive committee and has donated \$100,000 in cash and in-kind donations to aid the initiative’s efforts. “Time Warner’s efforts will go a long way toward helping us achieve our goal of creating a safer environment for kids while they surf the Internet,” says Sam McQuade, graduate program coordinator in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies and founder of the initiative.

# Sponsored Research pays tribute to RIT ‘millionaires’

They are members of the campus community who frequently labor behind the scenes, but their efforts are not going unrecognized.

Sponsored Research Services paid tribute to RIT’s principal investigators during a presentation Feb. 21 in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences auditorium. The annual celebration saluted 269 faculty and staff members who submitted grant proposals last year.

Special recognition was given to the 2007 PI Millionaires, a group of principal investigators whose individual cumulative funding since 2000 has recently exceeded \$1 million. The new millionaires include Daniel Burge, senior research scientist in the Image Permanence Institute; Donald Figer, professor of imaging science in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science; Thomas Gennett, professor

of chemistry in the College of Science; Michael Haselkorn, researcher in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies; Satish Kandlikar, James E. Gleason Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering; Donna Lange, associate professor of information and computing studies, NTID; David Merritt, professor of physics in the College of Science; Michael Thurston, researcher in the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies; and George Zion, professor of engineering technology in the College of Applied Science and Technology.

In addition, 19 faculty and staff members received the Batting 1.000 Award, which recognizes principal investigators who successfully secured funding for their first grant proposal at RIT. ■

Paul Stella | [pbscom@rit.edu](mailto:pbscom@rit.edu)

Alumni speaker series

Doug Pileri, vice president, IBM Global Services, will present “How to Outwit Your Global Future,” at 1 p.m. March 20, in Xerox Auditorium, James E. Gleason building.

The talk is part of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering 2007-2008 Dean’s Alumni Speaker Series.

Pileri, a graduate of RIT’s computer engineering department, will outline the realities of today’s global economy and provide practical ideas and insights on how to succeed in this environment. Prior to joining IBM, Pileri served as a global manager for Eastman Kodak and Thomson Corp.

The Dean’s Alumni Speaker Series presents engineering alumni discussing their careers and providing advice to current students.

Bevier Gallery exhibit

Bevier Gallery is hosting a Thesis One Graduate Exhibition through March 26, with an opening reception scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 14.

The showcase of graduate work by MFA candidates represents programs in the School of Art, School of Design and School for American Crafts.

For more information, call Bevier Gallery at 475-2626.

# Posters tell heartfelt stories of United Way families

Supporting and helping someone dealing with chronic illness is probably the hardest and most important challenge families can ever face.

And two brave RIT families—whose faces you’ll be seeing on the posters around campus for RIT’s 2008 United Way Campaign—have decided to share their personal and poignant experiences.

Without a doubt, 3-year-old Will Day is a little boy who lives up to his name. His joy and determination to live each day despite his medical challenges is an endless source of amazement to his parents who are professors at RIT, Christy Tyler (biology) and Steven Day (mechanical

engineering).

Born with a rare congenital nervous system disorder that affects his cognitive and physical functions, Will is in a wheelchair and nourished through a feeding tube in his stomach. Despite these challenges, Will is a happy and social child who loves people, especially his baby sister, Anna.

“When we moved from California to Rochester in 2005, we knew we had a very sick child with severe medical complications who would need constant care,” Christy explains. “Will’s tough, a tough little kid, but we couldn’t do it on our own.”

The family discovered Daystar, a

daycare for “medically fragile infants” run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, a not-for-profit charity funded-in-part by United Way.

“Daystar is located in a residence in Pittsford, so it’s a bright, active and very loving environment for young children with complicated health challenges,” says Christy.

“As working parents we find it very easy to leave Will at Daystar. He loves them and they love him. With their help, we have been able to maintain our careers and our lives have regained some sense of normalcy.”

Retaining a sense of normalcy has been difficult for Lynne Stocum, because she knows nothing can ease

the pain of losing a beloved family member. Her brother, Tom, died of alcoholism at the age of 56 last July.

Although Tom’s inability to quit drinking had caused friends and family to drift away from him, Lynne, an RIT facilities management services custodian for the past 14 years, and her mother, Janet, never gave up.

“Tom was smart, loved history and especially music,” Lynne recalls. “He formed the St. James Band in 1964 and they played together for 25 years. He loved the blues, especially the Rolling Stones, and many people in the Rochester area still remember hearing him play.”

The Stocum family utilized three United Way-funded programs during Tom’s lifetime: Lifespan for detoxification and counseling services; the Red Cross, due to an apartment fire where Tom and his mother lived, and hospice care from Visiting Nurse Service during Tom’s final days.

“We utilized services from Hospice twice, not only for Tom, but for my father who also died of alcoholism,” says Lynne, “and they treated both with such dignity, focusing on the person not the disease.”

Lynne maintains her own 20 years of sobriety is due to the constant support from the RIT community.

“My mother and I are also very thankful to RIT for their United Way donations so we could have these three agencies available to us. We were helped, we were blessed, and we couldn’t have done it without them.” ■

Marcia Morphy | mpmuns@rit.edu



Mechanical engineering professor Stephen Day, biology professor Christy Tyler, and their children, Will and Anna, are featured on this year’s United Way posters.



Lynne Stocum, along with her family, has utilized several United Way programs.

Photos submitted by William Strawser

## Destler plan revamps current R&D program

RIT President Bill Destler unveiled specifics of the university’s new Corporate Research and Development program during a meeting with faculty and staff March 10. The meeting provided information on the current program outline and sought feedback from faculty and researchers regarding future industry partnership opportunities.

The Corporate R&D at RIT program will seek to develop targeted applied research projects between RIT faculty and graduate students with companies in a wide variety of fields. Under these agreements, the company will retain intellectual property developed during the proj-

ect for a flat fee. In exchange, RIT participants will retain the right to publish and conduct further research that builds off of the work.

The program seeks to streamline negotiations that often slow collaboration between universities and industry and provide added value to all partners. It builds on a series of speeches and articles by President Destler on the need for new types of academic-industry collaboration to enhance technology transfer, commercialization and economic development.

“Our institutions of higher education in the U.S. are still without question the finest in the world, and

they possess a reservoir of intellectual talent and creativity unmatched anywhere else,” Destler says. “But, in order to properly utilize these resources a new relationship is needed between business and academia in which hundreds of companies discover that they can once again afford to do new product research and development, while identifying future employees at the same time. We see the Corporate R&D program as the first step in this transformation.”

Destler hopes to announce the program’s first corporate partners in the near future. ■

Will Dube | wjduns@rit.edu

### From payroll services to playoff hockey



EMBA alumni from RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business attended the fourth annual Sharpen the Saw Day, March 6. Hosted by accounting professor Daniel Tesson, the event’s guest speakers included B. Thomas Golisano, founder and chairman of Paychex, and RIT trustee, Saunders College Dean Ashok Rao and RIT President Bill Destler. Golisano, left, recounted the early days of Paychex and how it has gone on to serve more than 560,000 business clients nationwide. He also gave insights on his latest venture, serving as owner of the National Hockey League’s Buffalo Sabres.

A. Sue Weisler | photographer

### Showcasing student research in Albany



Photo submitted by Dennis Kennedy

Marc O’Donnell, an RIT biochemistry major from Elmira, far left, recently participated in a student research expo at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, sponsored by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. During the exhibition, O’Donnell talked about his research project with Sen. George Winner and Assemblyman Thomas O’Mara, who both represent O’Donnell’s hometown in the New York State Legislature. O’Donnell’s research focuses on investigating the molecular interactions between single wall carbon nanotubes and a laser dye, Rhoadmine 101. Probing these interactions allows for a better understanding of the mechanism by which carbon nanotubes are able to disperse effectively in organic solvents. Accompanying O’Donnell to the expo was his chemistry professor, Christopher Collison.

## Cybersecurity, hacker intervention tops research team’s defense-systems agenda

A unique military-university partnership is working to improve cybersecurity technology and the safety of military and civilian computer networks.

The collaboration includes CUBRC, a not-for-profit research and development company headquartered in Buffalo, along with professors from RIT, the State University of New York at Buffalo and Pennsylvania State University. The research team is seeking to implement the use of intrusion projection modeling into cyber defense systems.

Intrusion projection utilizes mathematical models and algorithms to forecast the actions of a computer hacker once they have entered a network.



Shanchieh Jay Yang

The method captures an intruder’s behavior patterns and gathers information about the effect of cyber attacks with respect to certain defense systems and network architectures, allowing administrators to reduce the damage caused by individual attacks. The data collected through the process can also assist in predicting future intrusion activities, and reduce the impact of decoy attacks.

“The implementation of intrusion projection into existing cybersecurity systems is believed to be the next step in elevating network defense,” notes Shanchieh Jay Yang, assistant professor of computer engineering at RIT. “By modeling how a hacker will act within a network, administrators can better create protocols to defend essential data and reduce the impact of the intrusion on the overall network.”

The project is being funded under a sub-contract from the CUBRC/University of Buffalo

Center for Multisource Information Fusion.

The team also includes personnel from the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory’s Information Fusion Directorate, which hopes to use the research to assist in implementing intrusion projection into their overall cybersecurity systems.

“The addition of these advanced predictive models will enable the system being developed on this contract to anticipate attacks for network analysts,” states Moises Sudit, professor of industrial and systems engineering at the University of Buffalo and managing director of the Center for Multisource Information Fusion.

The research team recently tested an initial prototype of the system and plans to begin further implementation over the next year. They are also looking to develop similar projection models for use in additional application domains. ■

Will Dube | wjduns@rit.edu

# ASL manual now online

Do you become frustrated using sign language when you don't know the sign? Or perhaps you are too shy to ask? Fear no more.

The *American Sign Language Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide* is now available online for all RIT students, faculty and staff to use, free of charge.

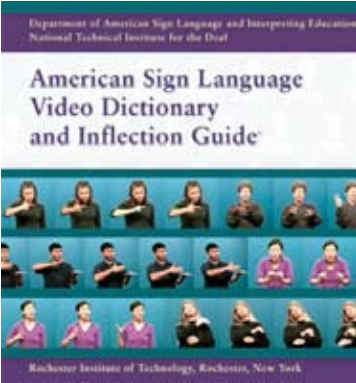
The dictionary, originally published in CD form in 2002 by RIT/NTID, features 2,700 signs and English equivalents, along with thousands of signs linked to sentences that illustrate how the signs change to show different meanings.

“The 2,700 signs provide a solid basis of ASL vocabulary,” says project director Geoff Poor, associate professor of ASL and coordinator of NTID’s Office of Communication Assessment Services. Poor headed the core development team, which included former NTID faculty members Patrick Graybill and Dorothy Wilkins.

Poor decided to create the CD after noticing that ASL students needed a resource that demonstrated ASL’s complex inflections, which modify signs to convey various meanings.

“The sentences and the interactive features show ASL’s rich grammar and allow users to experience some of ASL’s beauty and eloquence,” he says.

“Having this as an online resource for the RIT community is very exciting,” says Alan Hurwitz, CEO of NTID and vice president and dean of RIT for NTID. “Faculty, staff and students, or anybody who is learning sign language or is just curious, can have it open and



available any time on their computers. They can practice, explore the language and use it as a quick lookup when they need to find a sign.”

Thousands of copies of the *American Sign Language Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide* have been sold in CD form. It is used in every state, at thousands of schools, college and university ASL and interpreting programs, social-service agencies and individuals.

“The response to the CD around the country has been very gratifying. It is clearly filling a need,” Poor says.

Technical issues previously prevented the dictionary from being available online. Those issues have been resolved, Poor adds.

To access the dictionary using an RIT account, visit [www.ntid.rit.edu/dig/ASLVDIG\\_Logon.cfm](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/dig/ASLVDIG_Logon.cfm).

The CD versions will continue to be sold for \$50. Those without an RIT account will soon be able to buy access to an online version for \$39.95 a year. ■

Greg Livadas | [Greg.Livadas@rit.edu](mailto:Greg.Livadas@rit.edu)

# RIT writer takes her craft in a new direction

Writer Laura Cummings was waiting for her biography of one of the most successful *American Idol* stars to publish when country music singer Carrie Underwood came to town earlier this month to play at Blue Cross Arena.

Cummings, who did not go to the concert, is by day a marketing communications writer and editor in RIT’s University Publications. She profiled Underwood as part of the *Who’s Your Idol* series for the Rosen Publishing Group, an educational publishing company that produces series of non-fiction books written for children and purchased by libraries and schools.

*Who’s Your Idol: Carrie Underwood* is Cumming’s first book, which she wrote under her maiden name La Bella. (“Laura Cummings” was already taken in the Library of Congress.) *Who’s Your Idol*, written for children in fifth to eighth grade, profiles the experiences of *American Idol* winners and popular contestants Fantasia Barrino, Chris Daughtry and Jennifer Hudson, and the launch of their respective careers.

“The book was really easy to write because you hear about *American Idol* constantly from the minute the season starts until the minute someone wins,” Cummings says. “It was easy to find sources because Underwood did so well afterwards, and because she was the only winner to ‘go country’—a whole new musical genre for *American Idol* winners.”

As the main marketing writer at RIT, Cummings writes primarily for a slightly older age group—teens shopping for a university—than those who will read the Underwood biography. She produces the college viewbooks, program brochures and content for the RIT Web site and home page, among other responsibilities.

“When writing for RIT, I’m very aware of various messages RIT wants to get across. Marketing writing is strategic and message driven with a very precise outcome at the end. The books I write for Rosen are really for me. It’s a different outlet for me to exercise some



A. Sue Weisler | photographer  
Laura Cummings writes books about current-events icons such as Carrie Underwood.

creative muscles. Because I’m elevating my writing style all around, I think both benefit from each other.”

Rosen Publishing provides guidelines for each series and word count to their writers, who are required to use secondary sources instead of interviews with the profiled sources or their associates, leaving their biographies unauthorized, but legally unquestioned.

Soon after starting the Carrie Underwood biography, Cummings took on other assignments and now has three additional books in publication and another two in progress. Her second book due out soon is *Celebrity Activist: Angelina Jolie—Goodwill Ambassador to the UN* written for students in the seventh to 12th grade. Writing about Jolie led to more opportunities: *Extreme Careers: Search and Rescue Swimmer* and *Contemporary Musicians and Their Music: My Chemical Romance*.

Cummings is currently at work on two new volumes that are titled *Extreme Environmental Threats: Fresh Water* and *In the News: Food Safety*.

Tapping her own personal interests, Cummings has pitched an idea to her editors for a series about some of the more popular chefs featured on Food Network and other cable channels. ■

Susan Gawlowicz | [smguns@rit.edu](mailto:smguns@rit.edu)

# Film guru offers RIT students a unique view of contemporary movies

After 10 years of reviewing films for the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, Jack Garner was named chief film critic for the Gannett newspapers nationally in 1987 and syndicated to a hundred newspapers throughout the country, a position he held until his retirement last June.

In most cases, retirement means time to reflect after finishing a career, but for Garner, it simply means continuing to do what he loves, just in different ways.

Though he’s traded in his position as chief film critic, Garner has continued writing a Friday film column, reviewing DVDs and jazz CDs and still appears on television and radio shows.

“You never stop doing work, but when you’re retired you can choose to do work that puts a smile on your face,” says Garner. So, when Professor Janet Zandy asked him to teach a film class during the winter and spring quarters, he couldn’t resist. “I know a lot about RIT, the people here and there’s a great passion for film,” says Garner.

Garner’s class, Contemporary Film, which is offered through the College of Liberal Arts, helps students understand the meaning of



Jack Garner

film in society and how it affects us. “A major focus of the class is on film’s role in storytelling tradition,” says Garner. “Films are an important part of life because they serve as a discussion of society and the topics we’re interested in—they’re something we often take for granted.”

Another goal of the class is to learn about the important elements of a film and how they’re implemented to make a good movie.

After 30 years as a film critic and viewing thousands of films, Garner says that three stand out in his mind as ones that embody what a movie should be. So, if you’re looking for something to rent this weekend, try these. “First, *Citizen Kane* because of its great technique and the depth of issues covered in the movie,” says Garner. “The second film is *Casa blanca* because it has such great dialog and because of the way it shows sacrifice and romance. My third pick would be *On the Waterfront*, with Marlon Brando, because of the method and style of the movie.”

Sure, Jack Garner’s retired, but that only means he has more time to spend with his family and pursue his other passions outside of reviewing films. Of course, he still makes time to see movies, just not every one that’s released. As he says, “Now I get to see what I want to see or the ones I perceive as important.” ■

Brandon Borgna | [bmb9935@rit.edu](mailto:bmb9935@rit.edu)

## News briefs

### Parking open forums

RIT is developing a comprehensive parking, transportation and urban-design strategy to address existing issues on campus and provide direction for the next five to 10 years. The project, which will run from March until May, has been designed for significant community involvement. There will be a strategy open house in the Student Alumni Union Fireside Lounge from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. March 17, and 8 to 10:30 a.m. March 18. Students, faculty and staff can share their opinions on how parking, transportation, walkways, quads, tunnels and pathways for alternative transportation methods can be improved or supplemented.

### Women’s Council event

RIT’s Women’s Council is hosting their annual Spring Fashion Show on April 11 at Locust Hill Country Club. Tickets for the event are \$50 each, which includes a luncheon. Reservations can be made by contacting Norma Snyder at [norms@rochester.rr.com](mailto:norms@rochester.rr.com) or by calling 247-7347. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 1. All proceeds will benefit the RIT Women’s Council Scholarship Funds.

# RIT’s wild feline friends find new homes

Members of the Deaf Women Engineering group at NTID used their hammers, tape measures and construction skills to build five wooden cat shelters for the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm in Perinton.

Wild cats are found near many colleges across the country, including at RIT. In the past six years, 90 cats from the campus have been neutered or spayed and adopted or returned to the wild.

The members of the informal group used the exercise to learn from each other while building their engineering skills. One of the NTID group advisors, Paula Zack, also volunteers at Lollypop Farm. She suggested building the cat shelters to do good for the community while gaining engineering experience.

“I love cats, and there are tons of cats that need homes,” says student Tina Lovato. “And this is also a way to show that women can do it.”

The women also offered suggestions for improvements to the design and construction of the shelters.

“The long-term goal is to eliminate the populations of outdoor feral cats,” says Alex Chernavsky with the Humane Society. “There are thousands in the Rochester area. They live outdoors and produce litters of kittens and often they wind up with us. But often without human contact, they aren’t adoptable if they’re more than a couple of months old.”

Although she’s never even seen one of the elusive cats in her 20 years at RIT, Carol Convertino, an NTID research associate who is treasurer of Caring Hearts for RIT Homeless Cats, says volunteers spend about \$40 a week to feed the cats on campus.

“They come out in the evening. They live in the woods. They wouldn’t approach people,” Convertino says. “We’re trying to control the population, but in a humane way. They are part of the community, too.”

The engineering students were looking for a project to do together and decided to help the Humane Society by building some shelters.



Photo submitted by Paula Zack

Two RIT students build wooden cat shelters to house feral cats living on campus.

The Humane Society, in turn, sells them for \$35 each—about half of what it costs for the materials of the plywood and insulation.

For information, visit: [http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/RIT\\_CAMPUS\\_CATS](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/RIT_CAMPUS_CATS). ■  
Greg Livadas | [greg.livadas@rit.edu](mailto:greg.livadas@rit.edu)

## Home sweet home



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Even squirrels need a good home. More than 120 first-year students in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences designed and built nest houses for the furry creatures. Amos Scully, professor, came up with the “squirrely” idea as a student project for the 3-D Design course. The wooden nest houses will be donated to a local wildlife rehabilitator who will distribute them to other rehabilitators in the region. The houses will help injured and displaced squirrels acclimate back into the wild.

Is there a doctor in the house?



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Local high school students attended a Medical Sciences Career Day March 3 at RIT’s Center for Biosciences Education and Technology to explore career options in the fields of medical ultrasound, physician assistant, biotechnology and exercise science and sports medicine. The event was sponsored by the center and the College of Science. Here, some students from Greece Olympia High School try out ultrasound imaging.

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tions primarily offering master’s degrees, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. It also ranks seventh in the nation among public institutions for graduating percentage of women engineers by the American Society for Engineering Education. Since last July, as associate vice chancellor, Haefner’s responsibilities have included supervising the Office of Sponsored Programs; overseeing the policies and procedures to ensure research integrity; directing the academic affairs of the National Institute for Science, Space and Security Centers; and directing the Colorado Institute for Technology Transfer and Implementation, a campuswide unit dedicated to supporting economic development through technology innovation. Additionally, as Graduate School dean during the past year, he has led graduate programs across the UCCS campus, supervising staff for the recruitment and retention of graduate students.

Poetry from page 3

at the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 3, where hundreds of student projects for new products or services will be showcased on the RIT campus. He says the upcoming festival was a good incentive for him to dig out his program and improve the algorithm. It can generate a poem of 10,000 words if needed. “I want to feed it some philosophy,” he says. And he may use it in a creative writing class. “I love language,” he says. “I’ve always been interested in the natural language process. That’s how I got started in computer science. I like to analyze things and I enjoy creative writing. But I think my creative side is suppressed. I’m taking a lot of math-based courses.” Allmann, who became deaf at age 2 when he had meningitis, plans to graduate from RIT in 2009. He’s already completed co-ops with companies including Microsoft and IBM. When not busy at his computer, he enjoys playing water polo. Allmann was a member of the U.S. Water Polo Team at the 2005 Deaflympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. And he’s a member of NTID’s College Bowl team which will be competing in New Orleans this summer. ■ Greg Livadas | greg.livadas@rit.edu

Haefner began his academic career as an assistant professor of mathematics at UCCS in 1989. Following a series of promotions, he eventually served a three-year term as chair of that school’s Department of Mathematics. “Mathematics has always given me an appreciation for the creative endeavor, and leading a college of engineering has guided me towards the vitality of innovation,” says Haefner. “RIT has both characteristics strongly represented in nationally recognized programs, and the institution is well poised to drive the future of 21st century learning.” Haefner earned both doctorate and master’s degrees in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, and he received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa. Haefner replaces retiring Provost Stanley McKenzie, who has served in that position at RIT for 14 years. ■ Paul Stella | pbscom@rit.edu

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100 professionals from across New York to attend, including representatives from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. The grant has given us the ability to provide this conference free to all participants. We believe it’s a wonderful way to share our successes with others across the state, and a celebratory way to end our grant. For more information on the conference, visit [www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct](http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct). What will happen when the grant is completed? We have been working closely with RIT to find funding to keep many of our initiatives moving forward, and feel confident the legacy of the Bader Grant will continue on our campus. We are very thankful to Dan Bader and the entire staff of the Helen Bader Foundation for providing us this “once in a lifetime” opportunity to impact our students. And, I am personally thankful to the staff members on the Bader Grant Task Force, who have given countless hours during the past eight years because they truly care about our students. Though the legacy of the Bader Grant will end in June, the impact of our accomplishments are now part of the landscape of RIT. Soufleris is assistant vice president for student affairs.

# news&events

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**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
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sites and until the projects I’m starting are ready to sustain themselves,” she says. Nelson will begin most of her classes at 2 a.m. That’s when Internet service is fastest. Managing her studies has been the least of Nelson’s worries since arriving in Kenya on Jan. 13. Violence erupted in the country in late December following the results of a controversial presidential election that many observers feel were tainted. More than 1,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands fled ethnically mixed areas. While Nelson says that the situation has improved in recent weeks, she has encountered danger. Every morning, Nelson rides a bus called a matatu (public minivan) to her classroom. One morning, shortly before arriving at her classroom, she overheard a radio report saying the street where she taught was closed and that clashes had led to the area being sprayed with teargas. Quickly, she changed buses and returned to her room at Africa Nazarene University. “I was afraid because I was almost there,” Nelson says. “I was shaken up, thinking, ‘What if I hadn’t heard the radio report?’” But despite the trying circumstances, Nelson has enjoyed her experience.

“I’ve gotten to kiss giraffes, touch orphaned baby elephants, eat new foods and make great new friends,” she says. “And seeing my students go from a fear of computer viruses—they thought they could physically catch one themselves—the way to a love of technology has been fulfilling. “Now, pastors who before couldn’t use a mouse or keyboard are able to make Web sites and do other things needed to sustain their own ministries.” One of Nelson’s favorite projects is the Web site she’s working to build that will sell local crafts in an effort to raise the funds necessary to build a school. The school will charge students who can afford it \$4 a month. For each two students who can pay, one orphan can come for free. Teachers in the school are volunteers, which frees up enough money to buy porridge for the students every morning. Nelson plans to return to the United States in mid-April. As that date approaches, she feels increased pressure to accomplish her goal of setting up programs that will continue after her departure. “Sustainability has been the song since the beginning,” she says. “I’m not here to offer free training and then leave things the way they were when I arrived.” ■ John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

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tion and training programs and the creation of a communications pipeline for technical assistance. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation received and evaluated proposals from various universities across the state to host the institute. After an extensive peer-review process, a technical committee unanimously selected RIT, noting that its proposal was bolstered by solid agreements with other New York universities and regional technology centers to build a research-sharing network. “RIT has the hands-on experience of bringing the theoretical into real-world application and this will put New York at the forefront of a new environmental model,” says Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis. “This award is a significant achievement for the university, and the team in the Golisano Institute is to be commended for its successful efforts in winning this very competi-

tive grant,” says Don Boyd, RIT vice president for research. State officials called for the development of a statewide pollution prevention center last year. This followed a 2003 report by the New York State Assembly, which found that a lack of a focused research-and-development center and on-site technical assistance for businesses was a major shortcoming in current state pollution-prevention activities. The State Legislature has approved \$2 million in assistance to launch the institute and state leaders called for another \$4 million to be allocated to the center in the 2008-2009 proposed executive budget. “Studies show that the creation of a research center that can tap into the technical knowledge and skill sets of academic institutions, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations can be helpful in enhancing pollution-prevention efforts,” notes Nabil Nasr, director of the Golisano Institute for Sustain-

PAETEC from page 1

tive marketing and business plans ■ **WOW! Imagine That!:** top cross-disciplinary projects, featuring displays from each of RIT’s eight colleges, will be housed in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center There will also be the traditional festival fare: food, rides, music, inflatable activities and fun. Since taking over as president last year, Destler has championed what he calls RIT’s “unfair advantage”—its unique combination of programs in the arts and sciences, coupled with the diversity offered by the presence of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. “All of this could be the makings of the nation’s first ‘Innovation University.’ Indeed, RIT has an advantage in this area with its unique program mix and diverse student body,” Destler says. “Now we need to show off this extraordinary place to the world. We want to attract 30,000 people to this distinctive festival. I look forward to seeing you—rain or shine—on May 3.” Along with PAETEC, other major sponsors for the festival include Toyota (Welcome Center sponsor), Xerox (Wow! Center sponsor) and New York State Sen. Jim Alesi (patron sponsor). To see a full list of all the sponsors, visit [www.rit.edu/imagine/sponsors.html](http://www.rit.edu/imagine/sponsors.html). ■ John Follaco | jpfuns@rit.edu

ability, where the institute will be housed. “Through the Pollution Prevention Institute, we hope to create an environment in which new processes and technologies can be easily transferred to industry helping to both cut pollution and enhance efficiency and productivity.” To enhance knowledge share and collaboration between universities working in the field, RIT will create 16 research and development test beds, or technological laboratories, across the state, through partnerships with Clarkson University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the State University of New York at Buffalo. RIT also plans on creating partnerships with New York’s 10 regional technology development corporations to help disseminate data, tools and strategy. These groups recently formed a green-sustainability working group to bolster environmental opportunities across the state. ■ Will Dube | wjduns@rit.edu