

Researchers prove trash 'recycling' could lead to energy independence

A new energy production method developed by a team of researchers at RIT and Purdue University could turn today's trash into tomorrow's energy.

Researchers are proposing a new "flexible" approach to producing alternative fuels that utilizes municipal solid waste, forest residues, sewage sludge and agricultural waste as sources for ethanol. The method could supply up to 20 percent of transportation fuels in the United States annually.

Thomas Seager, an associate professor in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at RIT, is conducting the project with Fu Zhao, Dongyan Mu and P. Suresh Rao of Purdue University. Specifics of the new method were unveiled in a paper presented on Sept. 29 during the sixth Global Conference on Sustainable Product Development and Life Cycle Engineering in Busan, Korea.

"Producing ethanol using biowaste could greatly expand the sources for

alternative fuel and reduce pressure on world agricultural production," notes Seager. "Our research creates a new production model that utilizes current sources to produce energy more efficiently and with less overall cost."

The proposal is an alternative to the conventional method of biofuel production, which currently uses corn grain as a feedstock. Increasing production of corn grain to meet increased biofuel needs poses a potential threat to the environment and has been linked to rising food prices.

The new method, called a flexible carbon-to-liquid fuel process, converts a variety of domestic biomass wastes, including municipal solid waste and food processing wastes to liquid transportation fuels, such as biodiesel. The process can efficiently produce biodiesel with the same quality as that generated from feedstocks. The method also captures excess emissions created through

Biodiesel, page 4



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Angelo DiNardi, fifth-year software engineering student, uses one of the drink machines in the Computer Science House.

Recognition for historic 'hack' leads to a Coke and a smile

For an RIT student living in the Computer Science House, ordering a cold soda from the vending machine down the hall with just a keystroke is all part of day-to-day dorm life. *PC Magazine*, however, has deemed this computing ingenuity, born in the early 1990s, as one of the top 10 greatest "hacks" of all time.

The Internet Coke Machine on the third floor of Nathaniel Rochester Hall came in at number three on the list of hacker brilliance, getting beat out only by *Spacewar!* video game and NASA's lifesaving hack to safely bring Apollo 13 back to earth.

Hacking, a term coined at MIT, was used to describe a clever

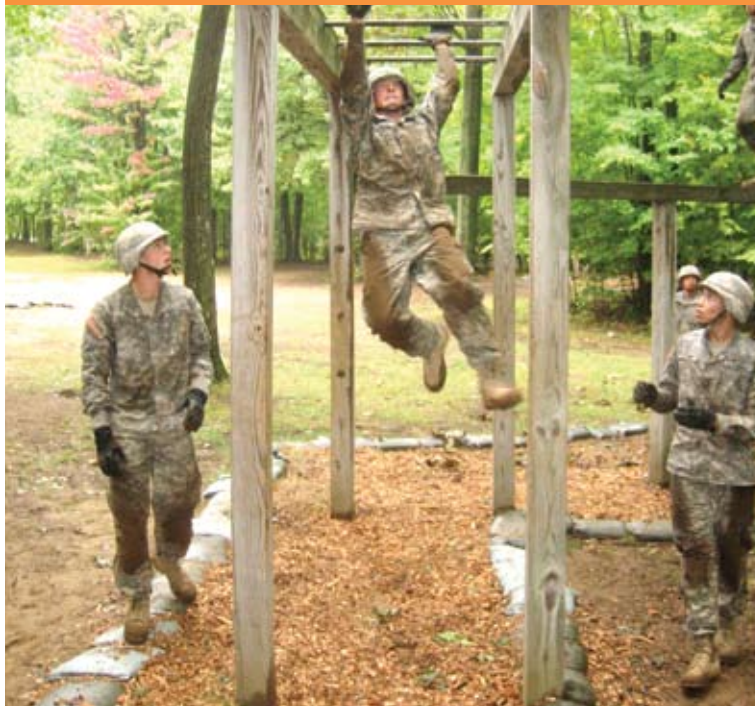
computing solution to a difficult problem and it was considered a badge of honor to be called a hacker.

"I'm not surprised *PC Magazine* has recognized the drink machine," says Paul Tymann, chair of computer science in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. "Computer Science House has always been at the forefront of innovation in computing on campus. It was named the No. 1 wired dorm in the country by *Wired* magazine in the '90s."

The Coca-Cola vending machine highlighted in the magazine article has since been replaced by two other

Coke, page 4

ROTC Army Rangers test their mettle



Submitted photograph

RIT's Army ROTC Tiger Battalion unit competed in the Ranger Challenge competition Oct. 17-19 at Fort Devens, Mass. Twenty schools from across the Northeast competed in 10 events: an Army physical fitness test, basic rifle marksmanship, hand grenade assault course, day and night land navigation, a mystery event, an obstacle course, orienteering and weapons proficiency. RIT took first place in the Army physical fitness test for the fifth time in the last six years. Pictured, from left to right, are cadets William Braun, Joshua Spath and James Flynn.

Show pieces reveal artist's take on deafness and communication

In 1971, Betty Miller began expressing her deaf experiences through her paintings and drawings—causing that "ah-ha" moment in hearing viewers who began to comprehend that deafness isn't about the lack of the physical sense of sound, but about communication and connection with other people.

The Dyer Arts Center at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf hosts the Betty Miller—Retrospective, featuring 45 pieces of artwork, including 10 paintings by Miller's father, Ralph Miller. The show runs through Nov. 12.

Miller's paintings, especially her *De'VIA art*, (an acronym for Deaf View/Image Art), was the inspiration for deaf visual artists to create work based on their deaf experiences and perceptions. It uses formal art elements with the inten-

tion of expressing innate cultural or physical deaf experience.

Born in the middle of the Great Depression, Miller was the third child of Ralph, a graphic artist and illustrator, and his wife Gladys, both deaf. Their first two children, boys named Benjamin and Ralph Jr., were hearing, so it wasn't until Betty started school at age 5 that her family discovered she was hard of hearing. A graduate of Gallaudet College, she earned an MFA in advertising design from Maryland Institute and a doctorate in art education from Penn State University.

It's this mixed background in both the deaf and hearing worlds that shaped the art that Miller is most famous for, art that focuses on her deaf experience. For more information about the retrospective, call 475-6855. ■

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Bettige_The Deaf Picnic, 1994 by Betty G. Miller

Partnership brings live coverage of Tigers hockey

RIT recently announced its affiliation with Time Warner Cable SportsNet to be the official television home of RIT athletics. Time Warner Cable channel 26 will air 10 RIT men's hockey home games live; with five other men's home games being shown on tape delay. In addition, five RIT women's hockey games will be telecast this season.

Gene Battaglia calls the action, with John DiTullio serving as color-commentator. All live home games air at 7 p.m. Check the Time Warner Cable Sports Web site (www.twcsportsnet.com) for all other listings. In addition, all aired games will be rebroadcast at various times during the week.



"We're excited to be part of Time Warner Cable SportsNet," says RIT men's hockey head coach Wayne Wilson. "It is a great opportunity for our program to gain more exposure in all of western and central New York."

"We are thrilled about our new partnership with Time Warner," says Lou Spiotti, director of RIT's Center of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation. "The kind of exposure and quality associated with this level of television broadcast is consistent with the goals of RIT hockey. We want to become a household name and Time Warner Cable SportsNet will facilitate that vision."

"Everyone at Time Warner Cable SportsNet is thrilled to be the new home of RIT sports," says Steve Arvan, director of the channel. "We are looking forward to many years of working together to bring the very best of RIT athletics to the customers of Time Warner Cable."

Time Warner Cable SportsNet reaches all Time Warner subscribers in the greater Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo areas. ■

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Live games to be broadcast

- Nov. 1 vs. Holy Cross
- Nov. 14 vs. Army
- Dec. 12 vs. Mercyhurst
- Dec. 13 vs. Mercyhurst
- Jan. 9 vs. Connecticut
- Jan. 10 vs. Connecticut
- Jan. 17 vs. American International
- Feb. 7 vs. Sacred Heart
- Feb. 28 vs. Air Force

On the side

Jewelry maker reveals inspiration behind creations, *page 2*

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The birth of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project, *page 3*

Research and Scholarship

Research studies viability of mentoring programs for young women engineers, *page 3*



Awards, distinctions

Richard Doolittle recognized for diversity initiatives, *page 4*

Computer security talk

Annie Anton, a professor of computer science and the director of The Privacy Place at North Carolina State University, will present “Designing Software Systems that Comply with Privacy Laws” as part of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences Dean’s Lecture Series.

The lecture takes place at 1 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Golisano College auditorium. Anton will address the complex undertaking of properly protecting information, particularly when faced with regulation, privacy laws and restrictions.

Gannett lecture, Nov. 6

Environmental activist and author Bill McKibben will host the next installment of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project, 8 p.m. Nov. 6 in Ingle Auditorium, SAU. For more information, visit www.cwgp.org.

Black & White at Gallery r

Gallery r, 775 Park Ave., opens the season with Black & White—a student competition of work created in black and white mediums involving students from RIT’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Guest curators for the show are professional artists Karen Sardisco and Nick Ruth. The exhibition runs through Nov. 15. For more information, call 242-9470.

Bevier Gallery show

Bevier Gallery is hosting a Faculty Exhibition through Nov. 19. The annual exhibit showcases recent work by full- and part-time faculty members from the School of Art, School of Design, School for American Crafts, and Foundations Department. For more information, call 475-2646.

Call for nominations

Nominations are due Nov. 21 for the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award. Nomination forms can be found at www.rit.edu/gcr. Created by RIT Vice President Emeritus Alfred Davis, the award is presented annually to a member of the RIT faculty or staff whose public service and commitment mirrors that of the four presidents with whom Davis worked in his 67-year association with RIT. The award will also be presented along with the Bruce R. James Distinguished Public Service Award, presented to an RIT student for exemplary public service. This year’s awards will be presented March 17.

Poster volunteers needed

If you or a member of your family has benefited by services provided by a United Way-funded agency, the RIT United Way Steering Committee would like to hear from you. Volunteers are needed to share their stories for the annual United Way campaign posters—a collaborative production by students, faculty and staff—which illustrate how contributions raised through the United Way of Greater Rochester help members of our own RIT community. Contact Lynn Rowoth at 475-7408 or lcrgrl@rit.edu by Dec. 1 if you are interested in sharing your story or would like more information.



William Snyder | photographer

One of Snyder’s Pulitzer-Prize winning photographs of Mimi Rizescu attempting to console a child, while feeding another one, in the Home for Irrecoverables in Vulturesti, Romania.

Pulitzer Prize winner returns to teach at his alma mater

Four-time Pulitzer Prize winning photographer and RIT alumnus William Snyder is back in the RIT classroom. But this time he’s the pedagogue, inspiring future photojournalists to be passionate about their craft and their ideas.

“The work you can generate yourself and be passionate about usually ends up being your best work,” says Snyder. “I stress this to the students: generate your own stories. Find things you are passionate about. Don’t let anybody tell you not to. You may not get the okay to do it, but do it anyway.”

Snyder cites his trip to Romania in 1990 to cover the AIDS infection rate among orphans. His boss at *The Dallas Morning News* didn’t like his story idea, but Snyder forged ahead anyway, self-financing the trip. Snyder says that project changed him both personally and professionally, and ultimately earned him his second Pulitzer.

“These orphans were severely neglected,” says Snyder. “I kept thinking about my son in that position. And that emotional connection informed my work and made me think about things I had never thought about. It changed the way I worked from that point on. Because of all the attention generated from the Pulitzer, the Romanian government was embarrassed and cleaned up its act a little bit.”

Following graduation in 1981, Snyder landed at *The Miami News* for a couple years and then spent 23 years at *The Dallas Morning News*. The newspaper business offered him variety. Some of his numerous assignments included covering the Miami Dolphins in the Super Bowl, elections in Haiti and Romania, the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle, the ‘91 coup attempt in the Soviet Union,



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

William Snyder in the classroom.

the re-unification of Germany, seal hunting in Newfoundland, Republican Conventions and five Olympics.

Snyder and fellow RIT alumnus Ken Geiger won a Pulitzer for their sports coverage of the 1992 Olympic games in Barcelona, Spain.

“We had a good sense of the big stories of the day and because we controlled our schedules, unlike many of our colleagues, we were at almost all the high points of those Olympics. That was a lot of fun. And it was the first time Ken and I ever really worked that closely together.”

Now back at his alma mater teaching fulltime in the photojournalism department, Snyder hopes to grow and improve the program. He says the students motivate him to want to do better.

“The students have a knowledge and a passion that is inspiring. And it pushes me. I want to help them look at this particular area of photography in a different way than what they are used to.”

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Web extra: Hear an interview with William Snyder on the RIT news podcast “Studio 86” at www.rit.edu/news/podcasts

Global Innovation conference draws bright minds



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

High-school students John Pulice (sophomore from Virginia), left, and Nick Voce (junior from Florida) created holograms of an RIT medallion in a workshop during the 2008 Student Conference for the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology held Oct. 23–26 at RIT. Global Innovation offered the nation’s brightest technology-minded high-school students a chance to gather and see firsthand what RIT has to offer.

Nature inspires orientation staffer in jewelry design

Mary Heiermann’s passion for making jewelry paid off early. Sales from her first home party in 2006 helped subsidize her six-month hike that year along the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, bead-by-bead. Since then, Heiermann’s love for designing handmade jewelry has become something of a self-described obsession.

Making jewelry, paper crafts—greeting cards, bookplates, gift boxes—and decorative picture frames is how Heiermann channels some of her creativity when not working in RIT’s Department of Orientation.

Heiermann joined RIT in 2007 as a project coordinator handling event logistics and details, and coordinating communication to new students and the student handbook, among other responsibilities. She is part of the small department tasked with the daunting job of hosting student orientation in August and smaller programs during winter and spring quarters—all of which require months of preparation.

“People often say, ‘Oh, orientation. It’s a two-week event. What do you do all year long?’” Heiermann laughs.

Through her contacts in the orientation department, Heiermann learned about Etsy.com, an online marketplace for handmade goods that launched in 2005. Now she sells her handmade jewelry and eclectic crafts on the virtual space she “rents”

quarterly.

Heiermann is one of the more than 100,000 artists from around the world who connect with buyers and each other through their virtual Etsy boutiques. She named her online shop Treestory, a whimsical reflection of her love for nature and for the power of words. Each piece of jewelry posted on her Web site, www.treestory.etsy.com, bears the name of a different tree.

The inspiration Heiermann finds from the natural environment when backpacking and hiking shows up in the earth tones, stones, shells and glass in her jewelry.

“I just bought a bead, and I don’t know what I’ll do with it, but I think it’s beautiful,” she says. “It’s a piece of stone, like an agate. Usually, I’ll start with a bead and I’ll build around it.”

Heiermann experiments with different colors and textures, moving beads around on a felt-covered tray, and letting the pattern sit awhile like an idea brewing. Right now she is playing with greens and silvers and larger beads, departing stylistically from the delicate beadwork of her earlier pieces. Some of her jewelry also reworks and reinvents objects worn in a different era.

“A lot of it is experimental,” she adds. “I never took a class. I look at something and examine how it was put together. I can’t stop because there’s always something new to try.”

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Mary Heiermann, from RIT’s orientation department, wears one of her jeweled creations.

RIT, Microsoft integrate video games into middle-school classrooms

Video games may be coming to a middle-school classroom near you.



Andy Phelps

RIT has teamed with Microsoft, New York University and a consortium of other colleges and universities to form the Games for Learning Institute, a first-of-its-kind multidisciplinary gaming research alliance that’s set to prove that video games can make great learning tools.

“Technology has the potential to help reinvent the education process and excite and inspire young learners to embrace science, math and technology,” says Craig Mundie, chief research and strategy officer at Microsoft. “The Games for Learning Institute is a great example of how technology can change how students learn, making it far more natural and intuitive.”

The institute’s goal is to provide

scientific evidence that gaming can be an effective way to teach middle-school students math and science.

“We think gaming is an appropriate and interesting gateway to the study of these skills for this particular audience,” says Andy Phelps, director of RIT’s game design and development program. “We think this, but through this institute, we’re going to prove it.”

Microsoft, which has a long-standing relationship with RIT, approached Phelps and asked RIT to join the institute. Phelps agreed, sensing a great opportunity for graduate students to get hands-on professional experience.

“Our students are going to be building the engines that drive these games,” says Phelps. “We’re going to be the technical resource for the institute.”

Once the games are completed, they’ll be offered to the New York City school district for integration into its science and math curriculum.

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Two and a half years ago—March 2006 to be precise—RIT's provost and two of its deans challenged me, as Caroline Werner Gannett Chair, to "Explore new intersections of the humanities with the social sciences, sciences and technology. How might they relate more closely to each other in the future? How can we better understand the contexts in which scientific, technological and humanistic change takes place?"

This was no small charge for a former dyed-in-the-wool archival scholar of literature whose recent books required sleuthing among unacquainted papers and interviewing American expatriates! I embraced it with gusto!

That spring and summer, I met with faculty from across the institute and the larger Rochester commu-

nity. By fall, a large initial advisory board—community professionals, deans, faculty and students—came to the table and the Caroline Werner Gannett Project took shape. As we began an unofficial study of collaborations and salons that fall—ranging from 17th century "Lunar Men" to Black Mountain College, Asheville, N.C.—we also initiated a multidisciplinary series of internationally visible speakers entitled, "Consilience: the Cognitive Revolution," focusing on the roles of Darwinian science in our everyday lives.

New courses also contributed to this cross-disciplinary dialogue, suggesting a different kind of curricular architecture. "Truth and Consequences: Studies in Disciplinary Evidence" assembled more than 15 faculty to compare the methods and standards employed for gathering,

evaluating, preserving and passing on evidence. (This blockbuster course will be back by popular demand in 2009-2010.) Another course, also repeated this year, offered students the opportunity to study, lunch with and be videotaped interviewing project speakers.

Netting the blockbuster names for RIT is only part of the mission of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project. Complementing our world-class speakers, we have brought a wide range of unusually creative experiences to our students—"hands-on" colloquia, seminars and workshops that provide a critical complement to speakers' ideas, as they shape new directions in curricular change. Some of these activities included an astrophysics graduate seminar on "black holes" with theoretical physi-

Viewpoints, page 4



Members of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project Advisory Board.

Koenig named assistant VP

Ross Koenig has been appointed assistant vice president for finance and administration, according to James Watters,



Ross Koenig

senior vice president. Koenig, who previously served as RIT's assistant controller, will be responsible for overseeing the preparation of and adherence to RIT's operating budget. This includes expenditures in excess of a one-half billion dollars annually, including \$60 million in capital expenditures. RIT's budget consists of spending plans for over 400 departments on campus as well as increasing activities overseas.

"My goals include building on the competencies in our current budget staff and processes through engaging peer institutions and implementing best practices where

we see the opportunity to improve our stewardship of RIT's financial resources," says Koenig. "We intend to be creative in the application of our learning—modifying what we discover to fit RIT's unique culture, characteristics and needs."

Says Watters: "Lisa Cauda and the supporting members of our search committee did a great job identifying highly qualified candidates for this position. Ross prevailed in such a highly competitive process. Ross has a blend of extremely fine technical skills, a record of accomplishment and a legacy of working collaboratively with other departments. These skills are essential for the leader of this office given the broad spectrum of individuals and budgets that he will encounter."

Koenig will be transitioning into his new role over the coming weeks. ■

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Mass-produced hydrogen will help provide alternative fuel source

Hydrogen energy is considered by many experts to be one of the best alternatives to fossil fuel and could become one of society's primary power sources over the next two decades. However, there are a number of

impediments to fully realizing the fuel's potential. One of the most significant is the high cost-to-yield ratio of current hydrogen production techniques.

At RIT, researchers are currently investigating the use of plasma as a means for creating hydrogen-powered microsystems that could one day run our computers and electronics, and many scientists believe the answer lies in developing new methods for producing hydrogen that use less energy and are more efficient.

The project, led by Davide Mariotti, visiting professor of microelectronic engineering, utilizes micro plasma—tiny beams of the ionized gas state of an element—to generate hydrogen energy. The process is a modification of previous research Mariotti has conducted which is perfecting the use of plasma techniques in developing microsystems.

Hydrogen is plentiful and clean burning with no emissions other than water vapor, and researchers in a host of fields are testing the technology to power everything from microelectronic devices to

At RIT, researchers are currently investigating the use of plasma as a means for creating hydrogen-powered microsystems that could one day run our computers and electronics.

automobiles.

"The process of creating micro plasma, turning elements into their ionized gas state, can be used to generate hydrogen energy which can then

be channeled into microsystems that power electronic devices," notes Mariotti. "The process has the potential to be considerably more efficient and cost effective than other forms of hydrogen generation."

Mariotti is working with Yen Wen Lu, assistant professor of microsystems engineering and Tuhin Das, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, both at RIT, to build a prototype microsystem device that will be used to test the performance of the micro plasma technique and ultimately micro-plasma powered electronics. The research is being funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation, and the team hopes to eventually patent the technology.

"Hydrogen fuel has great potential but methods need to be developed to take the technology from the lab to the marketplace," adds Lu. "By combining micro plasma technology with microsystems development we are hoping to create hydrogen energy systems that can be replicated, mass produced and commercialized." ■

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Submitted photo

Shauna O'Hurley, a computer engineering major, works with elementary school students as part of a program designed to enhance college student interaction with the surrounding community while strengthening engineering students' core knowledge and improving communication skills. A new multi-university study will examine how these types of experiential learning opportunities along with cooperative education improve self-efficacy and retention among female engineering students.

Study focuses on attracting, retaining female engineers

Research will examine viability of mentoring programs, advising

A national research collaboration seeks to shed new light on how the educational environment for engineers impacts female students and assists engineering schools in improving female retention rates. Although numerous efforts by government, industry and academia have been undertaken to increase the representation of women in science and math fields, the number of women engineers has remained low, the National Science Foundation reports. Women currently make up only 11 percent of professional engineering positions.

Part of the reason for this discrepancy is the low retention rates of women in engineering degree programs, a statistic that several researchers have linked to the fact that women in engineering programs are more likely to lose confidence in their abilities, also referred to as self-efficacy, compared with their male counterparts.

RIT, as part of a multi-university partnership funded by the National Science Foundation, will investigate the impact of experiential learning on self-confidence and retention of female engineering students.

"By studying the linkages between

self-efficacy and the engineering student environment we can better understand the factors, both academic and social, that affect retention among female engineering students," notes Margaret Bailey, associate professor of mechanical engineering and executive director of the Women in Engineering Program at RIT.

The study is one of the first to investigate how co-op opportunities and other formal work experience programs impact the retention rate of female undergraduate engineering students. It will also examine programs such as mentoring, advising and academic living communities to analyze the impact on student self-confidence and retention.

"Because of the underrepresentation of women within the engineering profession, this research is important in identifying factors which lead to women students successfully completing their degrees in engineering," Bailey adds.

The effort is being conducted in partnership with Northeastern University, the University of Wyoming and Virginia Tech. ■

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Business names Dresnack senior associate dean

William Dresnack has been appointed senior associate dean at RIT's E. Philip Saunders College of Business. He is responsible for overseeing



William Dresnack

and managing all aspects of administration, including accreditation assessment, budgeting and faculty and student development.

He previously served as chair and associate professor of business administration and economics at State University of New York, The College at Brockport.

"As a long time resident of the Rochester area and member of the business and academic communities, I have long been impressed with both the business school's and the institute's ability to not only respond quickly to changes in the business environment but to get ahead of the curve by introducing innovative courses and programs," says Dresnack. "Now that I'm an insider, I am even more impressed with the focus on student learning, cutting-edge scholarship and dedication to quality."

Dresnack earned his doctor of jurisprudence with certification in taxation from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1997 and his M.S. in accounting from the State University of New York at Binghamton School of Management in 1984. He earned his certified public accountant license in 1987. ■

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A dynamic duo



Valerie Wroblewski | photographer

Singer D.D. Jackson, left, and poet George Elliott Clarke performed as part of the Caroline Werner Gannett Project's "Visionaries in Motion" series Oct. 15. For more information about the project, visit www.cwgp.org.

Another ROARing success



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

President Bill Destler, right, joined by Provost Jeremy Haefner, far left, led members of the RIT community in letting out a giant roar during the official kickoff to the annual Raise Our Annual Responses initiative. ROAR Day, held Oct. 23, provided faculty, staff and students an opportunity to make an annual gift to the university. This year, about 875 ROAR Day participants helped raise more than \$22,000 for RIT students, programs and facilities.

Hollywood feel at RIT



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Will Halas and Keeley Hammond, third-year film and animation students, test out equipment in the newly built audio control room in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. Brand new facilities for the School of Film and Animation were unveiled at an open house Oct. 24. The A-level of the Frank E. Gannett Building underwent a major renovation. Film and animation students will have use of a state-of-the-art surround-sound mix theater, a prop building shop, four screening rooms, five color grading suites, a computer lab for high-definition video editing, Foley sound stage and a green screen stage.

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drink machines named Big Drink and Little Drink and the addition of a snack vending machine.

Matt Campbell, a 2003 computer science graduate, who currently works at RIT's Information and Technology Services, was one of the students who found Big Drink on the side of the road in front of a scrap metal business. They hauled it back to the residence hall and brought it online.

"When I was a student, I worked on the machine for hours," says Campbell. "The computer was outside the machine at that time, but now it's embedded in it and plugs into an Ethernet jack like your computer does. Every couple years someone gets the urge to make the

machine bigger, better, faster."

The students' urge for innovation and convenience has led to some high-tech upgrades.

"The drink machines are programmed so that the user can delay when the drink drops out of the dispenser," says Angelo DiNardi, fifth-year software engineering major and chair of Computer Science House. "We also have touch screens which are activated by an iButton. The iButton logs you in and then will display what drinks are available and the remaining credits on your account."

To view the entire list of top 10 greatest hacks of all time, visit www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2330368,00.asp. ■

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Biodiesel from page 1

the production process for use in electricity generation.

"It is estimated that the United States generates 1.3 billion tons of biowaste annually, a plentiful energy source that we are currently underutilizing or throwing away," Seager says. "Through this new production method we hope to provide an efficient avenue for transforming the ethanol production

system in a way that utilizes this source and reduces reliance on corn and other feedstocks."

The research team believes that mass production of biodiesel using this method could, based on current biowaste production, ultimately generate 78 million gallons per day or one-fifth of current transportation fuel needs. ■

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Viewpoints from page 3

cist and cosmologist Janna Levin; a seminar on new media audiences with Ze Frank; "Writing the Un-thinkable" workshop with cartoonist Lynda Barry; a dynamic jazz composer/pianist accompanying the RIT singers in selections from two jazz chamber operas. This winter, we will present a gallery talk and exhibition with an MFA photography student and, in the spring, a workshop with the legendary founders of BoingBoing and Make.com.

In our second year, we took this initial activity to the next level, finding our groove with "Visionaries in Motion," and an even more diverse group of "21st century thinkers and scholars in the arts, sciences and technologies who ask the unasked questions."

And who were these "visionaries"? Elizabeth Streb's mesmerizing presentation of her dancer/athletes at "Streb Lab for Action Mechanics" introduced RIT and Rochester to the breathtaking intersection of physics, mathematics, dance and artistic design. Ze Frank drew a crowd of over

500 for his new media performance. RIT's own "Flying Words Project" involved an overflow audience to witness performance poetry from deaf and hearing perspectives. John Maeda, founder of MIT's "Simplicity Consortium," worked the crowd with his lavalier mic as he brought together computer science, visual art and graphic design to another full house. Our crowds grew beyond the boundaries of RIT— mingling alums, groups of Rochester professionals, students and faculty from area colleges.

During 2007-2008, we created a two-layered advisory board—a large group of "consultants," and a small working group comprised of an imaging science student, art gallery curator, physicist, bioinformatics expert, literature/NTID specialist and photography professor. Together we model in lively biweekly meetings those multidisciplinary conversations we expect from our speakers.

This fall, we are off to a roaring start with high-powered revolutionary futurist, inventor and artificial intelligence expert, Ray Kurzweil

who drew a crowd of 1,400 to RIT. Other world class speakers and events will follow this year—scholars and artists who work at the cusp of several disciplines, and who think deeply about issues such as climate change, global industrial waste, digital medicine, and the future of social media.

Taken together, our various project activities lead the way in signature innovative and creative directions for the "new" RIT, capturing President Destler's vision of RIT as THE Innovation University. Please visit us at www.cwgp.org.

By the way, I no longer merely haunt literary archives. My favorite reads now are *Seed Magazine*, *New Scientist* and *Wired!*

Broe is the Caroline Werner Gannett Professor, College of Liberal Arts, and chairperson for the project.

Web extra: Hear an interview with Mary Lynn Broe on the RIT news podcast "Studio 86" at www.rit.edu/news/podcasts

Doolittle recognized for leadership in diversity initiatives

A personal philosophy of diversity and tolerance characterizes Richard Doolittle's approach to life and the regard he holds for others.



Richard Doolittle

This fall, the Provost's Office of Faculty Recruitment awarded Doolittle the third annual Changing Hearts and Minds Award for his leadership and commitment to diversity on campus.

The award recognizes members of the RIT community who promote and model inclusive behavior and create a supportive, encouraging environment. The award also includes \$2,500 for the College of Science to further advance recruitment and retention initiatives, and \$500 for Doolittle in recognition of his leadership role.

Doolittle, head of the School of Life Sciences, believes academia should reflect the diversity of the private sector. The efforts of his administrative team helped to introduce a diverse group of eight new faculty members to RIT this fall in positions in biology and medical sciences.

"Larry Buckley, associate head

of life sciences, worked an amazing number of hours, and made a significant contribution to the effort," Doolittle says. "We share a philosophy of looking for the very best faculty and strong representation from AALANA faculty. I could

not have done this without his help.

"I'm trying to create the best possible environment for people to overachieve," he adds. "It's all about helping people not just to reach, but to exceed career potential!" ■

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Creating a diversity dialogue



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Martina Bienvenu, professor, Gallaudet University, and author and deaf advocate, presented her talk *Deaf Culture and Deafhood* at the 11th annual Campus Week of Dialogue conference Oct. 27. She touched upon the concept of audism, defined as bias toward deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals. Other sessions were held throughout the week. The conference was hosted by RIT's Commission for Promoting Pluralism.