

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (July 26, 2007) (Episode 20)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (July 26, 2007)

Windy City readers and others heard about RIT in the past couple weeks, as RIT was mentioned twice in one of the nation's highest-circulation dailies. Criminal justice professor John Klofas was quoted in a June 22nd Chicago Tribune story about the war on drugs and the effects from establishing so-called "safe zones" in drug-law enforcement. First, Dr. Klofas, what's meant by the term, "safe zone"?

ACTUALITY [JOHN KLOFAS]: Safe zones are areas of concentrated effort for enforcement, and they typically involve areas that have some significant serious crime issues where a lot of enforcement efforts take place. On the positive side, they have a major effect on crime in those areas; but, on the negative side, they give you the impression that crime is really limited in terms of geographic areas, because it's simply a fact of life that when you're not looking for crime in certain areas, you're not going to find it.

HOST: And are there unintended consequences from establishing safe zones?

ACTUALITY [KLOFAS]: Areas where you concentrate a lot of enforcement resources are areas where you're going to find crime and those areas—particularly when they are areas that have a specific demographic—you're going to associate those offenses with that demographic. The idea of focused enforcement, though, is a very common method of deciding where to put police officers—is to really look at the hot spots for crime.

HOST: That's RIT criminal justice professor John Klofas. To read the full Chicago Tribune article about drug-war law enforcement, click the link in the Aug. 1st "Dateline: RIT" e-newsletter, coming to subscribers' e-mail inboxes Aug. 1st.

RIT's long-running Kids on Campus program was referenced in the July 16 Chicago Tribune article, "Camp Geek turning heads," which highlighted non-traditional, tech-oriented summer camps for kids. Program coordinator Susan Kurtz tells us about the more than two-decade-old program for fifth- through 10th-graders.

ACTUALITY [KURTZ]: Kids on Campus is two weeks of computers, animation, video, digital art, interactive movies, for students, grades five through nine—students whom we hope to spark an interest in technology, as well. It is what some would call "computer camp." We merge graphics and programming, we merge math and art. It's just a good place to be—the environment at RIT, so positive and welcoming to the Kids on Campus students.

HOST: That's RIT's Susan Kurtz talking about Kids on Campus. For more on the program, visit rit.edu/news and search "Kids on Campus."

ACTUALITY [SUSAN GAWLOWICZ]: This is Susan Gawlowicz, University News beat reporter covering the College of Liberal Arts. Two women who met as students at RIT want to give the blind and visually impaired community more independence in choosing their wardrobe and more confidence when dressing for success. Jaimen Brill, a 2007 graduate in advertising and public relations, and Asmah Abushagur, a marketing major in RIT's E. Philip Saunders College of Business, are forming the non-profit organization White Cane Label to help the blind and visually impaired shop for clothing and coordinate their outfits. They are advocating for an interactive, talking Web site online store and standardized, Braille-embossed clothing tags made of cloth, not aluminum, to be sewn onto all garments. The user-friendly Web site will include a questionnaire to gauge personal style, clothing recommendations and detailed descriptions of each item in different styles and price ranges. The Braille clothing labels will include three or more symbols indicating the brand, color and coordinating style for mixing and matching individual pieces. A second label will include washing instructions in Braille. Earlier this month, Brill and Abushagur presented their concept for White Cane Label at the Fashion for Good Roundtable in Rome, sponsored by the fashion association Alta Roma. Their story was covered by Reuters and the BBC, and numerous other news outlets. Brill and Abushagur met in communication professor Wilma King's Public Relations class in fall 2006. White Cane Label grew from a class assignment to develop an awareness campaign for a special-needs group. The project is named for the familiar white cane used by millions of people. This is Susan Gawlowicz.

HOST: On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty details this month's U.S. Airways Magazine feature about Rochester . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from the latest issue.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. RIT and Rochester are flying high. Greater Rochester is the subject of a major 70-page profile in this month's U.S. Airways Magazine, and RIT is prominently featured. U.S. Airways estimates it will carry as many as 7 million passengers across the nation and the world during July—the second busiest month in the skies after November. A 70-page spread on Rochester is great exposure for RIT and the region. The Rochester profile focuses on the area's history, new technology, affordability of housing and, of course, higher education. The Rochester profile can be found at usairwaysmag.com and, of course, on an airline near you. . . . Want to learn more about RIT's ninth president? Visit Bill Destler's new Web site at rit.edu/president. Here, you will find Destler's biography, his latest papers and memos, news where he is featured and much more. The site will also carry information on Dr. Destler's upcoming inauguration, which is already set for Nov. 9th. That's rit.edu/president. . . . 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 welcomes its ninth president to campus. William Destler officially began his duties July 2nd and was greeted by a reception hosted by Student Government. His first workday included a tour of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies and meetings with local media reporters. . .

. Also in the current issue of News & Events, RIT has been awarded a \$1.1 million grant in support of its Project Lead the Way program. The grant, which was awarded by the New York State Education Department through its Engineers of the Future program, will support engineering curriculum training for New York state middle school and high school teachers. . . . And, read about a comprehensive new photography encyclopedia produced by RIT faculty, staff and alumni. Michael Peres, chair of the biomedical photographic communications department, serves as editor of The Focal Encyclopedia and oversaw an international team of more than 100 photographic and imaging experts in rewriting and revising the book's third edition. Images from world-renowned photographers are among the more than 450 photographs in the book, including some never before published from the George Eastman House collection. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the July 19th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (July 26, 2007). Dateline: RIT – The Podcast will be on summer hiatus next month—returning with twice monthly episodes beginning Sept. 13th. 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.