

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (April 10, 2008) (Season 2, Episode 11)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (April 10, 2008)

Longtime RIT business professor Eugene Fram was in the news recently—but unlike the hundreds of previous times his words have been quoted in newspapers across the nation, this time Dr. Fram wasn't sharing his marketing expertise. Instead, the focus was on him and his retirement after 51 years at RIT. First of all, Dr. Fram, congratulations to you on a well-earned retirement.

ACTUALITY [EUGENE FRAM]: Well, thank you very much.

HOST: Not only are you leaving RIT after more than five decades, but you're also relocating from Rochester to California. Now, that's quite an upheaval, I'd say. No doubt, though, that you're looking forward to joining family out west.

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Yes, we have two sons and their families living in Palo Alto, so we're going to settle there to be closer to family.

HOST: Fifty-one years at RIT—for you, what will stand out the most?

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Well, the changes that have taken place. When I arrived on campus, RIT was just beginning to grant bachelor's degrees. Within a 10-year period, most programs had a master's degree. So it was a fast-growth period of time.

HOST: Well, you mentioned "change," and you've most certainly seen quite a bit in your years here at RIT. You talked about some of RIT's growth academically, but what about physically? When you began at RIT in 1957, after all, the campus was in downtown Rochester, with the move to Henrietta still more than a decade away. So what about RIT's growth physically?

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Well, downtown we had a grounds crew of one person with a putt-putt lawn mower, and here I don't know what the size of the grounds crew is.

HOST: Looking back, when you first arrived on the Henrietta campus in 1968, could've you—or anyone, for that matter—imagined what it would become some 40 years later? Without knowing the specifics—as no one could, of course—did you expect RIT's expansion to what we see today, or, indeed, do you think it's been beyond anyone's expectations?

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: No, as an institution we had to grow and we had to develop. If not, you become a stagnant institution. And this is true of educational institutions, it's true of businesses. You have to look to the future and you have to make some estimates of what the future is going to be like and how your educational institution or business fits

into that future.

HOST: Congratulations also, Dr. Fram, on being named RIT professor emeritus—a distinction reserved for a only select few retiring professors. And from a selfish perspective, personally I'm glad it means you'll still be available to RIT University News, even from California.

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Well, that's the fun part of the job. I know it's work for you folks, but I've enjoyed my relationship with University News Service over the years.

HOST: Well, speaking of that relationship, I should add that this interview marks your all-time leading sixth time on "Dateline: RIT – The Podcast" since the podcast's launch in August 2006 (and that's not counting an additional interview on our sister podcast "Studio 86").

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: OK [laughter]. Well, if I can help in any way, communication channels to California are always open.

HOST: Well, best of luck to you. And, again, I'm sure we'll be hearing from you some more on the podcast. We'll also miss your cutting through Building 86 to stay warm on some of those cold winter days as you made your way to the Lowenthal Building. But I imagine that's probably something you won't miss.

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Yes [laughter]. Well, I won't miss the five-foot snow banks, let me tell you [laughter].

HOST: Well, on behalf of everyone in University News, we wish you all the best in your much-deserved retirement.

ACTUALITY [FRAM]: Well, thank you very much for your good wishes.

HOST: That's RIT professor emeritus—retired after 51 years at RIT—Eugene Fram.

On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty has details on an RIT partnership with the Dominican Republic and more on this spring's Imagine RIT festival . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from the latest issue.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. The Dominican Republic government is partnering with RIT to offer scholarships to the island country's best and brightest graduate students. The partnership will offer Dominicans scholarships to RIT in the areas of engineering, management, computing, networking and communication. The Dominican Republic has received more than 25 competitive applications for this upcoming summer quarter. An additional 25 to 40 graduate students from the Caribbean nation will have the opportunity to apply and attend RIT this fall on a full ride from the government. Interest from the Dominican government in this partnership began

last fall when RIT hosted Dominican Republic President Fernández on the campus. . . . Save the date for Saturday, May 3rd. Imagine RIT, the university's first innovation and creativity festival, is less than a month away. More than 400 exhibits from students, faculty and staff will be on display as the campus prepares to show off its best work from 10 to 4 on May 3rd. There will also be food, carnival rides, music and inflatable games for the kids. Parking will be available at RIT, as well as at MCC, where shuttles will bring festivalgoers to campus. RIT hopes to attract 30,000 visitors to campus for the free festival. For more information, visit rit.edu/imagine. . . . This is Bob Finnerty on the RIT campus.

SEGMENT [VIENNA CARVALHO]: This is News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho. In the current issue of News & Events . . . RIT has signed a groundbreaking research-and-development agreement with PAETEC that will enhance the transfer of technological innovations to industry while promoting regional development. The partnership includes \$1 million worth of research-and-development projects over three years and will involve faculty and graduate students from RIT colleges. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, we spotlight the many campus renovations, updates and new construction that will be taking place at RIT over the next few years, totaling \$125 million. Park Point, Rivers Run, a Student/Administrative Service Center and Innovation Center and Global Village are just a few of the projects highlighted in the story. . . . And read our Viewpoints essay written by Liberal Arts associate dean John Capps, who stresses the success of faculty-student research collaborations. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the April 3rd issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (April 10, 2008). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

ANNCR: For more on these stories and other RIT news, visit www.rit.edu/news.
Dateline: RIT is produced by RIT University News Services.

NOTE: Dateline: RIT (April 10, 2008) audio podcast available at:
http://www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/Dateline_04-10-08.m4a and
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