

## RIT, Delphi to receive \$2.4 million Initiative seeks to create fuel-cell technology for commercial and military applications

United States Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, recently announced \$2.4 million in federal funding she secured in fiscal-year 2009 appropriations for RIT and Delphi's joint efforts to develop a cost-effective method to manufacture fuel-cell auxiliary power units. With this initiative, project researchers believe Delphi's work may lead to the first commercially produced solid oxide fuel-cell unit to hit the market by as soon as 2012.

"I am proud to have secured federal funding to help make Rochester the world center for fuel-cell research, fuel-cell development, and ultimately fuel-cell manufacturing," says Slaughter. "I applaud Delphi Corp. and RIT on their successes to advance local fuel-cell development, a mission with tremendous potential for our nation's energy security and Rochester's economic future."

Delphi has produced a prototype solid oxide fuel cell, a unit that produces electricity by "harvesting" hydrogen from diesel, biofuel or natural gas. The fuel cell achieves up to 40 percent more power than the



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

At a March 13 press conference, U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, above, announced new funding for RIT's research partnership with Delphi Inc. Pictured with Slaughter is Steve Shaffer, chief fuel-cell engineer at Delphi.

traditional combustion engine. At the same time, RIT engineers have been working to identify options to minimize fuel-cell life-cycle costs. Delphi and RIT have come together to merge their researchers and resources to develop a cost-effective way to mass-produce Delphi's fuel-

cell technology.

"This important collaborative research program with Delphi further strengthens the region's assets in sustainability and alternative energy, and reinforces RIT's commitment to innovation and our *Fuel-cell project, page 4*

## Rochester General Health System named festival partner

Rochester General Health System is the 2009 festival partner for Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival.

"This partnership makes perfect sense given the recent announcement of RIT's strategic alliance with RGHS," says RIT President Bill Destler. "It is a great opportunity for both organizations to demonstrate our collective ingenuity to the community. We are excited to have RGHS on board, as well as the other sponsors and friends."

In December, RIT entered into a strategic alliance with the health system. An agreement between the two institutions will include RIT becoming the health system's official academic affiliate and Rochester General becoming the university's official affiliated medical center. A joint committee is currently formalizing the alliance.

As festival partner, the health



Rochester General Health System

system will receive recognition in the festival's marketing and public relations rollout this spring. This includes mentions in TV, radio and print advertisements, as well as on a logo on an Imagine RIT billboard on Interstate 490. The billboard will be unveiled April 6.

To date, RIT has 52 sponsors for the May 2 festival. Xerox Corp., Paychex Inc. and Eastman Kodak Co. are gold sponsors of the event. Every sponsor is recognized on the festival Web site at [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine).

"We are extremely pleased with the number of businesses, organizations and individuals that are stepping up to support the festival," says Barry Culhane, chair of the Imagine RIT steering committee. "It shows their belief in RIT's mission, their commitment to fostering innovation and creativity as a tool for progress and their support for the opportunity for families to participate in a free campus experience of RIT at its best." ■

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## Administration outlines campus' financial plan

### \$102 million still delivered in student aid

In a recent announcement to the RIT community, James Watters, RIT's senior vice president for finance and administration, outlined a few of the university's fiscal plans for next year.

As a result of the current recession, RIT will be reducing all operating budgets by an average of 1.5 percent and by greater amounts in several budgeted areas. Additionally, non-critical expenditures and capital improvement projects will be deferred, and RIT will not be providing customary salary merit pools. Benefit increases will be constrained to those required contractually.

"In the present period of economic uncertainty, we are particularly concerned about all members of our community, be they students, staff or faculty," says Watters. "It is clear that we will need a university-wide commitment to this plan where everyone is called upon to make some sacrifice and contribution to the welfare of the university."

"Our continuous efforts to find efficiencies, coupled with these cost containment measures, will not provide all of the resources which are necessary, however," he says.

"The balance of our needed revenue plan must come from tuition, but due to the economic environment, our rate increase will be lower than in recent years."

Tuition at the undergraduate and graduate levels will increase by 4.5 percent for the 2009-2010 academic year. Room and board rates will increase 3 percent and 2.5 percent respectively, for an average cost increase of 4 percent. A complete schedule of tuition costs, fees and related charges for the academic year is provided at [www.rit.edu/tuitionfees](http://www.rit.edu/tuitionfees).

The revenues generated by this plan will be used to provide a substantial increase in institutionally administered financial-aid programs, to fund faculty positions needed for approved new academic programs, and to maintain funding for educational technology and physical plant maintenance. RIT will grant \$102 million in student aid next year.

"With the additional revenues generated by our combined actions, RIT will maintain its momentum and continue to raise the prestige associated with our degrees," adds Watters. ■

## Student Spotlight

## Economics shapes student's career with IRS

Christine Longo fell in love with economics at an early age. She started watching the news and following the stock market with her father while still in middle school and developed a keen interest in the economy, finance and politics. Her family encouraged this interest through constant discussions on current events from the state of the job market to foreign trade, and by high school she considered turning her enthusiasm into a profession.

That interest has turned into a successful educational and career path and she has excelled both in the classroom and in professional circles. Longo, from Utica, N.Y., will graduate in May with a degree in economics and has been selected by the College of Liberal Arts to serve as student delegate and speak at the college's commencement ceremonies.

"I look forward to representing my classmates and giving something back to the RIT community which has been such an important part of my personal and professional growth," notes Longo.

Longo will have the opportunity to immediately make a difference in U.S. economic and tax policy thanks to her position as an analyst with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C.

She previously conducted two cooperative-education assignments in Washington, first with the Office of Economic Policy Analysis at the Department of the Treasury and then



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Christine Longo hopes to make the U.S. economic system better by sharing her talents with the Internal Revenue Service after graduation.

with the Office of Program Evaluation and Risk Assessment within the IRS. While serving with the IRS, Longo assisted on a research project designed to streamline customer-service operations, working with a team to improve the income-tax installment payment process.

"I developed process maps to show the interactions a customer goes through in setting up an installment payment, and helped develop recommendations on how the process can be improved," says Longo.

She will return to the Office of Program Evaluation this summer and will work with the installment agreement team to conduct further research on the

process and evaluate possible reforms. She hopes her work will increase the effectiveness of the IRS and help the agency meet its mission of providing excellent service to American taxpayers.

"The IRS is truly interested in assisting citizens and in making the entire tax process as simple as possible," Longo adds. "It is extremely gratifying to be a small part of that process."

Longo also plans to attend graduate school and would like to ultimately work in global financial policy. Whichever path she chooses, Longo hopes to provide assistance to the next generation of economists, similar to the help she has received at RIT and the IRS. ■

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### In the community

RIT/NTID has strong presence at deaf film festival, *page 2*

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### Viewpoints

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# RIT presence felt at local deaf film festival

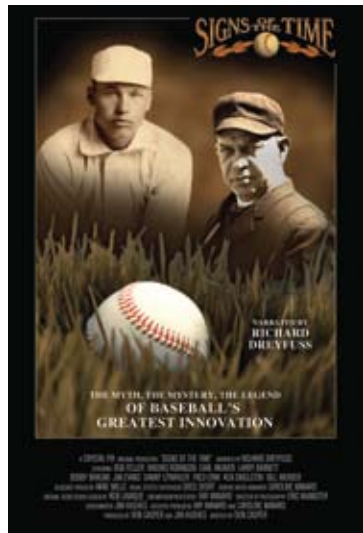
## NTID's Panara Theater is site for several premieres

The third Deaf Rochester Film Festival runs March 26-29 with dozens of movie screenings in several venues around Rochester including NTID's Robert F. Panara Theatre.

The films deemed the best new movies by deaf and hard-of-hearing filmmakers or with deaf themes come from around the globe. But several have strong ties to RIT and NTID.

The featured film is *Signs of the Time*, produced and directed by Don Casper, who previously worked at NTID. He now works with Crystal Pix, a Fairport production company. The one-hour documentary examines whether the use of hand signals used by baseball umpires was developed by legendary deaf baseball player William "Dummy" Hoy. The documentary features period recreation shots at Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfords, as well as interviews with several baseball legends.

It is fitting that the first public screening of *Signs of the Time* will be shown in the Robert F. Panara Theatre. Panara, the first deaf faculty member at NTID, remains an avid baseball fan and historian and is featured in the film. A discussion



*Signs of the Time*, a documentary about the use of hand signals in baseball, is one of the featured films this year.



immediately follows the viewing at 3:15 p.m. March 28.

Other familiar faces in the film are Michael Barreca '00, who plays Dummy Hoy in the recreation (and lives in Hoy's hometown of Cincinnati), and Matthew Moore '83, a Hoy researcher and publisher of *Deaf Life* magazine.

Other festival films with RIT/NTID connections include:

*The Heart of the Hydrogen Jukebox*, a two-hour documentary by Miriam Lerner, an interpreter at RIT/NTID, will be shown at 9 a.m. Sunday in Panara Theatre. The film is comprised primarily of archival and recent video footage of various performances and interviews of deaf poets who were experimenting with poetic devices in American Sign Language from 1984 to 1992.

See *What I'm Saying, the Deaf Entertainers Documentary*, is a new film by Hilari Scarl featuring four deaf entertainers, including comic C.J. Jones and Robert DeMayo, both former NTID students. It will be shown at 3 p.m. Saturday at the George Eastman House.

*Flipped* and *Don't*, short films by RIT/NTID graduate student Kamau Buchanan, will be shown Saturday evening in Panara Theatre. *Flipped* is about a man who wakes up deaf one morning, and *Don't* is a drama featuring several RIT/NTID students

and staff members.

*The Red Riding Deafhood* by Barbara Di Giovanni '90 will be shown during a children's program at 11:50 a.m. Sunday at NTID.

*Worry: A Jewish Deaf-Blind Survivor Shares Her Story* is a 30-minute documentary by NTID faculty member Patti Durr. It will be shown Sunday at 1:20 p.m. in Panara Theatre.

*Onalee's Journey*, a half-hour documentary by RIT/NTID graduate Ruthie Jordan, follows Onalee Cooper, a deaf girl who grew up unaware of her Native American heritage. It will show at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Panara Theatre.

Aspiring deaf filmmakers are encouraged to attend a writer's workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, March 27, at Writers and Books, 740 University Ave. Aaron Kelstone, a faculty member in NTID's cultural and creative studies department, will lead the workshop "Film and Deaf Writers: Crossing the Textual Divide Workshop" to enable deaf writers and filmmakers to find common ground for interaction that will result in successful films. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Admission to the Saturday evening movies in Panara Theatre is free, but tickets are urged. Sunday's admission is \$15. All tickets should be reserved at [www.DeafRochester-FilmFestival.org](http://www.DeafRochester-FilmFestival.org). ■

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Steve Diehl and Vici Zarembo-Diehl | photographers

The Diehls' image of Tule Bluet, *Enallagma carunculatum*, 2008, RIT campus

## Photographing dragonflies is a passion of RIT alumni

RIT photography professor Steve Diehl and his wife, Vici, both RIT alumni, are working with the New York Natural Heritage Program to help identify and document 190-plus species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) in New York state—including three on RIT's campus and one in the town of Parma that are new to Monroe County. The Diehls are part of a group of professionals and volunteers working across the state.

One of the goals of the project is to create, in collaboration with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Natural Heritage Program, a New York state field guide.

Damselflies and dragonflies are suborders of the order Odonata that range in size from one to four inches in length. Damselflies are generally smaller and more delicate than dragonflies and can be distinguished by their resting wings, which are held together or partially open over their abdomens. Dragonflies' wings, at rest, are always straight out at their sides like an airplane.

"While most people like dragonflies and damselflies, it is only recently that thorough surveying and research efforts have begun," Vici Diehl says. "Many birders and other naturalists have turned their attention to damsels and dragons as so little is known about them."

The Diehls joined the research effort as volunteers in 2007 to help gather data. They have put in hun-

dreds of hours and taken hundreds of photographs that are now in the permanent collection of the New York State Museum in Albany. The images they have made range from dragonflies and damselflies in their natural environment to close-up, detail shots exhibiting species-specific characteristics. They have plans to collaborate with RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science to create Odonata wing pattern recognition software. This would enable Odonata researchers to input an image and get an identification—much like facial recognition software. Steve Diehl also assisted in arranging for a graduate student from RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences to begin his capstone work rebuilding the database for the entire New York Natural Heritage Program.

"We began this project as volunteers for the Natural Heritage Program," Steve Diehl says, "but have since brought RIT talent and resources to bear on the survey with the possibility of more RIT involvement in the future. This is all in the early stages, but we see some great possibilities for future Odonata imaging and research."

For more information on the New York Natural Heritage Program, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html). Additional information on Odonata can be found at [www.odonata-central.org](http://www.odonata-central.org). ■

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## Workforce Innovations Conference April 2

RIT will welcome more than 100 high-school students from area BOCES programs as part of the third Youth Workforce Innovations Conference.

The all-day program takes place Thursday, April 2, at the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Lauren Dixon, chief executive officer of Dixon Schwabl, a local marketing and communications firm, will give the opening address at 9 a.m. in the

Golisano College auditorium.

Participants are 10th-grade students from the Rochester City School District and suburban school districts pre-selected for the conference. They will participate in workshops taught by RIT professors in career areas of alternative energy, biotechnology, hospitality, information technology, microelectronics and nanotechnology, and optics and

imaging sciences.

The Monroe County School Business Partnership, a service provided to 12 area school districts through Monroe #1 BOCES, sponsors the conference.

For further information contact Jeff Dillon, coordinator, Monroe County School Business Partnership, at 383-2257 or [jeff\\_dillon@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:jeff_dillon@boces.monroe.edu). ■

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## news & events

The RIT Electronic Newspaper of Record *daily*

In case you missed it in *News & Events Daily*:

■ The Tiger Beat Blog: Read about alumni "stars," RIT hockey and a blog and blogger transformation.

■ RIT News YouTube channel: RIT on TV News: Engineer of the Year

■ RIT In the News: *Rush-Henrietta Post*—RIT professor: 'Mad scientist' on guitar

*Democrat and Chronicle*—More students opt for cyberspace classroom

For these stories and more, visit [www.rit.edu/news/daily](http://www.rit.edu/news/daily).

### Old-fashioned fun kicks off RIT's United Way campaign



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Erin Yusuf, a first-year student in the College of Science, enjoyed some cotton candy at the Carnival on Campus kick off for RIT's 2009 United Way campaign on March 19, in the Student Alumni Union lobby. The event featured a Guitar Hero competition and old-fashioned arcade games, along with clowns, popcorn and prizes.

## Osher at RIT moves to new Rivers Run location

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT is moving to its new home at the Riparian Independent Living Complex at Rivers Run, 50 Fairwood Drive. The 481-member organization will be holding spring classes in its new custom-designed facility, which hosts generous classroom, office and community space.

Osher plans an official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of its new "living quarters" during a fall open house event, which will be announced at a later date.

Located 1.5 miles from campus, Rivers Run is an active adult community with spacious cottages for sale and apartments for lease—now home to many RIT alumni, retirees, faculty and staff who are 55 and older. The complex offers a variety of amenities including five-star dining at Impressions Restaurant located in the Riparian.

Osher was founded in 1987 as The Athenaeum, an affiliate of RIT. The Athenaeum name was in honor of RIT's own history—the university was founded in the early 1800s when the Rochester Athenaeum merged with the Rochester Mechanics

Institute.

As the organization celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2006-2007, it launched into a new phase of growth and development through an affiliation with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes—joining a growing national network of more than 100 university-based centers for older learners.

Osher is noted for being an academic-based organization for people ages 50-plus—who live in the Greater Rochester area and wish to enjoy the intellectual stimulation of taking membership-led classes in the arts, literature, sciences, history and government. Osher also offers a variety of discussion groups, lectures, social events and traveling opportunities.

An open house will be held during the first week of classes from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, March 30 through April 2. The open house classes are free and open to the public.

For more information, call Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at 292-8989. ■

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Engagement and retention solutions are the focus of the RIT Board of Trustees-sponsored Diversity Day 2009 set for Wednesday, April 1, in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. As we work progressively to diversify our faculty, staff and students, we concurrently work towards better retention of our diverse populations. To this end, creating a highly engaged culture will require RIT to find ways to unleash talent and energy of its constituents at every level. Individuals across the university must feel involved and emotionally invested in their contributions towards the university's overall success. As in the words of J.W. Marriott Sr., founder and chairman of Marriott Corp., "An organization does not succeed because it is big or long established; it succeeds because there are people in it who love it, sleep it, dream it, and build future plans for it."

RIT's success is dependent upon managing and nurturing great talent through its faculty, staff, students and alumni. Diversity Day 2009 will

examine key drivers of an engaged culture, such as exciting and challenging work; interaction inside and outside of the classroom, diverse learning opportunities, and cultivation of positive working/learning relationships and social exchange.

The day will begin with an open invitation to the 9 a.m. session in Ingle Auditorium. Janet Sansone, RIT trustee and chair of the board diversity committee, will moderate the daylong conference. Remarks will be made by Michael Morley, chair of the RIT Board of Trustees, RIT President Bill Destler and Provost Jeremy Haefner. The keynote speaker is Johnnetta Cole, president emerita of Spelman and Bennett Colleges. Cole will address the RIT community about the concept of engagement as a tool for retention, with a special focus on underrepresented groups.



The afternoon *Johnnetta Cole*

session is by invitation, targeting mid-level managers, RIT leadership and constituents from governance groups. All colleges and divisions will be represented. There will be breakout sessions focusing on student engagement, alumni engagement and faculty/staff engagement.

Several questions will be explored. How can we create a positive and productive environment while adapting to needs of our increasingly diverse populations? What are some challenges we may face in engaging individuals from underrepresented populations? How can we create a climate that is more welcoming and supportive for underrepresented groups? How can relationships influence an individual's sense of commitment to RIT? In what ways can we build pride in RIT and create a sense of community for all constituents at RIT?

These questions and others will be thoroughly discussed in small groups facilitated by RIT leadership and a distinguished group of RIT Minett professors from our local Rochester

community. The objective of the afternoon sessions is to develop critical strategies as a beginning—not an end. The discussions will serve as the basis for continued dialogue and implementation of strategies within units. It is hoped that dialogue participants will lead follow-on discussions within their respective units.

I thank Professor Donna Dickson from the College of Applied Science and Technology whose expertise in the area of engagement has helped to develop the focus for Diversity Day 2009. I also thank many others that have assisted in the logistics for the day. The program promises to be an informative and exciting daylong event as we continue to discover the benefits of diversity through an enriched campus climate. Please join us on the RIT campus 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, in Ingle Auditorium. I hope to see you there.

Registration is required as there will be limited seating. Register for the event through the Center for Professional Development at <http://finweb.rit.edu/cpd>.



*Brown is RIT's interim chief diversity officer.*

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

## Commission presents annual diversity conference

From workshops about cultural awareness to displays of contemporary Native American art, the eighth annual Expressions of Diversity Conference—



*Moka Lantum*

Connecting our Communities Across Colleges, Across Continents and Across Cultures—has something for everyone. This year's conference is March 30-April 3. Free workshops, dance performances, demonstrations and panel discussions focus on the global community of RIT.

"The Expressions Conference is always a showcase of the different diversity efforts on campus," says Sandra Whitmore, conference planner and member of The President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion, one of the conference sponsors. "This year, we've partnered with the Study

Abroad Office and Global Union so that there is an international flavor mixed in with the programs that are specific to RIT."

Opening the conference is this year's Minett professor, Hoffman Moka Lantum, with the presentation, "Why do the hippos of the Niger River attend Friday prayers?" Lantum explores the nuances of interpreting another's culture, understanding the role humor plays as part of that culture and anecdotes from African proverbs. He will address the question, "Does humor connect or divide our world?"

Lantum's address is 10 a.m. Monday, March 30, in Ingle Auditorium.

The Isaac L. Jordan Faculty/Staff Diversity Award will be presented at 11:30 a.m. The award recognizes an individual's contributions to enhance diversity at RIT.

This year's award nominees are Margaret Bailey (Kate Gleason College of Engineering), Renee

Baker (Human Resources), Florida Cardenas (RIT Women's Center), Mary-Beth Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), Julie Olney (Kate Gleason College of Engineering), Sarah Pillittere (Center for Professional Development), Ellie Rosenfield (NTID), Paul Shipman (College of Science), Deb Spencer (Center for Professional Development), Thomas Warfield (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) and Jason Younker (College of Liberal Arts).

One of the newest additions to the conference is the Native American Artisans and Artworks show. Taking place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, in the Student Alumni Union, Native-American artists from the greater Rochester area will demonstrate and sell contemporary and traditional crafts.

Information about the workshops can be found at [www.diversity.rit.edu](http://www.diversity.rit.edu). ■ Michelle Cometa | [macuns@rit.edu](mailto:macuns@rit.edu)

### Corporate responsibility in the words of Kodak Co. CEO



*Peggy Tirrell | photographer*

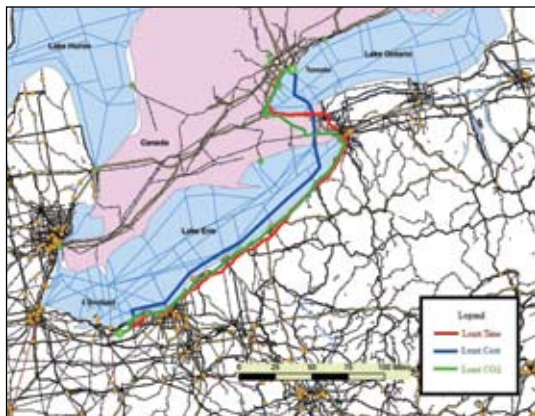
*Eastman Kodak Co. CEO Antonio Perez participated in a March 19 discussion with RIT students, faculty and staff. Perez emphasized the importance of conviction over convenience, striving for continuous improvement, transparency and sticking to one's principles. The event was sponsored by the E. Philip Saunders College of Business and focused on corporate responsibility. Perez discussed Kodak's ongoing transformation within its industries and the company's commitment to the environment and the community.*

## Freight-transit research helps set national emissions policies

RIT's Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making has entered into a partnership with the state of California to better assess the environmental impacts of intermodal freight transportation. The research will inform the state's current effort to regulate emissions from light- and heavy-duty trucks, trains and ships, while also serving as a model for national emissions policies.

The lab will utilize the Geospatial Intermodal Freight Transportation model or GIFT, a GIS-based modeling program developed by RIT and the University of Delaware. The model evaluates the impact of freight movement and will assist California policy analysts and planners in assessing how different transportation emissions policies may impact environmental quality. The lab will extend its current GIFT models to allow California to understand the impacts on air quality of freight arriving at California ports from international locations.

The GIFT model is unique in that it allows policy analysts to model freight transport in multiple modes including roads, water and rail. Previous systems of this type were only able to focus on one mode of transit,



*The map shown here illustrates three route variations, based on cost, time and environmental factors, for moving freight between Cleveland and Toronto, created using RIT's GIFT model.*

reducing the accuracy of the models created and ignoring the potential economic, energy and environmental benefits of intermodal freight transportation. GIFT was originally developed with RIT internal funding, and further development has been funded through U.S. Department of Transportation grants.

"GIFT was created to assist government agencies and private companies in better understanding how different transportation policies and decisions may impact the environment," notes Scott Hawker, assistant professor of software engineering and co-director of the lab. "It is our hope this project with

the state of California will be one of many uses for the model in improving transportation policy in the U.S."

The project is being funded through the California Air Resources Board of the California Environmental Protection Agency and includes scientists and engineers from the University of Delaware, the Eastern Research Group and SDV/ACCI Inc.

RIT's Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making was founded in 2006 to enhance the development of system-based model techniques for use in transportation planning and environmental policy. ■

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### Honoring our community-service leaders



*A. Sue Weisler | photographer*

*The RIT community gathered March 17 to honor Professor M. Ann Howard, second from left, and student Kaitlyn Werner, center, recipients of the Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service Award and the Bruce R. James '64 Distinguished Service Award, respectively.*

*The Four Presidents Distinguished Public Service 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 award founder Alfred 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. Pictured with the winners are Jorge Díaz-Herrera, dean of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, far left, Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for students affairs, and RIT President Bill Destler.*



A. Sue Weisler | photographer

Bryan Zaczek, left, was among the imaging and photographic technology students who talked to children and parents at Leary Elementary School's Science and Social Studies Fair about NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program. Zaczek, along with Alexandra Artusio-Glimpse, pictured above, Eric Evans, far right, and Ross Dawson, will fly next month aboard NASA's "Vomit Comet" over the Gulf of Mexico. The team will test a scientific experiment in microgravity that looks at the feasibility of inkjet printing in a weightless environment. NASA selected only 20 collegiate teams for this year's program.

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A. Sue Weisler | photographer

RIT President Bill Destler is now a "banjo hero." Destler, one of the world's foremost collectors of antique banjos from the 1840s to 1920s, is bringing his collection into the 21st century with the help of students in the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Here, he tries out the banjo with Alex Lifschitz, a second-year game design and development major.

## President Destler becomes a 'banjo hero'

RIT President Bill Destler is one of the world's foremost collectors of antique banjos. His collection spans from the 1840s to the 1920s.

Now he is bringing his collection into the 21st century with the help of some creative students in the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. Destler is now the proud owner of "Oh-No Banjo," a simulated banjo game based on the popular Guitar Hero music-video game.

The game was created in a game design and development

program class led by Professor David Schwartz. The student team consisted of Michael Ey, Dominic D'Aniello, Sela Davis, Alex Lifschitz and Joe Pietruch. The game is both PC and Xbox 360 compatible.

Destler played the games "easy" version during the banjo's unveiling.

"We wanted to have some fun introducing President Destler to our work in game development, and hit upon the idea of using a game similar to popular music games, but with an input device that resembled a banjo," says Andy Phelps, chair of

RIT's interactive games and media department. "But our students really took it to the extreme, getting down into the details, and re-building an entire engine from scratch around the picking and strumming that is core to banjo playing, while still getting the entertainment experience just right. Trying off-the-wall ideas and developing experimental interfaces is exactly what the game design and development program is all about: creating the games and entertainment experiences of tomorrow." ■

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## RIT congratulates its All-American athletes

In what has turned out to be one of the most successful winter sports seasons in RIT athletics history, four Tiger student-athletes earned All-American honors.

Senior center Mark Carson (Voorheesville, N.Y.) of the RIT men's basketball team became RIT's first basketball All-American since 1997 and was named

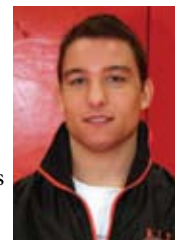
National Association of Basketball Coaches third team All-American. He was also named to the NABC and d3hoops.com East Region first teams. Earlier this season, Carson earned All-Empire 8 first team honors and was MVP of the Empire 8 Tournament.

Carson led the Tigers to their first Empire 8 Championship and NCAA tournament appearance since 2000. He finished the season tied for the most rebounds (396) in one season at RIT, along with seventh most points (544). Carson led the country with 14.1 rebounds per game this season.

RIT wrestlers Mike McNally



Mark Carson



Mike McNally



Luke Baum



Caitlyn Burr

(Bergen, N.Y.) and Luke Baum (Ontario, N.Y.) garnered All-American honors at the 2009 NCAA Championships. McNally earned runner-up honors at 125 lbs., and finished 35-2 this season.

Baum placed fifth in the championships at 141 lbs. He broke his own school record for wins in a season. He holds the RIT record for most career wins with 146.

Junior swimmer and diver Caitlyn Burr (Delhi, N.Y.) recorded two All-American honors at the 2009 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships. She earned honorable mention All-American honors in the 200-yard individual medley and 200-yard butterfly. Burr holds seven individual RIT school records and five relay records. She has set five individual school marks and three relay records this season. She is RIT's first All American on the women's swim team in 16 years. ■

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## Fuel-cell project from page 1

unique approach to corporate partnerships," adds RIT President Bill Destler. "We especially appreciate Congresswoman Slaughter's vision in sponsoring this initiative, and her longstanding efforts on behalf of RIT and the greater community."

"Together, Delphi and RIT are addressing major challenges that prevent fuel-cell applications from increasing soldiers' capabilities, supporting environmental policies and reducing dependence on foreign energy sources," says Dan Hennessy, Delphi's chief engineer for Divisional Advanced Engineering.

"Thanks to the support of Congresswoman Slaughter, our research partnership with Delphi will enhance the development and implementation of alternative fuel technologies while also promoting RIT's educational mission in sustainable production and renewable energy," notes Nabil Nasr, assistant

provost for academic affairs and director of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies at RIT.

The Delphi/RIT project is of keen interest to the Department of Defense which would like to eventually implement this technology into its equipment. Additionally, the technology has significant potential for commercial applications.

In making the announcement, Slaughter and Destler were joined by Nasr, Steve Shaffer, chief engineer for fuel-cell development, Delphi Powertrain Systems Division, and Dan Maloney, president of United Auto Workers, Local 1097, which represents the regional Delphi workforce.

Over the last three years Slaughter has secured \$6.4 million to support the development of RIT's fuel-cell research capacity and the partnership with Delphi. ■

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

This week's spotlight:

**Sustainable House**

**Presenter:** Habitat for Humanity  
**Brief description:** RIT's Habitat for Humanity, Engineers for a Sustainable World and President Destler have teamed up to build the first completely funded Habitat home.

**How is the exhibit creative and/or innovative:** Students are designing new ways to make the typical Habitat for Humanity house design more sustainable and more affordable.

**Exhibit experience for visitors:** Visitors can see the innovative floor plans as well as autoCAD and 3-D models of the house and watch a video compilation explaining the project.

For more information on the festival, visit [www.rit.edu/imagine](http://www.rit.edu/imagine).



## RIT hockey completes a winning season



Nicholas Serrata | photographer

The RIT men's hockey team completed the 2008-2009 season by setting a Division I team record with 23 wins. The Tigers led the nation in scoring, averaging 3.89 goals per game, and boasted seven players with at least 30 points. RIT won its second Atlantic Hockey Association regular season championship in the last three years. Pictured, Alan Mazur and Cameron Burt celebrate after Burt's goal in the AHA Semifinal game March 20 against Mercyhurst College. Mercyhurst won the game, ending the Tigers' playoff run.