

## RIT holds 'virtual' college fair for female applicants in high-tech fields

Like many high school seniors, deciding where to go college is weighing on the mind of Gretchen Smith. Smith, a standout student at Nazareth Academy, is a member of the school's FIRST Robotics Team and part of the Academic Scholarship in Computing, Engineering and New Technology program. RIT wants Smith to be among its incoming freshman class of female engineering students. Accepted applicants must decide by May 1.

In an effort to reach the current female applicants specifically interested in the university's undergraduate programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, RIT's Division of Enrollment Management and Career Services hosted a "virtual" college fair on Feb. 26.

High-school sophomores and juniors who've made inquiries about these programs were also invited to participate in the online chat.

Individual chatrooms were set-up for the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, College of Applied Science and Technology and College of Science. The Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid also had its own online room. The high-school students could "chat" with female faculty and students from the various STEM majors as well as admissions and financial aid staff members. Young women logged on from all over the world including India, Texas,



A. Sue Weisler | photographer  
Gretchen Smith, left, a Nazareth Academy senior, competes with team members Brianna Meeks and Juliana Humnicky at the FIRST Robotics competition. Smith was recently accepted to RIT for fall admission in the engineering exploration degree program and participated in the recent virtual college fair.

Vermont, Colorado and Maryland.

"I thought the virtual chat was really helpful," says Smith. "None of the other schools I've applied to have had anything like it so it is a very unique tool. It was nice to chat with administrators because they had all of the answers to my questions, but talking to the students was even better because they are the ones living the college life."

The high-school students asked a variety of questions to current RIT students ranging from: "Do you like the quarter system? How diverse is the campus? What made you choose RIT? What is the co-op program like?"

When you first got to campus, how did you get involved with people?"

One prospective student wrote: "RIT is about six hours away from me, but I plan to visit soon. I'm just trying to do what I can over the Internet before making that kind of trip."

Marian Nicoletti, RIT senior associate director of undergraduate admissions, says this inaugural online chat was a success.

"We wanted to do something special to let these young women talk one-on-one with current female RIT students in the STEM majors," *"Virtual" college fair, page 4*

## Imagine RIT exhibit proposals pour in

The second annual Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is less than two months away, and this year's festival looks to be even larger than the inaugural effort.

The Imagine RIT Program Committee expects over 400 exhibits in this year's festival, which takes place Saturday, May 2. While some of last year's favorites will return for an encore performance, the RIT community has again demonstrated its commitment to innovation and creativity with hundreds of new examples of groundbreaking research, interactive exhibits, unique demonstrations, world-class artistry and live performances.

"The innovation and creativity that exists on this campus continues to amaze me," says Imagine RIT Chairman Barry Culhane. "The RIT community certainly rose to the challenge of building on the success of last year's festival. Visitors are going to walk away tremendously impressed by what our students, faculty and staff do on a daily basis."

A unique element of this year's festival was born when RIT President Bill Destler challenged the campus to build an energy-efficient vehicle that could outperform his

electronic bicycle. Fourteen entrants have risen to the challenge and will compete against Destler at 9 a.m. on May 2, an hour before Imagine RIT officially gets under way. The winner will be announced during the festival's opening ceremony and all 14 entries will be exhibited in the WOW! Center (Gordon Field House and Activities Center) throughout the day.

The festival is free and open to the public, rain or shine. ■

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**Web extra:** Vote for your favorite Imagine RIT poster design by visiting [www.rit.edu/imagine/posters](http://www.rit.edu/imagine/posters). Voting ends at 5 p.m., Friday, March 20. The winning poster will be announced during a news conference in April.



Each issue of *News & Events* features a project to be showcased at Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival on May 2.

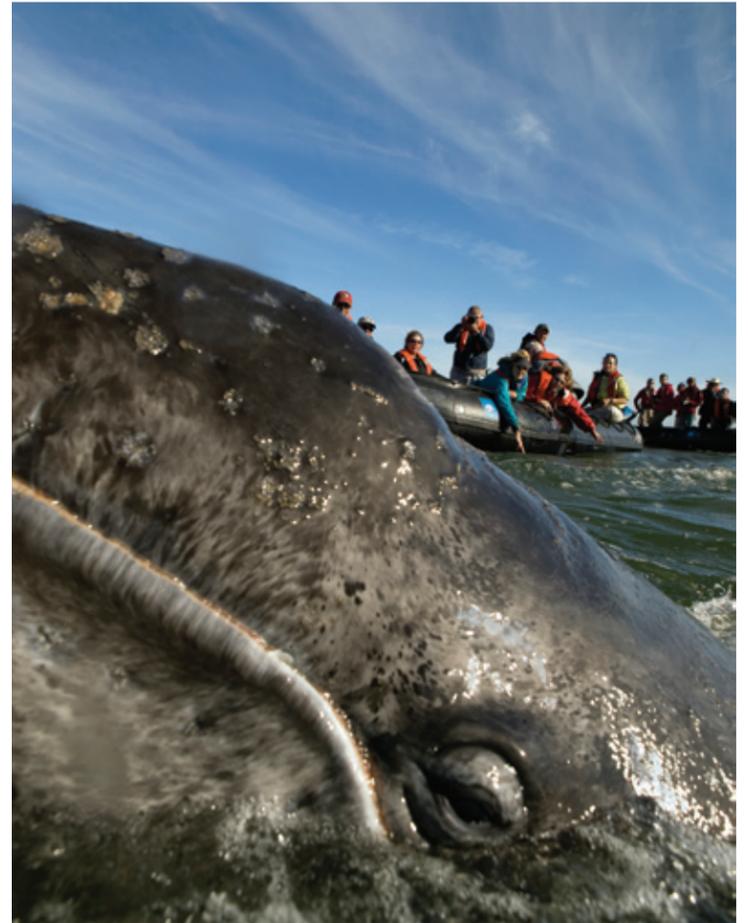
This week's spotlight:  
**Human-Powered Bike Blender**

**Presenter:** RIT Cycling Club  
**Brief Description:** As users pedal this bike they provide power to a mounted blender that makes them a smoothie as they ride.

**How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative:** This zero-emissions vehicle provides both exercise and a nutritious, energizing snack.

**Exhibit experience for visitors:** Visitors load their favorite smoothie recipe in the blender and pedal until their smoothie is fully blended.

For more information on the Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, visit [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine). ■



Jay Dickman | photographer

Photographer Jay Dickman gets up close and personal with a gray whale in Baja, Calif.

## Prize-winning photographers give students inside look at their careers

Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalists Jay Dickman and Larry Price will visit campus to share their images and insight about attaining successful careers.

Their presentations, sponsored by Olympus America Inc., are at 7 p.m. Monday, March 23, in Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Olympus will raffle off an Olympus E-520 Digital SLR camera immediately following.

With more than 60 years combined experience working in the photojournalism field, Dickman and Price will talk about their inspiration and tools of the trade.

Dickman has covered the war in El Salvador, the Olympics, six Super Bowls and the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. In 1983, he won a Pulitzer in Journalism for feature photography for his work in

El Salvador. Over the past decade, Dickman has worked with *National Geographic* magazine.

Price has won two Pulitzers—the first in 1981 for photographs of Liberian executions and the second in 1985 for images from the civil wars in Angola and El Salvador. Price is director of photography for Cox Ohio Newspapers, publishers of the *Dayton Daily News* and eight newspapers in the greater Dayton region. His photographs have been published in *Time*, *Newsweek* and *National Geographic*.

Both are members of the Olympus Visionaries Program, a partnership created by Olympus America Inc. that recognizes the work of some of the most talented still photographers.

For more information, contact RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at 475-2770. ■

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## Four Presidents award ceremony, March 17

The RIT community is invited to honor Professor Ann Howard and student Kaitlyn Werner as they receive the RIT Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award and the Bruce R. James '64 Distinguished Service Award, respectively. Both will be honored during a ceremony at 4 p.m. March 17 in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union.

The Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award Fund was created by Vice President Emeritus Alfred Davis on the occasion of the 65th year of his

association with RIT to commemorate the dedication of the last four RIT presidents in their service to the Rochester community. The award is presented to a member of the RIT faculty or staff whose public service and commitment mirrors that of the four presidents who worked with Davis. The Bruce R. James '64 Distinguished Public Service Award is presented annually to an RIT student and commemorates the public service of Bruce James, chairman emeritus of the RIT Board of Trustees.

### Gallery news

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# Faculty, staff artwork will be raffled off at Gallery r anniversary benefit

Art patrons: You may be the proud owner of a ceramic vase, hand-dyed scarf, digital print, metal sculpture, hand-designed jewelry, a pair of black ceramic high-heeled shoes or a photograph of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

All ticket holders who attend the 10th annual Gallery r benefit will leave with a beautiful work of art donated by RIT friends, students, alumni and faculty—signature pieces that may be worth more than the \$150 benefit ticket price. The gala auction event with emcee Norma Holland, WHAM-TV news anchor, will be held at Bausch & Lomb headquarters on Thursday, March 26. A reception with live music, light hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cash bar will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with an art drawing in the atrium from 7 to 9 p.m.

RIT staff member Peggy Tirrell contributed two photographs to the Gallery r patron ticket drawings.

"The photos were taken when I was in Moscow for the Muskie Foundation in January 2008," explains Tirrell, senior associate director of graduate business programs at RIT's E. Philip Saunders College of Business. "I had the rare opportunity to be in Red Square one night when it was snowing, windy and very cold. The square was virtually empty, which is incredibly uncommon and

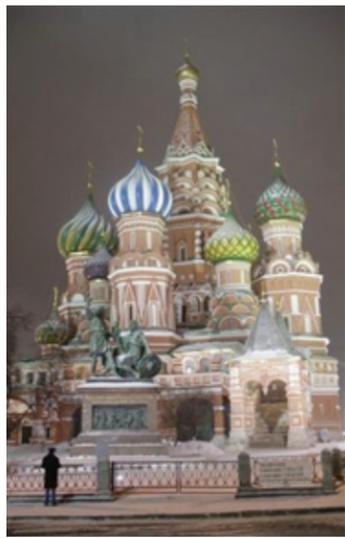


Jewelry by Juan Carlos Caballero-Perez

made for a great photo opportunity to capture two key landmarks, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin, without the crowds impeding the view."

New to the benefit this year are original works of art by nationally recognized artists that will be available to the highest bidder during the live auction—including a Rochester landscape painting by Scott Small, a litho print by the late Rochester-celebrated artist Ramon Santiago in collaboration with Frame Up, and a spun bronze bowl by the late renowned metal-smith Ronald Pearson, which was donated by a private collector in Rochester.

Gallery r rose to an auspicious start with more than 1,500 visitors when it opened its doors during the Park Avenue Festival 10 years ago. Since then, it has built a reputation for showcasing 12 innovative exhibi-



Photograph of St. Basil's Cathedral by Peggy Tirrell



Ceramic vase by Julia Galloway

tions a year, provided educational opportunities, and fostered collaborations with the public, other arts institutions and community groups.

"The Park Avenue district is an exciting place to be," says Sodervick, Gallery r coordinator and director of extended studies at RIT. "This is the perfect relationship between the university, the artistic community and business partners."

"Our community-wide gala helps create awareness of RIT student and faculty art while bringing together family and friends. I love to see patrons leaving the event—carefully hugging a glass or bronze sculpture, wearing a beautiful necklace or bracelet or admiring their newly acquired painting or print. The look on their faces says it all."

For tickets to the Gallery r Benefit, call 475-5154. For a preview of donated artwork, visit [cias.rit.edu/~galleryr/benefit](http://cias.rit.edu/~galleryr/benefit). ■

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# Annual RITz fundraiser features exotic cuisine

Guests will experience a fusion of flavors from across the continents at the 24th annual Puttin' on the RITz Dinner. This year's annual fundraiser, *Savoring Health: A Culinary Tour of Flavors*, is 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at Oak Hill Country Club.



Liz Bonis

Acting as honorary chairperson for the event is Liz Bonis, health and lifestyle reporter from TV and radio. Bonis, a graduate of the School of Hospitality and Service Management, hosts the talk show *Lighten Up with Liz* on nutrition, exercise and health. She can be heard and seen locally on WHAM radio and 13 WHAM-TV.

Each year, the students in the School of Hospitality and Service Management plan the annual fundraising event that has grown from 60 participants in its first year to more than 300 in the last few years. Students plan the entire event, from theme to menu, from entertainment to dining service.

"The RITz is one of the capstone leadership and management experiences for students," says Rick Lagiewski, faculty member in the School of Hospitality and Service Management. "Students move up in experiences throughout their time in the program. In their freshman year, they can begin as wait staff, sophomore year, they might supervise a section. During their junior year, they might oversee the food and

beverage responsibilities and senior year, they have the opportunity to participate on the executive planning team or act as co-chair for the event."

This year's co-chairs are fourth-year HSM students Aubrey Hale and Michael Dulac. They have been working since early in the fall quarter to build this year's staff. Their cuisine selections from shrimp with miso mayonnaise to pan-seared duck and wild mushrooms show how even the most exotic foods can be healthy.

Many alumni are involved in the event or return like Bonis to attend the dinner. This year, the students will take over the kitchen at Oak Hill from Eric Rule, currently general manager of the country club. Mark Pfunter, adjunct professor in the Saunders College of Business, and also an HSM graduate, had several of his students recruited to work at the big event.

"More students are in the new degree program at NTID," Pfunter says referring to the associate of science degree in hospitality, now in its second year. Getting the students involved in event planning, trained to work in the kitchen or as wait staff is a good way to get hands-on experience in the service industry, he added.

Tickets are \$100 person and can be ordered online at [www.rit.edu/cast/ritz](http://www.rit.edu/cast/ritz). Donors can also purchase a commemorative plate in recognition of the event for \$50. All proceeds go toward the School of Hospitality and Service Management for scholarships, equipment and conference travel. ■

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# Course links ethical concepts and sustainability

Over the past two decades, sustainability—generally defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs—has become a buzz word in discussions surrounding environmental quality, climate change, pollution prevention and global justice. It is also now used to describe a growing academic and research discipline that combines aspects of engineering, science, economics, public policy and philosophy to promote better understanding of the integrated and complex consequences of human action.

However, disagreement exists



Evan Selinger

over the practical meaning of sustainability, and questions remain as to why citizens, government and industry should view it as a priority. This debate has hampered efforts to implement sustainable principles and it has slowed efforts to create educational programs in the area.

"Unlike more clear-cut fields such as engineering or physics, sustainability is an amalgamation of multiple disciplines and there is significant debate over which aspects should be dominant," notes Evan Selinger, assistant professor of philosophy at RIT. "Some experts view it simply as a technical concept that can be applied to specific problem sets such as making a production process more energy efficient, while others see it as a broader moral idea that can assist society in changing how we act towards our surroundings."

This dichotomy in the definition and implementation of sustainability is the focus of several projects that Selinger, an expert in the philosophy of technology, is undertaking at RIT. He is currently offering a course in sustainability ethics that examines the different definitions and theories of sustainability and its key ethical concepts, and that critically interrogates how technology may advance or hinder sustainable living. The class aims to engage students in a dialogue surrounding the key sustainability questions and to promote greater understanding of the main issues in the field.

The course is a component of RIT's new Ph.D. program in sustainability and is also offered as an elective course to all RIT undergraduate and graduate students.

"Before we can use sustainability to transform our society we need to develop a better understanding of what it means and why it is important," Selinger adds. "It is my hope this course will help our students—many of whom are interested in careers in the field—better answer the pressing questions for themselves and ultimately contribute to the broader debate in their professional lives."

On top of his teaching efforts, Selinger is also co-directing a conference on sustainable ethics, which will be held at RIT on May 1. The event is being organized with Wade Robison, the Ezra Hale Chair of Applied Ethics, and Ryne Raffaele, the academic director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, and will feature leading experts in environmental ethics, the philosophy of technology and sustainable development.

It is sponsored by Provost Jeremy Haefner; Dean Robert Ulin; Nabil Nasr, director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability; Marybeth Cooper, vice president for student affairs; and the Ezra A. Hale Chair in Applied Philosophy and the Mellon Foundation. Selinger hopes to develop the conference, which is free and open to the public, as an annual academic symposium. For information, visit [www.rit.edu/cla/ethics/Sustainability.html](http://www.rit.edu/cla/ethics/Sustainability.html).

"Not only are ethical considerations central to how we define sustainability, but advancing our understanding of sustainability ethics also will help us develop the discipline of sustainability in such a way as to keep attention on the entitlements that all members of society deserve." ■

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## Eastman musicians offer next Performing Artists concert



The Eastman School Symphony Orchestra is slated to perform at RIT on March 27 as part of the Performing Artists Concert Series. The orchestra, which consists of nearly 60 players, will feature a Mozart piano concerto that will be performed by the winner of the Eastman School of Music's annual concerto competition. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in the Student Alumni Union's Ingle Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for faculty, staff and alumni and \$12 for the general public. They can be purchased at the Student Alumni Union Candy Counter or at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center box office.

## Professor listed in Marquis' 'Who's Who'

Hamad Ghazle, associate professor and director of the diagnostic medical sonography program in the College of Science, has been selected to be included in the 2009 edition of *Who's Who in America*, published by Marquis.



Hamad Ghazle

*Who's Who* is a biographical reference that publishes the profiles of the highest achievers and contributors in a variety of fields including politics, business, education and medicine. Selected individuals are nominated and their credentials reviewed by a committee. Ghazle says that the process took about two months before his selection was confirmed. "It's greatly appreciated," says

Ghazle. "It's nice to be in *Who's Who*, and know that somebody thinks of you that way.

"It makes you think to yourself, 'Perhaps I am making a difference.'"

Ghazle is president of the Rochester Ultrasound Society and a former Eisenhart teaching award winner. He has a bachelor's degree in ultrasound from RIT and has been on the faculty for 14 years. He also has a master's in health professions from University of Rochester and completed his doctorate in higher education in 2008 from UR.

Marquis' *Who's Who* has been around since 1899 and is used mostly in libraries as a research tool enabling users to look up biographical profiles.

Visit [www.marquiswhoswho.com](http://www.marquiswhoswho.com) for additional information. ■

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## news & events

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# RIT adds chemical engineering bachelor's degree curriculum

## Contemporary topics incorporated into program

Chemical engineering, the newest undergraduate degree program in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering portfolio, was formally approved by the New York State Department of Education last fall. Since that time, more than 260 applicants have expressed interest in enrolling in the program for fall 2009.

The degree program builds upon a foundation of chemistry, physics and mathematics. Traditional applications include the development and manufacture of chemicals such as fuels, synthetic fibers, pharmaceuticals and advanced materials. Engineers also develop chemical-based equipment for drug delivery, semiconductor processing, bio-medical and environmental applications.

"High-performance materials are needed across all industry sectors including aerospace, automotive, bio-medical, electronic, environmental, space and military applications," says Steven Weinstein, head of the new chemical engineering department.

"In addition to its obvious chemistry underpinnings, chemical

engineering is often intertwined with biology and biomedical engineering," says Weinstein. "There is particular interest in harnessing the chemical machinery inside a cell, developing and manufacturing 'markers' for detecting cancer cells, developing biodegradable scaffolds for culturing cells for medical implants, and, of course, mapping and manipulating the human genome."

*The degree program builds upon a foundation of chemistry, physics and mathematics. More than 260 applicants have expressed interest in enrolling in the program for fall 2009.*

The College of Engineering is recognized nationally for its comprehensive set of outreach programs that attract young women to science, technology, engineering and math, also called STEM disciplines. Chemical engineering is popular among women who pursue engineering

degrees, surpassed only by environmental and bio-medical engineering.

"We expect to forge close collaborations with the chemistry and biology departments in the College of Science as we move forward," says Harvey Palmer, dean of the College of Engineering. "Additionally, as most problems require engineering expertise from several disciplines, existing programs in the college will both strengthen, and be strengthened by, chemical engineering at RIT."

The engineering college is currently in the final stages of submitting to New York state a companion proposal for the bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering.

Along with sustainability efforts, the department has begun to focus on thin-film mechanics and coating sciences. "The film and paper converting industry alone is over a \$100 billion dollar business," says Weinstein.

One of the many long-term goals of the new department is to serve as a resource for industry training, consultation and applied research. ■

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# Gatley named head of student innovation, undergraduate research

RIT Dean of the College of Science Ian Gatley has been named director of the new Center for Student Innovation and Undergraduate Research Support, effective April 1. Gatley will remain dean until June 30.



Ian Gatley

Jeremy Haefner, RIT provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, will appoint an interim dean for the College of Science and begin a national search for the next permanent dean, with the goal of filling the position by July 2010.

"Ian brings a creative and innovative set of skills, experiences and passions to this new appointment," says Haefner. "In his previous roles, first as director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science and as dean of the College of Science, he fostered an environment of

tremendous growth and expansion. Research and scholarship in science significantly grew during the time of his appointments and the college saw a rise in a number of strategic programs, culminating in the Ph.D. in astrophysical science and technology this past year."

In his new role, Gatley will oversee a center designed as a workplace, a think tank of sorts, for teams of students to pursue problem-solving ideas representing social or commercial innovation.

Scheduled to open this spring, the center's 10,000 square-foot circular, glass-enclosed space will dramatically distinguish it from other buildings on campus. This glass wheel will be the "hub and clearing house of RIT innovation resources" Haefner envisioned in a December presentation.

Ultimately, the center will be a place for students to grow their ideas and to meet and interact with alumni, clients, businesses and

community organizations. It will also host gatherings, seminars and innovation fairs that encourage networking and relationship building and stir up synergy.

Gatley's multidisciplinary approach to research and problem solving makes him an ideal fit for director of the Center for Student Innovation. An internationally known scientist, Gatley may be best known for building one of the first multi-pixel infrared cameras used for astronomical research.

More recently, his passion for adapting technology for new uses can be seen in the various projects on campus employing immersive-video techniques. The general idea for using multiple projectors grew out of Gatley's relationship with the Rochester Museum and Science Center and the need to find affordable projection technologies for the planetarium. Related RIT-based projects have included a five-camera video of the 2007 commencement ceremony featuring former President Bill Clinton and an immersive open-house experience for prospective students that converts an auditorium into a wide-screen theater.

"Gatley's team has assigned the intellectual property from this work to RIT in order to create opportunities for students," Haefner says. "The university has filed for three patents for inventions that include wearable and mobile video capture and multi-screen displays."

Haefner points also to the success of the Undergraduate Research Symposium as another example of Gatley's emphasis on discovery. The annual symposium has grown steadily over the past three years. Last summer, 93 students presented research guided by faculty from nearly all the colleges at RIT.

"I am very confident that Ian will bring this same passion for helping students achieve the learning outcomes we expect from the Center for Student Innovation and from Undergraduate Research Support," Haefner adds. ■

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## Students fend off cyber attacks in competition



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Top computing students from across the Northeast United States gathered Feb. 27-March 1 at RIT to compete in the Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. Northeastern University edged out 2008 champion RIT to earn a place in the national competition, which takes place in San Antonio. Above, RIT team captain Ron Valente works with his teammates to fend off attacks against their network.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Devin Hamilton, a third-year mechanical engineering technology student, was recently featured in the online version of *The Wall Street Journal* about his unique use of Quick Glance. He and classmate Beth Keifer work together on several class projects.

## RIT student learns to control computer with a blink of an eye

Imagine being unable to type commands on a computer or text message to peers? What if there was a technology that can help you do both—and more—with just a blink of an eye?

For RIT student Devin Hamilton, the blink of an eye is all he needs to use an advanced eye-tracking technology called Quick Glance. Hamilton uses the hands-free computer control using eye movements. This allows him to effectively manage the keyboard for his coursework and communication.

The third-year mechanical engineering technology student was recently featured in the online version of *The Wall Street Journal* about his unique use of Quick Glance.

On Jan. 15, Andy Jordan, producer of *Tech Diary*, the video news magazine for *The Wall Street*

*Journal*, visited campus and filmed Hamilton using the Quick Glance technology set up—a camera mounted to a computer, viewing screen and several infrared lights. Jordan followed him on a typical day in his dorm room, in class and in the machine lab working on class projects.

"I've been using Quick Glance for three years," says Hamilton, a native of Delhi, N.Y., a small town near Oneonta. "I got this half way through my first year at RIT."

Jordan and Hamilton met through the Quick Glance parent company, Eye Tech Digital Systems. The company keeps in contact with one of its most prolific users and they, in turn, introduced Hamilton to Jordan to share his remarkable story.

The video story can be found at <http://bit.ly/10oiSj>. ■

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## Researchers share findings at IT Collaboratory symposium



Elizabeth Lamark | photographer

The development of quantum-limited imaging detectors that could have major implications for biomedical imaging, astrophysics, defense and Earth systems science was the focus of RIT's fifth annual IT Collaboratory Research Symposium held earlier this month. The two-day event, directed by Don Figer, professor of imaging science, featured technical research sessions and presentations on critical application needs in medicine, defense and astronomy. Participants included Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems and Teledyne.

## RIT hosts international guests



Rosemary Greco | photographer

Bintai Wang, chairman of the board of trustees, Jiangsu International Foundation for Education Excellence, presents RIT President Bill Destler with a tapestry from Nanjing, China. Wang visited RIT Feb. 23 and met with campus representatives to explore a partnership whereby qualified students from Jiangsu Polytechnics would be able to further their education and complete bachelor's degree programs at RIT beginning this fall.



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Anchors John DiTullio and Shelby Hill, a first-year RIT journalism student, share a laugh between segments of RIT SportsZone, which airs the 100th episode this month. Since its debut in 2002, RIT students have shared responsibility for all aspects of the program, including talent, video production, graphic design and marketing. Viewers can watch this milestone episode at 6 p.m. Friday, March 13, on the Time Warner Sports Network, channel 26; 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14, on ESPN2, channel 25; and throughout the following week on cable access channel 4. For RIT SportsZone online, visit www.rit.edu/sportszone.

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Poster families have RIT connections

Sometimes hearing the news isn't easy: A doctor reveals you have breast cancer, or a teacher says your child is uncontrollable in the classroom.

Two brave RIT families—whose faces you'll be seeing on the posters around campus for RIT's 2009 United Way Campaign—have decided to share their personal and poignant experiences. Both have benefited tremendously from contributors of two United Way of Greater Rochester donor designated agencies: The Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester and Hope Hall School.

Ninety-eight is a lucky number for Becky Simmons because it's her survival rate after being diagnosed with breast cancer last spring.

"As someone who does constant research," explains the RIT archivist, "I wanted to know everything about my disease to make up my mind about surgery and treatment."

Simmons found the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester, a donor-designated agency of United Way, to be an excellent source for information. She saw the coalition's brochure during her mammogram office visit—and the organization was also recommended by her physician, as well as a friend who had used its services.

"The director, Holly Anderson, is an awesome woman who spent an hour with me discussing Breast Cancer 101 and sent me home with a thick book and a DVD from their library."

The relationship didn't stop there. Simmons attended free yoga classes at the facility to lift her spirits, became involved with "brown bag" group discussions for survivors and the newly diagnosed, and is now volunteering as a Peer Advocate Lending Support Pal.

"It's been a rough year but I know I'm not alone," Simmons says. "I've gotten so much support from my husband and family, Breast Cancer Coalition professionals, and RIT friends who constantly affirmed, 'We're behind you, we're with you, we love you.'"

For another RIT family, concern involved their son, diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, who was experiencing frustration and failure in a traditional educational setting.

It became noticeable at day one—Gian just didn't fit in with the rest of his classmates. Born two months premature, he had a normal IQ but his hyperactivity, phonic tics and odd, repetitive behavior patterns caused him to be penalized, separated and



Will Strawser | photographer

Hope Hall has made a difference for Becky and David Corcimiglia, and their son, Gian.

ostracized at the school he attended.

"His cognitive skills are there, but there's a constant misfiring in his brain," says his mother, Becky Corcimiglia, an associate teacher at Margaret's House Child Care Center at RIT. "The teachers didn't know how to deal with his unusual behaviors and his head would hang down low from constant feelings of failure and rejection—he didn't have one friend."

Advocating a change for their son, Becky and her husband, David, felt "blessed and relieved" when Gian was accepted into third grade at Hope Hall School in Gates, a donor-designated agency of United Way.

Sister Diana Dolce, principal and founder of Hope Hall, which was established in 1994, applies a holistic approach to education. The mission of the school is to provide an opportunity for "at-risk" or "educa-

tionally stranded" children to become successful lifelong learners.

"Every student in grades three to nine at Hope Hall learns differently; lessons are broken down into smaller pieces so they can keep up with the pace," says Dolce. "Through the generosity of supporters of United Way of Greater Rochester, Hope Hall is able to stretch its shoestring operating budget and give students the education they deserve."

And the best part is . . . "Gian runs to the bus; he's now 11, in the sixth grade and holds his head high." ■

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Web extra:

Hear an interview with Becky Corcimiglia and Becky Simmons on the RIT news podcast "Studio 86" at www.rit.edu/news/podcasts.



Will Strawser | photographer

Becky Simmons has found support through the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester.

RIT hockey prepares for quarterfinal play



Submitted photograph

For the second straight season, RIT men's hockey hosts Holy Cross in the Atlantic Hockey Quarterfinals. The best-of-three series at RIT's Ritter Arena takes place at 7:05 p.m. Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15 (if necessary). Tickets—available at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center box office—are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. If RIT advances, the Tigers will play in the Atlantic Hockey Final Four at Blue Cross Arena on Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21.

'Virtual' college fair from page 1

says Nicoletti. "Our students are the university's best ambassadors and they, along with our faculty, did a tremendous job addressing the students' questions. It was also a way to educate our invitees about the numerous community, social and mentoring opportunities RIT has in place for women interested in high-tech careers."

In a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, nearly 852,000 bachelor's degrees were awarded to women in the United States in 2006, but only 11 percent of those degrees were in the science, technology, engineering and math disciplines. In contrast, men earned 23 percent of B.S. degrees in those programs.

RIT has implemented various strategies university-wide to recruit

more women into the STEM disciplines. RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering has an extensive outreach program and its enrollment numbers for women reflect its success. In 2007, the freshman engineering class for women was 13 percent. In 2008, that number jumped to a record-breaking 19 percent. ■

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Web extra: R News covered the inaugural online chat for young women interested in the STEM disciplines. To watch the story, visit www.youtube.com/RITUniversityNews. To learn more about RIT's global initiatives to recruit more women into high-tech fields, visit www.rit.edu/news/?v=46656.

Gannett Project lecture has arts-and-crafts twist

The importance of making and crafting things to American society and culture will be the topic of an upcoming presentation, The Happy Mutant's Guide to Pocket Creation, by new media journalists and authors Mark Frauenfelder and Carla Sinclair, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Webb Auditorium.

The pair will also host a craft workshop, along with RIT's Make Club, at 9 a.m. Friday, March 27,

in the Carlson Auditorium. Both events, sponsored by the Caroline Werner Gannett Project, are free and open to the public.

Frauenfelder is co-founder of the blog Boing Boing and of Make magazine. Sinclair is the editor of Craft Magazine and frequent contributor to Wired. The husband-and-wife team is well known for commentary on American crafts, design and new media.