

RIT, Lockheed partnership works to assess 'health' of U.S. military vehicles

America's military fleet is on the road to improving performance and environmental quality due to new technology implemented through a partnership between RIT and Lockheed Martin Corp. The project is a component of a \$150 million competitive contract with the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command, won by Lockheed Martin. The project will equip 7,000 to 12,000 military vehicles with new systems monitoring technology that can better assess the "health" of vehicles in the field.

The work builds on more than

a decade of research conducted by RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, a unit of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, and the Office of Naval Research. The program was funded through the efforts and support of the Rochester area Congressional and U.S. Senate delegations.

"RIT's world-class scientists have developed amazing technology that will really benefit our military," says Sen. Charles Schumer. "I'm proud to have supported RIT's efforts, and it's gratifying to once again see its work move from the laboratory to

the field."

The partnership has also led to the creation of a spin-off company, LIBAN Inc., located in the RIT business incubator Venture Creations, which is now seeking to expand the use of software and hardware applications developed through the partnership for commercial vehicle fleets.

"This partnership is great news that further demonstrates how federal investments in our local universities create local jobs," adds Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

Lockheed Martin, page 4



A.Sue Weisler | photographer

Howard Bussey, left, and Timothy Murtaugh, both engineers with the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, discuss aspects of the institute's research partnership with Lockheed Martin Corp. The project includes the development of vehicle health-monitoring systems for military vehicles including the MTRV Heavy Duty Truck, pictured in the background.

Destler issues 'Green Vehicle Challenge' for Imagine RIT

There's a new twist to this year's Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. RIT President Bill Destler has issued a "Green Vehicle Challenge" to the campus community.

Destler has challenged RIT students, faculty and staff to design and construct a vehicle that consumes less total energy than his electric bicycle.

"We all need to do our part to help save Planet Earth," says Destler. "Who knows? Maybe a participant will discover the right formula to fix our global energy problems."

Vehicles must carry at least one person weighing more than 150 pounds on a three-mile route along the RIT loop using a form of energy other than human power. The winning vehicle must

complete the course in less than 30 minutes.

The challenge takes place at 9 a.m. May 2. The winner will be announced at 10 a.m. during the festival's opening ceremony. The winning team will win either an antique banjo from Destler's collection or \$1,000. For information on the rules of the challenge, visit www.rit.edu/Imagine.

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Student Spotlight

Born in India and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, Natasha Kholgade has traveled a great deal with her family, but her first visit to the United States came as she arrived in Rochester to attend RIT. Kholgade's father, who helped with her college search online, came upon an engineering school in upstate New York with programs she was looking for. "He encouraged me to apply," she says. "He said, 'just go for it.'"

Kholgade will graduate in May with a combined bachelor's and master's degree in computer engineering from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. She is working on her thesis, focusing on computer visioning—the design, programming and analysis of images to recognize human activity for tasks as complex

Student Spotlight, page 4

Bearing witness to a historic event



A.Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT faculty, staff and students gathered Jan. 20 in Clark Gymnasium to watch live coverage of the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

RIT joins nationwide global warming teaching initiative

Changing the conditions and policies that may alter global climate begins with broad awareness to both potential problems and opportunities for corrective action.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, RIT joins more than 1,000 colleges, universities, high schools, faith organizations and civic groups from across the country to explore all aspects of this issue during the National Teach-In on Global Warming.

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In the classroom

Bioinformatics class looks at marvelous fruit flies, *page 2*

On exhibit

Alumni photographers showcase natural surroundings, *page 2*

Research and Scholarship

New Liberal Arts associate dean specializes in early literacy research, *page 3*



Viewpoints

Preventing climate change may involve tough choices, *page 3*

Bioinformatics students explore scientific marvels—fruit flies

Students in the Advanced Applied Genomics class have an eye for detail. With painstaking effort, they stitch together sequences of genetic material and pull from it the portrait of a little known fruit fly.

The data is real; the work is hard and sometimes tedious. The intensity of the class requires a low teacher-to-student ratio. In this case, one professor and two teaching assistants for seven students. The upper-level bioinformatics class—which applies computer science to biological applications—meets for eight hours each week in a small computer lab.

“It’s a big commitment for everyone involved,” says Gary Skuse, director of bioinformatics in the College of Science, who offers the course once a year.

What makes Advanced Applied Genomics particularly challenging is precisely what draws many students to science: the thrill of discovery. Skuse and his teaching assistants Rhea Sanchez and Ashlee Benjamin work closely with the students to unravel and interpret the raw genetic data provided by the Genomics Education Partnership at Washington University, home to one of the few high-throughput genome sequencing centers in the world.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Professor Gary Skuse, center, helps undergraduates John Boutell, left, and Sophia Lafergola interpret fruit fly DNA in an upper-level bioinformatics class.

The Genomics Education Partnership, led by geneticist Sally Elgin at Washington University, is a consortium of scientists dedicated to improving genomic education. The partnership co-authored an article published in the Oct. 31 issue of *Science* that highlighted the model curriculum that transforms undergraduate classrooms into real-world laboratories.

The partnership gives the class

DNA sequences and covers the cost of regenerating poor-quality data. The rest is up to the class, which must discover what is hidden in the sequences without a lot of guidance. Washington University trained Skuse’s assistants Sanchez and Benjamin, and paid them to assist the class.

Once the students have edited or “finished” the sequences—in this *Bioinformatics*, page 4

Mentor exhibits with former students

Renowned color photographer and former RIT professor John Pfahl, along with 15 RIT alumni who studied under him, will be part of a photographic exhibition, *Natura*, opening Friday, Feb. 6.

Natura will be on view until March 22 at Rochester Contemporary Art Center, 137 East Ave. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 6.

In addition to Pfahl, the featured photographic artists are Barbara Bosworth ’84 (M.F.A.), Marilyn Bridges ’79, ’81 (B.F.A., M.F.A.), Dean Chamberlain ’77 (B.F.A., A.A.S.), Grey Crawford (studied with Pfahl in ’74), Alida Fish ’76 (M.F.A.), Richard Gray ’82 (M.F.A.), Paul Lange ’74 (B.F.A.), Silvia Lizama ’83 (M.F.A.), Forest McMullin ’77 (B.F.A.), Steve Mosch ’81, ’83 (B.S., M.F.A.), Judy Natal ’80 (M.F.A.), Jeannie Pearce ’76 (B.F.A.), Stuart Rome ’77 (B.F.A.), Alison Rositer (studied with Pfahl in ’75) and Jane Wattenberg ’73 (M.F.A.).

These artists are among the United States’ most important photo-based practitioners and educators. They continue many of the teachings of Pfahl, most notably the theme of the natural environment and the intervening role of humankind, science and technology.

Pfahl taught at RIT in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences from 1968 to 1985 and left to pursue a full-time photographic career.

“It seems like a lifetime ago that these individuals inhabited my labs

and classes,” says Pfahl. “At the time, I would have found it amusing to think that I was having much of an influence on them. I do remember always thinking that I had the better end of the bargain, inasmuch as I was learning far more from them than they were from me. It has been such a pleasure to watch these friends develop over the years and their photography blossom.”

Pfahl resides in Buffalo. His archive is housed at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film. Pfahl’s images are part of numerous public and corporate collections including the Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Chicago Art Institute.

Natura is co-curated by Pfahl and Therese Mulligan, RIT administrative chair of photographic arts.

“Pfahl fueled artistic development with an understanding of the decisive role of the artist as an agent of discovery and change,” says Mulligan. “Similarly, he advanced photography as a medium of ideas and revelations. In their turn, Pfahl’s students emerged as exceptional practitioners and educators in their own right. Their work is an important contribution to the persuasive power of the creative image in art and culture, especially when its subject intensely examines the context and content of our surrounding natural world.”

The exhibition is organized in

partnership between RIT and the Rochester Contemporary Art Center. To register for the reception, visit www.rit.edu/alumni/cias. ■

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Autumn Lagoon, Braddock Bay, 2007, by John Pfahl. Through software manipulation, Pfahl distorts an initially horizontal photograph of the wetlands at Braddock Bay to fit a vertical scroll-like format.



Never Cry Woolf—See Ewe from Never Cry Woolf!, written and illustrated by Jane Wattenberg

Student Government considers success of new initiatives

RIT’s Student Government has been active this year. The REAL RIT: Dorm Challenge, held in mid-January, was the latest example of the group’s innovative efforts to bring student issues to the forefront.

Twenty administrators took part in the challenge, a two-night, three-day immersion experience in the RIT residence halls. The goal, according to Student Government Vice President Matt Danna, was to connect participants with the student experience.

The result? Mission accomplished.

“The entire experience went better than I expected,” Danna says. “All of the participating staff members said they had a great experience, and all of the student roommates were very excited about it. The next time the administration has to make a decision that affects students, I’m sure they’ll think of the time they spent in the residence halls.”

Moises Oswaldo “Ozzy” Urrutia, who shared his room with RIT President Bill Destler during the challenge, enjoyed the experience.

“It was great,” Urrutia says. “We didn’t do anything differently because the administrators were here. They got to see what the dorms were really like.”

The Dorm Challenge was the latest on a long list of Student Government accomplishments this year. Among other achievements, it has revamped its television station, SGTV15, to include more programming of interest to students, elevated the student group OUTspoken to the level of a major student organization in order to ensure Student Government better represented gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, and hosted a “Trust the Bus” breakfast to encourage more students to ride the bus to campus instead of driving their cars—a move Danna says helped the campus become even more “green.”

Student Government is working on a number of initiatives, including the creation of a centralized room reservation system that will make it easier for student groups to book meeting and event spaces as well as a better e-mail solution for students.

Ultimately, Student Government would like to see more events like the Dorm Challenge.

“In the future, I hope that we actually do challenges where administrators have to go through different experiences. I think that would be really beneficial,” says Danna. ■

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT administrators, including RIT President Bill Destler, pictured here being escorted to his assigned dorm room, gained new perspective on the student residential experience by participating in Student Government’s *The REAL RIT: Dorm Challenge* in mid-January.

First-year prerequisite may undergo revisions

With the academic year in full swing, First-Year Enrichment leadership is asking students, faculty and staff to help envision the program’s future.

First-Year Enrichment, or FYE, has been part of the RIT curriculum for nine years. The program was started as a way to help first-year students transition into collegiate life. This year, Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president of student affairs, has asked that FYE be re-examined and possibly restructured. The idea is to build upon the program’s current formula while adapting it to RIT’s innovation evolution.

Open sessions and an ongoing online forum are underway to discuss ideas and thoughts about the program.

Alex Pagliaro, a first-year dual major in the School of Film and Animation, attended the Dec. 12 session and was vocal about the current program.

“FYE provides a forum for students to have their questions answered regarding life as a first-year student at RIT,” Pagliaro says. “It facilitates a smooth adjustment into college life. However, classes often digress from the actual concept of aiding the first-year experience.”

Pagliaro feels the program needs restructuring to remain a valuable

part of the curriculum.

“By revising FYE to include cross-college interaction and material focused on preparing first-year students for life in and after college in a major-oriented way, students will no longer see it as simply a requirement,” he says. “Instead it will work in tandem with the career-minded philosophy of education here at RIT.”

Beginning winter quarter, FYE ran a pilot initiative to have more interaction with students from different majors. The students and instructors will be surveyed after week six to gather feedback, says Latty Goodwin, director of the FYE program.

Goodwin adds that after the open sessions and online forum are completed in late January, FYE leadership will begin to evaluate the feedback and propose additional ideas.

“We may find that we tweak FYE minimally, or we may consider something far more radical that realigns a number of initiatives for the first-year students at RIT,” Goodwin says.

Members of the campus community may participate in the forum by expressing their interest at fye@rit.edu. ■

Tricia Beggs | plbuns@rit.edu

Environmental activist Bill McKibben's visit to RIT in early November capped an exciting week for those seeking to move the United States in a different direction. Voters had just swept Barack Obama to victory, making him the first "community organizer" to win the presidency. That phrase generated ridicule on the campaign trail from advocates of the economic orthodoxy which concerns McKibben: that prosperity requires individuals to elevate their narrow interests above all else. As argued in his book *Deep Economy*, this year's freshman common text, such "hyper-individualism" has impoverished our societies, for only a relative few have benefited from the industrial world's relentless pursuit of limitless growth.

In particular, the desire to maximize profits by burning cheap fossil fuels has spawned environmental challenges which we can no longer ignore—and ones which we cannot hope to solve without communal

action. President Obama's inaugural remarks about the recession apply equally well to the environment: "Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age."

By now we have all heard about the lifestyle changes we can make to "save the earth." Individuals should recycle, carpool and take shorter showers since the collective impact of millions of such actions will decrease carbon emissions. But affecting real change will require that we, as members of an engaged citizenry, make much tougher decisions regarding the infrastructure at the heart of our fossil fuel-based economy.

Making deep carbon cuts will require massive investment in a new "green-collar economy" featuring renewable technologies. Just as the government bankrolled the federal highway system, so it must now

restructure our power grid. Finding the money will require difficult re-prioritizing, such as shifting subsidies from the coal industry. Such decisions will in turn require tremendous political will, and thus voters must convince their representatives that failure to act will mean losing the next election. Furthermore, because renewable energy sources like the sun and wind entail less centralization than fossil fuels, local communities will have to work together to set up such small-scale facilities.

Community organizing takes a lot more time and effort than buying a compact fluorescent light or adjusting the thermostat, but it is a crucial prerequisite of systemic change, as epitomized by the civil rights movement. It is also fulfills a human need to be part of something larger than oneself. Please join us for the National Teach-In on Climate Change on Feb. 5, and visit McKibben's Web site at www.350.org to participate in his campaign planned for Oct. 24.



Sonia Keiner | photographer

Keiner is associate professor of public policy in the College of Liberal Arts.

This column presents opinions and ideas on issues relevant to higher education. To suggest an idea for the column, e-mail newsevents@rit.edu.

Send e-mail to support student aid

The State of the State address delivered Jan. 7 by New York Gov. David Paterson issued news for college students. In his speech, Paterson proposed \$75 million in budget cuts to student financial aid programs, including TAP, HEOP, C-STEP and Liberty Partnerships. Paterson's proposal eliminates TAP for graduate students and cuts C-STEP in half. One of the proposed cuts to TAP relates to an increase in the number of credits a student must complete to be considered full time. Most RIT undergraduate degrees require more than 180 credits. As a result, approximately 85 to 90 percent of RIT students will find TAP support ending prior to completing their degrees.

"We are asking RIT faculty, staff, students and alumni to share your feelings with state lawmakers as they consider Gov. Paterson's proposed budget and make tough decisions in a difficult economy," says Cindee Gray, RIT's assistant vice president for government and community relations. "By simply logging onto a Web site, you can express your dissatisfaction with these cuts that will most certainly have a negative impact on our student community and our local economy."

Fortunately for students, Paterson has introduced a new, low-cost student loan program called New York Higher Education Loan Program that may help students borrow for college at interest rates lower than what private, alternative loan lenders are now offering.

Visit capwiz.com/cicu/home to encourage elected officials to enact this new initiative and share your thoughts. ■

RIT Web page adds alumni news tab

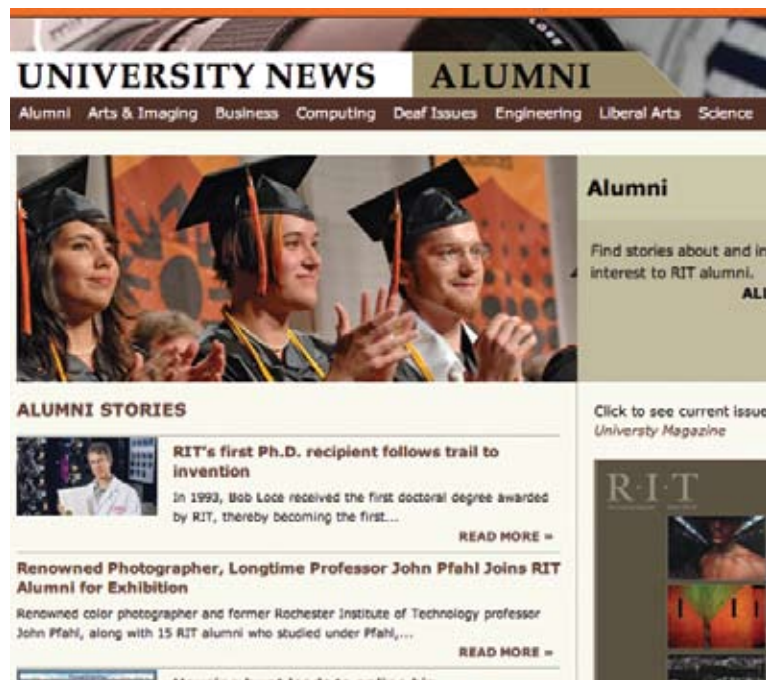
A new page on the RIT Web site offers stories about and information especially for alumni.

The page features "online exclusive" content, with additional material added regularly. In addition, stories of particular interest to alumni from University News publications are spotlighted. The "Alumni in the News" section

includes links to stories about RIT grads that have appeared in the news media. Visitors to the page will also be able to connect to RIT's Office of Alumni Relations as well as events, services and programs offered by the university.

Visit the new page at www.rit.edu/news/alumni. ■

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University News has launched a new Web page for and about alumni.

Staff creativity wins 2009 'Accolades'

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education is recognizing the creative work of RIT staff in announcing recipients of its 2009 Accolades Awards.

Two of three winning entries are associated with Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival. *Inside Imagine RIT*, a mini-documentary featuring festival highlights, wins a Silver Award in the category of Webcast/Podcast/CD/DVD Feature. Also, the Imagine RIT television commercial earns a Bronze Award in the category of PSA & Commercial Spot. Paul Stella, RIT University News director, wrote and produced both projects; Steve Czompo from RIT's Education Technology Center served as director and editor; and

ETC's Joe Bellavia directed the animation.

In addition, the RIT/NTID 40th anniversary reunion vlog series, featuring NTID alumni relations director Matthew Driscoll, receives honorable mention in the Best Practices in Alumni Relations category. David Conyer, executive producer of Educational Design Resources, produced and directed the series, and NTID marketing communications specialist Susan Murad was the writer.

The Accolades Awards are sponsored annually by CASE District II, which represents the work of colleges and universities throughout the U.S. mid-Atlantic region, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Ontario, Canada. ■

Liberal Arts appoints new associate dean

Graney will develop strategic plan and provide guidance for academics, research

Suzanne Graney, assistant professor of school psychology, has been named associate dean of RIT's College of Liberal Arts. Graney takes over for John Capps, who was recently promoted to senior associate dean. Graney will assist in the development and implementation of the college's strategic plan and serve as an advisor to Dean Robert Ullin on academic and research issues.

"I am excited for this new opportunity and hope to help in taking the College of Liberal Arts to the next level," notes Graney. "I look forward to developing and implementing initiatives that will enhance the college's efforts in research, curriculum



Suzanne Graney

development and student support."

Graney has been with RIT since 2003, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, while also conducting research in early literacy assessment and instruction. She previously served as a school psychologist with the Indian River County School District in Vero Beach, Fla. A native of Canandaigua, Graney received an associate's degree in humanities from Finger Lakes Community College, a master's in psychology from the State University of New York at Geneseo and a doctorate in school psychology from the University of Oregon.

"Professor Graney combines the academic, practical and administrative expertise needed to advance the development of services to our faculty, staff and students," adds Ullin. "She will be a tremendous asset to the college and RIT as a whole." ■

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A close look into the landscape of oil



Elizabeth Lamark | photographer

Noted landscape photographer Edward Burtynsky unveiled new photographic works, which are part of his series "The Landscape of Oil," during a presentation at RIT Jan. 21. The series will be featured in an upcoming book of the same name as well as a solo exhibition presented by the Corcoran Gallery of Washington. Burtynsky's talk was sponsored by RIT's Caroline Werner Gannett Project.



Bevier Gallery hosts the Rochester-Finger Lakes Middle and High School Exhibition for student artwork Jan. 30-Feb. 25. More than 250 pieces of work from artists in grades 6-12 will be featured, including the drawing, *Close Your Eyes*, by Kelly Kowal, a 12th grader at Webster Thomas High School. This year the exhibition is also featuring the work of some of their teachers—many of whom are RIT alumni.

Bioinformatics from page 2

case, lining up 40,000 contiguous nucleotides, or molecules that make up DNA—they can begin annotating or extracting the genetic features. They note where genes begin and end and the pattern that makes one fly different from its cousins. The students tap all available resources—software gene checkers that act like spell-checking tools, comparisons with previously annotated flies and, most of all, each other.

“It’s really a group effort with a lot of discussions with the students,” says Skuse. “It’s very collaborative, very interdisciplinary. I think it’s safe to say we’re past the age where a scientist works as an individual. We acknowledge that we work better as groups than as individuals.”

At the end of the quarter, Skuse will submit the results back to Washington University along with the students’ pre- and post-course surveys assessing the effectiveness of the curriculum. Their work stands a chance of getting published, but more immediately contributes to the collective knowledge of the fruit fly. “Our primary goal is education. We’re all learning how to teach

more effectively using this real-life scenario,” Skuse says. ■

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A word about fruit flies...

They are cheap and efficient. They reproduce quickly and are easy to manipulate in the laboratory. They are insects, not fellow mammals and, for most scientists, do not bear the same ethical burden. Yet, as model organisms, fruit flies are giants. Scientists have studied them since the early 1900s to learn about human biology. What might seem like an impossible leap from fly to human comes down to oxygen.

“The bottom line is flies breathe air and humans breathe air,” says Gary Skuse, director of bioinformatics. “And the process of the way cells convert energy and use oxygen is the same in flies as it is humans. Life is life and there are a lot of common processes.”

Produced by University News Services, Building 86, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623 (585) 475-5064 | 475-5097 (fax) | news&events@mail.rit.edu
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RIT sports puts high definition on wheels



Elizabeth Lamark/ETC Photo | photographer

A handful of RIT students and staff recently built a cutting-edge high-definition production and broadcast trailer to broadcast SportsZone Live—a cable sports TV show covering RIT’s home hockey games. The trailer—constructed in only four months—is the only one of its kind in upstate New York. “The knowledge from the work that our students have received from this is changing and molding their whole careers,” says James Bober, lead engineer at RIT’s Educational Technology Center. “We are providing a down-to-earth application that gives them an edge. They walk out of here with the practical experience they couldn’t get anywhere else.” For more on this story, visit www.rit.edu/news/?v=46562.

Lockheed Martin from page 1

“I am proud to have helped secure funding for RIT so it could successfully compete for this work and provide our military with today’s best technology.”

The Lockheed Martin/Marine Corps contract will equip several key vehicle types, including the Amphibious Assault Vehicle and the Light Armored Vehicle, with embedded platform logistics systems, or EPLS—a network of sensors used to monitor vehicle health and alert commanders regarding necessary maintenance. These systems work similarly to Onstar and are designed to prevent potential breakdowns, increase energy efficiency and improve the safety of troops in the field.

RIT’s role in the project involved developing the essential software and hardware used in the EPLS technology, and assisting Lockheed Martin in integrating these components into the overall system.

“Lockheed Martin was impressed with our previous work with the Office of Naval Research and decided to partner with RIT to develop their bid proposal for the project,” notes Nabil Nasr, director of the Golisano Institute and associate provost at RIT. “Once Lockheed won the contract, we partnered with them to create production versions of several of our previous hardware and software applications while also assisting in the development and testing of the EPLS system as a whole.”

LIBAN will continue to provide production support to Lockheed and the Marine Corps for EPLS software and is currently working to develop commercial vehicle health-management packages that could be used in a host of vehicle fleets from buses to heavy-duty trucks. Also, the technology developed through the project is now being utilized as part of a partnership between RIT and the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority to equip public transit buses with health monitoring technology.

A major focus of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability is the development of technologies for smarter products with lower consumption, longer life, higher reliability and durability. This will lead to products with lower environmental impacts. The technology can also be applied to military and commercial vehicles and passenger cars. ■

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as surveillance or smart advertising systems.

Her work in computer visioning and recognition “is very interesting, an up-and-coming technology area,” she says. “I wanted to do more than programming and spend time on the science and research side of technology.”

Kholgade has co-presented a paper with her faculty adviser, Andreas Savakis, chair of the computer engineering department, titled “Recognizing Human Activities Using Boundary Points of Silhouettes.” The paper was part of an Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers Western New York Image Processing Workshop held at RIT. “One of the advantages of being at RIT as someone enjoying the research experience is co-authoring research papers with faculty,” she says.

Currently secretary of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Kholgade helps members organize and perform community service. This year, the group participated at a local sheep shearing festival and volunteered at activities like taking kids on tours, face-painting and

helping out at the petting zoo.

“The honor society is not just about engineering, but how you can serve your community,” she says.

Within RIT, Kholgade participates as a member of several student clubs including the Global Union, the Organization of African Students and the Organization of the Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent.

Outside of RIT, she has a great affinity for the outdoors and travel. On breaks she has returned to Mumbai, India, or visited relatives downstate. Her travels have taken her to Colorado, where she skied for the first time; and to Spain and Austin, Texas, with the RIT Honors Program.

On another of her travels, she toured Kenya marveling at the vastness of nature and “seeing the animals where they are comfortable—not in a zoo. I love nature,” she says. “You are such a small person when you see so much bounty. It was incredible. If I could not be a computer engineer, I’d like to own a farm.” ■

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Global Teach-In from page 1

ing. The initiative, organized by an ad hoc group of faculty, staff and students, allows all members of the campus community to engage in solution-driven dialogue on climate change, which is being incorporated into campus-wide activities and regularly scheduled lesson plans.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Student Alumni Union serves as the epicenter for a variety of presentations and instructional demonstrations organized in response to the National Teach-In. Discussion topics include reducing your carbon footprint, how to organize and influence policy, and the rhetoric of global warming. Hands-on activities are also planned.

Additional highlights include a conversation on the human impact on climate change, featuring expert faculty from RIT’s College of Liberal Arts, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Building, room A205. Following that panel discussion, President Bill Destler presents the state of “green” programs on campus. His talk, “RIT and Global Warming: Challenges and Opportunities,” takes place at 6 p.m. in the

Al Davis Room, Student Alumni Union.

“The Teach-In offers a chance for those on all sides of this issue to engage in constructive dialogue,” states Destler. A complete schedule of RIT’s National Teach-In sessions is available online at www.rit.edu/gwteachin.

The timing of the National Teach-In is intended to help shape policy recommendations related to climate change during the first 100 days of President Barack Obama’s administration. Organizers say immediate action is required to reduce carbon dioxide levels to 350 parts per million, considered by scientists as the safe upper limit for carbon in the atmosphere, from current levels of approximately 387 ppm.

Other objectives include creating millions of green-industry jobs, revitalizing America’s economy through the development of renewable technologies and promoting carbon-neutral power sources.

For more information on the National Teach-In on Global Warming, visit www.nationalteachin.org. ■

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