

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Sept. 25, 2008) (Season 3, Episode 1)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Sept. 25, 2008)

Have schools—at all levels, including colleges and universities—been slow to react to the problem of students posting oftentimes inappropriate content on social-networking Web sites? RIT's Sam McQuade thinks so. He's a cyber-crime and cyber-ethics expert who has studied students' online behavior. But now that awareness has increased about bad behavior online, some schools are cracking down on students—especially student-athletes. Is it helping?

ACTUALITY [SAM MCQUADE]: I think they're getting better all the time because they're concerned about their own image and reputation, and because they want to attract and retain good students in their programs—and this kind of online indiscretion that blemishes the reputation of colleges and universities and the athletic and academic programs that they support is not being tolerated any longer. Schools are beginning to crack down.

HOST: Some colleges have zeroed in on student-athletes, in particular. But should they, because of their high profile, be singled out?

ACTUALITY [MCQUADE]: In my view, they should not be treated any different whatsoever. They're students first and athletes second—and ultimately, for the vast majority of them, that is what offers them the most promise for long-term success. And so what colleges and universities are doing, in more timely ways and more firmly, is totally appropriate. Something has to curb this unchecked behavior that's been taking place for many years among young adults and youth.

HOST: One university went so far as to ban its student-athletes from having social-network profiles. Is that overreaching or, at the very least, overly difficult to enforce?

ACTUALITY [MCQUADE]: It might be, and I think that it also brushes up against Constitutional issues having to do with freedom of speech and expression. Courts often, in deciding such matters, look to case histories and case laws that involve physical interactions, even if technologies are used to support those kind of behaviors and interactions among people. And so the way to think about this is an extension of technology-enabled behaviors for good or bad, and universities are coming to terms with this—and yet universities, especially private universities, have considerable discretion when it comes to establishing policies, especially in regards to extracurricular activities such as sports.

HOST: That's RIT's Sam McQuade, a cyber-ethics expert, who spoke recently with The Associated Press about colleges and universities cracking down on student-athletes' for

bad behavior online. To read the AP article, visit rit.edu/news/inthenews (all one word). That's rit.edu/news/inthenews.

On the RIT campus this week . . . University News Director Paul Stella describes the scene at this year's biggest-ever Fall Career Fair . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has N&E highlights.

SEGMENT [PAUL STELLA]: This is Paul Stella. News related to our nation's economy sure is sobering these days, especially in light of the current financial crisis. But on September 24th, optimism ruled the day as RIT played host to its annual Fall Career Fair. The Gordon Field House and Activities Center buzzed with excitement as reps from nearly 250 companies and agencies greeted students and alumni. That's a record number of employers to ever take part in an RIT career fair. And with just more than half of these organizations based outside New York's borders, it certainly reaffirms our university's growing national prominence. In all, about 2,500 job seekers turned out to explore full-time and co-op positions. Many were selected to return the next day for more extensive interviews, while others have been invited to visit company facilities later in the school year. Yes, we're all a bit rattled by the news of late, but the apparent job prospects for RIT's best and brightest should point to brighter days ahead. . . . This is Paul Stella on the RIT campus.

SEGMENT [VIENNA CARVALHO]: This is News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho. In the current issue of News & Events . . . A research team of RIT engineers and students is hoping to enhance the development of orthotics technologies through a project funded by the National Science Foundation. These devices help individuals with physical disabilities regain the use of their arms and legs, and the research findings intend to contribute to the broader field of rehabilitation robotics. . . . Also in the current issue of News & Events, the challenges of being a successful female scientist are explored in a new essay collection featuring RIT's own Stefi Baum, director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. In her essay, The Accidental Astronomer, Baum shares details about the career and family choices she made at the outset of her career in the 1980s. . . . And, read our Student Spotlight that this week shines on Tiffani Williams, a self-proclaimed "trained extrovert" and an RIT student ambassador who goes the extra mile to make campus visitors feel welcome. . . . Coming up in the Oct. 2nd issue of News & Events . . . RIT professor Jamie Winebrake has co-written an article about the feasibility of hydrogen vehicles in our petroleum-based economy. Winebrake helped create a computer-based model that determines how to make recommendations to policymakers who aim incentives towards hydrogen transportation. . . . Also in the Oct. 2nd issue, our RIT Author spotlight focuses on Brian Duddy, a senior program manager at RIT's Golisano Institute of Sustainability, who is shedding light on LeRoy's central role in the history of American aircrafts through his book Wings over LeRoy: A History of the Donald Woodward Airport. . . . And, we will announce RIT's 2009 commencement speaker. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Sept. 18th and Oct. 2nd issues of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Sept. 25, 2008). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

ANNCR: For more on these stories and other RIT news, visit www.rit.edu/news.
Dateline: RIT is produced by RIT University News Services.

NOTE: Dateline: RIT (Sept. 25, 2008) audio podcast available at:
http://www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/Dateline_09-25-08.m4a and
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