Discover what happens when innovation and creativity converge.

www.rit.edu

Experience education and entertainment through a fusion of art and technology at Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival
Free admission. Rain or shine.

Saturday, May 3
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
RIT Campus, Jefferson Road
www.rit.edu/imagine
Celebrate innovation and creativity on May 3

"I AM ENOUGH OF AN ARTIST TO DRAW FREELY UPON MY IMAGINATION.

IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE. KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED.

IMAGINATION ENCOMPASSES THE WORLD." - ALBERT EINSTEIN

As I reflect on Einstein's words above, I can't help but think this is a remarkable time in RIT's history. We are on a quest to become the nation's first "Innovation University." Please join us at our inaugural "Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival" on Saturday, May 3.

This distinctive festival will showcase hundreds of examples of student, faculty and staff creations. We will display research, new ideas for products and services, design projects, creative arts and crafts, unique performing arts productions and more. The festival—live to the public—will have interactive experiences for visitors of all ages.

Here's a taste of what you will discover at the festival:

- The Green Vehicle Team will showcase a car that can attain more than 800 miles per gallon, built for less than $5,000. Students in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences designed the vehicle.
- Visitors will learn how computer science student Josh Allman created a software program that can generate poetry.
- Those in attendance will also get to experience the next generation of miniature golf, through an interactive hole that was created by a team of electrical, computer and mechanical engineering technology students.

The campus will be transformed. All activities, for example, will be grouped by themes, such as:

- Imagine Being Green
- Imagine Healthy Living
- Imagine a Global View
- Imagine Innovative Science and Technology
- Imagine Creative Play
- Imagine a Communication Revolution
- Imagine on Stage
- Imagine Artistic Visions
- Imagine New Ventures
- WWW Imagine That!

Imagine RIT offers an opportunity to put a stake in the ground so we can show the world that we are going to identify the university with innovation and creativity. I look forward to seeing you on campus—rain or shine—from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 3. And if you can't make it to campus, visit the festival Web site to view live video and a real-time photo gallery. To find out more, visit www.rit.edu/imagine.

Cordially,

Bill Destler
President

www.rit.edu/president
Celebrate innovation and creativity on May 3

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Initiative expands RIT's global presence

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Provost Stanley McKee follows his heart

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At RIT, right brain and left brain come together in unique and surprising ways

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Key to images on previous page
Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival
will showcase the many faces and facets of RIT
On Campus

Former swimming pool to become RIT 'family room'

The former Woodward Pool area in the Student Alumni Union is being transformed – and RIT students are getting a place to put their feet up.

A gift of $2 million plus architectural and construction-plan underwriting from The Summers Foundation (RIT Trustee John “Dutch” Summers and his wife, Jane) has spearheaded a $10 million effort to create a 3,000-plus square-foot Campus Center in the Student Alumni Union – a space Student Affairs officials are heralding as a much-needed “family room” for the student body.

The Campus Center will provide a new entrance to the Student Alumni Union and a second-story overlook onto the Quarter Mile. The facility’s main level will house Student Government, the Leadership Institute and Community Service Center and the RIT Women’s Center. It will also include three general-use conference rooms and an area designated for RIT clubs and club services.

RIT, Delphi Automotive join forces to expand fuel cell development

RIT’s Golisano Institute for Sustainability has been awarded a $2.75 million grant for a joint research project with Delphi Automotive.

“The funding will support important work at RIT to enhance our nation’s security,” says Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. She and New York’s U.S. Senate operations. The research will support and spurring economic development in the region. “It will also assist in creating jobs for our community, while helping ensure our security,” says Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

Ryne Raffaelle has been named academic director for the new Golisano Institute for Sustainability at RIT. Raffaelle, previously a professor of physics and microsystems engineering and director of the NanoPower Research Labs, will direct the institute’s educational mission, including the development of one of the world’s first doctoral programs in sustainability. The Golisano Institute for Sustainability was created in fall 2007 with a $10 million donation from Rochester businessman and RIT Trustee B. Thomas Golisano.

Raffaelle will be responsible for the development, implementation and management of the academic programs offered within the institute, including chairing the curriculum committee and overseeing the recruitment of faculty and graduate students.

Computer Science professor is on top, across and down

Zack Butler received a big clue about his future in 1995, when he received a voicemail message from Will Shortz, the legendary New York Times crossword puzzle editor.

"Will was captain of the U.S. Puzzle Team," says Butler, computer science professor. “He handpicked me to be one of the four members to represent the U.S. He was calling to confirm my plane reservations to Romania to compete in the World Finals.”

The U.S. team won that year and Butler finished fourth in the individual competition. Last October in Rio de Janeiro, Butler and the other members of the U.S. team pulled it out again, earning the team a world championship. The types of puzzles the teams solve range from Sudoku to mazes to visual logic puzzles.

From as far back as he can remember, Butler has been solving puzzles. His mother competes every year in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and Butler accompanied her when he was 14.

“I remember I didn’t do very well in the crossword portion. We also did some word mazes to visual logic puzzles. From as far back as he can remember, Butler has been solving puzzles. His mother competes every year in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and Butler accompanied her when he was 14.

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Golisano Institute has new leader for academics

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New gallery named in honor of printing industry leader

Brooks Bower ‘74 (print media), right, chats with RIT President Bill Destler during the dedication of the Brooks H. and Marilyn Bower Gallery in RIT’s Alexander Lawson Publishing Center. The gallery honors Bower and his wife for their philanthropic commitment to RIT. Bower is chairman and CEO of Papercone Corp., an envelope manufacturer in Louisville, Ky. The gallery dedication in November 2007 coincided with a two-day digital printing seminar for the Envelope Manufacturers Association.

A selection of paintings, “Graphic Communications Through the Ages;” donated to RIT in 1974 by Kimberly-Clark Corp., is the first exhibit in the gallery space, located on the second floor of Wallace Library.

Artists’ rendering of the proposed Campus Center project.

John Follaco

largely driven by student input. RIT’s Development Office has launched a fund-raising effort to support the remainder of the project, which is slated for completion in the fall of 2009. Officials hope to see ground broken this spring.

John Follaco

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Computer Science professor is on top, across and down

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"From as far back as he can remember, Butler has been solving puzzles. His mother compiles every year in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and Butler accompanied her when he was 14. "I remember I didn’t do very well in the crossword portion. We also did some word play puzzles. I beat out almost everyone in the room. I was surprised."

Butler’s skills at solving crossword puzzles have greatly improved. He finished second out of a field of 400 contenders in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 2002. It’s customary for the top three players to finish the final round on stage. Using large whiteboards, they solve the puzzles in front of an audience. Butler is also a practicing cruciverbalist (one who writes crossword puzzles). It’s a sure bet he’s stumped a subscriber or two of the New York Times.

"Several of my crosswords have been published in the Tuesday and Thursday editions of the Times. Constructing crosswords helps me solve them faster. I write puzzles for the process because I think it’s fun."

He likes to give his 4-Across and 20-Down as gifts, with his wife and students often the receivers of his entries. "I taught a robotics course last spring and my students would come to class working on crossword puzzles, so I decided to write one for them with a robotics theme. My students know I’m the puzzle guy."

Will Dube
Additional funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and Defense will allow RIT to expand research and technology transfer efforts in renewable energy development and sustainability. RIT’s NanoPower Research Labs received two awards of 25 given nationally from the Department of Energy’s Future Generation Photovoltaic Devices and Processes Program. The first project is a three-year, $1.1 million dollar effort aimed at providing higher efficiency solar cells for the growing concentrator photovoltaic market.

The second effort is a university-industry collaboration with Wakonda Technologies designed to enhance the integration of III-V materials – so named due to their location on the Periodic Table – onto thin films used in solar cell production. The project, which received an award of $2.1 million over a three-year period, was also selected for a matching grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The work will build on Wakonda’s efforts to produce more energy-efficient and cost-effective solar cells for commercial use. “Our collaboration with RIT will promote the continued development of alternative energy industries in New York, advancing economic development and improving environmental quality,” says Les Fritzemeier, CEO of Wakonda.

In addition to the Department of Energy announcement, the NanoPower Labs, in collaboration with Nantero Inc., was also recently named the recipient of a $750,000 grant to conduct research related to the development of the next generation of rechargeable lithium ion batteries. The work, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, is intended to improve the capacity and cyclability of rechargeable batteries, while also expanding their use in a number of military applications.

The current research efforts in the NanoPower Research Labs will also ultimately expand RIT’s broader sustainable education and research goals through the newly created Colburno Institute for Sustainability. Over the past three years, RIT’s NanoPower Research Labs have received more than $5 million in competitive awards for solar energy and battery research and have become internationally recognized for their advancements in nanomaterials and sustainable energy technologies.

Notebook

NTID plans 40th anniversary celebration

Plans are in full swing for RIT/NTID’s 40th Anniversary Reunion, set for June 26-28 on the RIT campus. Activities to inform and entertain attendees being planned by a committee of alumni, faculty and staff volunteers. Look for registration information on the Web at www.rit.edu/ntid/reunion. Plans include a golf tournament, food, workshops, exhibits, an ice cream social, art and RIT/NTID history displays.

A series of video-logs, or ‘Vlogs,’ will carry the latest reunion news. To receive the reunion vlog, send an e-mail to NTID40thReunion@rit.edu.

Clarice Bondoc ’04 (interior design) created the reunion logo, above.

Board of Trustees heads to Silicon Valley this summer

The July meeting of RIT’s trustees will take place in California’s Silicon Valley. In addition to regular business meetings, members, alumni, administrators and deans will meet with corporate leaders and alumni working in the area’s high-tech industries. Meetings will take place at Google, Cisco, Hewlett-Packard and other companies.

This is the first time since 2001 that the board has met outside of Rochester. That year, the meeting took place in Washington, D.C., where activities included visits with government leaders.

New degree in mechanical engineering and public policy

RIT is launching an interdisciplinary program combining mechanical engineering and public policy. The five-year program – the first of its kind in the nation – combines a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a master’s degree in science, technology and public policy.

The new program seeks to smooth the integration of technology in society through further incorporation of technological concepts into political and social decision-making.

The program further expands interdisciplinary collaboration between RIT’s Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the department of public policy in RIT’s College of Liberal Arts. The new program began admitting students this spring.

For more information, contact Franz Fritz at (585) 475-5168 or falthg@rit.edu.

Researchers collaborate with military on cybersecurity

RIT has formed a new partnership aimed at improving cybersecurity technology and the safety of military and civilian computer networks. The collaboration includes CUBRC, a not-for-profit research and development company in Buffalo, and professors from RIT, the University of Buffalo and Pennsylvania State University. The research team is seeking to implement the use of intrusion prediction modeling into cyber defense systems.

The project is being funded under a sub-contract from the CUBRC/University of Buffalo Center for Multisource Information Fusion. The team also includes personnel from the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory’s Information Fusion Directorate, which hopes to use the research to assist in implementing intrusion prediction into their overall cybersecurity programs.

Susan Gawronicki ’95

Researchers show dangers of pollution from worldwide shipping

Pollution from marine shipping causes approximately 40,000 premature cardiovascular, lung-cancer deaths around the world each year, according to a study by James Corbett of University of Delaware and James Winebrake, chair of science, technology and public policy in RIT’s College of Liberal Arts.

The study was reported in the Dec. 15, 2007, issue of Environmental Science and Technology, the journal of the American Chemical Society.

The report benchmarks for the first time the number of annual deaths caused globally by pollution from marine vessels, with coastal regions in Asia and Europe the most affected. The two researchers correlated the global distribution of particulate matter – black carbon, sulfur, nitrogen and organic particles – released from ships’ smoke stacks with heart disease and lung-cancer mortalities in adults. Under current regulation, and with the expected growth in shipping activity, the authors estimate the annual mortalities from ship emissions could increase by 40 percent by 2012.

Corbett and Winebrake’s results come in the wake of current discussions by the International Maritime Organization to regulate emissions from ships.

“Now we have a benchmark by which we can begin to talk about the benefits of emission-reduction policies,” says Winebrake.

Annual deaths related to shipping emissions were estimated at 26,791, with 19,870 deaths in East Asia and 9,950 in South Asia. North America has approximately 5,000 premature deaths, concentrated mostly in the Gulf Coast region, the West Coast and the Northeast, while the eastern coast of South America has 790 mortality deaths.

Most ships run on residual oil, which has a sulfur content thousands of times greater than on-road diesel fuel. “Residual oil is a byproduct of the refinery process and tends to be much dirtier than other petroleum products,” Winebrake says.

“We needed to know what the benefits are of cleaning up this fuel,” he explains. “Now we can evaluate the human health impacts of policies to require low-sulfur fuels for the shipping industry or that require ships to put emissions-control technology on their vessels. Our study will help inform this policy debate.”

Until recently, researchers had little information with which to work: emissions data for marine vessels had to be linked with data tracking the movement of these vessels around the world. In their report, Corbett and Winebrake mapped marine pollution concentrations over the oceans and on land, estimating global and regional mortalities from ship emissions by integrating global ship inventories, atmospheric models and health impact analyses.

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ResearchNote

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Corbett and Winebrake’s results come in the midst of current discussions by the International Maritime Organisation to regulate emissions from ships.

“This study will help inform policymakers about some of the health impacts associated with ship emissions, and the long-range transport of those emissions to population centers,” says Winebrake. “We now have a benchmark by which we can begin to assess the benefits of emissions-reduction policies.”

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New biography chronicles former NTID leader's life

A biography of Robert R. Davila, who overcame poverty to become a national leader in education and a role model for Hispanic youth, is now available from RIT Press.

Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila: The Story of a Deaf Leader; book tells how Davila, the son of a migrant farm worker, became assistant secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services for the U.S. Department of Education, the highest-ranking federal government position ever held by a deaf person. He served as president of several major organizations serving deaf people and was the first deaf CEO of NTID. He is now president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

Upon his retirement in 2004 from RIT/NTID, Davila said he was taken by surprise of deaf people and was the first deaf CEO of University in Washington, D.C. 

Davila: The book was authored by lead writer Harry Lang, a faculty member in the Department of Research and Teacher Education at RIT/NTID; Oscar Cohen, a former superintendent and CEO at Lexington School & Center for the Deaf in New York City; and Joseph E. Fischgrund, headmaster of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. It was commissioned by now-retired RIT President Albert J. Simone, who called the story “both inspirational and motivational.”

Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila is available in paperback ($18) or hard cover ($26) at RIT's Campus Connections bookstore, through the RIT Press Web site (http://carypress.rit.edu) and at Amazon.

Human-computer interaction is focus of new degree

Human-computer interaction - the study of design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems to benefit the end user - is the focus of a new Master of Science degree offered through the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. The degree is available either on-campus or online.

“Companies such as Google, Yahoo, Adobe and Oracle are looking for people with in-depth knowledge and skills in developing computing systems that people will enjoy using and want to use,” says Evelyn Roxanski, RIT professor of information technology and a developer of the degree program. “Products with poor usability are costly in terms of errors, unfinished tasks, frustration and safety.”

The curriculum for the degree includes studies in software development, learning and knowledge management, cognitive psychology, industrial design and game design.

Melissa Spike ’03, a content producer at Fisher-Price, graduated with an M.S. degree in information technology and concentrations in human computer interaction as well as learning and performance technology and multimedia programming.

“From my classes in human factors and interface design, I learned principles of design that apply directly to my current job at Fisher-Price,” says Spike. “I work on some of Fisher-Price's most innovative products and multiple modes of play: kid-friendly electronics video games and personal computer software. With more and more computers in homes and so much competition with Web sites and software, consumers are starting to demand interfaces that are easier to use and industry is taking notice. This is only going to increase the need for professionals in human computer interaction.”

The master's degree requires completion of 52-quarter credit hours and a capstone design project in which research will be completed in institute labs, including the Usability Testing Laboratory and those within the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure.

For more information about the degree program, call 585-475-6791 or visit www.rit.edu/ems/ip/grad/online.

Tribute to Hollis Todd

On page 28 of the Winter edition of the RIT magazine is a photo of Professor Hollis Todd with two students. The one on the far left, in the gray plaid shirt, is Hollis Todd; the other student is also according to my daughter, Cynthia Byer Weller ’98,’99 hospitality and service management, MBA) and my wife, Kath­erina Neumann. I remember Professor Todd not only as a compassionate person, as related in Don Eddy’s letter, but as a very competent teacher. He not only taught me “facts,” but most importantly, how to think, how to approach a problem and to use logical conclusion, even if the conclusion was opposite of what was to be expected at the start of the investigation. He was the typical RIT professor of the 1960s, who educated with concepts and ideas.

Most of the “facts” I have forgotten, but the concepts have remained and were much more important during my career, now and as a pianist. I trust that RIT still educates with concepts and ideas -- and will continue so.

Richard ‘Dick’ Byer ’69
Bad Soden, Germany

Professor remembers Tony Lam ’78

I am saddened to report on the death of a former civil engineering student at RIT, Anthony "Tony" Lam ’78, on Dec. 25, 2007. He was in several of my classes and impressed me with his quiet manner, tenacious desire to learn, and very high achievement level. His work, especially on design projects, was unsurpassed.

In 1976 he earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from Cornell University, majoring in structures. That same year, he joined the Rochester firm of STI Technologies, founded by Neville F. Rieger, former civil engineering student at RIT.

"Tony was one of the very first employees in my firm," Dr. Rieger said recently. "He wasn't just a 'hack' engineer, but a deep thinker, a pioneer who could fly by himself. He eventually became our vice-president of engineering and analysis. We regretted his leaving in 1988, but he wanted to have his own organization."

That was when Tony founded the Geology International, a Rochester-based consulting engineering firm, for which he served as president until his death.

"Friends of Tony may wish to visit the "Past Guest Books" section of www.miller- funeralhomes.com to read his obituary and add a memorial note."

Robert E. McGrath Jr.

Professor Emeritus

Civil Engineering Technology

We welcome letters on subjects covered in the magazine and of broad interest to our readers, as long as they are respectful and not insulting to any individual or group. We publish as many as we can. Subject to space limitations. We edit for space, clarity and style. Write to The University Magazine, University News Service, Rochester Institute of Technology, 132 Lomb Memorial Drive - Bldg. 86, Rochester, NY 14623. E-mail can be sent to umagwww@rit.edu.
**New biography chronicles former NTID leader’s life**

A biography of Robert R. Davila, who overcame poverty to become a national leader in education and a role model for Hispanic youth, is now available from RIT Press.

**Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila: The Story of a Deaf Leader**

The book was authored by lead writer Harry Lang, a faculty member in the Department of Research and Teacher Education at RIT/NTID; Oscar Cohen, a former superintendent and CHI at Lexington School & Center for the Deaf in New York City; and Joseph E. Fischgrund, headmaster of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. It was commissioned by now-retired RIT President Albert J. Simone, who called the story “both inspirational and motivational.”

**Moments of Truth - Robert R. Davila** is available in paperback ($18) or hard cover ($26) at RIT’s Campus Connections bookstore, through the RIT Press Web site (http://carypress.rit.edu) and at Amazon.com.

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**Letters**

The man in the plaid shirt

On page 28 of the Winter edition of the RIT magazine is a photo of Professor Hollis Todd with two students. The one on the far left, in the Buffalo Bulls sweatshirt, is also according to my daughter, Cynthia Byer Weller ’98, ’99 (hospitality and service management, MBA) and my wife, Katharina Neumann. I remember Professor Todd not only as a compassionate person, but also as a role model for Hispanic students, as related in Doo Ddy’s letter, but as a very competent teacher. He not only taught us “facts,” but most importantly, how to think, how to approach a problem and how to come to a logical conclusion, even if the conclusion was opposite of what was to be expected at the start of the investigation. He was the typical RIT professor of the 1960s, who educated with concepts and ideas. Most of the “facts” I have forgotten, but the concepts have remained and were much more important during my career, and now as a pensioner. I trust that RIT still educates with concepts and ideas — and will continue so.

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I would have wanted to have his own organization.

That was when Tony founded Turbine Technology International, a Rochester-based consulting engineering firm, for which he served as president until his death. His firm was backed by more than $40 million in contracts. Friends of Tony may wish to visit the “Past Guest Books” section of www.millerfuneralhomes.com to read his obituary and add a memorial note.

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RIT will operate new program in Dubai

Campus will open this year in the heart of a multi-billion dollar complex in United Arab Emirates

RIT is planting roots in the Middle East through a partnership with Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A new campus being built by Dubai is scheduled to open this fall. RIT will provide academic content, leadership and management of the university.

“Dubai is the perfect fit for RIT, given the university’s strategic plan to enhance global opportunities for our students,” says RIT President Bill Destler. “This will also strengthen RIT’s relationships and reputation with multi-national companies by being close to them wherever they are in the world and by providing those companies with a capable workforce already exposed to living, learning and working in a multi-cultural environment.”

Dubai, one of the seven Emirates and a major port on the Persian Gulf, has been dubbed “Sudden City” by the media. The city is rapidly transforming into an international hub of commerce. Dubai leaders are also focusing on strengthening higher education in the region.

“Dubai is of one of the most dynamic cities in the world with an ambition to become the center of education in the region.”

Mustafa Abushagur
Director of microsystems engineering

RIT Dubai will open this year in the heart of the multi-billion dollar complex created by the Dubai government. Dubai will cover the cost of building a full-fledged campus, including academic center, living quarters and recreational facilities.

The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum, has established a $10 billion foundation to support human development in the Arab world. A major focus of this foundation is to provide scholarships to enhance higher education in the region. A magnet high school for science and technology is also expected to open in the Dubai Silicon Oasis next year.

RIT’s initial offerings will focus on part-time graduate students in fields such as electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, finance and service management. By 2009, graduate offerings will extend to full-time graduate students and include applied networking, telecommunications, facility management, and manufacturing management and leadership. In 2010, RIT Dubai will begin offering undergraduate programs to full-time students. Over the next decade, enrollment is expected to reach 4,000.

The partnership will create unique study and co-op opportunities for RIT students as well as significant opportunities for faculty exchange. RIT Dubai will also strengthen RIT’s relationship and reputation with multi-national corporations, which have established a strong presence in the Emirates and in Dubai.

According to Jim Miller, senior vice president, Enrollment Management and Career Services, “Dubai adds an important on-the-ground presence that complements our campuses in Croatia and Kosovo, as well as our programs in the Dominican Republic. These international initiatives build on more than 60 existing partnerships and agreements RIT has established with foreign universities, international organizations and governments agencies spanning five continents.”

Miller adds, “Currently, RIT enrolls approximately 1,500 foreign students representing 95 countries in undergraduate and graduate programs in Rochester. Over 900 additional international students are pursuing RIT degrees at existing international locations.”

RIT leaders credit Professor Mustafa Abushagur, director of microsystems engineering, with leading the dialogue with Dubai leaders over the last two years. Dubai officials approached Abushagur after he delivered a lecture at a conference in Dubai. Dubai is developing a microelectronics industry, an area of expertise for RIT. Dubai officials visited RIT in February 2006 and Abushagur and other RIT representatives subsequently visited Dubai seven or eight times before an agreement was reached.

“This is a great opportunity for RIT to become a major provider of high quality educational programs in the global market,” explains Abushagur. “Dubai is one of the most dynamic cities in the world, with an ambition to become the center of education in the region. RIT Dubai will provide our students with an opportunity to experience being in an international setting among students from all over the world.”

Bob Finnerty ’07
RIT will operate new program in Dubai

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"Dubai is one of the most dynamic cities in the world with an ambition to become the center of education in the region."

Mustafa Abushagur
Director of microsystems engineering

RIT Dubai will open this year in the Dubai Silicon Oasis headquarters, pictured here.

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Stan McKenzie tried to step down from the position of provost four years ago. But when President Albert Simone announced his intention to retire, McKenzie agreed to stay on until a new president was settled in. That's been accomplished: RIT's ninth president, Bill Destler, has been on the job since July 2007. Now the man who has been RIT's top academic officer since 1994 is more than ready to return to his roots.

“I love classroom teaching, particularly teaching literature to tech students,” says McKenzie. “To turn them on to Shakespeare – there's nothing better than that.”

That's exactly what happened to him. McKenzie was a math and physics major at MIT when, in his senior year, an exceptional professor ignited a passion for Shakespeare. He went on to the University of Rochester for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English literature and started teaching at RIT in 1967.

His involvement with students soon extended beyond the classroom. He counts his 16 years dealing with matters of student misconduct as director of Judicial Affairs as among his most satisfying assignments. “My main role was helping them get back on track,” he says. “No student ever comes to RIT to get thrown out.”

RIT has marked momentous changes since he arrived. The current campus opened in 1968 – the same year that National Technical Institute for the Deaf welcomed its first students. Enrollment has grown from fewer than 10,000 students to nearly 16,000. More than 100 academic programs, including four Ph.D. degrees (plus two more under development), have been launched. Computers have evolved from room-sized and exiguous to portable, powerful and ubiquitous.

“In the computer age, students are more aware of what’s happening,” says McKenzie. They may lack the kind of general knowledge expected of their predecessors, but today’s students know how to access information instantly, he says.

Overall, he notes, the caliber of students has risen over the past four decades. “We’re continually attracting better students,” says McKenzie. The student body has become more diverse, with more international students and more women, deaf and hard-of-hearing and ethnic groups represented. However, too many students leave RIT without completing their studies. A major challenge faced by RIT’s faculty is to understand that students have different styles of learning, says McKenzie. “It is our responsibility to teach students in the way they learn best,” says the provost.

McKenzie says the biggest surprise in his career came in 1987, when then-Provost Thomas Plough called asking him to become acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

“It was absolutely unexpected,” he recalls. “I was not even a candidate.” Once on the job, he decided to become a candidate. But after serving as acting dean for a year, he was not offered the permanent appointment. “In retrospect,” he says, “it was the best thing that ever happened.”

Close on the heels of this personal disappointment came the tragic death of a good friend. “That put not getting the deanship into perspective,” says McKenzie.

McKenzie, known for his eclectic interests and upbeat attitude, says a sense of perspective has been a tremendous asset in his role as provost. Another important qualification was his deep knowledge of RIT – “I knew all the players.”

That deep institutional knowledge and work ethic as well as his good spirits have earned the respect of colleagues.

“It is difficult to capture the true essence of Stan McKenzie in a few words,” says Kristen Waterstram-Rich, current chair of Academic Senate and director of Judicial Affairs. “It was an honor to work with him. Stan McKenzie was one of a kind.”
of Premedical Studies. “He arrived in his current position as a peace-maker during a tumultuous time at RIT. In his position as provost and chief academic officer, we have appreciated Stan’s openness, his willingness to listen, and his ability to clearly explain complex issues and the rationale behind decisions. His knowledge of the workings of the university as a whole is impressive. And his collaborative spirit, fair-mindedness and ethical nature have made him a trusted adviser and advocate for students and faculty for many years. He will be missed.”

The next provost, McKenzie hopes, will be strongly committed to undergraduate education, skilled in seeking grants and contracts, and supportive of research and entrepreneurial ventures.

By the time the new provost is settled in the seventh floor administrative suite of the George Eastman Building, McKenzie will be back in the classroom. He plans to teach in the fall 2008 quarter, begin a long-overdue sabbatical at the home he built in Tucson, Ariz., during winter and spring quarters, teach again in fall 2009, complete his sabbatical during winter 2009-2010, and then move into retirement transition.

McKenzie has been thinking about his next project for many years: a book focusing on Shakespeare and the concept of nothingness. “Shakespeare is very conscious that dramatic art is unsubstantial – creation out of nothing.”

There’s no doubt that McKenzie will be able to create something out of that premise. A reception for the retiring provost takes place from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, in Clark Gym.
After earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in performance at the Eastman School of Music, Adam Lange-Pearson developed osteoarthritis and realized he would not be able to play at the level required for a career as a cellist.

Instead, he entered RIT’s B.S./M.S. computer engineering program. The Devils Lake, N.D., native excelled. In his senior year, he was chosen to serve as class delegate at convocation, where he spoke about his experiences and played a cello solo.

While this change of plans was, indeed, life altering, Lange-Pearson doesn't view music and engineering as polar opposites. “What I came to realize is at a fundamental level, one can find beauty in almost everything,” says Lange-Pearson, an engineer at IBM in Rochester, Minn., where he works in the area of high-end server virtualization. He maintains his involvement with music as artistic director of the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra. “I have the best of both worlds,” he says.

“When I have to do something difficult in engineering, my brain is thinking about shapes, moving the different pieces around in my head, and I hear music,” he says. “My right brain gets involved in my left brain. . . . I see that in some of the really brilliant people I work with at IBM.

“The creative process in engineering these days takes place at a lot of different levels. In solving (engineering) problems, you have to be very creative.”

RIT provides a home to people on both ends of the spectrum – and many who fall somewhere in the middle.

Upon his arrival at RIT last year, President Bill Destler immediately embraced RIT’s blend of right brain and left brain activity. An international authority on high-power microwave sources and advanced accelerator concepts as well as an accomplished musician and one of the world’s foremost collectors of antique banjos, Destler applauded the university’s unique mix of artists and designers on the one hand, and scientists, engineers, and business leaders on the other.
Can you imagine?

The first “Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival,” a public showcase of the best of RIT, takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 3. PAETEC, the Rochester-based communications company, is premier sponsor of the event. Admission is free.

More than 400 projects and activities are being planned by students, faculty and staff, in addition to events organized by each of the eight colleges. Visitors will find demonstrations, exhibitions, performances and hands-on activities throughout the campus, with some of the larger exhibits on display at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center.

The festival will be family friendly, with traditional festival fare: carnival rides, music, food and activities for the kids.

Here’s a list of some of the projects expected to be displayed. For more information, visit the festival Web site at www.rit.edu/imagine. Live video and a real-time photo gallery will be displayed on the Web site during the festival.

- Electric bicycles
- Interactive mini-golf hole
- 21st century news
- Workshop of theater techniques bridging deaf and hearing cultures
- Formula Car unveiling
- Animatronic dog
- Preservation of ancient manuscripts using imaging technology
- The Best of ImageMovementSound Festival
- Space tourism
- Nutrition and the Mediterranean diet
- Hearing tests and demonstrations of different hearing problems and therapies
- Past Meets Present: A Century of Women Students at RIT
- Cyber intrusion threat and impact projection
- Mindfulness meditation: instruction and practice
- Better Me fitness demo
- Mine detection with swarm robots
- Photographic and artist-rendered images of gross anatomy
- Performance and production of an original song
- Factors that may influence inhaled particle deposition in the lung
- Water quality of Allen Creek
- Printing with variable design
- Sustainable project design
- Student-built “green” car
- The Changing Library
- Capoeira performance combining acrobatics, music, dance and martial arts
- Exposure to toxic pollutants: How does your community rank?
- 2007 Baja SAE Rochester World Challenge documentary screening
- Human everyday movement / behavior as dance
- Computerized vending machine
- Electronics recycling outreach and activism

www.rit.edu/imagine

Saturday, May 3
her parents to let her major in design. Ali's parents wanted him to go into architecture, but when he heard about new media design, "It turned out to be just what I wanted. I wanted to do something artistic, but practical."

Artistic talent alone won't guarantee success in the graphic design industry, both say. Technical skills are essential – and the technology changes all the time. "You're forced to be a lifelong learner," says Hannigan. "It's not enough just to keep up. You have to stay ahead."

Hannigan started her own design company in 1996, but closed it in 2005 to start a new company, Dumbwaiter Design, with Ali and several other RIT grads. The new media design firm specializes in interactive, motion and print design including broadcast design, Web sites, microsites, 3-D animation, games, DVD design, presentations, brochures and identity design for large and small business clients.

Hannigan also teaches full time in the new media design program; Ali teaches part time.

"I've found there are three types of students in the new media program," Hannigan says. "Some thrive on the creative, some focus on technology. But some do both and wouldn't be happy doing just one or the other."

**Roy Berns developed an interest** in music as well as art in early childhood. He started playing guitar at age 7, and had paying gigs by age 12. He allows that he was not a very good student in high school, although he did well in math and art. Berns studied textile science at the University of California-Davis, and that led him to color science.

Now the Richard S. Hunter Professor of Color Science, Appearance and Technology in RIT's Carlson Center for Imaging Science, Berns continues his passion for music as one-third of Lumière, a trio that performs gypsy jazz in a style inspired by Django Reinhardt. (Another RIT faculty member, Peter Ferran, professor of fine arts, plays clarinet.) The group plays weekly at Rochester's Little Theatre, as well as other occasional appearances around the area. Berns has also taught for the past four summers at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop.

"I think performing is a different level than just playing with friends," says Berns. "It's riskier, more intense. The skills I have developed as a working musician make me more comfortable in front of a class, and more sensitive as a teacher."

He sees no conflict in being a scientist with a strong right-brain orientation. "I'm able to use my creativity in research," he says. "I want to be around smart people who have talent, whether they're right brain or left brain. We need all types."

**A casual observer might guess** that the Golisano College for Computing and Information Sciences would be the epicenter for left-brain activity. But this is the home of a unique music maker: Al Biles, professor and undergraduate program coordinator, Information Technology Department, performs frequently at community events.
the inventor of GenJam (short for genetic jammer), an interactive genetic algorithm that learns to play jazz solos. Biles began working on GenJam during a professional development leave in 1993-94, and has continued to expand its repertoire of tunes and styles. Biles and GenJam play together regularly at RIT functions and at other venues, often under the billing of the Al Biles Virtual Quintet.

Biles began the project as an academic exercise, expecting to write some papers and possibly present at a few conferences. But it “began to evolve from a piece of technology to focus more on the music,” he says. “It does some nice stuff.” In fact, Biles has gone to conferences all over the world, and recently co-edited a book, Evolutionary Computer Music, which contains a chapter on GenJam.

It fits perfectly in the multimedia arena, an example of how music can be used in a technological setting – while maintaining the human element. “Right brain, left brain – it’s an illusion, a vast oversimplification,” says Biles. “In IT, we’re focused on how people use technology.”

THIRD-YEAR IMAGING

and photo technology major Cassi Fecho is a classically trained singer, plays piano and is teaching herself to play harmonica. Despite her passion for music, she says, “I am most definitely left brain.”

Her interest in photography began in elementary school, before she had ever taken a photograph. But at RIT, Fecho realized she is more interested in the science than the art of photography.

In her field, she can go in either direction. But she feels that many students at RIT tend to become caught on one side or the other. “For the most part, I see RIT as mostly left brain, until you walk into Building 7” (home of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences). “Unfortunately, there’s not much opportunity to mix.”

Jen Loomis, a fifth-year software engineering major, agrees. “I think a lot of students at RIT are capable of doing both,” she says. “I do think RIT has a tendency of putting people into boxes based on major. It starts from the get-go.”

HOWEVER, EFFORTS ARE WELL

underway to make RIT more integrated, says Katherine Mayberry, vice president for academic affairs. All students now have the option of pursuing a minor. More than 50 choices are available, including foreign language, art history, philosophy, accounting, entrepreneurship, imaging science, marketing, theater arts, engineering management, and journalism.

Through the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies in the College of Applied Sciences and Technology, students can create undergrad and graduate degree programs tailored to their interests and aspirations. In addition, a growing number of double majors are being offered. Examples include an M.S. degree program in new product development (Saunders College of Business and Kate Gleason College of Engineering); B.S. program in new media publishing (College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and Golisano College of Computing and Informa-tion Sciences); and a B.S./M.S. program in mechanical engineering and public policy (KGCCE and College of Liberal Arts).

“There are clearly a lot of students who are trying to engage the different sides of their personalities,” says Mayberry. “We’re developing more multidisciplinary programs. Students want more options, and we are working to make them available.”

Participating in one (or more) of RIT’s 150-plus organizations is another option for students to explore other interests – and other aspects of the RIT experience.

Loomis, for instance, is editor of the Reporter, the weekly magazine published by students, and also plays trombone in the RIT jazz ensemble.

“My experience at Reporter has been amazing. If I had gone to a larger school, with tons of liberal arts majors, I don’t think I would have gotten the opportunity to work in the capacity that I do at Reporter. I’m a software engineering student learning about art. That’s cool.”

Kathy Lindsley
In the next decade, breakthroughs in astrophysics could reshape our understanding of the universe. Observations of gravity waves could prove Einstein’s theory of general relativity, or tip physics on its head. Other missions using Earth-based telescopes and space probes will pry into dark matter (an unknown material that makes up about 85 percent of the universe) and dark energy (a mysterious force linked to the expansion of the universe).

RIT is gaining a reputation in the realm of astrophysics at this exciting time, with faculty contributing to research initiatives that blend science fiction and reality.

By its nature, astrophysics combines physics, math and imaging science, and, increasingly, computer science. It brings together scientists from different disciplines within the College of Science and the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences to explore young and dying stars, centers of galaxies and black holes, and the technology to make new observations.

"Astrophysics – the physics of the universe – is an exciting area because it touches the most challenging questions that face contemporary physics from the very small to the very large," says David Axon, head of RIT’s Department of Physics.

Adds Ian Gatley, Dean of the College of Science: "Astrophysics is a discipline where learning by doing is absolutely key. It involves building technology, using technology and modeling phenomena using computers, and all of those are really very big issues indeed for RIT and its students."

In the beginning

Astrophysics at RIT got a boost when Gatley joined the university in 1997 as director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. Gatley, an internationally known scientist, may be best known for building one of the first multi-pixel infrared cameras used for astronomical research. While working as a lead astronomer at the
National Optical Astronomy Observatories, Gatley devised a camera adapting infrared detectors from the military to point upward to penetrate the dust in interstellar space.

Gatley’s passion for adapting technology to make new kinds of measurements led to new research opportunities at RIT beginning with an initiative to process data taken from a remotely operated telescope at the South Pole and the early stages of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a project that RIT’s Laboratory for Imaging Algorithms and Systems in the Center for Imaging Science is involved with today.

The ‘A’ team

By 2000, the basic foundation for astrophysics research at RIT was in place with the presence of Gatley, Joel Kastner, a world expert on planetary nebula; Zoran Ninkov, a specialist in new sensor technology for astronomical imaging; and Michael Richmond, director of the RIT Observatory. Richmond contributes to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a ground-based project to digitally map the sky, and the Super Nova Acceleration Probe, a future endeavor to understand the dark energy linked to the universe’s acceleration.

A core astrophysics group came together in the intervening years through the addition of seasoned scientists, internationally known and well reputed: Axon, previously affiliated with the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore and the University of Hertfordshire, England, had written a paper with Gatley and knew Joel Kastner, an expert on galactic nuclei and black holes who came to RIT from Rutgers University. Merritt, in turn, knew Manuela Campanelli and Carlos Lousto, experts in numerical relativity simulations of black hole mergers, who, along with Yosef Zlochower, joined RIT from the University of Texas at Brownsville (see related story, page 20). Axon recruited Andrew Robinson, an expert in active galactic nuclei and polarimetry, a technique used to measure light in space, from the University of Hertfordshire, England. Manasse Mbonye, a relativistic astrophysicist specializing in theoretical cosmology and black hole physics, came to RIT from the University of Michigan and spent a year at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center.

Axon’s connections also led Stefi Baum, now professor and director of the Carlson Center for Imaging Science, and Chris O’Dea to join RIT from the Space Telescope Science Institute, where they all had contributed to the Hubble Space Telescope. Baum had also worked with Don Figer, a leading instrumentalist in next-generation sensing technologies, at the Space Telescope Science Institute and recruited him to head the Rochester Imaging Detector Laboratory in RIT’s Center for Imaging Science.

“All the players we’ve brought in were already established in the international astronomy community and this has allowed us to create a baseline that is already recognized by our peers,” says Axon. “This was not achieved by chance, but by careful networking.”

“Of equal significance, we have recruited fine young postdocs to work with this permanent core of faculty who give momentum to the research,” he adds.

The reputations, publication records and grant-proposal writing expertise of the astrophysics faculty have helped them secure significant external funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation to support their research. Current funding totals approximately $3 million. In the last five years, these scientists have won approximately $17 million in funded research.

Astrophysics Ph.D.

Pending state approval, RIT will launch its fifth doctoral program, in astrophysical sciences and technology (AST), in fall 2008. The program will depart from traditional astrophysical studies that focus mainly on theoretical and observational aspects of the discipline by adding the characteristic RIT twist of technology and applied science. An equal emphasis on theory, observational astronomy, and sensor and instrument development will set RIT’s program apart.

Students will have the opportunity to earn masters’ and doctoral degrees in three tracks: the emerging field of astro-informatics and computational astrophysics; astrophysical instrumentation and development of new technologies for application in astronomy and space science; and astrophysics. The program will draw heavily upon faculty from the Carlson Center for Imaging Science, the Department of Physics and the School for Mathematical Sciences.

“The breadth of the program we have here is extremely large,” Axon says. “We go all the way from the fundamentals of tackling Einstein’s field equations on supercomputers to how galaxies are assembled and how black holes work and grow through to the technology side of how we develop the detectors needed to make these investigations and those at the frontiers of cosmology possible.”

The RIT edge

“The AST program is a good match to RIT because of the program’s dual emphasis on the ‘end result’ – groundbreaking science and the ‘getting there’ – developing the technology required to get the science done,” says Kastner, who is on sabbatical at the Laboratoire d’Astrophysique de Grenoble in Grenoble, France. “At a place like RIT, one need not take precedence over the other. In my view, the same can’t be said for very many research university astronomy programs, where generally the emphasis is on the Ph.D. theses that represent cutting-edge science. The supporting technology is often not given the same status.”

The technological emphasis will give graduates from the AST program an edge. In addition to academic and research positions, graduates will have opportunities in a wide range of technical areas, including remote sensing, informatics, the aerospace industry, homeland security, computer technology and even business and finance.

“Astronomy is one of the oldest and most inspiring of sciences,” Baum says. “From the earliest of times, as humans gazed in awe upward in the darkness, they wondered about our place in a seemingly vast universe. They studied the changing cycle of the sun and moon and the patterns of the stars, and then applied that knowledge to meter time, measure distance, and navigate over land and sea. Astrophysics has that same reach today and we have the opportunity to expose all of RIT, from the under- graduates to our alumni, to the excitement that comes from participating in the quest to understand the cosmos.”

Susan Gawlowicz ‘95
Big Bang, black holes and gravity waves

RIT scientists look into the nature of the universe

Editors note: Astrophysics research at RIT moves in two directions. One group of scientists focuses on theoretical work. Another group, the observational astronomers and instrumentalists, is involved in experimental astrophysical research.

The following story takes a look at the work of the theory group. The fall issue of the magazine will feature the work of the observational astronomers and instrumentalists.

Scientists at RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation (CCRG) are producing groundbreaking research in computational astrophysics and numerical relativity, a research field that uses supercomputers to solve the complex equations in Einstein's theory of general relativity.

The center was created in January 2007 when Manuela Campanelli and Carlos Lousto joined RIT’s School of Mathematical Sciences with post-doctoral fellow Yosef Zlochower (now an assistant professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences) and Hiroyuki Nakano. Also affiliated is David Merritt, a preeminent theorist.

Alessia Gualandris, also a post-doctoral fellow at the center, works closely with Merritt. Josh Faber, an expert in neutron stars and black holes from the University of Chicago, joined the team in December 2007.

Campanelli, director of CCRG and professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences, caused an international stir in 2005 when she, Lousto and Zlochower, simulated the merging of two black holes on a supercomputer following Einstein's theory of general relativity. The team had spent three years working on the 10 interrelated equations for strong field gravity that comprise Einstein's famous theory connecting matter, space and time.

The ability to simulate gravity waves has hinged for decades on a fresh approach to solving Einstein's equations – and the development of sufficient computer power to simulate these waves. Einstein predicted that the collision of huge masses, such as black holes or neutron stars, would produce gravity waves.

Campanelli's team, then at the University of Texas at Brownsville, was one of two independent groups of scientists to solve the equations in the same year. In fact, both groups presented their findings at the same academic conference. Their success thrust Campanelli's team to the forefront of their field and helped to revive interest in the study of general relativity.

For some astrophysicists, the quest to observe gravity waves is akin to the fabled pursuit of the Holy Grail. This is because gravitational waves pass through matter that blocks light, or electro-magnetic radiation, and that is very interesting to scientists. Tracing gravity waves back in time might lead them to the other side of the Big Bang.

“We can look at the origin of the universe with gravitational waves and extract information that is otherwise blocked to electro-magnetic radiation,” explains Lousto. “Gravitational waves can also detect unexpected objects – things beyond the imagination of theoretical physicists and mathematicians, and maybe even science fiction writers. Many times it happens in science that when you develop a new technique, you discover unexpected objects.”

Searching for gravity

Scientists expect to measure actual gravity waves for the first time within the next decade. Astrophysicists will compare real waves coming from space with simulated ones such as those generated by research produced by Campanelli’s team.

Scientists from California Institute of Technology and MIT designed the ground-based detector known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) to measure the detailed form of gravitational waves. The National Science Foundation-funded project consists of two separate observatories that work in unison – one located in Livingston, La., and the other near Richland, Wash. The observatories became operational full-time in November 2005.

LIGO could identify gravity waves from the merger of two black holes in space as soon as 2013. When Advanced LIGO, the next phase, begins operation in 2012, the instrument’s vision will extend from 3 million to 300 million years into the past. (The Big Bang is thought to have occurred 13.7 billion years ago.)

A complementary gravity-wave seeking initiative in space is the upcoming NASA/European Space Agency space mission Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) that will fish the universe for gravity waves. LISA is expected to launch in 2015.

“In order to confirm the detection of gravitational waves, scientists need the modeling of gravitational waves coming from space,” Campanelli says. “They need to know what to look for in the data they
acquire, otherwise it will look like just noise. If you know what to look for, you can confirm the existence of gravitational waves. That’s why they need all these theoretical predictions."

Research at the center will support both LIGO and LISA initiatives, placing RIT among some 50 institutions in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. In a November 2007 interview with Discover magazine, Kip Thorne, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech, author of Black Holes and Time Warps and a driving force behind LIGO, points to Campanelli and Lousto’s black-hole simulations as some of the most exciting research taking place.

Others agree. The June 2007 issue of New Scientist featured an article about the orbital spin of black holes that RIT scientists Campanelli, Lousto, Merritt and Zlochower had produced. About the same time Discover published its interview with Thorne, Campanelli’s team simulated three black holes evolving, orbiting and eventually colliding, another computational feat never before done. The simulation of multiple black holes tested the formalism initially built for two masses and confirmed a robust computer code free of limitations. The results revealed the distinct gravitational signature three black holes might produce. This simulation was processed using the center’s new supercomputer named “newHorizons.”

“Gravity waves can also confirm the existence of black holes directly because they have a special signature,” Lousto says. “That’s what we’re simulating. We are predicting a very specific signature of what happens after black holes collide. It’s very timely research because it’s on the verge of discovery,” Campanelli adds. “And what we do is critical for this discovery to happen. We expect this area to keep expanding because the detection of gravitational waves will be the birth of gravitational wave astronomy, a new kind of astronomy. There will be a lot of interest in the world.”

Campanelli anticipates the center expanding in the near future to include scientists specializing in LIGO analysis of gravitational waveforms. This area of research within the field of numerical relativity bridges the gap between simulation and experimentation. It makes connections between the waveforms Campanelli’s team models with real data, and provides a necessary link in the pursuit of gravity waves.

**Big Bangs from supercomputers**

When black holes crash into each other at the center of a galaxy, the safest place to be is on the other side of the computer simulating the drama. Scientists at the Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation simulate cataclysmic collisions and the evolution of galaxies using supercomputers to churn out computations that would sizzle the latest desktop model.

In fact, the center is home to one of the fastest computers in the world: gravitySimulator, a special-purpose machine David Merritt purchased in 2004 with $600,000 from RIT, NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Merritt, a professor of physics, uses gravitySimulator to study gravitational forces causing black holes to form, evolve and interact with stars and to predict what happens after black holes collide. The cluster contains 32 nodes, each housing a special-purpose accelerator board called a GRAPE, or GRAvity PipE-line, and processes data at the speed of 4 teraflops, or four trillion computations (floating point operations) per second. The GRAPEs, imported from Tokyo, are specially designed to carry out gravitational force calculations.

“GravitySimulator is 1,000 times faster than a standard desktop computer,” says Hans-Peter Bischof, associate professor of computer science and member of CCRG.

“The machine can handle four million particles – each representing a star. And for this kind of problem, that’s enormous.”

Bischof illustrates the data Merritt collects from the gravitySimulator using a visualization system he designed. His mini-movies are among the first to depict gravity-force calculations of such large size.

Merritt hopes to double the size of the three-year old cluster and use the gravitySimulator to visualize other components of galaxies, such as gas clouds.

Currently, he is tooting up to use gravitySimulator for the first stage of the Virtual Galaxy, a scheme to simulate the entire Milky Way on a star-by-star basis.

“This project probably won’t be completed in my lifetime,” Merritt says, “but we hope to be able to simulate the central bulge of the galaxy, roughly a billion stars, in the next few years.”

A second computer cluster known as “newHorizons,” unveiled in October 2007, will maintain the center’s competitive level of research in computational astrophysics and numerical relativity, a research field dedicated to proving Einstein’s theory of general relativity. This state-of-the-art computer was designed to compute the numerical-relativity evolution of binary black holes. The $470,000 computer was purchased with funds from separate grants, including an award from the NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program won by Manuela Campanelli, the principal investigator on the grant, Carlos Lousto, Merritt and Yosef Zlochower.

The computer, built with hardware from California-based Western Scientific, boasts 85 nodes – each with its own dual processor – and four amounts of computing units per node and high-speed Infiniband interconnections.

Today’s typical desktop computer has 2 gigabytes of memory. By comparison, each node in newHorizons has 16 gigabytes or a total of 1.4 terabytes of memory. In addition, infinite band technology makes the computer especially fast, moving “packages” of information with a lag time or latency of 12.9 microseconds. The computer, which will have 36 terabytes of storage space, will – like the gravitySimulator – operate at its maximum capacity 24 hours a day for four to five years.

“Other scientists have satellites and telescopes to do scientific research,” says Zlochower, an assistant professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences. “We have supercomputers. It’s how we implement and test ideas. And because our simulations can take weeks, we needed the fastest machine possible.”

The two computers share an air-conditioned room that never rises above 62 degrees Fahrenheit. They were configured to maximize airflow and space between the clusters to prevent heat-related damage. An automated alert system connected to a heat sensor will detect a rise in room temperature. And, if the electricity fails, powerful back-up batteries will keep the computers going for 15 minutes, allowing the machines to shut down without damaging hardware or losing data.

Susan Gawlowicz ’95
Black holes and galaxies

Also affiliated with the Center for Relativity and Gravitation, Merritt, a preeminent theorist at RIT, focuses on galaxies and the supermassive black holes typically found at their centers. While Campanelli and Lousto are concerned with space-time around black holes, Merritt is concerned with the interplay between black holes and the galaxies in which they live. Merritt, a professor of physics, collaborated with his CCRG colleagues on a paper published last year in Physical Review Letters predicting how fast a black hole can be thrown or “kicked” out of its galaxy.

Merritt studies the evolution of star clusters and galaxies with a dedicated computer known as a gravitySimulator. Now three years old, the supercomputer was one of the first in the world built to study how gravitational forces cause black holes to form in the densest regions in the universe. Merritt’s work was featured in the cover story about black hole research in the May 2006 issue of Astronomy.

Merritt and colleague Laura Ferrarese from the University of Victoria in Australia made what many consider to be a major discovery known as the M-Sigma relation— a connection between the mass of supermassive black holes and the mass of their host galaxies. Their findings imply that black holes and galaxy growth are closely related. Merritt and Ferrarese suggest that the energy released by black holes might regulate the growth and evolution of their host galaxy — a result having potentially important cosmological consequences.

Merritt is also engaged in a long-term project called Virtual Galaxy to simulate the entire Milky Way galaxy, star by star.

“The astrophysics group is already unified,” Merritt says. “All of us are talking about the centers of galaxies where there are supermassive black holes from one point of view or another. There are lots of opportunities for cross-interaction.”

From RIT to TV

In 2003, Merritt contacted Hans-Peter Bischof, associate professor of computer science, to write software visualizing his research. Now, a member of the CCRG team, Bischof, an expert in framework design, specializes in bringing black holes into view through computer graphics and animated movies illustrating the team’s results.

Some of Bischof’s images of black holes simulated by Campanelli, Lousto, Zlochower and Merritt were used in the History Channel’s series The Universe: Cosmic Holes, which broadcast in December 2007.

“The science done at CCRG is very difficult to explain to the general public,” Bischof says. “A movie is one way to capture the essential information and let it speak for itself.”

Big Bang and dark energy

Cosmology is another important area of astrophysics. It is the study of the entire universe and the behavior of its component parts. Currently, studies in theoretical cosmology fall to Manasse Mbonye, a relativistic astrophysicist who applies Einstein’s theory of general relativity to understanding space-time under extreme gravitational influences. Mbonye believes these properties can provide an understanding of the early universe and the nature of the Big Bang as well as the physics inside black holes.

“The interior of black holes may in some ways share attributes with the early universe,” he says.

Mbonye’s work in these areas is guided by his “cosmic equilibrium conjecture,” an idea maintaining that regions of infinite density and pressure known as singularities might not exist in space-time.

Mbonye’s conjecture implies that the early universe may not have started from a physical singularity and that black hole interiors may be singularity-free. Based on this space-time paradigm, Mbonye searches for possible connections between black hole interiors and the early universe.

Mbonye also studies cosmic dynamics, including the current dark-energy driven cosmic acceleration. Being the only cosmologist at RIT doesn’t bother Mbonye, who takes a holistic look at the pending graduate program.

“Everything is complementary,” he says. “Our job here is to try to equip our students with the knowledge and understanding that we have of the kind of universe we live in. Each of us contributes a chunk of knowledge, and when you add those chunks in a complementary way you can create in the mind of a student a picture that comes as close as we can make it to understanding our world, our universe.

“That’s how astrophysics works,” he continues. “That’s how science works. No one single area of physics can alone make you understand this reality.”

Susan Gawlowicz ’95

For more information about RIT’s Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, visit http://ccrg.rit.edu.
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For more information about RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, visit http://crcg.rit.edu. The great traditions of Rochester Institute of Technology now exist in more than our memories... presenting the Official Ring. The ring takes the unique qualities of the school and incorporates them into a classic icon that identifies the wearer as a critical thinker, a leader, and a person of character—a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology.

For more information, please visit us online or call 1-866-BALFOUR (866-225-3687).

Balfour

www.balfour.com
In an effort to increase support for RIT’s men’s and women’s basketball teams, President Bill Destler issued a challenge to the campus community. He promised to dye his hair orange – if Clark Gym was filled for two games against Ithaca College on Jan. 19.

The men’s game was packed, but the women’s contest didn’t quite make it. As a compromise, Destler had three-fourths of his hair colored. His wife, Rebecca Johnson, opted for an orange wig (photo above).

Web extras:
To see more photos of the event, go to the “Photography” section at www.rit.edu/news and click on Photo Gallery Archive.
Ryan Tryt, bundled inside a heavy black coat and a grey winter hat, was taking short, deliberate steps across the ice-coated pavement toward Clark Gymnasium when he spotted his bleary-eyed visitor approaching.

“Welcome to 6 a.m.,” he bellows across the near-vacant parking lot. The sky looks as black as it did when he left campus eight hours ago at the conclusion of his night class.

“I have no distinction of what day it is sometimes,” Tryt says. “It feels like it’s dark all the time.”

Tryt enters the athletics complex and slips into the locker room, emerging a few minutes later wearing a T-shirt and Tiger-orange baseball cap.

It’s time for practice.

Baseball in January may seem incongruous to many (6 a.m. January baseball, no less), but off-season workouts – formal or informal – are a regular occurrence.

In fact, to the 575 student-athletes who participate in RIT’s 24 varsity sports, the term off-season probably seems much stranger.

It’s all a part of the RIT student-athlete experience – an experience, according to Athletic Director Lou Spiotti, that strives to develop the entire person.

“We conduct a competitive intercollegiate athletic program that emphasizes the quality of the athletic experience, along with supporting our student-athletes’ academic goals and personal growth,” Spiotti says. “We spend a lot of time around the development of our student-athletes and provide them with structure so that they can optimize their time here at RIT.”

In turn, the student-athletes spend a lot of their time – in the classroom, in the gym, on the playing field and in the community – working tirelessly to achieve success.

Tryt, a catcher on the baseball team, doesn’t believe there is a secret to that success. Actually, he feels it’s quite simple.

“It’s all about time management,” says Tryt, a fourth-year marketing major. “I tell all of the recruits who come in that it’s not difficult. It’s about making lists of things that need to be done, prioritizing them, and then crossing them off as you do them.”

Tryt should know. He’s excelled both in the classroom and on the baseball diamond – boasting a 4.0 grade-point average and a .364 batting average. Those numbers helped lead to his selection as RIT’s first representative on the College Sports Information Directors of America/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American Team.

Spiotti says it takes a special type of individual to participate in sports while navigating RIT’s quarter system.

“We have a rigorous portfolio of academic programs at RIT and we also have a very demanding academic calendar,” Spiotti says. “Our student-athletes are special in the fact that they are very focused on their academic lives. In many ways, they
are pretty business-like in how they handle their lives. I think they know that, in order to succeed, they have to be business-like. There is a lot to do, and little time to do it in.

“I spend, at the very minimum, 25 hours a week practicing basketball,” says Joanna Dobeck, a fourth-year electrical engineering major who plays forward on the women’s basketball team. “I spend at least four hours a week playing basketball, “ says Joanna Dobeck, a fourth-year illustration major who runs track and cross-country, believes the mentality that makes her a successful athlete helps her academically.

“You always work to do your best in a race and you always work to do your best on a project. I feel those two really coincide,” says Gagnier. “I don’t ever want to hand in a project that I didn’t put a lot of time in on, or that I know isn’t good. I hate doing that. I don’t want to do that. Just like I hate going into a race knowing that I didn’t practice hard that week.”

But Dobeck says there is another responsibility that RIT student-athletes take seriously: serving as a role model.

“Once you get immersed in the culture of RIT as an athlete, there’s this expectation that you’re supposed to set an example for everyone else,” Dobeck says. “I take that to heart – especially when it comes to underclassmen.”

Last spring, RIT’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee organized a weekend-long community service project entitled “Tigers Give Back.” More than 350 student athletes participated in a series of service projects around Greater Rochester.

Tryt, a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, says one of the group’s goals is to change the stereotypical perception that many still have about “jocks.”

“Some people think that athletes don’t work hard, that we’re lazy, that we’re going to miss class and get in trouble. That’s just not true,” Tryt says in between greeting his teammates as they arrive for practice.

“We understand that we’re looking for a culture shift. It’s not going to happen overnight. We’re going to have to keep working.”

John Follaco

From RIT to Super Bowl history

More than 70 former members of the RIT football program gathered at the Radisson adjacent to the RIT campus on Superbowl Sunday this year.

They included players and assistant coaches, athletic trainers and cheerleaders. They came from Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio and all over New York to watch their former coach, Tom Coughlin, reach the pinnacle of the football world.

Coughlin, coach of the New York Giants, led his team to a 17-14 victory over New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

“We all went crazy. There wasn’t a dry eye in the place,” says Mark McCabe ’75 (criminal justice), who played linebacker and defensive end for Coughlin from 1972-1973. “We all looked at each other and said, ‘From RIT to the Super Bowl.’ We were the team that he started with and we were there to celebrate it together.”

Coughlin’s RIT connection made national news in the week leading up to the Super Bowl. It was featured in newspapers such as The New York Times, Newsday and Chicago Tribune.

The day before the game, word of the RIT reunion reached Coughlin in Arizona. He took the time to answer a question about the reunion that was posed to him through a team spokesman.

Coughlin was “really touched by this,” the spokesman told the Middletown, N.Y., Times Herald-Record. “Those guys played the game in its purest form,” Coughlin told him. “It was club ball going to varsity. To think that they learned some life lessons that they still practice and are passing along to the children means a lot to me. That was a special group of young men who loved the game for the game.”

To find out more about RIT’s athletics program, including game schedules and team rosters, visit www.rit.edu/athletics.
Former student athletes say athletics shaped their lives – sometimes in surprising ways

All about teamwork
Suzanne Traynor Pail ’98 (mechanical engineering) played soccer, softball, hockey and tennis at RIT, maintained a 3.56 grade point average and graduated with B.S. and M.S. degrees. She went to work for IBM as an engineer and took a leave of absence last year to manage Closet Factory, a business she and her husband, Michael Pail ’98 (electrical engineering) launched in Raleigh, N.C.

“Sports gets you involved with people outside your major, and when you get out in the business world, you have to work and network with all kinds of people. In sports, everyone has to pull their weight, and that’s true in the real world. You can’t accomplish your goals unless everyone performs.”

Moments to remember
Ritchie Herbert ’85 (photography) says playing hockey at RIT shaped his life.

He’ll never forget the 1985 national championship. When the team returned from Schenectady after defeating Union 3-2 in the semifinal and Bemidji State (Minnesota) 5-1 in the final, the bus was greeted by a huge crowd. Herbert was later interviewed by Bryant Gumbel on NBC’s Today show.

“Coach (Bruce) Delventhal said ‘This is an experience you will remember all your life,’” says Herbert, who went on to play professional hockey in Europe until 1998, and now lives in Ingolstadt, Germany, where he works as a free-lance photographer. The memories of the championship remain vivid. “It’s almost like yesterday.”

Great role models
When David Egan ’62 (business administration) was wrestling at RIT, opponents included Cornell, Syracuse University, Pittsburgh, Bucknell and Lycoming. The RIT team and Egan did well, “because we had an outstanding coach, Earl Fuller.” Egan also credits his coach at Spencerport (N.Y.) High, Leo Bernabi, with teaching life lessons as well as athletics skills.

“My dad died when I was 8,” says Egan, “so that made a difference.” Egan went on to serve as a an assistant coach to the RIT wrestlers – and a career in law. He has been a New York State Supreme Court Justice since 2000. Egan says the most important lesson those mentors taught was “to build a house brick by brick, point by point, to start from the basics and build slowly. There’s no overnight success.”

Reduces stress, increases success
Karen Provinski Conlan ’96 (mathematics) excelled in academics and on the basketball court. Named Senior Athlete of the Year in 1996, she was an Academic All-American and won an Ellingson Award for academic excellence by a student-athlete. At graduation, she was chosen to represent the senior class and spoke at convocation and commencement.

“I feel that athletics almost enhances your coursework,” says Conlan. “It is another outlet for stress, another way to make friends, another way to have success while in school. Another way to be recognized.”

In her career as an IT professional for Dupont, she’s discovered another advantage. “When co-workers hear I played basketball in college, they look at me with another level of respect,” Conlan says. “It is something to talk about in job interviews.”

Competitive edge
“Having sports as a vocation and avocation has really worked out for me,” says Sean Bratches ’84 (business administration), executive vice president of sales and marketing for ESPN. “I’ve had a front row ticket not only of ESPN but the world of sports,” says Bratches, who joined the cable sports network in 1988.

Bratches, who played lacrosse at RIT, mentions time management, teamwork and leadership skills among the important lessons learned on the playing field. Honing a competitive spirit is another.

“When you get down to brass tacks, everything is measured in the world,” he says. “On the field, there is a winner and a loser. I hate to lose, on the field or in business.”

“Coach Bill Tierney said one thing that I use every day in business: ‘One bad pass breeds another. It means you have a game plan and you execute it flawlessly. If you have one bad pass, you have to recover your rhythm, you lose your momentum, your competitor gains an advantage. That can be critical.”

Winners never quit
Kristine Brassie ’99 (hospitality and service management) scored her biggest win off the sports field. Diagnosed with Hodgkins disease in 1997, she underwent six months of treatment and returned to RIT and hockey and immersed herself with helping others. In 1999, she became the first woman and the first person in Division III to win the national Humanitarian Award.

“I played to be part of something,” says Brassie. “Am I competitive? Absolutely,” she says. “I don’t know if you’re born with it, but as a female on a boys’ team, or a female in a boys’ sport, you’re always striving. I don’t think that’s always a good thing, but I think you accomplish a lot more.”

Brassie, who coached women’s hockey at Mercyhurst College for several years, is busy building a new team. She and her husband have four children, ages 4, 3, 2 and 1.
These photographs are from an ongoing project called Colleagues begun in 2005 by John Retallack ‘70 (photography), chair of the visual media program in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

“They are portraits,” he says, “but I prefer to think of them as character studies. The project, driven by my interest in people, has introduced me to colleagues from other colleges that I had previously known only by reputation.”

Retallack, who has taught at RIT since 1981, has had numerous exhibitions of his work. To see more, visit www.johnretallack.com.
Zerbe Sodervick, associate professor, director of extended studies

Elizabeth Mazzolini, assistant professor, English

Andrew Davidhazy ’67, ’69, left, professor, and William DuBois, chair, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences

Sam Abrams, professor emeritus, literature

Lisa Hermsen, assistant professor, English
Samantha Bosica ’06 (visual media)
Home-grown Ambrosia feeds software niche

Tucked away in a stately yellow farmhouse about a 10-minute drive from campus is Rochester’s future.

It’s easy to miss, but it’s right there – a few feet away from the bustling intersection and office parks dotting each of the remaining corners in the Rochester suburb of Brighton. Behind an unassuming sign identifying Ambrosia Software Inc. sits the small firm founded about 20 years ago by Andrew Welch ’92 (photography).

Ambrosia is a private, growing company, doing business in a burgeoning high-tech field – the type of firm that’s increasingly driving Rochester’s new economy.

It all began for Welch as a 15-year-old high school student designing computer typefaces. His programming skills helped pay for college and, back when he was still an RIT student, he wrote his first computer game – “Whacky Wheel,” an electronic version of the TV game show Wheel of Fortune – which eventually led to the founding of Ambrosia. The start-up’s first offering was “Maelstrom,” a 3-D Asteroids-style game.

Today, Ambrosia (Greek for “food of Gods”) has a bountiful harvest of more than two dozen computer games, including “DEFCON” and “pop-pop” (two of the most popular), and a growing number of applications and utilities, such as Dragster, a file-transfer tool; iSeek, an Internet search utility; ffoner, a custom ring-tone tool for use with Apple’s iPhone; and EasyEnvelopes, a free envelope-printing “widget.”

Two newer releases have generated the most recent buzz: SnapzProX, an image and movie capture application for easy creation and editing of QuickTime movies and screenshots (it’s Welch’s voice that declares “Cut!” and “That’s a wrap!” inside the program); and WireTap Studio, professional audio recording and editing software that can capture audio output from other computer programs.

Winner of a 2007 Editors’ Choice Award (commonly called an “Eddy Award”) from Macworld, WireTap Studio was favorably reviewed by the magazine and Welch was interviewed about the software for a Macworld podcast. A self-described “Mac geek,” Welch explained on the podcast how he ended up making computer applications, rather than shooting news photos, for a living:

“I was fortunate enough to have a friend of mine, who was a pretty famous photojournalist, who basically said, ‘Unless you get really lucky, I suggest you do the computer stuff.’ So that’s what I’m doing.”

The advice was also providential for other RIT graduates currently employed by Ambrosia Software, including digital artist Marcus Conge ’02 (industrial design) and system administrator Jake Gebula ’05 (applied networking and systems administration), along with others with RIT ties through co-ops or classes. Welch goes by the title “el presidente.”

Away from the cavernous farmhouse – which housed a law firm before becoming Ambrosia’s third home – Welch and his wife, Polly (the former Woon Fei Tay) enjoy their dogs, Kumba and Aya, who occasionally accompany Welch to work, joining Hector, an African gray parrot, who lives at the office.

Welch met Polly when he was asked to evaluate student-designed Web sites created as a project for a class instructed by Conge, who teaches at RIT as an adjunct professor. One of the designs Welch critiqued was created by Polly, a student in the class.

“We started talking, and it turned out she was from Malaysia,” Welch recounts. “By coincidence, I was on my way to Malaysia for a vacation. One thing led to another and she ended up stuck with me for life! That is an RIT love story, in a sense.”

Cut! That’s a wrap!

Michael Saffran

Michael Saffran
The work is widely divergent, but former RIT professor John Pfahl could see a common thread in the photos of four of his former students.

And so he organized a show of their work, which opened in December at the Nina Freudenheim Gallery in Buffalo, where his own work has frequently been exhibited.

Pfahl dubbed the show "Natura" because all of the photos share a connection to nature.

Alida Fish '76 (MFA) created large tintype photographs of snake, bird and fish specimens found preserved in museum collections, malting reference to 16th and 17th century European Cabinets of Curiosities. Fish is currently professor of photography at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Jeannie Pearce '76 (BFA), also on the faculty of the University of the Arts, photographs birds with a quirky homemade combination of telescope and digital camera as an alternative to more traditional nature photography.

Paul Lange '76 (BFA) closed his fashion photography studio in New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack and moved to a farm in upstate New York to devote more time to his personal work. His lushly colored flower portraits were inspired by a commission to photograph the gardens and greenhouse of a nearby estate.

Stuart Rome '77 (BFA) presented black-and-white silver prints from his recent book, Forest. His large, detailed photographs seek to create a transcendent order from the chaos of nature. He is currently professor of photography at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

"Many of my former students are doing beautiful work," says Pfahl, who taught at RIT from 1968 to 1986 and now lives in Buffalo, "but these stood out in my mind."

The RIT Office of Alumni Relations hosted a reception at the gallery, providing an opportunity for area alumni to meet the photographers and Pfahl.

Pfahl continues to pursue his own work. His most recent project, entitled "Scrolls," involves enormous digital prints 84 inches high by 21 inches wide. Several of these are part of the permanent collection of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. For more about his work, see www.johnpfahl.com.
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Eight inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

The newest members of RIT’s Sports Hall of Fame are (from left): Arnold Colle ’74 (criminal justice), basketball; Chris Maybury ’96 (business administration), hockey; Caroline Pierce Brassie’99 (hotel and resort management), hockey; Jerry O’Dell ’72 (geenenerflower College), track; Nancy Goyette-Duncan ’85 (graphic design), swimming; Ben Hunt ’00 (packaging science), lacrosse; Grant Perry ’91 (applied mathematics), soccer. (Photo by Ken Huth ’88). Also inducted was Matt Hannal ’99 (electromechanical technology), wrestling, inset right.

For more information about the Sports Hall of Fame, including video interviews with recent inductees, visit www.rit.edu/athletics and click on “RIT Tradition” from the left-hand list.

Communications grad works to end poverty in Africa

Giving money to poor people doesn’t end poverty. The solution is providing people with a means of making money. That’s the premise—and premise—of KickStart International, which is focused on improving living standards of poor people in Africa.

“We are fighting poverty in a whole new way,” explains Kenneth Weimar ’90 (professional and technical communications), director of development for the non-profit organization. “We’re using technology, the private sector, and the innate entrepreneurial spirit of the world’s poorest people.”

The concept is remarkably straightforward. KickStart develops and sells simple tools that enable people to increase their income. A prime example is a manual irrigation pump that allows farmers to grow larger and more valuable crops, even in dry times.

“The pumps look like Stairmasters, and that’s how they work,” says Weimar. Such devices make use of human resources—time and labor—that are abundant in many underdeveloped areas. “What we want to do is give people the ability to make more money from their sweat.”

KickStart was founded in Kenya in 1991 by Martin Fisher and Nick Moon, who both had worked for charitable organizations but had come to believe that traditional methods of fighting poverty were ineffective. Their alternative approach involves five steps: identify potential small business opportunities; design and develop simple technologies necessary to operate the businesses; train manufacturers to produce the technologies; promote and market the technologies; monitor the results to make sure they work.

“People ask why we don’t give the tools to people,” Weimar says. “There are a few reasons.” He notes that giveaways tend to be unfair—someone has to decide who gets something. When items are sold in the marketplace, there’s no favoritism. In addition, jobs are created in manufacturing the tools, making the system more sustainable.

KickStart does, however, help cover the costs of starting the manufacturing process, helping to keep the tools affordable. Besides the irrigation pumps, KickStart has developed cooking oil presses, sanitation and building technologies, and others. Many of these have been invented by KickStart co-founder Fisher, an engineer with a Ph.D. in theoretical and applied mechanics from Stanford University. The simple devices have had a big impact. KickStart has been remarkably successful, helping to start 50,000 new businesses, which now generate $52 million each year, by the organization’s reckoning. From its inception in Kenya, KickStart has expanded operations into Tanzania and Mali and is making efforts in several other nations. Headquarters are in San Francisco.


As a student, he anticipated a career in marketing or advertising, but his first job after RIT was for Rochester’s Community Counseling Services, the largest fundraising consulting firm in the world. Weimar earns a master’s degree in non-profit administration from the University of San Francisco in 1998. “The power and size of the non-profit sector is something people probably don’t think about,” he says. “It’s become a huge field, and tremendously diverse.”

Weimar says his work directly relates to what he learned in RIT’s communications program. “Fundraising really is about telling stories that are compelling and connecting with people,” he knows that the KickStart story touches people on many levels. But there are challenges. In recent months, Kenya has been torn by violence that erupted after a disputed election.

“It’s been truly amazing that we have actually continued to sell pumps even in the heart of the most affected areas,” says Weimar. “We take this as a positive sign. Kenyans are amazingly proud of their country and incredibly pragmatic. What we have heard the most is that people just want to get back to work.”

On his trips to Africa, he’s been tremendously impressed by the work ethic.

“The greatest untapped resource is the people,” Weimar says. “Everyone works so hard, but there are so few jobs.”

“When people have the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty, everything changes. They eat better. Their children go to school. They reinvest in their businesses and create more jobs.”

In that way, KickStart hopes to change the world—one pump at a time.

Kenneth Weimar ’90, demonstrates a manual irrigation pump to a farmer in Kenya.

Kathy Lindsey

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The newest members of RIT's Sports Hall of Fame are (from left), Arnold Ball; Chris Maybury '96 (business administration), hockey; Kristine Pierce Brassie '99 (hotel and resort management) hockey; Jerry O'Dell '82 (electricity), swimming; Ben Hunt '00 (packaging science), lacrosse; Grant Perry '91 (applied mathematics), soccer. (Photo by Ken Huth ‘88). Also inducted was Matt Hammil ’99 (electronics) wrestling.

For more information about the Sports Hall of Fame, including video interviews with recent inductees, visit www.rit.edu/athletics and click on “RIT Tradition” from the left-hand list.

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In that way, KickStart hopes to change the world—one pump at a time.

Kenneth Weimar ’90, demonstrates a manual irrigation pump to a farmer in Kenya.
Regional Alumni Activities

Kim Kealey '97, '05 and Jim Rodibaugh are your contacts in the office for regional alumni activities. Don't hesitate to contact them toll free at 1-866-RIT-ALUM.

To learn more about the events listed below, go to www.rit.edu/alumniactivities. You can register for events through our secure Web site.

Albany
Alumni met with President Bill DeSister on March 12 at the Houston Mill House.

Plans are underway for an event this summer, including an Albany Bears baseball game July 20. Keep checking the Web site for more details.

Boston
Boston Alumni Chapter met on the RIT men’s hockey team Feb. 10 as they took on Canisius. They enjoyed a reception at Copley prior to the game.

The chapter also enjoyed the Sabres vs. Red Wings game March 2, which included a reception at Pearl Street Brewery prior to the game. Thank you to the host.

Croatia
ACMT held its first alumni reunion in Croatia’s capital city of Zagreb Feb. 1. More than 200 alumni who attended were graduates from class years 1997 to 2007 and toured from Budapest, Sarajevo and all parts of Croatia.

Coming Up: More events are planned as part of a gathering to emphasize alumni as an important part of the ACM community. For more information, visit www.acm.org or contact Braum Najvosi, Marketing and Communications Manager, braum@acm.org.

Dominican Republic
The RIT Alumni Chapter was launched with an organizational meeting in Santo Domingo on Feb. 13. More than 20 alumni joined Kelly Redick, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations.

And Diane Ellison, Assistant Vice President for Graduate and Continuing Education, for an evening of networking, socializing and chapter organization. For information about future activities in the Dominican Republic or for Dominican nationals around the world, please log on to the RIT Alumni Online Community at www.alumniconnections.com or contact Catherine Dominguez at cdominguez@gordon.edu.

Alumni in Ottawa, Ontario, got together for their first alumni event at Patty Boland’s.

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Albany
Alumni meet for an evening of networking and food at Diner Me Quickly April 10. Check the Web site for registration and details.

Save the date: Aug. 16 for the alumni at the Saratoga Race Track. Keep checking the Web site for future events.

Atlanta
Alumni met with President Bill DeSister on March 12 at the Houston Mill House.

Plans are underway for an event this summer, including an Atlanta Braves baseball game July 20. Keep checking the Web site for more details.

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Albany
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly at the Chinese restaurant on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Atlanta
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Central Market in January. Alumni and friends in Cincinnati enjoyed a cruise on the Ohio River.

Austin
Alumni gathered for a cooking demonstration at Central Market in January.

Los Angeles
Alumni and guests enjoyed an evening at a cooking demonstration at Central Market in February. Please save the date for future events.

New York City
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 10. Please save the date for future events.

Philadelphia
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Phoenix
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Pittsburgh
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Rochester
Alumni and guests enjoyed a reception at the Rochester Museum & Science Center on March 13. Please save the date for future events.

San Diego
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

San Francisco
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Seattle
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Southern Florida
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Syracuse
Alumni and guests enjoyed an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

State College
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Winston-Salem
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

New York
Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Corporate and International

IBM/RIT

The IBM/RIT alumni chapter held an event on Jan. 20 in Rochester. Please save the date for future events.

China

An alumni event will be held on Feb. 29 in Beijing and June 25 in Shanghai.

Croatia

Alumni in Zagreb and in all parts of Croatia are invited to join the Alumni Association.

Dominican Republic

Alumni in the Dominican Republic are invited to join the Alumni Association.

IBM/rit

The IBM/RIT alumni chapter held its first official event on Jan. 22 in Rochester. Please save the date for future events.

Ithaca

Alumni will enjoy an evening of networking and food at Dinner Me Quickly on April 11. Please save the date for future events.

Ottawa, Ontario

An alumni event will be held on Nov. 24 at Patty Bolden’s Irish Pub in Ottawa. Please save the date for future events.

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Rochester

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Sacramento

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Worcester

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Surprise gifts for a big birthday

Louis Serraniti '38 (mechanical) celebrated his 100th birthday with a new diploma, copies of his RIT grades report, a student handbook from the '38 class and a bright orange tiger onesie. The surprise presentation came about after his daughter, a replacement for her father's lost diploma. RIT Carol Neves (above right) contacted RIT to request the gifts at a Feb. 12 party. About 60 of Serraniti's 100th birthday notes may be edited for accuracy, length and appropriateness. Photos must be print quality.

GAP
Notes may be edited for accuracy, length and appropriateness. Photos must be print quality.

SPRING 2008
College of Liberal Arts
College of Science
Kate Gleason College of Engineering
COAS
Fine and Applied Arts (new COAS)
GAP
Graphic Arts and Photography (new COAS)
GCCIS
R. Thomas Gollob College of Communication
NTID
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
SVP
NTID 'Summer Institute Program'
Note: This document contains text about past events and achievements, with a focus on alumni from RIT. It includes a variety of topics such as career highlights, alumni news, and contributions to society. The content is presented in a narrative format, highlighting the diversity of contributions and the rich history of RIT's alumni.
Building entrepreneurship from the inside out

"I tell people that if you give me a piece of paper, that's what I enjoy most—because you are asking me to create something," says Susan Foley '73, '79 (business administration, MBA), founder of Corporate Entrepreneurs LLC and executive director of Research Centers at Babson College (Wellesley, Mass.) Executive Education. Foley specializes in building new businesses and growing them. She's written about her techniques in her recently published book, Entrepreneurs Inside: Accelerating Business Growth with Corporate Entrepreneurs (Kilbres, 2007).

"There is a distinction between an entrepreneur who is starting a company outside of an existing organization and a corporate entrepreneur who works inside a company," explains Foley.

As for the latter, she says, "It doesn't matter what you call them—corporate entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, mav­ricks, positive deviants, or business builders—they are the engines of growth. I've been a corporate entrepreneur most of my life.”

Foley's pioneering career path started early. While attending high school in Cherry Hill, N.J., she wrote her first business plan—a custom apparel store combined with a "fun" gift shop.

"I called it Above and Beyond—and the business plan won an award from the South Jersey Small Businessmen's Association," Foley recalls.

As a student at RIT, Foley actually carried her plan one step further. "I did a statistical program to see if I could draw a correlation between the various styles of clothing and women in their career level of organizations," she says.

Not solely intent on climbing the corporate ladder, Foley invested her business savvy into growth and development, says.

"Corporate entrepreneurship is that freedom to build from inside an existing environment," she says.

"Every time a company participates in a networking endeavor, it opens doors," she continues. "Networking is tools for students, sponsored by the School of Hospitality and Service Management and its Alumni Society and open to HSM alumni and students."

"The ways alumni can stay engaged with RIT keep growing. In addition to regional activities, we offer an alumni (see pages 35-37), each college now supports special programming."

"With an alumni office in each college, graduates are seeing greater utilization of the program and communications from their alma mater," says Christine Corrado, director, college alumni relations. "We hope people will find our future activities or to contact your college alumni office, visit www.rit.edu/alumni/groups/cell/alumni.php, or use the Web and e-mail addresses or phone numbers listed for each college below."

Colleges of Applied Science and Technology: www.rit.edu/alumni/cast

College of Science: www.rit.edu/alumni/ces

College of Engineering: www.rit.edu/alumni/ceng

College of Liberal Arts: www.rit.edu/alumni/clal

College of Business: www.rit.edu/alumni/cb

College of Technology: www.rit.edu/alumni/cotechnet

College of Visual and Performing Arts: www.rit.edu/alumni/cvpa

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences: www.rit.edu/alumni/cai

College of Environmental Science and Forestry: www.rit.edu/alumni/wildlife

The Dean's Alumni Speaker Series also hosts alumni back to campus to speak on a variety of subjects. The Second Annual KGOE Hockey Night and pre-game celebration in the RITZ took place Feb. 29.

The Alumni Relations team expands with reps for each college.

Kate Gleason College of Engineering www.rit.edu/alumni/ce

Jasmine Seeley: 585-475-1041 jasmine.seeley@rit.edu

Alumni of the NYSERDA Program conducted networking events and presented to alumni groups at the 2007 Rochester Motorcycle Show: February 25, Rochester

Recent events: RITz Hockey Night and Pre-Game Tailgate party on campus and the RITZ Ensemble concert and reception at St. Anne Church in Rochester took place in February.

Alumni Relations expands with reps for each college.

Matthew Druitt '84


Recent events: The Dean's Alumni Speaker Series also hosts alumni back to campus to speak on a variety of subjects. The Second Annual KGOE Hockey Night and pre-game celebration in the RITZ took place Feb. 29.

Jasmine Seeley

Coming up: Please watch for the alumni events calendar, e-mail Jasmine Seeley with event ideas.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf www.rit.edu/alumni/ntid

 значительно, каждому из них было предоставлено участие в различных видах деятельности, включая участие в конференциях и семинарах. Кроме того, студенты и выпускники могли также взять участие в различных соревнованиях и мероприятиях, которые проводились на территории университета.

В целом, университет RIT активно вовлекал своих студентов и выпускников в различные виды деятельности, чтобы они могли развивать свои навыки и умения, а также расширять свои кругозор и опыт.
Building entrepreneurship from the inside out

"I tell people that if you give me a clean piece of paper, that's what I enjoy most — because you are asking me to create from nothing," says Susan Foley. "73, '79 (business administration, MBA), founder of Corporate Entrepreneurs LLC and executive director of Research Centers at Babson College (Wellesley, Mass.) Executive Education.

Foley specializes in building new businesses and growing them. She's written about her techniques in her recently published book, Entrepreneurs Inside: Accelerating Business Growth with Corporate Entrepreneurs (Xlibris Publishing, 2007). "There is a distinction between an entrepreneur who is starting a company outside of an existing organization and a corporate entrepreneur who works inside a company," explains Foley.

As for the latter, she says, "it doesn't matter what you call them — corporate entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, mavericks, positive deviants, or business builders — they are the engines of growth. I've been a corporate entrepreneur most of my life."

Foley's pioneering career path started early. While attending high school in Cherry Hill, N.J., she wrote her first business plan — for a custom apparel store combined with a "fun" gift shop. "I called it Above and Beyond — and the business plan won an award from the South Jersey Small Businessmen's Association," Foley recalls.

As a student at RIT, Foley actually carried her plan one step further. "I did a statistical program to see if I could draw a correlation between the various styles of clothing and women in their career level of organizations," she says.

Not solely intent on climbing the corporate ladder, Foley invested her business savvy into growth and development, earning degrees from B.A. in organizational management from Warner College in 2004 and in the technology field for more than 30 years. She has also served on the board of directors for several companies, including the Massachusetts Technology for Central Florida, and has served as a consultant for various organizations.

Mary Aukshunas Dong '77, '79 (GAP) is corporate director of research centers at Babson College (Wellesley, Mass.) Executive Education. She was managing director of corporate venture capital at NewQuest Partners in Houston, where she managed a $250 million venture capital fund.

In April, Foley will be speaking on "the role of corporate entrepreneurship in today's economy" as part of the American Management Association's series on corporate entrepreneurship. Foley will discuss the role of corporate entrepreneurship in today's economy, the role of corporate entrepreneurship in building new businesses, and the role of corporate entrepreneurship in developing future leaders.

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Alumni Updates
New opportunities, insights came with hearing loss
Melissa Skyer ’06 (M.S., environmental science) is a poet, dancer, artist, nature lover and environmental scientist.

Next year, she’ll head to tour guide the list when she leads a group to Hawaii on behalf of Hands on Travel, a company that organizes tours for people who communicate using American Sign Language. The trip is scheduled for October 2009.

The hearing child of deaf parents, Skyer learned ASL before she could talk and grew up comfortable with the deaf community. This, however, didn’t diminish her spirit, quite the contrary.

She gained an understanding of diversity and being humbled by this experience,” she says. “I’ve learned the true meaning of perseverance and had to work even harder to achieve my goals."

Skyer completed her degree and moved to Chicago with hands on projects including: air pollution monitoring, recontrolling contaminated sites and wetland delineations.

“One positive thing (about being deaf) is that I have become more ‘visible,’ if you will. People naturally pay more attention to me when I’m at the front of a meeting/conference with an interpreter. I take advantage of this fact and use the opportunity to show my capabilities by asking and or answering questions. It feels good to gain the respect of people in my field and also to defy their preconceptions of what a deaf woman in the sciences is or should be.”

Sundays exploring the land behind their house. “We would investigate everything from deer tracks to different types of trees. That really interested and impacted me and I suppose I have been a tree hugger for quite some time,” she says. Her master’s degree thesis project involved a two-year study on re-introduced river otters in the Yosemite National Park. Skyer completed her degree and moved to Chicago with hands on projects including: air pollution monitoring, recontrolling contaminated sites and wetland delineations.

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Her achievements came as no surprise to her mom, Solange “Sally” Skyer, a counselor and associate professor at National Technical Institute for the Deaf. “I’m very proud of her,” she says. “She is full of life, has a lot to offer and she wants to do all that she can. She won’t let anything stop her.”

A self-proclaimed “biology nerd,” Skyer developed her love of nature at a young age. She and her father, Richard Skyer, a biologist, who died in 2005, spent Sundays exploring the land behind their house. “We would investigate everything from deer tracks to different types of trees. That really interested and impacted me and I suppose I have been a tree hugger for quite some time,” she says. Her master’s degree thesis project involved a two-year study on re-introduced river otters in the Yosemite National Park. Skyer completed her degree and moved to Chicago with hands on projects including: air pollution monitoring, recontrolling contaminated sites and wetland delineations.

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New opportunities, insights come with hearing loss

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The hearing child of deaf parents, Skyer learned ASL before she could talk and grew up comfortable in both worlds. Her life changed unexpectedly in 2005, when surgery to remove a brain tumor diminished her spirit, however. Quite the contrary. Skyer lost her hearing as the result of surgery to remove a brain tumor. This has not taken the true meaning of perseverance and management, (an environmental scientist), an environmental scientist.

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1997
Brandon Rountree ’97 (COLA) is deputy public defender of Essex (N.Y.) County. He previously served four years on active duty with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG). As a JAG attorney, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander. Kristine Kruus ’97 (NTID) and husband, Tan, announce the birth of their son, Austin Hak Hei Kruus, on Jan. 25, 2007 in Binghamton, N.Y. Austin joins Hayley, 5 years old, and Brodie, 11 months. The Kruus family lives in Ventura, N.Y.

Kevin Porter ’98 (CIAS) is programmer/analyst at Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) in Morristown, N.C.

Elsa Zimmerman ’98 (COLA) and husband, Scott Zimmerman ’99 (AST) announce the birth of their daughter, Danielle Alysh, on Aug. 26, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

Marci Norton ’99 (KCOE) and husband, Sean Norton ’99 (KCOE) announce the birth of their daughter, Sara Elizabeth Ann, on April 5, 2006 in New Haven, Conn. Andrew Pratt ’99 (AST) and Sarah Combs announce the birth of their son, Grady Samuel, on July 31, 2006 in Morris Plains, N.J.

Heidi Felix ’00 (COLA) has been accepted as full-time faculty at Chatham University’s Institute for Physician Assistant Studies program in Pittsburgh.

Douglas Fetterman ’01 (COLA) and wife, Jessica Bishop, announce the birth of their daughter, Hayley Catherine, on Oct. 23, 2007. Andrew McIlwain is completing his residency in anesthesia and is a physician assistant.

Alison Osterberg ’98 (CAST) and Robert Gorman ’98 (AST) announce the birth of their son, Austin Elijah Krush, on Sept. 27, 2007.

Jason Adlonits ’99 (AST) is a father of another child and his wife, Dana, announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Kathleen, on July 2, 2007 in Orlando, Fla. She joins big brothers, Peyton and Alexander.


Robert Drew ’00 (KCOE) and his wife, Allison, announce the birth of their daughter, Keziah, on Oct. 23, 2007. Daniel Cavanagh ’01 (CAST) was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society on Oct. 27, 2007. Daniel expects to complete his master’s degree in management engineering from Old Dominion University in May 2008.

Jennifer Lindstrom ’99 (AST) and Peter Nourse were married on Oct. 6, 2007 in Fort Worth, Texas, at The Renaissance Woodstock Hotel. They honeymooned in the Cayman Islands and currently reside in North Richland Hills, Texas. Allison Osterberg ’98 (CAST) and Amanda Reynolds ’99 (AST) were married.

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Jodi Shire ’01 (NTID) was married to Phillip T. McCoy on Sept. 18, 2004, in Virginia Beach, Va. She is currently working as a CAD technician for John E. Stein and Associates LTD.

Michael Arterberry ’01 (AST) and Stephanie Mundel ’01 (AST) were married on Oct. 13, 2007, in Seattle, Wash, where they currently reside.

David Emerich ’00 (AST) was appointed vice president of marketing and lives in California.

Scott Gursky ’98, ’99 (AST) is art director at CL!X Portrait Studios in Rochester. Jason was employed at Eagle Productivity Solutions as senior graphic designer. He and his wife, Dana, announce the birth of their son, Eric B., on Sept. 27, 2007.

Jennifer Lindstrom ’99 (AST) and Peter Nourse were married on Oct. 6, 2007, in Fort Worth, Texas, at The Renaissance Woodstock Hotel. They honeymooned in the Cayman Islands and currently reside in North Richland Hills, Texas. Allison Osterberg ’98 (CAST) and Amanda Reynolds ’99 (AST) were married. Amanda Curry ’01 (KCOE) received an MBA from the University of Southern California in May 2007. She was promoted to high level product engineer at Moog Inc. and has taken a one-year assignment in Moog’s facility in Baguio City, Philippines.

John Lagonigro ’96, ’00 (AST) is project engineer at B/E Aerospace Winston-Salem, N.C.

Amanda Curry ’01 (AST) received an MBA from the University of Southern California in May 2007. She was promoted to high level product engineer at Moog Inc. and has taken a one-year assignment in Moog’s facility in Baguio City, Philippines.

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Abigail Lockett ’97 (AST) visited campus shortly after winning a Caesars American Gladiator program in January. Above, Amanda Wise, a communications and media technologies graduate student, interviews Lockett for a segment on the RIT SportsZone TV program. A former president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at RIT, Lockett works as an engineer for Boeing and lives in California.

Nikhil Shah ’01 (AST) is manager of enterprise information technology at Cardinal Health in Dallas, Ohio.

Sean Hamilton ’02 (AST) and Nicole Gray ’02 (AST) were married on Nov. 4, 2006, in Westbury, N.Y. They reside in Maplewood, N.J.

David Emerich ’00 (AST) is an associate at Coughlin Harbour & Associates LLP in Albany, N.Y.

Jeremy Smith ’02 (AST) turned a fantasy baseball hobby into a career. Jeremy has built and sold numerous fantasy software products, as well as creating a high-stake league called “World Championship of Fantasy Football.” Jeremy is currently in contact with Fogel to work on fantasy sportsWeb site.

Matthew Sudol ’01 (AST) received an MBA from the University of Southern California in May 2007. He was promoted to high level product engineer at Moog Inc. and has taken a one-year assignment in Moog’s facility in Baguio City, Philippines.

Melinda Class ’03 (COLA) and husband, Clippin Class ’01 (AST) announce the birth of their daughter, Breezy Ann, on April 27, 2007 in Rochester. They reside in Brandon, Ga.

Jeremy Smith ’02 (AST) received an MBA from the University of Southern California in May 2007. He was promoted to high level product engineer at Moog Inc. and has taken a one-year assignment in Moog’s facility in Baguio City, Philippines.

2003

Kimberly Horneman ’03 (AST) and Timothy Ronamak ’04 (AST) were married on Nov. 11, 2007, in Minnetonka, Minn. They reside in Minneapolis.

Sean Hamilton ’02 (AST) and Nicole Gray ’02 (AST) were married on Nov. 4, 2006, in Westbury, N.Y. They reside in Maplewood, N.J.

Gavin Pratt ’03 (AST) was appointed vice president of the Marsh Inc. Buffalo office on May 22, 2007. Marsh Inc. is a leading risk and insurance service firm.

Robert Bonarski ’04 (AST) and Victoria Roberts were married on May 20, 2007, in Poconos, Pa.
Brandon Boutelle ’97 (COLA) is deputy public defender of Essex (N.Y.) County. He previously served four years on active duty with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG). As a current member of the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, he served four years on active duty with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG). As a current member of the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, he served four years on active duty with the U.S.

Kristine Kruis ’97 (NDT) and husband, Ian, announce the birth of their son, Austin Elijah Krush, was born to Kristine Krush ’97 (NDT) and husband, Tim, on Jan. 25, 2007 in Binghamton, N.Y. Austin joins Hayley, 5 years old, and Brodie, 11 months. The Krush family lives in Vestal, N.Y.

Jason Adomites ’99 (CAS) is a partner at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP in Albany, N.Y.

RIT ’Gladiator’ triumphs on the air

Adam Plattner ’07 (CAST) visited campus shortly after a winning appearance on NBC’s American Gladiators program in January. Above, Amanda Wode, a communications and media technology graduate student, interviews Lockett for a segment on the RIT SportsZone TV program.

A former president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at RIT, Lockett works as an engineer for Boeing and lives in California.

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Tara Parekh (‘03) published a book, Outdoor Island: Photography and History That’s Not on Lulu.com. Take a look at www.lulu.com/content/897232

Sarah Calvin (‘03) and Jason Kelly (‘04) were married on Oct. 27, 2007, at St. Monica Catholic Church in Indianapolis. Bridesmaids included Moody Louis (‘04), Jeremiah Brazeau (‘05), Elizabeth Femmano (‘08) and Regan Messenger (‘04). Other guests included Kathy Mast, Emily Cooper Niggel, (‘04) and husband, Michael. Kevin is server administrator at York Hospital. Joe Manchester (‘05) was a groomsman. Andy Niggel (‘04) and Jessica Cunn. Engaged were married on Oct. 7, 2007, in Lewiston, N.Y. They currently reside in New York City. Alumini in attendance included groomsman Steven Coul (‘06), Cameron Donahue (‘07) and Regan Messenger (‘04). Kris was an intern at York Hospital.

Jingui Chenshek (‘04) and Andrew Gravers (‘04) were married on July 7, 2007, at Gannon Park in St. Michael’s, Md. They currently reside in West Seneca, N.Y. They are both in the wedding profession. Many RIT alumini were present for the ceremony and several were in the bridal party. Included were bridesmaid Amy Cooper Niggel (‘04), best man Daniel Gravers (‘04) and Karen Smith (‘04) who was a groomsman. Randy Chaffin (‘04) and Robert Hernandez (‘04) follow. The ceremony was attended by family and friends of the couple.

Amanda Kolaczyk (‘00) and Eric Rushton (‘04) were married on Oct. 27, 2007, in Hamburg, N.Y. They currently reside in West Seneca, N.Y. Bridesmaids included Kristi Kestner (‘04) and Manchester ‘04 (‘04) and Maria Orsino (‘04). Alums in attendance were John Douthit (‘04) and Robert Rushton (‘04).

Amanda Montgomery (‘05) (COLA) earned a master’s degree in labor studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amhurst. Yi Wang (‘05) (CIAS) is the financial officer at Metroland Financial Analysis at Metroland Realty Advisors LLC in Detroit, MI. One of the few financial analysts in the country. In his new position Wang is responsible for the development of the firm’s acquisitions and dispositions as well as macro-economic trend assessment and forecasting.

Tara Parekh ‘03 (CAS) is working as a finance analyst for the marketing industry at the Printing Industry Center at RIT.

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Tara Parekh (CIAS) were married on Dec. 8, 2007, in Lexington Church in Indianapolis. Bridesmaids included a week in St. Maarten. They reside in Avon, Ind. James Dowdle (CIAS) published a book, '06. Toccarra Nunn '06 (CIAS) and Jason Kelly (SCB) and Daniel Clapp were (GCCIS) and Patricia Husted (GCCIS) were groomsmen. The bride is a groomsman in St. Seneca, N.Y. Bridesmaids were Joel Manchester '05 (KGCOE), Jon Byrd (KGCOE), and Dereck Padden (KGCOE). Michael Untiet was previously employed at Carnegie Hall Inc. as a financial planner. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1987 for a photograph during a 1967 war protest at the Pentagon. He was a Pulitzer Prize winner for photographic fraternity, Delta Lambda Epsilon. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. Ashley is the marketing industry coordinator at the Printing Industry Center at RIT.

In Memoriam

2006

Donald Case '06 (CAST) was selected to fill the role of associate director of the Practice Specialty of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). He was the first safety engineer at the Cattaraugus/Allegany BOEIC in Olean, N.Y., and is a certified safety professional and certified hazardous materials manager. Patrick Desain '06 (CIAS) was a technical consultant at C2 in Orleans, Ohio. C2 is a global organization specializing in information technology outsourcing. Patrick works in EGS's Healthcare D... designing and developing custom software for hospitals. Cameron Jones '06 (CAST), '06 (CIAS) is print production manager at Deutsch Inc. in New York City. Cameron previously was employed at Interlaced as a commercial printer. The wedding was attended by many RIT alumni, stu... a mechanical engineer with Denise Rand in Painted Post, N.Y. Caitlin works for a financial planner with a Certified Financial Planner designation. The couple attended the barrel of a policeman's gun in St. Montreal. They reside in New York City. Cameron previously was employed at Interlaced as an intern. Erin is a staff accountant at ATA Airlines Inc. in Indianapolis. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. Ashley is the marketing industry coordinator at the Printing Industry Center at RIT.

RIT news

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- "1-1:1" - a twice-monthly radio newscast-style podcast featuring RIT news and RIT people in the news—including newsmakers in their own voices—and News & Event highlights.
- "1970:1970" - a twice-monthly newsmaker-interview podcast featuring RIT's newsmakers. The first episode was "1970:1970" - the story of the Watergate scandal, and specifically RIT's Alumnus of the Year, Bob Woodward (CIAS, '78, cast member in All the President's Men, '76). In 2003, the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences honored Mr. Boston with the A. Sprague Memorial Award, the highest award recognized by RIT. In 2006, RIT presented a retrospective of his work.

Renowned photographer Bernie Boston '55 dies


A native of Washington, D.C., Mr. Boston documented stories of national significance while working for The Washington Star and the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He was president of the White House News Photographers Association four times and won the Kodak/White House News Photographers’ Association Achievement Award in 1991. In 1997, he received the National Press Photographers Association Joseph A. WershBAUER Award, for the organization’s highest honor. One of Mr. Boston’s most famous photographs and his personal favorite, Flower Power, shows a young man planting flowers in the barrel of a policeman’s gun during a 1967 war protest at the Pentagon. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1987 for a photograph of Coeetta Scott King. During his senior years at RIT, he helped establish a professional photographic fraternity, Delta Lambda Epsilon. In 2003, the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences honored Mr. Boston with the Outstanding Alumnus Award. In 2006, RIT presented a retrospective of his work.

A compilation publication, Bernie Boston: American Photographer, was published by the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press. RIT Archive Collections will be the repository of Mr. Boston’s photographic work. Mr. Boston is survived by his wife, Peggy.

Photo by Rick Gidley, Northern Virginia Daily News
Students and staff arriving at RIT on Friday, April 15, 1988, were greeted by an amazing sight. The Administrative Circle in front of the Student Alumni Union was filled with thousands of balloons linked together to form fanciful floral creations.

These were the work of 80 students who gathered at 4:30 a.m., braving wind and chilly temperatures to assemble what became the centerpiece for the Second Annual Big Bash. This event was much bigger than the first – and was never duplicated.

David Dougherty ’88 (microelectronic engineering) and Clint Fern ’89 (photographic technology) were co-chairs of the event, sponsored by the Student Directorate.

“The main goal was not only to increase school spirit but to increase interaction between students and faculty,” recalls Fern, who served as student-faculty coordinator for the Student Directorate. Fern, who lives in Lebanon, Pa., remembers getting up early, “ingesting a lot of helium” and partying with the faculty and administrators who joined in the effort. “It was a lot of fun.”

Besides the giant balloon sculpture, activities included a special breakfast, a ’50s theme lunch served by faculty, free food throughout the day, tours of the Eastman Building seventh floor administrative suite, a student-faculty talent show and a dance that night. Students also had the chance to buy raffle tickets for the opportunity to trade places with one of several RIT administrators for a day.

“Back then school spirit was hard to find, and there was very little interaction with faculty outside the classroom,” says Dougherty, who lives in Austin, Texas. “Our motivation was to have a day of activities to draw the students and faculty together. It was a big success. Fred Smith’s (then vice president of Student Affairs and now secretary of the institute) version of La Bamba in the talent show was unforgettable.”

If you have additional information about this event or ideas for this page, write to The University Magazine, University News Services, Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive – Bldg. 86, Rochester, NY 14623. E-mail can be sent to umagwww@rit.edu.
Big Bash: Balloons and more

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