Astrophysics degree becomes RIT’s fifth Ph.D.

Breakthroughs in astrophysics could reshape our understanding of the universe in the next decade. Observations of gravity waves could prove Einstein’s theory of general relativity, or tip physics on its head. Other missions using ground-based telescopes and space probes will peer into dark matter and dark energy—a mysterious material and a force puzzling 21st century astrophysicists.

RIT is gaining a reputation in the realm of astrophysics at this exciting time, with faculty contributing to research initiatives that blend science fiction with reality.

This fall, RIT will launch its fifth doctoral program, in astrophysical sciences and technology. The program brings together scientists from different disciplines within the College of Science to explore Einstein’s theory of relativity, young and dying stars, centers of galaxies and black holes, and the technology to make new observations.

The program will depart from traditional astrophysical studies that focus mainly on theoretical and observational aspects of the discipline by adding the characteristic RIT twist of technology and applied science. An equal emphasis on theory, observational astronomy, and sensor and instrument development will set RIT’s program apart from others.

Students will have the opportunity to earn master’s and doctoral degrees in three distinct tracks: the emerging field of astro-informatics and computational astrophysics, astronomical instrumentation and the development of new technologies for application in astronomy and space science, and astrophysics. The program will draw heavily upon faculty from the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, the Department of Physics and the School for Mathematical Sciences who are international experts in the areas of extragalactic astronomy—particularly the study of the centers of galaxies and stellar evolution—computational astronomy and numerical relativity, and instrumentation.

David Axon, head of the physics department, will co-direct the new program with Steff Baum, director of the Center for Imaging Science.

“Astrophysics is a discipline where learning by doing is absolutely key,” says Ian Gatley, dean of the College of Science. “It involves building technology, using technology and modeling phenomena using computers, and all of those are really very big issues indeed for RIT and its students.”

Susan Gawlowicz | srgawlow@rit.edu

Student team takes flight on NASA’s ‘Weightless Wonder’ aircraft

Three recent graduates and one student from RIT’s imaging and phototechnology program experienced human spaceflight without leaving earth’s orbit. The team of James Craven, Greg Sharp, Christopher Uebelacker and Jarret Whetstone earned an opportunity to fly aboard NASA’s Weightless Wonder, a C-9 aircraft that climbs to a 45-degree angle over the Gulf of Mexico and then nosedives to simulate zero gravity. RIT’s team spent a week in July at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Texas along with teams from University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M, University of Michigan and University of New Mexico as part of NASA’s Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program. The Weightless Wonder, page 4

New programs, resident parking regulations announced for fall

The Parking and Transportation Services office has been working to implement various strategic recommendations resulting from last year’s comprehensive parking and transportation strategy.

Listed below is information that you will need this fall including news about exciting programs and resident student parking regulation changes:

- RIT RideShare Program—Parking and Transportation Services has developed this new carpooling platform for use via myCourses. For more details on how to join, visit finweb.rit.edu/grms/pats/transportation/rideshare.html and click “RIT RideShare.”
- RIT Bicycle Program—In cooperation with the RIT Cycling Club, additional bicycle amenities and bike routes will be available throughout campus. This is an initial start to the first Parking, page 4

Welcome back events scheduled

The start of another academic year is just around the corner. Below is a list of key events that will kick off the year.

First-year Student Resource Fair, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aug. 24, Gordon Field House and Activites Center. An opportunity to help first-year students and their families learn about various RIT services.

Convocation for New Students, 9-11 a.m., Aug. 25, Field House. A welcome event for all first-year students and their families that is preceded by the Tiger Walk, an RIT tradition of providing a warm welcome to incoming students as they process into the ceremony.

President’s Address to the Community, 9:10-10:30 a.m., Aug. 28, Field House. RIT President Bill Destler recapitulates the past academic year and shares his vision for the upcoming year. The event also features remarks by the President of Academic Senate, chair of Staff Council, president of Student Government and the interim chief diversity officer.

Lighting the Way Ceremony, 6:30-10 p.m., Aug. 28. This ceremony in its third year, is designed to welcome RIT women to the campus community. The ceremony begins in the Field House with several speeches before a candlelight procession to Clark Gymnasium.

In the community

RIT engages Edison

Tech students in design contest, page 2

Promotions

Faculty celebrate recently announced promotions, page 3

Research and Scholarship

Female engineers earn distinguished honors, page 3

Newsmakers

Your colleagues’ latest accomplishments, page 4
United Way golf tourney
Tee-off RIT’s 2009 United Way Campaign at the 21st annual Rick Pettigrew Memo- rial Golf Tournament on Aug. 18, at Shadow Lake Golf Club. Early bird registration ends Sept. 1, and participants can download a registration form at www.rit/unitedway. For more information, contact co-chairs Lynn Booth at 475-7408 or Howard Ward at 475-6011.

Graduate student welcome
Orientation for all incoming graduate students is Aug. 17, in the lobby of the Student Alumni Union. College representatives from all eight colleges will be on hand to answer questions. Nearly two dozen service booths will be set up. RIT President Bill Destler will give a welcoming address at 4 p.m. during a reception in the Alfred L. Davis Room, followed by Andrew Moore, dean of graduate studies.

Can You Imagine an iTunes Can You Imagine, the theme song for the inaugural Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, is now available for purchase through iTunes. The song is performed by a group of faculty and staff called Together By Chance.

Pump up those bike tires
RIT faculty, staff, students and their family members are invited to join an informal bicycling club new to campus this summer. The entire project is free, but you will need to bring your own bike and gear. The routes are easy (gen- erally flat and usually between 10 to 20 miles), and we typically make a stop for refreshments along the route. For more information, contact the Office for Inclusive and Community Engagement.

Essay collection studies environmental policies of developing countries

Weighty issues of sustainability have troubled economist Amit Batabyal for more than a decade: how to grow crops without depleting the soil of nutrients, how to manage resources in a sustainable manner, “ says Batabyal.

Batabyal considers renewable re- sources by developing countries.

Batabyal applies theoretical mod- elling tools involving decision-making under uncertainty to problems facing developing nations in the management of their renewable resources, and he addresses the potential conflict between environmental and trade policies.

"Poverty is a big disincentive to managing resources in a sustainable manner,” Batabyal said.

Batabyal’s essays cover a wide variety of topics, including biotechnology laboratory procedures and bioinformatics and computa- tion. Batabyal considered renewable resources by developing countries.

RIT makes list of ‘great colleges to work for’

RIT has been recognized on The Chronicle of Higher Education’s inaugural Great Colleges to Work For list. RIT was cited in six different categories: Professional/Career Development Program, Compensa- tion and Benefits, Tuition Reim- bursement, 403b or 401k (retirement plan), Disability Insurance and Life Insurance.

"We are proud to be a university that attracts the best and brightest employees in higher education,” says Patty Spindler, assistant vice president of human resources. "This honor is a testament to our employees. They make RIT a great place to work."

The Chronicle of Higher Education modeled its list after Fortune’s popu- lar 100 Best Companies to Work For issue. However, it opted not to rank institutions on one list. Instead, it chose to recognize small groups of colleges (arranged by the size of their work force) for specific best practices and policies. The results were based on responses from more than 15,000 administrators, faculty members and staff members at 89 colleges and universities. Survey participants were selected randomly.

The recognition appears in the July 18 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, in a special section entitled, “The Academic Workplace.” RIT’s Tuition Exchange program received special mention in the issue, commending RIT for not only participating in the Tuition Exchange program, but for offering complete tuition waivers to employees’ spouses and domestic partners for undergraduate study. In some cases, graduate courses at RIT.

RIT was also commended for hav- ing a scholarship program that helps employees cover up to $1,500 each year in other costs, such as books or tuition at community colleges. M

RIT Library event invites guests to ‘picture their future’

RIT Library will wel- come new and returning students at its annual fall open house Aug. 28. This free event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Wallace Library, is open to all members of the RIT community and is designed to extend a friendly hand to those new to campus.

This year’s theme is Picture Your Future at RIT. Activities are planned in collaboration with RIT Libraries, the Education Technology Center and Online Learning, which are all housed in the Wallace Library building. ETC photographers will take students’ pictures to help create a unique community photososaic using digital portraits of open house guests.

Different backdrops, various props and even tiger face-paint make-up kits will be provided.

Students from Online Learning will be on hand in The Idea Factory to help RIT Libraries’ staff demon- strate “Second Life.” Staff will also offer one-on-one instruction with myCourses software.

The primary intention of the event is to celebrate the start of a new school year and provide a glimpse of the resources found in the Wallace Library building. Students will have an opportunity to meet the library liaison dedicated to their area of study and to have an informal mini- tour featuring library "hot spots." Eligible students can even apply for jobs in the library during the open house. Refreshments will be served and interpreting services will be provided.

Bioinformatics the RIT way

High school teachers Désirée Bonnell and Dawn Bohmann learned how to sequence their own DNA during a workshop at the Rockefeller University and the Genetics of Raisin hosted by RIT’s Center for Biosecurity Education and Technology on July 21-25. Sponsored by the Rochester Area Colleges Center of Excellence in Math and AgedScience and, in somedecade, 14 science and technology teachers from school districts in Monroe County to biotechnology laboratory procedures and bioinformatics and computa- tion applications that have revolutionized modern biomedical research.

James Lee, senior staff engineer at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, describes the propagation system utilized by a Toyota Prius as part of the Design a Hybrid contest sponsored by the Golisano Institute and the Edison Complex.

Edison students rise to technology challenge

In an effort to expand the under- standing of sustainability concepts, RIT’s Golisano Institute for Sustain- ability and the Green Schools Team at the Edison Complex in Rochester developed and held a “Design A Hybrid” Contest for Edison students in grades 9 through 12. The project sought to provide contestants with education and training in the area of alternative energy while also allowing students the opportunity to creatively respond on their ideas regarding the cars of the future. Participants were given two weeks to work on and complete their design. The results were announced during an awards ceremony at Edison on June 13. The contest also included presentations on hybrid vehicles by James Lee, manager of the Golisano Institute’s Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, and Charles Mackintosh, senior project engineer at General Motors, and Columbia.

James Lee, senior staff engineer at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, describes the propagation system utilized by a Toyota Prius as part of the Design a Hybrid contest sponsored by the Golisano Institute and the Edison Complex.
Female engineers earn network awards
Margaret Bailey wins Women in Science honors

Kate Gleason was a pioneering engineer and business executive who was the first female member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the first female U.S. bank president. She was also a major Rochester activist and prominent benefactor of RIT whose legacy of giving has been continued by the Gleason family up to the present day.

RIT has worked to honor Gleason’s accomplishments in a number of ways but none more important than its continued efforts to expand opportunities for women and minorities in science and engineering, efforts that have recently won national recognition.

The Women in Engineering Program, also known as WE@RIT, received the 2008 Women in Engineering Program Award from the Women in Engineering Proactive Network (WEPN), which recognizes college and university programs that are working to enhance the enrollment of women in engineering fields as well as expand educational opportunities in science and math for women of all ages. The award was presented at WE@RIT’s national conference in July in St. Louis.

In addition, Margaret Gleason, director of the WE@RIT program received the Women in Science Award from the Maria Mitchell Association, a national engineering and science education center and non-profit organization for America’s first professional woman astronomer.

“We are extremely honored to receive those two prestigious awards, and I would like to personally thank WEPAN and the Maria Mitchell Association for their recognition of our efforts,” says Bailey, who also serves as the Kate Gleason Endowed Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering at RIT.

WE@RIT was founded in 2003 within RIT’s Kate Gleason College of Engineering, the only engineering college in the country named for a woman, to recruit and retain women in engineering disciplines and promote enthusiasm and understanding of engineering among elementary and secondary students and educators.

The program focuses on comprehensive college and pre-college outreach, research, and community building initiatives—offering numerous training sessions, on-campus events and camps throughout the year. Presently, the program reaches over 2,300 engineering students, K-12 students and educators.

“The program has the continued efforts of RIT and organizations such as WEPAN and the Maria Mitchell Association will enhance Kate Gleason’s legacy and promote the continued advancement of women and minorities in science and engineering,” adds Bailey. “All of us in the WE@RIT program hope we soon are able to say that the Kate Gleason College of Engineering is one of several engineering colleges recognizing the accomplishments of America’s women engineers.”

New roles for NTID staff members

A familiar face at NTID will be more visible throughout the RIT campus as Christine Licata, associate vice president for academic affairs at NTID, moves to RIT central administration as interim senior associate provost serving Jeremy Haefner, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

In her new role, Licata will oversee the Learning Communities, the Registrar, the Honors Program, Study Abroad and Fellows, Institute Advising Office, Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Office and K-12 Partnerships. She will also be responsible for accreditations, including from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and will work in a liaison with the New York State Education Department for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs.

“I am honored and delighted to be part of our new provost’s team and I look forward to working with Dr. Haefner, the faculty, the deans and other academic support staff as we make this important leadership transition within academic affairs.” Licata says. “RIT is at an exciting point in its history I can think of no better way for me to contribute to RIT’s future than to apply the wonderful leadership experience that I have gained over these many years for the benefit of faculty and students within the greater university.”

Licata has served in a number of academic leadership roles at RIT and NTID for nearly 30 years. “Her advocacy for students, for faculty and staff and for department chairs within NTID has been consistent and exceptional,” says NTID Provost Alan Hurvitz. “She has consistently exercised her leadership in other areas of RIT as well, and is indeed known for her contributions throughout the entire higher education community.”

Haefner says he looks forward to working with Licata because of her expertise, skills and outlook. “Her years on campus mean that she will be to the office of the provost great institutional knowledge and experience,” says Haefner. “She’s a great thinker and has demonstrated superb leadership.”

Finally, he’s got a great outlook—wanting to add positive value to what we do here at RIT. She will shine in this new role.”

Laurie Brewer, who has been serving as NTID’s associate dean for academic administration, will assume Licata’s responsibilities as interim associate provost for academic affairs at NTID for up to two years.

“I am looking forward to working with an outstanding group of department chairs and faculty to continue the on-going transition to our current strategic plan in 2010,” Brewer says. “The faculty and the students at RIT/NTID deserve the absolute best academic leadership and service possible.”

Kate Gleason College of Engineering Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Coppenbarger, associate professor; and Linda Rubel, professor.

Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences Daniel Bogaard, associate professor; Charles Border, associate professor; Rajendra Bai, professor; James Vail, professor; and Steve Zilora, associate professor.

RIT faculty celebrate recent promotions

Select members of the RIT faculty are rising up the ranks as a new school year gets underway. Promotions have been granted to 49 faculty members effective Sept. 1. Recognition for high standards in enhancing student learning is the primary factor determining promotion. Academic and professional qualifications, scholarship, special contributions to RIT and community activities may also factor into the decision to grant a promotion.

Faculty promotions for the 2008-2009 academic year are as follows:

College of Applied Science and Technology
Thomas Ogumah, professor emeritus; Michael Eastman, professor; Samuel McQuade, associate professor; Thomas Moran, professor; James Myers, professor; and Scott Wolcott, professor.

E. Philip Saunders College of Business
Eugene Fram, professor emeritus; Clyde Hill, associate professor; and Philip Tyler, associate professor emeritus.

Business

Manning gives first-year students lessons in debt management

Consumer debt among American college students is at an all time high but it’s not an issue that’s being ignored. How and why are credit card companies targeting incoming college students? What steps are we taking at RIT to address the debt issue?

The rescue is Rob Manning, author of Credit Card Nation, and research professor of financial services at RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business. Manning will offer interactive sessions on Monday, Aug. 25. Manning will offer two interactive sessions with first-year students and their families about “Reality ByTES: The Perils of Plastic in the Credit Card Nation.” The first session runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and the second from 4:30 to 6 p.m., at NTID’s Robert F. Panara Theatre.

According to Manning, “American attitudes toward credit and debt have experienced a profound transformation in the wake of the deregulation of the U.S. banking industry, with America witnessing a historically unprecedented rise in household debt levels and record low consumer savings rates.”

Manning will discuss consumer debt, budgeting, debt management and credit reports, with an emphasis on applications for college students. Workshops will be made available to the audience.

The American Culinary Federation held a week long category competition for chefs at the University of Massachusetts June 16-20. RIT chefs who attended, left to right, were Tom Savidge, Dale Courtright, Adam Soucy and Herlan Yang. The group was awarded with a bronze medal at the American Culinary Federation Sanctioned Team Culinary Competition that was held the last day of the conference.

Bronze medalists say ‘bon appetit’

Women in Science

Margaret Bailey

Women in Engineering Program Award

RIT Farmer’s Market

August 21, 2008 | 3 | www.rednewsevents.com

New kind of television series

Bob Manning, author of Credit Card Nation, and research professor of financial services at RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business.
Weightless Wonder

The images shown here are a small portion of the more than 100 paintings by Clifford M. Uff, a Mathematican Professor and director of the School of Art and Design, 1931-1952, and Milton E. Bond, another Mathematic Institute Professor. These works, along with others by Walter Sacks, are on exhibition at the Antiques Mall of Rochester, 400 West Commercial St., East Rochester, through Aug. 30.

P R O F O R T S   O F   A R T I S T I C   P E R F E C T I O N

Edison

demonstrations of a Toyota Prius and a Chevy Equinox.

“The contest was a great success for all involved,” notes Ethan Ketterle, who led the project for Edison.

“Students were able to get hands-on education in alternative energy, see their ideas come to life, while having an opportunity to interact with professionals currently working in the field. We are looking forward to working with RTI to expand our efforts in sustainability in the future.”

The Edison Complex and the Golisano Institute are now developing a sustainability conference, Eco Fest, to be held during the 2008-2009 school year, that will seek to engage students, teachers and staff in demonstrations and discussions related to alternative energy, pollution prevention, recycling and sustainable design.

The partnership with Edison is a component of the Golisano Institute’s K-12 outreach initiative, which seeks to promote the enhancement of education in sustainability in elementary and secondary settings, while also providing training to teachers so the discipline can be incorporated into current curricula.

The Eagle

A us t e w e i s l e r  |  p h o t o g r a p h e r

New RIT bus routes are also being modified this fall. Buses will now run between Lattimore and the new bookstore for this program is under development to signal significant changes in density, shape and content of spatial data clusters at the annual Conference for the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science.

Sandra Rothenberg, assistant professor in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, published their research results on the corporate social responsibility debate in an article in the JOURNAL OF BUSINESS ETHICS.

Case Studies of Jewish Life in Berlin. The team met many RTI alumni who work at Johnson Space Center and had the chance to present their experiment to astronaut Barbara Morgan. They also toured mission control for the International Space Station.

This is the second time NASA has selected a student team from RTI to be part of this program. In 1997, four undergraduate students in the imaging and photographic technology program flew aboard the Vomit Comet. So did the Vomit Comet live up to its reputation? For some, but not all.

Weightlessness is quite an interesting experience along with the lift off. Anything that comes with it,” says Whelton ’08. “Luckily for me, I did not expel anything.”

For information, visit www.rit.edu/news-events.

NRS awards

Kevin and Nancy Gavagan

Kevin Huth | photographer

individuals who create a legacy through their teaching at the university. They established the Donald N. and Jerits J. Boyce Endowed Scholarship and have supported a variety of other campus projects.

They also are members of the NRS Trustee’s Circle, which recognizes their extraordinary support of RTI.

Donald Boyce graduated from RIT in 1967 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, and he has served on the RIT Board of Trustees since 1999.

He served as chair of RIT’s Presidential Search Committee, a member of the Hospitality and Service Management National Advisory Board, and he assumed a leadership role in the Campaign for RIT, which concluded successfully in 2006. Boyce has been the recipient of RIT’s Outstanding Alumni Award, as well as the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Prior to retiring in 2006, Boyce served as chair and CEO of IDEX Corp., a diversified manufacturing firm. He has been a board member of numerous publicly traded companies and is currently director of Muller Water Products in Atlanta.

The Gavagans have been members of NRS since 1991. Their service to the organization has included serving on its executive committee, the awards committee, the membership/alumni outreach committee, the scholarship committee, and the NRS committee supporting the Campaign for RIT, which was successfully completed in 2006.

Kevin Gavagan is a certified financial analyst and principal and portfolio manager at OCI Asset Management Inc., and he is a 1979 MRA graduate of the E. Philip Saunders College of Business. He serves on the board of directors for Venture Creations, RIT’s high technology business incubator.

A former member of the Saunders College of Business advisory council, he was honored by the college in 2004 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Nancy Gavagan has served as a member of RIT’s Women’s Council since 2006. Together, the Gavagans have supported RIT’s general scholarship fund, the NRS scholarship fund, the Saunders College of Business and other campus initiatives.

The Nباتnal Rochester Society celebrated its 40th anniversary at this year’s gala. Its mission through the years has been to develop friends and ambassadors to promote and support RIT.

Paul Stella | photographer