HIGHLIGHTING FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

SPRING 2009

Scholarship @ R·I·T

R·I·T LIBRARIES

RIT Faculty Scholar Series:

Less Is More (in Electronics!)

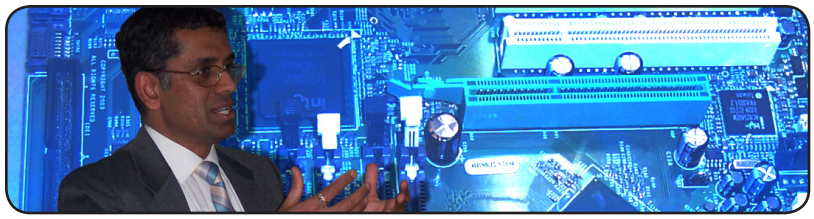


PHOTO BY NICK PAULUS

Dr. S. Manian Ramkumar discusses the impact of technology on our lives and the turnkey role that CEMA provides for industries with new products.

The final Faculty Scholars Lecture of the 2008/2009 academic year took place on April 14, 2009, featuring Dr. S. Manian Ramkumar, Professor and Director of the Center for Electronics Manufacturing and Assembly (CEMA) MMET-PS Department, College of Applied Science and Technology. His presentation, "Electronics in Our Daily Life Today and Packaging Trends Reinforcing the Future," provided an overview of the development of electronics technology, the day-to-day impact (often unrecognized) of this technology on our lives, and the crucial role that CEMA and its students play in the electronics industry.

The electronics industry is the largest manufacturing industry worldwide and continues to expand, due to constant technological developments and increasing global consumer demands.

Products are becoming smaller, with greater functionality and additional features. For example, today's cell phones fold in half and contain digital cameras and wireless capabilities. Ramkumar also described the many tiny devices that now enable exceptional medical care to be given to patients. A PCB Assembly Process video was shown, providing the audience with a detailed look at the surface mount production process.

R·I·T Faculty Scholars

CEMA provides turnkey service for industries across the United States, including many regional companies, such as Xerox. CEMA works with new products and materials, performs application development, and also provides workshops and training opportunities. Most of these tasks are conducted by RIT students, who gain practical experiences that reinforce their research and scholarship.

Dr. Ramkumar's presentation is available in the RIT Digital Media Library at: https://ritdml.rit.edu/dspace/handle/1850/9403. Additional information on CEMA: http://www.rit.edu/cast/cema/.

Marcia Trauernicht / Wallace Library

PUTTING the BUZZ on RIT

The RIT community has been twirling with creativity and innovation since Dr. Destler and Dr. Haefner teamed up to forge new alliances and foster new opportunities. There are not enough venues to display, showcase, and relay all of the exciting and innovative ideas and products that RIT produces so well. I personally am interested in the plethora of talks, art shows, student activities, competitions, visual creations, receptions, and panel discussions. There are more than I possibly could attend, unless of course I spent much less time working in my office.

One amazing aspect of being at RIT, is the incredible amounts of energy, talent, and hard work that we, as members of the community, may never experience. Unless we are in the same college, read an RIT publication, or happen to overhear news about a particular project, technique, or discovery, we miss so much that is going on around us.

Through interactions with faculty, staff, and students, we have again attempted to capture some of the RIT treasures that are happening, brought to you here in the *Scholarship@RIT* newsletter-read, learn, and enjoy!

Marianne Buehler / Wallace Library

IN THIS ISSUE

Creativity abounds with: the development of electronics technology, project risk appreciation, scientific photography as data, ultrasound simulation benefits, pedagogical data spurs course alterations, navigating through our environment, curbing academic dishonesty, listening to student voices, students create awareness of "finding family," expanding collaboration grids, critical skills for technical problem solving, environmental management leadership, integrating sensors on one chip, naturalism forming national identities, the life and art of a 1962 RIT alum and, the new face of the RIT DML.

"A person who publishes a book appears willfully in public with his [or her] pants down."

— Edna St. Vincent Millay

Project Management Comes of Age

E. Philip Saunders College of Business

During the past two academic calendar years, the flagship project management course taught in the Saunders College of Business has undergone a significant overhaul. In particular, the course has sought to maximize student learning and involvement in a 10-week elective, often taught as a 14-week class or as a two-quarter capstone experience at other universities.

Project management attempts to walk a fine line between the "tools," project managers, and their minions. They need to navigate large, complex, non-repetitive tasks, and there are general management issues associated with meeting deadlines and project goals while also creating learning opportunities and managing teams. Students often tend to focus on only one of these aspects, and thus we strive to emphasize a well-rounded approach to the field.

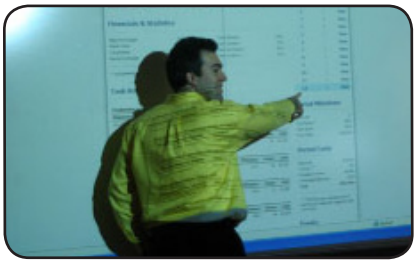


PHOTO BY MARIANNE BUEHLER

Dr. John Angelis examines the winning team's final score in the SimProject game.

Modern projects are rarely delivered late. However, they often leave original objectives or newly-learned goals and missions unattained. Today, being late is unacceptable, but being short on performance is tolerated. As one Ford executive recently quipped, "People get fired or transferred for being over budget which means being on time, but they rarely get fired for doing rework." Consequently, much of our focus is to teach students to appreciate project risk. We work through 20 cases per quarter so students are well-informed about how real-life projects succeed or fail. We also teach students how to write concise, insightful executive summaries on these cases.

Decision Sciences 744 has adopted a significant innovation in pedagogy in the last two years: SIMPROJECT. Organized into groups, teams compete to introduce a new product on time, on budget, and satisfy customer wants and needs. This computer simulation adds intensity to the class, as part of the students' final grades are dependent on where they finish relative to their peers.

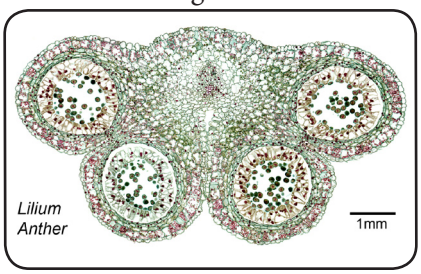
Whether it is constructing a new middle school or developing Apple's latest product, projects will continue to shape much of business and we will continue to prepare our students to meet such challenges.

John Angelis & John Ettlie / Decision Sciences

Computational Photography

College of Imaging Arts & Sciences

The importance of images in science began more or less at the time when photography was discovered. There are numerous examples of where photography has had a prominent role in aiding scientific discovery. Scientific photography is different from "more traditional" applications of photography because often it reveals the unseen and extends human vision. One fundamental and defining criteria associated with science photographs is the need for additional data, such as a scale or timing device. If this relevant information is not contained within the frame of the photograph, the image may not operate as a science image.



Photomicrographs created by Jocelyn Cheng, a third year student.

In scientific photography, the photograph must be considered data. For that reason, the methods used by science photographers must be repeatable and incorporate objective approaches whenever possible. The choice of lighting, the camera point of view, and choice of lenses must all be undertaken so that the resultant images are not embellished and lead to a neutral rendering of the subject. Science photography takes viewers to places they cannot go without cameras and accurately communicates science facts. Additionally, image-processing strategies must lead to acceptable results in the forum where the images will be shown or evaluated.

Today's new digital tools have greatly expanded the capabilities that science image-makers have with images. An example of new concepts can be found in computational photography where computers are used to produce images that are data-rich as a result of image processing from multiple frames. The image included with this article is the culmination of many individual files that were made at a light microscope and then stitched together. When a series of individual images are made of portions of the field of view using objectives with high-resolution potentials, images can be later stitched and easily zoomed when using multimedia applications or lead to larger data rich files required for large prints and posters and they are not resolution-limited. Students in the biomedical photographic communications program routinely explore the boundaries of these practices.

Michael Peres / Biomedical Photographic Communications

The Benefits of Simulation on the Ultrasound Program

College of Science

Difficult economic times, HIPPA regulations, downsizing, excessive workloads, and stress, have forced many ultrasound departments, especially obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) to discontinue their affiliations with academic programs. The new crisis has affected the RIT ultrasound program. Among the concerns is that students' technical learning abilities would be negatively and drastically impacted. Ultrasound departments are demanding that ultrasound academic programs provide students with advanced OB/GYN technical and scanning skills. Indeed, this is difficult to accomplish in an academic setting due to the legal issues involved in bringing patients to campus.

PHOTO BY SUE TONTARSKI

Ms. Jodie Crowley is preparing the UltraSim system for a student demonstration.

In consideration of the new demands, the Program's faculty and staff have had to find creative ways to meet the challenge. Our search led to UltraSim (Ultrasound Training Simulator), a technology successfully used in the U.S. Air Force for many years. This system uses stored, real ultrasound images frozen in time via 3D acquisition techniques and is designed to look like a real ultrasound machine. The scans are performed on a mannequin with a mock ultrasound probe that closely parallels scanning on real people.

This system complements the curriculum and the ultrasound Scanning Suite located in the Center for Bioscience Education and Technology (CBET). For the first time, students are experiencing the OB/GYN portion of the program in a controlled setting without outside pressures. Students are able to scan the same cases, allowing for a better evaluation of skills. Finally, one of the best features is that it is readily available and allows students the flexibility to scan alone or in a group.

A survey of affiliated ultrasound departments showed that they are pleased with our students' technical and scanning skills and would definitely consider a student trainee for next year. The UltraSim system has provided us with the means to overcome the hurdles we were facing in recruiting and retaining OB/GYN clinical sites.

Hamad Ghazle / Medical Sciences

Research in Computer Science Education

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing & Information Sciences

We have heard a lot about the "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)" and "Scholarly Teaching." What do they really mean?

The SoTL represents an engagement in scholarship (research) in teaching and learning including: research into learning environments, methods, and delivery systems. Scholarly Teaching means we are folding SoTL results back into the classroom. The two create a discovery and application cycle that leads to continuous improvement in both teaching and learning.

PHOTO BY MARIANNE BUEHLER

Computer science students collaborating on a class project

The Computer Science (CS) Department has a long history of involvement in the SoTL and Scholarly Teaching cycle. In the 1980s, we determined that students needed a more hands-on and structured learning environment. The research provided data to support an NSF grant to build our first closed-laboratory environment. Studies provided support for new equipment and technologies, and helped to determine which languages we should teach and how the courses should be delivered.

A recent longitudinal study examined student preferences, habits, and attitudes. Another study examined the configuration of our learning communities to determine the impact of the class environment and size. Research told us that students can learn from each other and student role models. Our department employs undergraduate peers as mentors, tutors and lab instructors.

The CS Department is embarking on one of its biggest changes yet; we are recommending alterations to core courses. Pedagogical research provided us with convincing data that many students believe CS is "all programming." Our department is working to change this perception by emphasizing the many facets of CS. In the revised CS curriculum, students will define and solve computational problems, and then apply the solutions to applications in robotics, computer graphics, and computer system and network design.

Ongoing SoTL and pedagogical studies provide us with the supporting data to effectively teach to maximize student learning. The author gratefully acknowledges the contributions of her department colleagues in writing this article.

Trudy Howles / Computer Science

Faculty Off-Campus

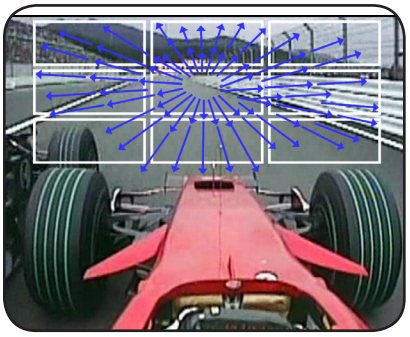
How We Navigate Through Our Environment

The Laboratory for Computational Studies is located within the Computer Science Department and directed by Professor Roger Gaborski. The research activities focus on gaining an understanding of how humans perceive and interact with their environment. Several graduate and undergraduate students, including two PhD students from the Computing and Information Sciences Program, work in the Lab on research ranging from modeling neurons to studying chaotic systems.

How we navigate through our environment is a very interesting and challenging problem. For example, when a student walks across campus he or she has no difficulty navigating along the walkways and through buildings on campus. If the weather is inclement, the student may almost unconsciously make a decision to avoid walking outside and walk as much as possible through the buildings. From a computer science point of view, it is difficult to develop computer algorithms that can accomplish the same task in a similar manner.

In the Lab, we are approaching the navigation problem from a fundamental level. Professor Gaborski is collaborating with two scientists at the University of Rochester Medical Center. They have collected data from neurons in the primate's visual cortex's MST (medial superior temporal) region of the brain. This is the region we believe is responsible for our navigation ability. The data collected are the responses of selected neurons when the primate is exposed to motion stimuli that mimic self-motion, like when a person walks down a hallway. The efforts focus on developing computation models that represent the data. By understanding how these neurons behave, we hope to build a navigation system that will allow a robot or a disabled person to navigate through a complex environment.

A related project focuses on the operation of neural circuits in the brain. We have constructed several small networks of general neuron models that show chaotic behavior. By understanding how these circuits behave, we hope to gain insight into the actual neural computational process, allowing us to create complex neural-like circuits. The brain has billions of neurons and billions of interconnections. It is somewhat naïve to think that we can design systems with that type of complexity. Therefore, we are taking the approach of evolving neural circuits using techniques from evolution.



GRAPHIC JOINTLY CREATED BY U OF R RESEARCHERS

Forward translational movement through the environment creates a radial pattern of optic flow that surrounds the moving observer and provides cues about heading direction

The last project involves face recognition. We are social animals and face recognition is very important to us. Although algorithms exist that recognize faces, the capabilities are very limited, requiring the face to be a full frontal view with good lighting. Humans have no difficulty recognizing faces in most conditions. We would like to duplicate that ability. In this project, we are attempting to model the pathways in the brain that are responsible for face recognition.

The Lab has provided students with the opportunity to explore current research areas. These activities have further prepared the students for professional employment or additional graduate studies.

Roger Gaborski / Computer Science

Copyright Corner

Concerned About Student Plagiarism & Other Classroom Dishonesties?

You should be…survey studies on student academic misconduct suggest, "Up to 90% of college students self-report to some cheating behaviors" (C. Hughes & McCabe 2006). These statistics are one of the myriad polls, surveys, perceptions, and related quotes by academicians.

Dean Harvey Palmer, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, determined to surmount academic dishonesty statistics, recently implemented an all college program to infuse ethics into the engineering curriculum and classroom, including a review of faculty roles and responsibilities. Faculty were required to attend the two (1 hour) sessions program.

Upcoming at FITL 2009, there are two activities addressing these issues. On May 27th, a poster session will be presented by library staff, Susan Mee and Linette Koren, on high-tech cheating. They will point out various online "how to cheat" sources where students can actually witness how to use techniques on these sites to hone their cheating skills. The session is live 10-11am, with posters remaining for viewing that day.

On May 28th, 9-11am, Paul Craig (COS/Chemistry), Lee Twyman (Ombudsperson), and Marianne Buehler (Publishing & Scholarship Support Services), will present on getting a grip on academic dishonesty by: identifying and how to respond to classroom cheating, pointing out supportive policies and procedures, provide tips to avoid student cheating and, colleagues will interact in exercises and will learn about tools that might surprise faculty with their effectiveness.

Marianne Buehler / Wallace Library

Students On & Off Campus

Every year RIT implements a variety of surveys to understand the quality of the student experience on campus. However, most of these instruments are

"This survey was different. We empowered our student voices." - Emily Hughes

missing one very important aspect, the student voice.

In an effort to find and harness this voice, a new research project was born. The Division of Student Affairs facilitated a student-authored quality of experience survey. *The Student to Student Survey*, administered in January 2009, was written by a team of students, including major contributions by Emily Hughes, Robert Modzelewski, Nicholas Battista, Francois Steenkamp, Dan Meyers, Xue Zhou Hou, Sha'Kera Bumbray, Noelle Brandemier, and Diego Guzman Valle.

Hopeful about the power this data can have in the hands of decision makers, Saunders College of Business student, Emily Hughes stated, "This survey was different. We empowered our student voices. I look forward to the progress that can be made with students' ownership of these questions and their answers. "The nine major themes studied were sustainability, housing, food, the grading system, quality of education, campus environment, campus resources, RIT policies and procedures, and life at RIT.

What did we learn from the students?

Preliminary analysis of the results demonstrated that:

- 61% say they are aware of what RIT is doing in support of sustainability, but only 32% feel connected to RIT sustainability initiatives.
- 77% believe that their grades are representative of the work they do.
- 88% believe they have developed valuable skills that they will use after graduation.
- 80% said that they are able to receive an appropriate level of care when they need academic, social, or physical help.
- 77% are satisfied with their lives at RIT and 65% would choose to come to RIT again.

What's next?

A summary of the qualitative and quantitative outcomes will be available next fall (2009) through the office of Assessment and Research for Student Affairs.

Nicole Boulais / Student Learning Support

Nearly 20,000 children become too old for foster care each year. Children who are adoptable but are older or have special needs can spend years in foster care.

PHOTO BY OSCAR DURAND

Fabian jumps toward his adopted mother, Natasha B., during a sledding outing at a park near their home.

Finding Family, a collaborative project between RIT's photojournalism program, Children Awaiting Parents, and RIT's New Media Publishing program, is increasing awareness about these children.

Family means different things to different people, yet for these children, there are some common threads: Family means having someone who is connected to you, who knows and cares about you, offers support, and who shares life events and stories.

Each year, the photojournalism senior project students cover a single community topic, collaborating on the planning, research, photography, writing, and story production. The Finding Family website and stories will be introduced to the public at this year's RIT *Imagine Festival*.

Loret Steinberg / Photographic Arts & Sciences

Research Computing Corner

RIT Global Collaboration Grid

A year ago, the Interactive Collaboration Environments Laboratory started the "Building Connected Communities" project with four Access Grid nodes on the RIT campus, two in the Center for Imaging Science, and two in Golisano College.

Today, RIT has a global presence in Kosovo, Croatia, Dubai, and the Dominican Republic, and has major partners both locally and internationally. RIT's growing collaboration grid now totals eleven sites, including three new on-campus sites at NTID's Sprint Relay Lab, Wallace Library's Idea Factory, CAST's McGowan Center, the IT Collaboratory, two off-campus sites in Kosovo and Croatia, and one local partner, Rochester General Health Services.

The ways in which these sites are used vary tremendously, ranging from telemedicine to thesis defense, distance learning to distributed musical performances, guest lectures to grant proposal writing, and government presentations to K-12 outreach.

At least six new sites are proposed to satisfy needs for distance learning, deaf/hard of hearing support, medical training, and research labs.

Advanced collaboration technologies are crucial to insuring that an expanding geographical presence includes easy, real-time, interactive, and a multipoint virtual presence as well.

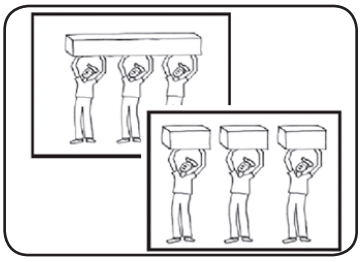
Gurcharan Khanna / Research Computing

Comprehension of English Sentences Containing Quantifiers

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Natural languages employ diverse formations to convey quantificational relationships. Quantifiers serve to specify the numerical values of entities (three students), the extent of involvement of a set of entities *(every student, no students)*, or relative set size *(few students, more students)*. Accurate reading comprehension of sentences expressing quantificational relationships is critical for learning and problem solving in technical fields.

IMAGE BY G. P. BERENT & R. R. KELLY, 2005



Depictions of two possible meanings of the sentence, "Three guys are carrying a box," from the Berent and Kelly picture task

NTID professor Gerald Berent's research focuses on the comprehension of English sentences containing quantifiers by deaf students, hearing students of English as a second language (L2), and hearing native speakers of English. As a consequence of early restricted access to English input, many deaf students face challenges in the acquisition of specific aspects of English. Hearing L2 learners also face such challenges because of cognitive constraints on later language learning. To assess students' English quantifier knowledge, Berent, and department colleague, Ronald Kelly, developed a picture-task methodology that assessed fundamental properties of quantified sentences, including recognition of multiple interpretations.

Because some sentence derivations reflect greater computational complexity than others, they predicted that the deaf students and L2 learners would exhibit lower acceptance than native speakers of derivationally more complex interpretations. For example, the picture task depiction of "A woman is smelling every flower" showing four woman-flower pairs is associated with a more complex semantic derivation than the depiction showing one woman smelling all four flowers. The study's results supported the researchers' learnability predictions and revealed parallel performance by the deaf students and the L2 learners.

This research suggests that the inability to access certain sentence interpretations in technological discourse may compromise text comprehension and negatively affect academic and career success. Educators need to be aware of such "invisible" English challenges for specific populations in order to provide appropriate educational interventions.

Gerald Berent / Research & Teacher Education

Environmental Management Leadership Initiative

College of Applied Science & Technology

The Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management & Safety department's Environmental Management and Technology BS degree and the Environmental, Health and Safety Management MS degree were among the first of their kind in the nation. The faculty, with the input of students, alumni, and advisory board members, have kept these programs on the leading edge of the environmental profession. Now, the faculty are bringing professional environmental managers and students together to: examine the socio-economic systems in which environmental managers work; consider what environmental managers ultimately want to accomplish; more clearly delineate environmental manager roles in the workplace, the community and the world and; set out a path for environmental managers to follow.

PHOTO BY ANNA WILSON

2008 RIT Environmental Management Symposium. From left: EHS Mgmt. grad students, Anju Ann Mathew and Mason Baziw, working with environmental managers from industry

The *Environmental Management Leadership Initiative* was developed by Dr. John Morelli. Its purpose is to create a philosophical home for the profession and a forum for professional environmental managers and students to collaboratively engage in research and discussion to better define and elevate the profession, also moving us toward a more socially responsible and sustainable future. There are two components of the Initiative: the *Environmental Management Leadership Symposia* series and the *EnvironmentalManager.org* website.

Environmental Management Leadership Symposia have been held at RIT, and sites in Budapest and Dubrovnik. Future locations include RIT (May 11 & 12, 2009), Milan and Budapest (June 2009). The Symposia include a series of roundtable workshops in which specified issues are examined from the perspective of the environmental manager with a long-term goal of developing consensus documents representing the position of the profession. Topics are posted on the website at the Collaboratory.

The *EnvironmentalManager.org* website is intended as an international research collaboratory for environmental management practitioners, faculty and students to develop topics and issues to be discussed at the Symposia. It will also host published professional position papers and various other working documents.

John Morelli & Joe Rosenbeck / EHS Management

Team Galt Makes Real Microsystems

Kate Gleason College of Engineering

Dr. Lynn Fuller's research team is integrating (Micro-electromechanical) MEMS sensors with CMOS electronics to make microsystems for a wide variety of applications. Innovative examples of some of the most recent projects include intraocular pressure sensors, specific DNA detection, and sensors for pressure, temperature, acceleration, flow, viscosity, humidity, and chemical compounds. These devices are integrated with analog and digital CMOS circuits, creating a microsystem. Many of these types of sensors have been made before, but the integration of several sensors on one chip is unique. The addition of on-chip signal conditioning to convert the sensor output to an analog or digital signal (that is compatible with a system level microcontroller) is not always available from other MEMS manufacturers. We are excited to see the intense interest in this work. Our team will be busy for years to come.

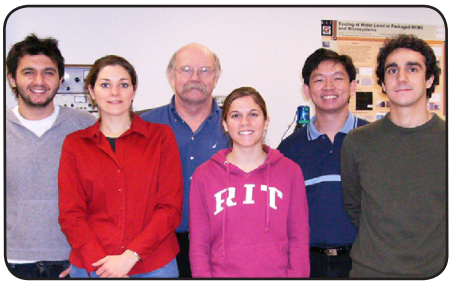


PHOTO BY R LYNN FULLER

Team Galt members: Murat, Ellen, Dr. Fuller, Heidi, Jirachai, and Ivan

Many of our projects are SBIR subcontracts of the Army, Navy, and Air Force through Impact Technologies, LLC of Rochester, NY, a world-class engineering firm. Other sponsors include NIH, NSF, and Eastman Kodak. Today, MEMS devices are found everywhere, including in automobiles, electronic consumer products, and medical devices. The drive to integrate MEMS into a wide variety of applications is key to our work. Team Galt's vision is to develop recognized leadership in the area of microsystems, which is the integration of MEMS with CMOS electronics.

Research is a learning experience and an opportunity to teach and problem-solve for all involved. Currently, our research team is called "Team Galt" after John Galt, a fictitious character in Ayn Rand's 1957 classic novel, *Atlas Shrugged*. John Galt was an engineer who challenged his contemporaries to rise above mediocrity and to think outside the box. The question, "Who is John Galt?" is posed to express frustration over being stuck with the commonplace and the answer is ultimately the spirit of challenging and rising above expectations.

Lynn Fuller / Microsystems

The Effect of Naturalism on National Identities

College of Liberal Arts

We are always searching for a unifying vision that will give us a sense of cohesion and stability. Ideologies provide us with such a vision, as they clearly define our role within the community to which we belong. Late 19th century France was a place of great political, social, and religious disarray. Three consecutive revolutions had shaken the political foundations of the country and the young republic was perceived as an alienating power, lacking in fundamental allegiance to the people of France. Anti-clericalism was on the rise, coexisting with an infatuation for alternate spiritual practices. Literary movements and doctrines were flourishing, seeking to formalize a suitable discourse for a soulless society.

PHOTO BY MARIANNE BUEHLER

Phillippe Chavasse researching theoretical patterns and their effect on the global community

Based on observation of social milieu with the scientific pretense of studying human specimens through fictional characters in order to determine specific traits of human physiology, naturalism attempted to capture through literature the essence of a period and deliver a founding vision for the future. Conceptualized by French novelist, Emile Zola, naturalism had a profound influence on the French-speaking world, providing marginal voices with a universalist message and a new medium of expression.

Focusing on the late 19th to early 20th century, I examine the impact of Zola's theories in Belgium, Quebec, and Haiti. I argue that naturalism was instrumental in the formation of national identities. I have published several articles on this subject, and am currently working on a manuscript tentatively titled, *The Pure and the Impure: Naturalism in Belgium, Quebec, and Haiti.*

Beyond contrasting the specific traits of naturalist novels from Belgium, Quebec, and Haiti, the focus of my study is to determine the contribution of naturalism to the awakening of a nationalist sentiment in these parts of the French-speaking-world as they were about to experience major artistic and cultural transformations. Ultimately, I hope to demonstrate that this theoretical pattern offers a reflection on the imagined communities that continue to shape our world today and can be perceived as an affirmation of the necessary diversity of a global community comprising a multiplicity of woven cultures, nations, and identities.

Phillippe Chavasse / Foreign Languages

Scholarship @R·I·T

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ARTWORK BY BRIAN SHAPIRO

Purchase at: http://www.lulu.com/content/4524694

SEARCH FOR EXPRESSION: The Life and Art of Brian Shapiro

In 1960, I was entered into a city-wide scholarship competition by Benjamin Franklin High School for a full scholarship to RIT, which I successfully won. My life at that time was chaotic and often reckless. When the results of the competition were announced, I realized that I was being given a chance to change course, and make a productive life for myself in the world of art. I made the decision to dedicate my life to art and have worked hard to live a creative and balanced life ever since. RIT gave me the tools to do so all those many years ago. I still remember the new life I began at RIT, where I was introduced to the world of art. Each class was exciting to me and the enthusiasm I experienced then has never left. The basics I learned at RIT allowed me to apply for, and receive, a scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago, where my RIT training was invaluable. Both my BFA and MFA were based on this training. Several people from RIT were helpful in publishing my book, on which I worked with my editor for several years. This connection seems appropriate, as it completes a circle begun 49 years ago. The book contains 145 pages and is illustrated with 240 images of artwork created continuously over five decades.

OPENBOOK @R·I·T

Brian Shapiro / RIT Alum '62

RIT Digital Media Library

A New Look for the DML

The Digital Media Library (DML) will undergo a summer makeover during the next few months. The new look will include changes to the DML's interface and will provide upgraded features to better meet the needs of visitors and users. Once complete, the new design will separate the DML into three areas. The RIT Scholars portal will provide access to material associated with RIT scholarship and research. The second portal will be RIT Docs, hosting internal RIT documents such as meeting minutes. The third area will be the Digital Archive. This will store special collections of archival materials, such as retro issues of the *Reporter Magazine*, newsletters, etc. An improved navigation structure will make finding information quick and efficient. Additionally, the new homepage will also feature links to recent submissions and a document highlights section that will provide scrollable thumbnail images of publications.

R·I·T Digital Media Library

http://ritdml.rit.edu

Screenshot of Digital Media Library design upgrades

Another addition to the DML homepage is the addition of a link to the RIT Pub Central database. The database, which has over four thousand submissions, was created by the Wallace Libraries as a bibliographical listing of all RIT faculty and staff research, exhibitions, films, book chapters, etc. Currently, authors who submit to RIT Pub Central will be contacted for permission to add a full text record of their scholarship to the DML.

Nick Paulus / Wallace Library