



## *Welcome to the 2008/09 Academic Year from your Staff Council!*

Staff Council had their annual planning retreat on June 19<sup>th</sup> where all the standing committees (Communications, Events, Elections & Representation, and Institute Issues & Policies) began the process of outlining their plans of work for the year. Let me assure you that we will be busy this year! Additionally, the Executive Committee of Staff Council met on August 14<sup>th</sup> to outline our meeting schedule for the year ahead of us and to extend invitations to guest presenters at our meetings. As always, Staff Council welcomes you to contact your representative with any questions, suggestions or concerns you have regarding Institute policies and procedures. We will work collaboratively with the other governance groups to ensure that the staff perspective is heard with regard to all of these issues.

### The Mission of the RIT Staff Council (RSC) is:

- to provide the University with the perspective of staff on University issues
- to serve as an advisory body to the President or his/her representative on issues and decisions which impact the RIT community
- to initiate policy proposals and revisions, and raise issues for University deliberation
- to review policy proposals and revisions, and issues raised by others for University deliberation

Staff Council played a considerable role in the interview process for the new Provost last spring and we, along with the other governance groups, interviewed candidates for the CIO position this summer. We also send representatives to many campus-wide committees to ensure that the staff perspective is heard when decisions are being made across campus.



We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Staff Recognition Awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Ingle Auditorium where we will celebrate over 70 staff members at RIT who have gone above and beyond their duties to make RIT the place where we all want to work. All of us on Staff Council would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join us at our meetings, nominate a coworker for one of our awards next spring, or offer suggestions for transforming RIT into the "Innovation University". Most of all, we want you to join your colleagues and get involved! Let's all make this a wonderful year!

## *Remembering Bob Howie* by *Thomastine A Sarchet*

I first met Bob in February 2001. I was an undergrad, trying to get a part-time job to help pay my cell phone bill and get some book money. Right away Bob made me feel welcome and it was clear that he cared about students. While we sat our respective desks in the office he would regale me with stories of driving students around late at night when he worked driving the shuttle (a service no longer available). He learned their names and their majors, what music they listened to-he loved meeting people and learning about their interests.

In the bookstore he took special care to make sure that students received the materials they needed. If something was not in on time or there was a problem with an order, he would call each customer and make sure their needs were taken care of. He also handled custom t-shirt embroidery and imprinting orders. He always had a personal touch and he loved talking to the student groups and department employees; helping choose the best logos, or getting the best material for their clothing orders. When customers came in for pricing information, he would tell them a story. He stayed late or came in on the weekends to make sure that web orders were done on time. Bob hand-delivered the clothing orders just so he could make sure the customer was satisfied with the end product. When the store was asked to design a green for the United Way Golf Tournament, Bob was first in line with his tools. No matter what, it was always clear that people and relationships were of paramount importance to him. He worked hard for everything he believed in.

Our daily banter blossomed into a great friendship over the coming years. We listened to Milli Vanilli and Metallica together on his computer. He would sneak me some candy or gum whenever he had it. He made me laugh and always had a joke ready. When I asked for directions to downtown Rochester, he said, "Well do you know where Marketplace Mall is?" I said "yes". He said, "Well it's no where near there!" When I jammed the copier, he playfully would say "Beautiful!" Or, when I would feel down about not having money, he would say, "I'm too broke to pay attention!" He looked after me like a caring father - he would push me and prod me to do the best he knew I was capable of. After graduation and several transitions, I went back to the bookstore as a manager. It was like a coming home celebration. Bob was thrilled, and I was glad to be back.

In addition to working at the bookstore, Bob served on Staff Council with great pride. He always had news to share with the staff from meetings and was extremely willing to take constituents concerns back to the body for consideration. He firmly believed in shared governance and felt that we all had

a stake in RIT. He convinced me that I should run for nomination. I hesitated, but he was confident in me. He put my name in for nomination, and in July 2006 I was elected to Staff Council.

During his tenure on Staff Council (RSC) Bob did what he did best: being friendly. He was warm to new representatives; explaining how things worked. He took RSC very seriously trying his best to make it to every meeting. In his last term on RSC, Bob spearheaded the classic car show. He had his own beauty, a 1966 Chevelle. He had a love for the classics, and he wanted to share his love with the world. He worked with the RSC Events Committee to deliver a spectacular event. True to his love for people, he wanted to make it an RIT family event where alumni, students, retirees, current faculty and staff could come together and enjoy the day. The event was such a success that Bob was asked to continue spearheading that portion of program for the next two years.

In June 2007 Bob retired from RIT, but his love for RIT never diminished. He continued doing custom imprinting and embroidery orders for departments and student groups across campus. He collaborated with the Events Committee to deliver the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic Car Display in May 2008. He was working hard doing what he loved: serving people and building relationships.

The car show was the last time I saw him. As always, Bob greeted me with a big hug and a kiss then hustled off to make sure things were running smoothly. I never stopped to think that day would be my last hug, my last smile. I am thankful that I knew him. I appreciate that my whole family got to meet him. I am thankful for his ear and his shoulder. I am forever grateful to him for pushing me to meet my full potential. Despite all I knew about Bob, in some ways he was an enigma. I was fortunate enough to meet his wife and grandson. I knew his favorite music. I knew he loved hot chocolate and Tully's chicken tenders. I knew he loved the Minnesota Vikings, even when they were terrible. But as much as I knew, there was so much I did not know. I guess the only thing that mattered was that I knew he cared about me.

This is not just my story. It is safe to say that most anyone who encountered Bob felt his warmth, energy, and passion for RIT. Maybe he offered you his seat. Maybe he gave you a piece of candy. He laughed with you. He cried with you. He left you with a story. Every little bit left its mark. On Monday, August 11, 2008 Bob was laid to rest. And yet, even seeing him one last time, and saying goodbye, a part of me refuses to believe that he is gone.

## Your Staff Council Representatives



2008-2009 Staff Council Executive Committee, seated from left to right: Laura Stell, Kurt Ingerick, Julia Lisuzzo; and standing from left to right: Sheila Ryan, Becky Liekly, Tonya Brooks, Debbie Spencer; absent: Paul Maushart, and Peg Meyers, Coordinator

### [Josh Bauroth](#)

FYE

### [Tonya Brooks](#), Executive Committee At-Large

Housing Operations

### [Charity Bontadelli](#)

Human Resources

### [Nicole Boulais](#)

Student Affairs

### [Brennan Coon](#)

Center for Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreation

### [Nicole Crouse-Dickerson](#)

NTID Access Services

### [Jerry DeLone](#)

Facilities Management

### [Mike Dwyer](#)

Research Relations Office

### [Karen Ester](#)

KGCOE Dean's Office

### [Barbara Fagenbaum](#)

NTID Special Access Services

### [Lauren Griffith](#)

FMS

### [Bill Harrison](#)

Sponsored Programs Accounting

### [Karen Hirst](#)

Student Services KGCOE

### [Jon Hromi](#)

FMS

### [Kurt Ingerick](#), Vice Chair Staff Council

Rit Housing Operations

### [Becky Kiely](#), Executive Committee At-Large; Co-Chair Institute Issues & Policies

Purchasing

### [Regina Kiperman-Kiselgof](#)

NTID Center on Employment

### [Julia Lisuzzo](#), Chair Staff Council

Wallace Library

### [Paul Maushart](#), Executive Committee At-Large

Dining Service

continued on page 4

#### Staff Council Office

Peg Meyers, Coordinator  
A454 Student Alumni Union

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#### Contact Information

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**Cheri McKee**

American Sign Language & Interpreting Education

**Peg Meyers**

Staff Council Coordinator

**Omar Phillips**

ITS

**Cathy Rappazzo, Chair Communications  
Committee**

Brick City Catering

**Charlene Reagan**

ITS Admin Services

**Sheila Ryan, Events Officer**

NTID Access Services Events Officer

**Stefanie Soroka**

MMET/PS, CAST

**Debbie Spencer, Executive Committee At-Large;  
Co-Chair Institute Issues & Policies**

Human Resources

**Debbie Steene**

Science, Technology & Society / Public Policy

**Laura Stell, Communications Officer**

Housing Operations

**Dina Stier**

NTID Access Services

**Tina Sturgis**

GCCIS

**Sharon Vandezande**

Real Time Captioning Services

Department of Access Services

**Fran Versace**

ITS Admin Services

**Lana Verschage**

Software Engineering

**Sandra Whitmore**

CDO

**Cheryl Williams, Chair Elections &  
Representation Committee**

ITS

**Mark Williams**

FMS

Don't know who your rep is? Go to:  
<http://staffcouncil.rit.edu/votingblocks.html>  
You can click on any reps name and it will show  
you how to contact them and  
their picture!

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

**Staff Recognition Awards Ceremony**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
10:00 AM  
Ingle Auditorium**

**Staff Appreciation Picnic  
TBD- Late May**

Staff Council Meetings are held Thursdays from  
2-4 PM on the following dates:

Sept. 11 and 25  
Oct. 9 and 23  
Nov. 6 and 20  
Dec. 11  
Jan. 15 and 29  
Feb. 12  
March 5 and 19  
April 2 and 23  
May 7 and 28  
June 11

All are invited to attend these meetings.  
Agendas and meeting locations are available  
prior to the meetings and sent to all staff via  
ritstaff mailing.