

[Prospective Students](#)
[Current Students](#)
[Parents](#)
[Alumni](#)
[Faculty/Staff](#)
[Employers](#)
[Friends/Supporters](#)

[Media](#)

Media » NTID News

Other recent news:

Grads Better Sell Themselves

5.1.2009

RIT/NTID Student Named in
Prestigious National Academic
Competition 4.29.2009

New NTID Student Congress Officers

Vow to Be Receptive 4.27.2009

Be Amazed. Be Astonished. Be
Inspired. 4.24.2009

Winners Named in National Math
Competition at RIT/NTID 4.17.2009

Georgia Educator Named Scouten
Intern at NTID 4.17.2009

Congress Allocates \$64.2 Million to
NTID 4.16.2009

Christopher Wagner is NTID's
Distinguished Alumni for 2009
4.8.2009

Four Decades of Theater Displayed
in RIT Museum Exhibit 4.6.2009

Thomas Warfield wins RIT Isaac L.
Jordan Diversity Award 4.3.2009

FOLLOW NTID NEWS ON


Biography of RIT/NTID Professor Emeritus Robert F. Panara Available

October 25, 2007

Capturing the life of master teacher and poet Robert F. Panara was a "labor of love" for Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf professor and author Harry Lang, whose new book, "Teaching from the Heart and Soul: The Robert F. Panara Story" is now available.

The biography traces the life of RIT's first deaf professor, hired in 1967 to help establish NTID on RIT's campus. For more than two decades, he enthralled both deaf and hearing students with his vivid interpretations of literature and poetry, often weaving his passion for baseball into his teaching. When he retired in 1988, NTID named its performing arts theater for him, acknowledging his profound influence on NTID's creative arts program. He also was a founder in the 1960s of the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Panara lost his hearing to spinal meningitis in 1931. He was only 10 years old, but his strong reading and writing skills allowed him to finish high school and go to college. As a college student he wrote, "The Significance of the Reading Problem," a paper that described his belief that the world needed more teachers who could "teach from the heart and soul."

The book details Panara's childhood in the Bronx, his devotion to baseball, his unforgettable meeting with Babe Ruth and his father's efforts to find a cure for the deafness that threatened to sideline his athletic and academic ambitions.

"This biography is more than the journey of my life," Panara said. "It also is a love story about Shirley (Panara's wife of 56 years, who died in 2003) and about our son, John, who followed in my footsteps and teaches English at RIT/NTID.

"The mosaic that Harry created reveals the affinities of our shared deaf experiences, as writer and subject bonded together and became best friends while working to complete the whole."

Lang works in the Department of Research and Teacher Education at RIT/NTID.

"Teaching from the Heart and Soul" is [available from Gallaudet University Press](#).

Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

52 Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, NY 14623 | Office of Admissions: 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY)

Copyright © 2009 Rochester Institute of Technology. All rights reserved.

[Questions/Comments?](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Copyright Infringement](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RIT A-Z Site Index](#)