RIT celebrates Class of 2008

A celebration of RIT’s newest graduates coincides with a tribute to a pair of legendary educators as the university prepares its observance of the 123rd annual commencement. Graduating students, their family and friends, and the entire campus community converge for a weekend of pomp and circumstance May 22–24.

“This promises to be an exciting time as we celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates from our eight colleges,” says Bill Destler, who will preside over his first commencement as RIT president. “By recognizing the excellence of our faculty and students, we spotlight RIT tradition, university pride and community spirit.”

Activities kick off with Academic Convocation, 10 a.m., Friday, May 23, in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center, where President Destler will confer degrees on more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students. In recognition of 41 years of dedicated service to RIT, Provost Stanley McKenzie has been named the 2008 commencement speaker for the congratulation ceremony. McKenzie, who is stepping down after 14 years as provost, has played a major role in past commencements, often behind the scenes. Delivering this address is an opportunity to highlight his dedicated service. In July, he’ll resume his other passion as a faculty member in RIT’s College of Liberal Arts. “I love classroom teaching—particularly teaching literature to tech students,” reflects McKenzie. “To turn them on to Shakespeare—there’s really nothing better than that.”

Another faculty member receiving special acknowledgment is Professor Emeritus Eugene Fram from the E. Philip Saunders College of Business. Fram is retiring after 53 years on the RIT faculty, and he will be presented with the Presidential Medallion (see related story).

Graduation schedule

Friday, May 23
Academic Convocation, 10 a.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center
College of Science, 1:30 p.m., Fisher Arena
E. Philip Saunders College of Business, 2 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center
College of Liberal Arts, 4:30 p.m., Ritter Arena
College of Applied Science and Technology, 5:30 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center
National Technical Institute for the Deaf, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Arena

Saturday, May 24
Kate Gleason College of Engineering, 8:15 a.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center
College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, 12:30 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center
B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, 4 p.m., Gordon Field House and Activities Center

See page 2 for parking and shuttle details. Additional information is available at www.rit.edu/commencement.

Eugene Fram’s legacy: ‘You have to be responsive’

Business professor to receive Presidential Medallion at commencement

Winston Churchill’s famous word—the price of greatness is responsibility—ring true for marketing professor and retail expert Eugene Fram, who retired from RIT after 53 years of teaching in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business.

This message came home when Saunders College Dean Ashok Rao first arrived on campus two years ago and met with several faculty members, hoping to learn more about the history of the college. He was told Fram was the best source.

“Talk about commitment,” says Rao. “I called Gene and though he had not been feeling well, he drove in and took me to a Chinese restaurant, and over fried rice and General Gau’s chicken—which he barely touched—he gave me a concise and cogent history of the college.

“I asked Gene what he did to be so successful getting his name in print and quoted across the country. He was very generous in sharing his secrets: ‘You have to be responsive,’ he said. And Gene responded. If I sent him an e-mail or asked him for material, Gene responded within a day.”

His significant contributions, the J. Warren McClure Research Professor of Marketing will be awarded the Presidential Medallion during RIT’s 2008 commencement ceremonies. According to Lois McClain, she and her late husband were very impressed with Fram’s reign as research professor since 1989. “He has truly been the finest person to fill a chair at any university or college in my experience. He always kept us ‘in the know’ about all things RIT and marketing.”

Responsibility for Fram also meant working closely with RIT’s University News Services. Although Fram labels it as shameless self-promotion, in 2005 he beat a record for RIT with 107 media news placements during the year. “He’s always seeking the lime-light,” says Paul Stella ’03, director of RIT University News Services and former MBA student of Fram’s, with a laugh. “But Gene’s willingness to share his expertise with the media has really done a great deal to heighten RIT’s visibility.”


On April 8, Fram was awarded RIT’s Professor Emeritus distinction during his farewell luncheon. Earlier in the day, the Democrat and Chronicle paid tribute, “RIT teaching legend retires,” but on the evening newscast of WHAM-TV (Channel 13) Bright Spot, anchor Don Allhart seemed genuinely stunned at the final clip of Fram and asked, “Who are we going, Fram, page 12.”
Both the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Ritter Arena have bleacher carts operated by RIT staff. Carts are available at one of the many people-mover “People Movers” to direct you to parking areas. Shuttle service will be available beginning at 7 a.m. On both days, shuttles will make continuous loops throughout all the major parking lots (D, E, F, G, H, J, S, T and U) and will return guests to the parking lots after the ceremonies.

Senior citizens and individuals with special mobility needs are invited to use special carts operated by RIT staff. Carts are available at one of the many people-mover stations across campus. Seating/Special Needs

Both the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Ritter Arena have bleacher seating, which have steps. If you or any member of your family uses a wheelchair, contact Parking and Transportation Services for accessibility arrangements at http://ftime.web.rit.edu/cms/pats, click on “Forms.” Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Accessible Parking and Seating Requests,” or call 475-2074. Both ceremony locations will have staff on hand to assist you with special needs; however, prior arrangements must be made. Please note that seating is not guaranteed.

RIT does not have wheelchairs available on campus. If you would like to rent a wheelchair, you may contact Monroe Wheelchair at 546-8595 or www.monroewheelchair.com.
Reflections on student leadership
by Jason Preinser

A

 reflection on student leadership

A t the beginning of my junior year at RIT, I was elected president of RIT’s American Society of Civil Engineers chapter. As a fourth-year member of ASCE, I had a good idea of the responsibilities I would have but little experience in actually accomplishing the tasks. Needless to say, it was a learning experience in regards to leadership. As such, I am very grateful to RIT President Bill Destler at a leadership dinner on campus, he listed a few of his lifelong observations about what it means to be a leader.

A point that stuck with me was, “The higher you go in your career, the more people you work for.” This, to me, is the epitome of what it means to be a student leader. The reason I accepted the nomination as president of ASCE for my senior year was I wanted to ensure the club continued to operate with the same purpose it had in previous years, providing opportunities for students to learn technical and interpersonal skills outside the classroom.

It was a great experience being a chapter officer. No longer was I someone on the outside looking in, I was now looking out at the big picture and responsible for the chapter members. Being chapter president was a lot of work and sometimes stressful, but it was well worth it. In the eyes of my chapter’s faculty advisor, Dr. Harry Cooke, the work I did warranted my nomination for the 2008 ASCE Outstanding Student Leadership Award.

I consider it a great honor to be nominated by Dr. Cooke and the faculty in the civil engineering technology department, as their students regard them as some of the best educators and hardest working professors on campus.

Winning the leadership award for ASCE-Region 1, which includes New England, New York and New Jersey, was the cherry on top of four years of fun, friendship and hard work as an ASCE member and RIT student. The lesson I took from my experiences at RIT was that being a leader often has little to do with one’s personal agenda, and a lot to do with your responsibility to others.

Jason Preinser is a civil engineering technology major at RIT.

Satellite imagery obtained from NASA will help RIT archeologist Bill Middleton peer into the ancient Mexican past. In a novel archeological study, maps that exists of the southern state of Oaxaca, where the Zapotec people formed the first state-level and urban society in Mexico. “If you ask someone off the street about Mexican archeology, they’ll say Aztec, Maya. Sometimes they’ll also say Inca, which is the wrong continent, but you’ll almost never hear anyone talk about the Zapotec,” says Middleton, acting chair of the Department of Material Culture Sciences and professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. “They had the first writing system, the first state society, the first cities. And they controlled a fairly large territory at their zenith—250 B.C. to 750 A.D.”

Middleton’s study will explore how the Oaxacan economy and environment changed as the Zapotec state grew and then collapsed into smaller city-states. Funding from NASA’s Earth Observing Systems Program will also help Middleton build a picture of how climate and vegetation patterns have changed over time.

Middleton will focus on two sites in the Chichicapam Valley located between the two major arms of the central valley of Zapotec. The National Geographic Society funded portion of the study began last summer and the remaining funds were provided by RIT’s Department of Material Culture Sciences.

“The opportunity to work at ITS provided us with knowledge we couldn’t have gotten elsewhere,” says Zenkel, who’s majoring in information technology with a focus on criminal justice. “It was a great opportunity to find out what college is about and gain exposure to a professional setting.”

Barraza, a biomedical science major and president of the Latin American Student Association, “My experiences also encourage me to get involved and be more vocal.”

The Youth Apprenticeship Program at the Rochester Business Education Alliance continues to place hundreds of local Rochester high school students with area employers, providing training in skilled professional careers.

“Spending two years working at ITS before entering RIT made it very easy to adjust to college,” says Technology pilot program to graduate first participants

While many freshmen know little more about college than they see on television or a movie screen, seniors and soon to be graduates Priscila Ilarraza and Philip Zenkel knew exactly what they were getting into when they chose to come to RIT four years ago.

As juniors at Wilson Magnet High School, Ilarraza and Zenkel were chosen to be part of a pilot project with the Rochester Business Education Alliance. ITS’ Office of the President and RIT’s Information Technology Services. They spent 1,200 hours learning a variety of customer service and technical skills related to RIT’s computing needs.

“Spending two years working at ITS before entering RIT made it very easy to adjust to college,” says...
Tim Engström, College of Liberal Arts

Professor Timothy Engström sometimes drives his vintage 1939 Indian motorcycle (a precursor to Harley-Davidson) to work at RIT because he likes to give it some “exercise.” It’s sort of the same attitude Engström has about teaching core Philosophy 210 or a graduate course in Philosophy of Art/Aesthetics in the College of Liberal Arts: to exercise and open students’ minds in ways they never thought possible. Although Engström won RIT’s Eisenhart Award for teaching excellence in 1994, the honor of receiving it in 2008 is even more meaningful. “It was a way to see for myself—is I still any good at it?”

His fascination with the inner workings of airplanes would lead Engström into space engineering in college, where he found a second passion—teaching. “I worked as a laboratory manager and really came to enjoy helping my fellow students with their projects and seeing how my ability to assist others could make a real difference,” he adds.

When looking for a university to begin his teaching career, following completion of his doctorate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, RIT was the perfect fit, and after teaching for nearly two decades in the Department of Philosophy, Engström remains motivated to “turn these students on.”

“In bringing students into the realm of philosophy, we give them tools for thinking about themselves and their academic pursuits in new ways. Teaching isn’t about teaching. Teaching is really about engagement, and some of the students at RIT have stopped us in our tracks with their insights—with their ability to connect philosophy to their other academic pursuits.”

Engström speaks other languages besides “philosophy”—Swedish, French, German and a smattering of Greek/Hebrew—all of which are a boon to his travels abroad. He enjoys everything from reading and movies to skiing, mountain climbing and tinkering with his vintage vehicles (a ’57 Triumph and ’60 four-cylinder diesel Mercedes-Benz).

In 2006, he co-authored a book on health-care reform with Wade Robison, and in the works is Rethinking Theories and Practice of Media: Thinking, Social Media Law and Professional Ethics. “I like how Professor Williams impart to the students that they learn easy and interesting to ways of lecturing makes the material and better understand a topic. His questions that help us engage and better understand a topic. His way of lecturing makes the material interesting.”

Jeff Kozak teaches a number of courses in the Department of Mechanical Engineering’s aerospace option, including introduction to aerospace engineering and aerodynamics, and he is also a faculty advisor to the METEOR project, a student-led team that is attempting to build and launch a space satellite.

“RIT’s combination of experiential learning, undergraduates research and focus on teaching provides our engineering students with the skills and abilities they will need to succeed in their professional careers after college,” says Kozak.

Although Engström won RIT’s Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996. He says his teaching style has come full circle with Eisenhart Award honors more than a decade later. “When I won the Provost’s Award, I was using chalkboard and books,—still the most effective tools to connect with students. Williams, professor in RIT’s School of Media, won the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003. I got caught up in the electronic modalities of teaching. I had the computer, the video, the PowerPoint slides and was getting nowhere with it. I decided last year to do a set of experiments to find out what was the most effective way to present the course content.”

“Williams’ ‘aha’ moment came after he gave an examination, and one of his students inquired as to why he took off points for her answer.

“She said to me, ‘I put on the exam exactly what you had on your PowerPoint slide.’ And sure enough she had. I realized at that point I was training parrots. That incident combined with the number of students who were constantly multiskating on their laptops during class, doing e-mail, checking their Facebook pages, led me to scrap the entire electronic method. I went back to writing on the board. I completely banned anything that had a battery in it in my classroom.”

Williams says his changes have resulted in near perfect classroom attendance and lively classroom discussions.

“When I won the Provost’s Award, I was using chalkboard and chalk,” says Williams. “There were no PowerPoint presentations. Not shared best via e-mail or PowerPoint. Relics of the past—a chalkboard and books—are still the most effective tools to connect with students.”

Jeff Kozak first fell in love with engineering as a preschooler.

“My father was in the Air Force, and we moved around a lot. He’d take us on base and watch the F-16’s take off,” says Kozak, assistant professor of mechanical engineering. “I must have been all of 5, but I remember thinking, ‘Am I still any good at it?’”

Kozak wanted to find an institution that would allow him to practice his twin passions of engineering and teaching. Luckily, he had to look no further for ideas than his own family.

“My sister was attending the biological sciences program at RIT and mentioned the university’s emphasis on teaching and its strong engineering programs,” Kozak reflects. “After doing some research, I found that the school fit perfectly with my professional goals, and I was very pleased when I had the opportunity to begin my professional career here.”

Kozak teaches a number of courses in the Department of Mechanical Engineering’s aerospace option, including introduction to aerospace engineering and aerodynamics, and he is also a faculty advisor to the METEOR project, a student-led team that is attempting to build and launch a space satellite. “RIT’s combination of experiential learning, undergraduate research and focus on teaching provides our engineering students with the skills and abilities they will need to succeed in their professional careers after college,” says Kozak.

“Mr. parents put great value in a college education and I attempt to honor their efforts on my behalf by providing the best education I can to my students,” Kozak notes. “Giv- en this, I am incredibly honored to be selected for the Eisenhart Award because it is given by students and shows I am making an impact.”

Scott Williams is a professor, a chemist, an inventor and a philosopher. At the heart of all this for his pedagogue is the premise that critical thinking and communication are not best shared via e-mail or PowerPoint. Relics of the past—a chalkboard and books—are still the most effective tools to connect with students.

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In this year’s recipients of the Trustees Scholarship Awards have clearly demonstrated records of excellent scholarship at RIT over at least a three-year period. Among them are:

David Axon, professor and chairperson of the physics department, College of Science. Axon joined RIT in 2002 and his research interests include the physics of active galactic nuclei, black holes and the structure of galaxies. He is a member of the issues and program committee for the University Space Research Association and was the first chairperson of the United Kingdom on the Gemini Time Assignment Panel.

Rick Hirsch, professor of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Hirsch has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. His work is displayed prominently across the United States and Asia in many collections including the George R. Gardner Museum of Ceramic Art in Toronto and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Santosh Kurinec, professor and department head of microelectronics engineering, Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Kurinec began her career at RIT in 1988 with expertise in electronic materials. She is a member of the Materials Research Society.

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**News briefs**

**Corporate run, May 29** Dust off those sneakers and lace up for the 18th annual JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge. Registration is now open for the event, which takes place May 29 at RIT. The 3.5-mile run/walk and post-race party has a 7 p.m. race start. There is also strong competition at the front of the pack and 15 companies will earn an invitation to the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge Championship in New York, to be held Oct. 4. The top five men’s, women’s and mixed teams will be invited.

Lambert is top local athlete

Simon Lambert, a four-year member of the men’s hockey team from 2004 to 2008, will be honored as the 2007 Periches Male College Athlete of the Year at the Rochester Press Radio Club’s 90th Annual Day of Champions on June 4 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. He is the seventh RIT male athlete to receive this honor. Lambert, a 2008 Hobey Baker Award finalist, graduated a quarter early with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology. He was named to the Empire 8 President’s List in both 2006 and 2007. Lambert has volunteered for several community service projects in the area.

**Hurvitz named NTID president**

RIT President Bill Destler and RIT’s Board of Trustees have named Alan Hurvitz president of RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf, effective July 1.

It is the first time a president has been named for NTID in its more than 40-year history. Hurvitz, who has headed NTID since 2003 as vice president of RIT for NTID and CEO and dean of NTID, will retain the title of vice president and dean of RIT for NTID. He was appointed dean in 1998.

As president, Hurvitz will continue his comprehensive role with NTID’s external relations, such as working with the U.S. Department of Education and members of Congress and their staffs, development and alumni relations, and maintaining an active connection with national and international organizations serving deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

In addition, Hurvitz will continue his internal NTID responsibilities including academic affairs, student affairs, access services, enrollment management, outreach and facilities management.

Hurvitz has been associated with NTID since 1970 in numerous roles including deanship since 1998.

**Collaboration blends Web design and passion for extreme recreation**

While much of the United States shivers at the thought of frigid winter weather, extreme winter sports enthusiasts in western New York get excited. This passion for embracing the harsh elements through outdoor activities is the subject of FrostbiteSports.com, an innovative multimedia Web site produced by RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

“Through our Web site, viewers can find out why winter athletes participate in extreme sports,” says senior Jeff Conner, managing editor of FrostbiteSports.com. “We hope that FrostbiteSports.com motivates people to colder climates to explore some of the extreme sports featured on the Web site, many of which they may be exposed to for the first time.”

From the polar plunge to ice climbing, the student photographers chronicled vastly different sports linked by one common thread—an extreme dimension. Through a blend of photographs, audio and video, FrostbiteSports.com delves into the world of extreme winter sports, looking deep into the motivations and passions that turn an average Joe into an extreme winter athlete.

“Those winter sports are an impressively strong need for interaction between visuals and design—it’s the visual that draws users to a site and the ensuing, easy navigation keeps them there,” says Marianne O’Loingsigh, program chair for new media design and imaging.

“More and more collaboration will result in developing future projects to showcase the talents of photog- raphy and new media design and imaging students.”

Throughout the Frostbite Sports project, the seniors worked with Professor Doug Rea, photography chair in RIT’s School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. Together, the nine students collaborated in a group setting, simulating a realistic production environment.

“FrostbiteSports.com is one great example of what teaching college seniors in photojournalism is all about,” says Rea. “Teaching at this level is like professional coaching. At times it’s very challenging, but the learning that takes place makes all the difference.”

**Scholarships aid doctoral students**

RIT has been awarded funding by the U.S. Department of Education to help students from underrepresented populations make achievements of success in higher education. The university will receive $220,000 over the next four years to support the RIT McNair Scholarships Program. This initiative will provide services to underrepresented college students—specifically African American, Latino and Native American—who are pursuing doctoral studies. Its focus is on the development of personal and educational skills, including effective communication and academic skills necessary for success in doctoral programs.

Providing high-quality research and scholarly activities will be the program’s capstone. Under the mentorship and guidance of committed faculty, students will participate in a rigorous experience that will develop their research, presentation and publication skills.

**A tasty event helps the United Way**

The 10th annual Taste of RIT, sponsored by RIT Food Service, continues to be a blockbuster event—this year raising $18,600 to benefit RIT’s 2008 United Way Campaign. Ron Von Peterkin, with samples of Gaulds spread and chocolate auze, was one of the participating vendors.
Student managers create legacy through WITR renovation project

When Craig Ceremuga and Jarret Whetstone receive their diplomas, they will know that they have left the RIT campus in better shape than they found it. Ceremuga and Whetstone are two leaders of WITR-FM (89.7), RIT’s student-run radio station. Both have been involved with the station throughout most of their tenure at RIT, logging countless hours in the station’s studio on the lower level of the Student Alumni Union.

“I don’t know what I’d be doing if I wasn’t doing this,” says Whetstone. WITR’s engineering director and an imaging and photographic technology major. “Working at the station has been great, and I found it very satisfying.”

But it was a project that Whetstone and Ceremuga tackled this past year that has left them most satisfied. The two spearheaded an effort to renovate the station, converting all of its technology from analog to digital. It was the first time the station has been renovated since 1993. “It was a mess,” says Ceremuga, WITR’s general manager and an information technology major. “We wanted to do something about it so that future students wouldn’t have to deal with it.”

Ceremuga and Whetstone started thinking about pushing for the transformation to digital last year. They wrote a proposal and began soliciting quotes. The proposal went before a number of people and organizations, including vice president for student affairs Mary-Beth Cooper and senior vice president of Finance and administration Jim Watters.

“We didn’t run into any opposition from anyone at RIT at all,” Ceremuga says. “Once they saw what we were doing, it sold.”

Once their new equipment arrived, Ceremuga and Whetstone teamed with incoming WITR engineering director Justin Moore to install it. In addition to classes, each student logged close to 30 hours a week, for two weeks, to complete the installation.

“The renovation makes it a whole lot easier to run the station,” Whetstone says. “We were from thousands of wires to about 20. Everyone else, who would have had to deal with the terrible old system, can now get more enjoyment out of it.”

Ceremuga agrees: “The station is much nicer now, it’s great. Now we have one of the most sophisticated stations in Rochester when it comes to technology. We feel that this is kind of something special that we’re able to leave behind for RIT.”

Study of new process will impact semiconductor industry

Research will lead to advanced use of plasma applications for microelectronics

In a lab in the James E. Gleason Building, Andrew Wagner, a senior microelectronic engineering major, is conducting an experiment that could come right out of Star Wars. Wagner theories a switch on his testing device and a beam that looks eerily like a light saber can be seen through a small window as it is applied to a silicon chip.

The process, known as atmospheric plasma application, utilizes low temperature beams of plasma, the ionized gas state of an element, in applying different materials to silicon chips for use in microprocessor production, energy applications and nanofabrication. The technique is more efficient than other types of material processing and could have a major impact on the development of the semiconductor industry, new-energy development and nanoelectronics.

Low-temperature plasma application is currently used in a number of areas within microelectronics, but this process requires operation in a vacuum which is very expensive to set up and maintain,” notes Wagner. “By enhancing the use of atmospheric plasma, we hope to reduce the cost and enhance the uses for this technology.”

To conduct the experiment a gas is “excited” using electromagnetic fields in a reaction that is similar to what occurs when lightning forms. Researchers then vary the energy, geometry and elements of the plasma beam to produce different properties in the material.

Davide Mariotti, visiting assistant professor of microelectronic engineering, who is conducting the research with Wagner, notes that the project is not only adding to the overall understanding of the technique, but also providing an excellent training and education vehicle for RIT students.

“We strive to provide hands-on, real-world training and access to cutting-edge technologies that allow our students to be engaged in leading research activities,” Mariotti adds.

Mariotti and Wagner hope to soon publish their findings and will submit their work for presentation at several national science and engineering conferences. Mariotti also plans to utilize the technique developed in the project in additional research involving the growth of carbon nanotubes. The project is being funded by Applied Materials Inc.

Three new Wall of Fame inductees selected

Graduating seniors studying business at RIT have continued a legacy to inspire other students for many years to come.

The Class of 2008 at E. Philip Saunders College of Business adds three new members to the Alumni Wall of Fame, located in the Max Lowenthal Building.

Selection to the Wall of Fame is based on several factors including professional success, community involvement and sustained support to the vitality of RIT. The 2008 Wall of Fame honorees are:

William Buckingham ’64, RIT Board of Trustees member who forged a 35-year career in the banking industry, culminating at M&T Bank as executive vice president of the retail banking division.

Susan Holliday ’85, president and publisher of Rochester Business Journal, with board-member involvement in local organizations such as RIT, Rochester Business Alliance, University of Rochester Medical Center and Rochester Museum and Science Center.


WITR’s engineering director and an imaging and photographic technology major. “Working at the station has been great, and I found it very satisfying.”

Craig Ceremuga, right, and Jarret Whetstone have spent much of their final year at RIT building a legacy. The two led an effort to renovate the studio of WITR, RIT’s student-run radio station.

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Youngsters put their love of technology to music—and collect a grand prize

RIT’s B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences is already recruiting some headlining students from Canandaigua Primary School to be members of the university’s class of 2023. The first-grade class of teacher Richard Colosi received VIP treatment at the college during a May 5 visit to acknowledge their grand-prize win in an international music-video contest in which they demonstrated the importance of computing and technology, particularly the need for young girls to pursue careers in the field.

Golisano College Dean Jorge Diaz-Herrera honored their achievement with a surprise announcement that if any of the 20 students attend RIT’s computing college, each would be awarded a $2,500 scholarship upon acceptance.

“We wanted to recognize their amazing success in promoting computing and their message that girls can do anything with technology,” says Diaz-Herrera. “Nationally, only 14 out of 100 girls pursue a career in the computing field. The Golisano College team is making a serious charge to help young minds like these students really understand how exciting studying computing can be!”

During their visit, the students were honored “Golisano College Kids of 2022.” Diaz-Herrera also presented each with a commemorative trophy and certificate before a screening of their video called Ain’t Gonna Hold Us Back.

During their visit, the students narrates part of the video, described in the lyrics in the music video: “Told the world that girls in classes like computer science. That kind of easy talk gets all the girls TIED UP! So listen all you girls around the world, we’re just as smart as all the boys are. Let’s use technology and show ‘em how we got down!”

“[The work of the student team has] an opportunity to help make a real-world impact, enhancing the real-world impacts, enhancing the development of numerous innovations and even saving lives. For example, a 2008 student design team formulated, developed and constructed a test stand which is being used to measure the performance of a new type of heart pump called a magnetically levitated axial flow left ventricular assist device, an innovative heart pump that could reduce the need for heart transplants.

The Kate Gleason College of Engineering’s multidisciplinary senior design program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on expertise and participate in top-level research while still in college. In addition, a number of the designs created through the program ultimately have significant real-world impacts, enhancing the development of numerous innovations and even saving lives. For example, a 2008 student design team formulated, developed and constructed a test stand which is being used to measure the performance of a new type of heart pump called a magnetically levitated axial flow left ventricular assist device. The pump, developed by a team led by Steven Day, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is more gentle and durable than other types of devices, improves overall performance of the heart in people with various forms of heart disease and could ultimately reduce the number of patients requiring heart transplants. “This project has been incredibly gratifying both in allowing all members of the team to work on high-level research and in giving us an opportunity to help make a real difference in people’s lives,” notes Jim Cezo, a fifth-year mechanical engineering major and member of the design team.

“The work of the student team has been tremendous and the device they have developed will be extremely useful in furthering the development of this technology,” adds Day. “I have one other team working on a different aspect of the pump and hope to involve additional multidisciplinary design teams on different aspects of this project as we move forward.”

good business skills start early

Nadia Patczynk, a first-year accounting major at E. Philip Saunders College of Business, was among 52 RIT students, alumni and other business professionals who recently spent a day teaching business and economics to kindergarteners through sixth-grade students at Kodak Park School No. 42.

This is the third year RIT has teamed with the school using curriculum provided by Junior Achievement of Rochester.

Student leaders hope to ‘continue momentum’

Student Government President Ed Wolf will return next academic year for another term—this time, with a new vice president, second-year information technology major Matt Danza. Their goal is to sustain Student Government’s current momentum.

“There is still work to be done,” says Wolf, a fourth-year computer engineering major. “We have a lot of great initiatives in progress that we want to see through.”

Wolf cites three major achievements from the past year: an earlier release of final exam schedules; Student Government worked with RIT administration to have final exam schedules released upon registration, instead of having to wait until later in the quarter.

Wolf says this enables students to make travel plans earlier, which often makes travel more affordable. Collaborating on the Student Alumni Union renovation plans: Student Government pushed for more club space and conference rooms for student-related activities in the renovation plans for the Student Alumni Union. Ground will be broken on the project in the coming weeks. Expanding Student Government’s representation: Student Government has expanded to open senate positions to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and, effective next academic year, the graduate student body.

Danza served as a cabinet member representative at-large this past year, and collaborated with Wolf on a number of projects. When Wolf approached Danza about running together, Danza didn’t hesitate. “It was the logical next step,” Danza says. “We both want to make changes on campus and make sure student voices are heard. We have a lot of new ideas.”

Wolf and Danza want to push for more sustainable practices on campus, and pledge to set an example for doing so. Student Government will coordinate with the Student Environmental Action League to develop a set of sustainable best practices. They also hope to change the student debt policy in order to allow debit dollars to roll over between quarters in the same academic year.

Other initiatives include pushing for an earlier residence hall move-in date following breaks and creating more events that offer safe and responsible consumption of alcohol for those students who are over the legal drinking age.

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Students design innovative heart pumps

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Scholarship salutes math, science, engineering students

Four students have been named 2008 winners of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the premier award for undergraduate students interested in pursuing careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

This year’s winners—juniors Jillian Lund, Nicholas Battista and Nathan Haseley and sophomore Joshua Thomson—are among 321 winners of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, this year’s recipients receiving the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the premier undergraduate students award for undergraduate students.

Goldwater Scholarship winners are, left to right, Nicholas Battista, Jillian Lund and Nathan Haseley. Missing from the photo is Joshua Thomson.

A Ritchie the Tiger, RIT’s mascot, poses with some Imagine festival visitors.

B The public wasn’t able to try every exhibit, but RIT students, faculty and staff gave demonstrations on highly skilled techniques such as glass blowing.

C There were plenty of activities for children at the festival, including this rock climbing wall set up by RIT’s ROTC programs.

D The Imagine RIT Festival was hands-on fun for all ages. Children were even able to experience the art of making pottery.

E RIT President Bill Destler made his way throughout the campus on May 3, examining the more than 400 examples of RIT student, faculty and staff innovation and creativity. Destler called the festival “a success beyond my wildest expectations.”

F The Mobilized Robotic Hotdog Assembler drew long lines of spectators throughout the day. Students in the College of Applied Science and Technology built a robot that cooks a hot dog, prepares it to order and serves it on a tray, complete with pudding and a juice box.

G An estimated 17,000 to 20,000 people attended the inaugural Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. The second Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival will be held May 2, 2009, on the RIT campus.

The ‘right brain’ and ‘left brain’ collided at RIT May 3, and an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 people turned out to see it happen.

RIT President Bill Destler has deemed the inaugural Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival a rousing achievement.

“The festival was a success beyond my wildest expectations,” Destler says. “I was so proud of both the great turnout for the event and of the quality of creative and innovative work displayed by our faculty, staff and students. It was, indeed, a great day for RIT.”

Student Government President Ed Wolf, who was also an exhibitor at the festival, agrees: “There was definitely an electricity in the air. You could tell that a lot of people just didn’t know about all of these cool things that exist at RIT. The festival was a huge success.”

Visitors witnessed a robot that served hot dogs, a concrete canoe that floats and dozens of musical and theatrical performances. Children made freeze-dried ice cream, test drove Roomba Robots and took a spin on a Ferris wheel.

And it’s all happening again next year. The second Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival will be held May 2, 2009, on the RIT campus.

To relive the event through a photo slideshow, visit www.rit.edu/imagine. Visitors are encouraged to add their own photos from the festival to the collection.
The device will consist of a 2-D continuous array of light sensing elements connected to high-speed circuits. The $547,000 NASA-fund ed program also includes a potential $500,000 phase for fabrication and testing. "The imaging LIDAR detector could become a workhorse for a wide range of NASA missions," says Figer, professor in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science and laboratory director.

LIDAR works by measuring the time it takes for light to travel from a laser beam to an object and back into a light detector. The new detector can be used to measure distance, speed and rotation. It will provide high-spatial resolution topography as well as measurements of planetary atmospheres. The device can also be used to probe the environments of comets, asteroids and moons.

Figer's team includes Zoran Ninkov, professor of imaging science, and Steff Baum, center director.

Karen Benjamin ’93 (COLA). Missing are Kathryn “Kathy” Hill ’78 (COS), Barbara M. “Bobbie” Fallon ’89 (NTID), Cambria MacIntosh ’89 (Kate Gleason College of Engineering). Following graduation from RIT, MacIntosh moved to Boston to work for Syksa and Hennessy as a design engineer. She also attended Northrop Grumman in Newport News, Virginia, and received an M.S. in mechanical engineering. In 1991, she joined Select Energy Services in 1991 as a project engineer, where she developed and implemented energy efficiency projects for clients such as the U.S. Navy and the Boston Red Sox.

She advanced to become manager of engineering and construction before becoming director of business development. In 2004, MacIntosh joined Sempra Energy as vice president of government programs. She is currently vice president of business development for NORESCO LLC in Westborough, Mass., a leading energy company that has developed, financed, installed and maintained more than $2 billion in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects worldwide.

Barbara M. “Bobbie” Fallon ’89 (National Technical Institute for the Deaf). The Distinguished Alumni Award for NTID is being awarded posthumously to Fallon, who died unexpectedly in February shortly after being selected by her peers. Fallon enrolled in the 2008 Engineering, Exploration and Experimentation Technology Fair held at RIT April 24. The event, co-sponsored by RIT and the Rochester Engineering Society, included a series of interactive exhibits and hands-on presentations related to engineering and science aimed toward middle-school students. The fair, founded in 1991, currently attracts more than 1,000 attendees from across the region.

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**Flashback’ to life along Erie Canal**

As Mark Boylan, Saunder- son College alumni—whom—also—...—the teacher they went from—...—alumni—which—all the—...—the course never fail to recall the student—even the ancient ones—...—'sweet tooth’ also—...—a strong allegiance to his students and received his RIT's Eisenhart Award for outstanding teaching in 1997, one of his special events was preparing for the biennial McClure lecture, which was open to the Rochester com- munity.

He started to worry about plan- ning and organizing the event nine months before it would take place,” says Donna Slavin, assistant director to the dean, says after work- ing with Fram for 23 years, she knew his persistence. “He loved doughnuts and for health reasons, his wife, Elineor, would make sure he stayed away from them. But he always man- aged to sneak a half donut while he thought no one was looking, and I would always tease him about it.”

Close to his “sweet tooth” also permeated his interviews with local media, especially when asked about the retail industry. “I used to buy my favorite muffin at Weg- mans for 99 cents, and it’s now $1.25; that’s a 20 percent jump in just a few weeks,” Fram would say.

Fram will soon be missing Weg- mans superstores as he moves to the west coast to be with his family in Palo Alto, Calif. But he’ll be back at RIT to receive his accolades on May 23.

“I’m going to be presented with the Presidential Medalion by Dr. Destler and 3,000 miles couldn’t stop me from coming,” says Fram, who will be the 63rd recipient of this prestigious award that was first issued in 1978.

“This will be a highlight to a 53-year run that I will sadly miss. But when I look back over my career, its challenges and its rewards, I can honestly say I’ve enjoyed going to work every day. Not many people can say that.”

Marcia Morphy | morphy@rit.edu

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**University News survey**
As a News & Events reader, you’re interested in RIT news and have special insight into the way you want to receive RIT news. We value your opinions about News & Events, the University News Web site (www. rit.edu/news), RIT news podcasts and other communication tools. Share your opinions about RIT news content and the format, length and frequency you prefer—they will be crucial in helping shape how University News delivers RIT news to you.

To complete a brief online survey was recently sent via e-mail (including a link to the survey) to members of the RIT community. If you did not receive the invitation and wish to take the survey, visit www.rit.edu/news/poll to access the survey. If you have not received Internet access, contact University News at (585) 475-5064 or unvnews@rit.edu to request a printed copy.

This invitation to share your opinions about RIT University News.

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**Class of 2008**

Other highlights of Academic Convocation include recognition of students graduating with honors and faculty members who won this year's outstanding teaching awards.

In addition, each college, including the American College of Manage- ment and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and the American Uni- versity in Kosovo, has chosen an undergraduate student to serve as college delegate. These delegates represent their colleges on stage dur- ing the official conferral of degrees by President Destler.

“Our celebration is a culminating experience for graduates, their families and friends,” says Destler. “It’s a chance for them to feel the pride of time at RIT and a fitting finale to years of hard work and sacrifice,” says Destler.

Each RIT college celebrates commencement with individual ceremonies and receptions (see ac- companying schedule). During these ceremonies, graduating students are recognized individually and respective delegates address those in attendance.

“Each graduate is a living embodiment of a successful academic career, possessing the knowledge and skills to begin the next phase of his or her life and take his or her place as a member of the academic community and an asset to the profession,” says Donna Slavin, assistant director to the dean, says after working with Fram for 23 years, she knew his persistence. “He loved doughnuts and for health reasons, his wife, Elineor, would make sure he stayed away from them. But he always man- aged to sneak a half donut while he thought no one was looking, and I would always tease him about it.”

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**New dean**

32 refereed journal articles and papers in conference proceedings.

He has secured in excess of $2.8 million in external funding via grants and contracts.

“Dr. Walker has contagious energy,” says Destler. “He is a wonderful match to both the current needs and aspirations of the College of Applied Science and Technology.”

In his role as chair of the technology department at the University of Southern Maine, Walker oversaw programs that were offered on campus as well as at numerous regional satellite locations and at selected military and industrial sites located throughout the state of Maine through face-to-face delivery, instructional television and compressed video.

Walker also led department faculty in the development and implementation of a department-wide strategic plan, in addition to the development and implementation of student recruitment and retention plans.

“Dr. Walker’s experience with shared governance and administrative leadership will serve him very well,” says Jeremy Haftner, RIT’s incoming senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. “He understands innovation and creativity, and this insight will be a solid asset to the College of Applied Science and Technology.”

Walker began his academic career as an assistant professor at the University of Southern Maine in 1993. He earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology and a master’s degree in business administration from California State University and a master’s degree in systems engineering and a doctoral degree in industrial education and technology from Iowa State University.

Additionally, Walker served nine years in the U.S. Navy, where he received “Secret Security Clearance” from the U.S. National Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Defense. Walker served in a number of technological capacities, concluding his Naval career as a program manager in information systems administration before being honorably discharged in 1992.

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**Sunday matinee of student films**

Enjoy a Sunday at the movies while watching the best student films at RIT’s School of Film and Animation’s annual Student Honors Show. The animation, Out of Place, by fourth-year student Christian Turrense, will be among the works shown from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 25 at George Eastman House’s Dryden Theatre, 900 East Ave., Rochester. First-year students through graduate stu- dents in the film school submitted works for consideration. A committee com- prised of faculty and students selected 20 films from more than 500 entries. The student films are of various genres including narrative, documentary, experimental and animation. The public is invited to attend. Admission is $5, and students with ID are admitted for free.

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