

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (March 22, 2007) (Episode 14)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT, with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (March 22, 2007)

RIT experts have been prominent in the pages of The Wall Street Journal. The remarks of four RIT experts were quoted in recent weeks, including professor emeritus Frank Romano from RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. In an article titled "When neighbors become rivals," Romano discusses how two of Rochester's largest employers are branching out into new product lines formerly the domain of their cross-town rival.

ACTUALITY [FRANK ROMANO]: What we're seeing is that Kodak has been moving into digital printing, and that, most recently, Xerox has announced systems for the photo-finishing business using Xerox-Fuji equipment. What does this all mean to the marketplace? Well, it means that there'll be increased competition in a variety of ways. It means that there will be interesting products coming out from both companies because they seem to share some of the common technologies for toner-based digital printing. The 800-pound gorilla waiting in the wings is really [Hewlett-Packard], and so it's really that triumvirate that really make up the digital-printing large organizations that will probably have some effect on the way we communicate in the printing industry over the next few years.

HOST: That's RIT's Frank Romano on Kodak, Xerox and the future of the printing industry. Also in The Wall Street Journal, RIT public policy professor and job outsourcing expert Ron Hira recently participated in a one-on-one online debate with an executive from Oracle Corp. about the hiring practices of U.S. companies regarding temporary foreign workers on visas.

ACTUALITY [RON HIRA]: The H-1B program is a work-permit program that allows high-skilled—so-called high-skill workers—to come to the U.S. to work for up to six years; and, while some companies use the program as a bridge to immigration, towards permanent residence—or a green card, as it's known—many companies are actually increasingly not using it in that fashion. They're actually using it purely as a temporary means to bring workers in, and these particular companies that are actually swamping the program are trying to bring in lower-cost workers and to ship work overseas. These are the leading offshore outsourcing companies. And the reason why this point is very important is because that's actually antithetical to the intent of Congress. The reason Congress has a program like this—to allow temporary workers to come in—is really both as a bridge to immigration, but also to fill a shortage of workers here; and, unfortunately, the H-1B program is actually doing the opposite. There is no shortage in these areas, and these companies actually are shipping more work overseas using the H-1B program.

HOST: That's RIT public policy professor, and the author of "Outsourcing America," Ron Hira, speaking once again to "Dateline: RIT" from the Economic Policy Institute in

Virginia.

ACTUALITY [JOHN FOLLACO]: This is John Follaco, RIT University News beat reporter covering the College of Applied Science and Technology. Senator Chuck Schumer came to Rochester Feb. 22 to garner support for new legislation designed to keep children safe online.

ACTUALITY [SEN. CHARLES SCHUMER]: We can't see everything that happens on the Internet. We can work hard to do the next best thing, and that is a system to report illegal activity the minute it's discovered.

ACTUALITY [JOHN FOLLACO]: The New York Democrat was accompanied by Monroe County District Attorney Mike Green and RIT professor and cybercrime expert Sam McQuade. Schumer praised McQuade for his Rochester Regional Cyber Safety and Ethics Initiative, which is a partnership between more than 20 Rochester-area school districts and a number of community organizations including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The initiative is designed to implement Internet safety and ethics instruction into schools and the community. Reporters from each of the local television stations and the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle were on hand to cover the event. This is John Follaco.

HOST: On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty has a sports roundup . . . and News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from this week's News & Events.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. It was a historic winter season for RIT athletics. The Tigers were the new kids on the block in Atlantic Hockey but won the league championship in only their second season at the Division I level. They were ranked as high as 21st nationally. Sophomore forward Steve Pinizzotto signed a professional contract with the NHL's Washington Capitals and has reported to the AHL's Hershey Bears. Also on the ice, the women's hockey team qualified for the NCAA Division III tournament for the first time in school history, recording a program record 22 wins and earning a season-ending number four national ranking. It was also a great year for women's basketball, track and field, wrestling, and diving. For a list of all the RIT All-Americans, please check out News & Events. . . . 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 hosted the third annual Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition earlier this month. Thirty-six student teams battled remote-controlled robots against one another, with five teams advancing to the national competition in April. Visit www.rit.edu/news and click on "Photo Gallery" to see images from the event. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, the newest addition to RIT Libraries opens April 3rd. The Deaf Studies Archive features a collection of books, videotapes and artwork related to deafness and deaf culture. The archive was created to honor the 40th anniversary of RIT becoming the host institute for NTID. . . .

And, our Student Spotlight focuses on an international graduate student from Honduras who has made significant inroads in the telecommunications engineering technology profession both here and abroad. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the March 22nd issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (March 22, 2007). 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.