

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Jan. 11, 2007) (Episode 9)

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

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Jan. 11, 2007)

RIT research professor of consumer finance Robert Manning was quoted in the Jan. 7 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for a story about obstacles faced by high school students in learning basic principles of personal finance, and students' resulting lack of financial literacy. In part to blame, Manning says, is the federal No Child Left Behind Act. But one Pittsburgh-area school is doing something about it—and so, too, is RIT.

ACTUALITY: ROBERT MANNING: With the United States now in a negative personal savings rate, and, of course, many Americans are trying to cope with adjustable-rate mortgages and other exotic loans that they've been having to grapple with, there's been tremendous attention focusing on, well where should financial education and literacy begin? Many Americans are having difficulty handling their personal finances, and it goes back to the question about where did Americans get their financial educations? Historically, the public school systems have been a very important source of helping young people begin to learn to grapple with the basics of personal financial education. The problem with the No Child Left Behind mandate is that there's less and less discretionary curriculum time available for young people to learn these basic skills, in terms of financial literacy and education—and this has become increasingly important because the financial service industry, especially credit cards, are marketing high-cost lending products to teenagers, as well as college students, at an earlier and earlier age. So it's incumbent upon all of us to encourage young people today to acquire the necessary skills to learn how to save and to invest so that they can take more responsibility for their financial future.

HOST: And what steps are being taken here to address those concerns?

MANNING: At RIT, we're beginning to establish a whole new center on consumer financial services that will be offering both education as well as research and public-policy support at the state as well as federal level. In August, we'll be launching our new undergraduate degree program in consumer financial services with three new majors, beginning with finance and investing, consumer debt management and counseling, and the third being banking and insurance services. And we expect at RIT that we'll be taking both a state as well as a national leadership role in promoting both financial education and the promotion of financial skill and literacy.

HOST: That's RIT consumer finance professor Robert Manning.

Likewise, Sam McQuade, the graduate program coordinator in RIT's Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, has concerns about students' lack of awareness in another critical area in mind. The cybercrime and cyberethics expert authored an essay appearing in Jan. 5 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education proposing six steps to

implement cybersafety, cybersecurity and cyberethics instruction into K-12 curricula. Why the need?

ACTUALITY: SAM MCQUADE: What we're seeing today is an increase in the amount and variety of high-tech crime by and among adolescents. Today's college students largely grew up with computers in their house and often were the primary users of those computers, and yet they had relatively limited parental supervision and positive role modeling in the responsible use of those computers. Therefore, higher education can and must help to prepare our graduates to keep America's computing society safe and secure. We need to reach out to primary and secondary schools and to employers to assist them in providing instructional programs in Internet safety, information security and cyber ethics. I don't think that we can wait for them and society at large to magically figure out this problem. After all, the nation's critical information infrastructure is at stake.

HOST: That's RIT cybercrime and cyberethics expert Sam McQuade.

ACTUALITY: JOHN FOLLACO: This is John Follaco, RIT University News beat reporter covering Student Affairs. Students from Emma Sherman Elementary School, in Henrietta, reached for the stars Jan. 8th. And with assistance from members of the RIT Amateur Radio Club, they were able to reach them. The RIT students teamed with the Rochester Amateur Radio Association to set up ham radios that were used to contact astronauts aboard the International Space Station. The fifth grade students were able to ask questions of flight engineer Sunita Williams for eight minutes before losing the radio signal. Question topics ranged from the training astronauts receive, to the foods astronauts eat, to the status of Pluto. Journalists and photojournalists from the Democrat and Chronicle, Henrietta Post, WHAM 13 News, WHEC Channel 10 and R-News were on hand to cover the event. And here's a sneak peak into their conversation.

ACTUALITY: SHERMAN SCHOOL Q&A WITH INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION:  
[Student]: The first time you were up there, what was your most exciting moment? Over.  
[Williams]: The most exciting moment has been the space walk. Actually, coming out the door and seeing the world in your face for the first time—it was absolutely exhilarating. Over.

FOLLACO: For a podcast of this event, visit [www.rit.edu/news](http://www.rit.edu/news) and click on "Latest podcasts." This is John Follaco.

HOST: On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty with an update on the RIT Presidential Search . . . and News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho has this week's top stories.

SEGMENT: BOB FINNERTY: This is Bob Finnerty. The RIT Presidential Search Committee is reviewing applications of more than 100 candidates in the search for the university's ninth president. The 21-member panel is narrowing the field based on the leadership characteristics provided by the campus community. Finalists will visit the

campus in the next few months. The panel expects to make a recommendation of up to three candidates to the Board of Trustees in early spring. For more updates on the presidential search, visit [www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch](http://www.rit.edu/presidentialsearch). . . . 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 . . . Students in RIT's School of Film and Animation took top honors at the 2-D or Not 2-D Animation Festival, competing against students from the nation's most competitive art and design schools. Golden Pencil Awards were given to RIT winners in several categories including best student film and best animation in a student film. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, read Peter Rosenthal's Viewpoints essay. He celebrates the spirit of mentoring and entrepreneurship in a story about a partnership between students in the E. Philip Saunders College of Business and high school students learning their way around the boardroom at Edison Technical and Occupational Center. And, RIT marks Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 16th with a presentation from a Harvard University sociologist who examines the scope of African Americans achievements since King's landmark speech. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Jan. 11th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Jan. 11, 2007). Visit [rit.edu/news/dateline](http://rit.edu/news/dateline) for the January edition of the e-newsletter version of Dateline: RIT, and sign up for a free subscription. 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.