

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Dec. 13, 2007) (Season 2, Episode 6)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Dec. 13, 2007)

On Dec. 5, RIT announced the planned opening of a branch campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in the fall of 2008. RIT Dubai, part of what's been dubbed Dubai Silicon Oasis, will serve students in the Middle East and Southeast Asia and provide study abroad and co-op opportunities for current RIT students. In the works for two years, the campus will become RIT's third branch campus—joining those in Croatia and Kosovo.

Speaking at a Dec. 5 news conference, RIT President Bill Destler described RIT Dubai.

ACTUALITY [BILL DESTLER]: This is an extraordinary development of semiconductor and microelectronic industries and related entities on a 7.5-square-kilometer tract of land at the port city of Dubai. So it's a very exciting enterprise.

HOST: So why is RIT pursuing international ventures such as this one and other branch campuses?

ACTUALITY [DESTLER]: We see these as being beneficial not only to the communities that they serve in those regions, but they provide wonderful opportunities for our own students to get an international experience by traveling over and visiting those facilities, gaining all of the knowledge of that culture and those new international connections that can prove so useful when they pursue their careers.

HOST: Does having an international presence enhance RIT's reputation, both home and abroad?

ACTUALITY [DESTLER]: Yeah, in my opinion there won't be any great universities that are not globally connected in the future. Just like our large corporations find that they have to operate internationally, our most prominent universities and colleges have to do the same.

HOST: What are the initial and long-range plans for RIT Dubai?

ACTUALITY [DESTLER]: In many ways, you would think of it as a decade-long project. We're going to be starting with part-time graduate programs—mostly in engineering and technical fields—but eventually we'll move to even some undergraduate programs there and programs in business and finance, as well. So it will have a relatively full-featured program there eventually, but it will take us a number of years to grow to full size.

HOST: That's RIT President Bill Destler describing RIT Dubai, RIT's newest international branch campus, slated to open next fall.

Mustafa Abushagur, director and professor of microsystems engineering at RIT, also spoke with the media on Dec. 5. Credited with engineering the Dubai partnership, Dr. Abushagur describes the focus of RIT Dubai, and he looks beyond next fall to projected growth in both enrollment and academic programs over the next decade.

ACTUALITY [MUSTAFA ABUSHAGUR]: The focus for the Dubai Silicon Oasis is the microelectronics industry—so, talking about computers, cell phones, everything that has electronic chip inside of it—and, also, at the same time there's a lot of folks on alternative energy, which all relate to the semiconductor industry itself. But, of course, also there'll be other fields. Dubai is becoming a finance center of the region. So our students will be able to have opportunity to work in all these fields—the first two years with graduate programs in engineering, in electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical, and master's degree in finance and also in leadership and service management. So these are the ones we're going to start with and in two years, while the campus will be built, we will start undergraduate program, and then we'll be offering about 15 undergraduate programs. [QUESTIONER]: You also talked about where we might be in 10 years—2019, say. Where do you think we'll be then? [ABUSHAGUR]: I think in about 2019, we have full-fledged campus will be in place and we expect to have at least about 4,000 students at that time in about 15 different degree programs. It's very exciting time because Dubai is really the right place—to be in that part of the world, it's a very dynamic place, and also at the same time they have the ambition of becoming the hub of the education in the region. And, of course, if you look at Dubai itself, it is very cosmopolitan, it is a very diverse—they have, I think, 130 nationalities living in the country. And so that's what made Dubai the perfect place.

HOST: That's RIT's Mustafa Abushagur, speaking with the news media Dec. 5 about RIT Dubai.

On the RIT campus this week . . . News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has more about RIT Dubai and other highlights from the Dec. 6 issue of News & Events.

SEGMENT [VIENNA CARVALHO]: This is News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho. In the current issue of News & Events . . . RIT will open a campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, next fall. Dubai will invest in building a full-fledged campus including an academic center, living quarters for students and faculty and a recreational facility. RIT will provide academic content, leadership and management of the university. In 2010, RIT Dubai will begin offering undergraduate programs to full-time students. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, Gallery r debuts an exhibit showcasing Rochester's homeless community. The project was an interdisciplinary classroom-community endeavor for nine RIT students who immersed themselves in the social issue of homelessness and documented what they saw and learned from the experience. The show runs through Jan. 12th. . . . And, read about Jen Loomis, a Golisano College student, who is featured as this month's Student Spotlight. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Dec. 6th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Dec. 13, 2007). The next Dateline: RIT podcast will be in 2008. I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus. Happy holidays from University News!

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 (Dec. 13, 2007) audio podcast available at:  
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