

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Jan. 24, 2008) (Season 2, Episode 7)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Jan. 24, 2008)

It's skiing and snowboarding season in parts of the country—and that, unfortunately, brings on the season of injuries suffered on the slopes. It also puts in the news an RIT expert who's one of the world's preeminent authorities on skiing- and snowboarding-related injuries—including their causes and ways they can be limited. Research by Jasper Shealy, professor emeritus in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, was cited in a recent article in The Wall Street Journal and other newspapers. Dr. Shealy, what are some of the causes and most common types of injuries suffered by skiers and snowboarders?

ACTUALITY [JASPER SHEALY]: Well, the most common thing is just simply somebody falls down while they're skiing or snowboarding. That accounts for the bulk of all of the injuries. Most of those tend to be really rather mild—they're bumps and bruises and scrapes, that sort of thing.

HOST: And what about the more serious injuries?

ACTUALITY [SHEALY]: Well, the more serious ones typically involve more kinetic energy and a higher rate of energy exchange. And so the most serious ones typically are impacts with solid, fixed objects—and the most common solid, fixed object is a tree.

HOST: What about differences among injuries sustained while snowboarding versus those received while skiing—are certain injuries more prevalent among snowboarders?

ACTUALITY [SHEALY]: Sure, well the most common injury is a wrist injury, either from a forward or backward fall—and that accounts for 20 to 25 percent of all snowboarding injuries; and the comparable injury for skiing would be a knee injury—and that's around 20 to 25 percent of all injuries in skiing are to the knee. And in both cases there's no other injury or injury body part that's in double digits—everything else is single digits.

HOST: And looking at who is injured on the slopes, what groups are likely to incur the most injuries?

ACTUALITY [SHEALY]: Well, it depends upon the severity. If we look at the upper end—that is to say, a catastrophic or fatal injury (a catastrophic is one where somebody typically suffers some sort of a paralyzing injury or permanently debilitating injury)—those tend to be the province of males. It used to be young males from late teens to early 30s. Now, I think maybe we're seeing a boomer phenomena here—it still starts in the late teens, but it goes all the way up into the early 50s. They are generally intermediate to above average in terms of abilities. Rarely is it that a beginner or novice skier or snowboarder suffers a really serious injury.

HOST: That's RIT professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering Jasper Shealy, one of the world's preeminent experts on skiing- and snowboarding-related injuries.

On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty has 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. More than 200 proposals have been submitted to Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. The proposals include demonstrations, exhibitions, performances and hands-on activities. In addition, events are being planned by each of RIT's eight colleges. RIT is hoping to attract up to 30,000 visitors to the first-of-its kind festival. The festival will expose thousands of people to hundreds of student, faculty and staff creativity and innovation in the form of products and services, creative arts and crafts, research and more. Save the date: Saturday, May 3rd. For more on the festival, visit [rit.edu/imagine](http://rit.edu/imagine). . . . And now a new feature, our spotlight on a festival exhibit. Look for the The Green vehicle Team R Car. Students from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering designed the vehicle's mechanical and electrical components, and industrial designers in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences designed the exterior. The team will show how feasible it is to build a small, fuel-efficient vehicle built for less than \$5,000. The R car can attain more than 800 miles per gallon. Look for it at the festival on May 3rd. . . . 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 will forge a new partnership with Delphi Automotive for a joint research project that will assist Rochester in becoming a hub of the alternative-energy industry. RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies has been awarded \$2.75 million to assist the U.S. military in incorporating alternative-energy technologies into vehicle operations. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, RIT's Woodward Pool in the Student Alumni Union is about to undergo renovations spearheaded by a \$2 million gift from The Summers Foundation. The renovations are part of a \$10 million revitalization that will create a new Campus Center in the Union. . . . And, read about Michael Hakans, a photo student in RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, who takes pride in capturing the universe's tiniest elements with a collection of specialized photographic equipment and microscopes. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Jan. 17th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Jan. 24, 2008). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

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

NOTE: Dateline: RIT (Jan. 24, 2008) audio podcast available at:  
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