

RIT

University Magazine

Spring 2019



Tackling social, medical and conservation problems

Ways we are doing good
around the world

Also inside:

RIT Venture Fund
helps turn ideas
into businesses



RIT University Magazine

Executive Editors

Lisa Cauda, Development and Alumni Relations
Bob Finnerty '07 MS, Marketing and Communications
Deborah M. Stendardi,
Government and Community Relations
John Trierweiler, Marketing and Communications

Editor

Mindy Mozer, Marketing and Communications

Art Director

Jeff Arbogast '93 MS, Marketing and Communications

Photography Editor

Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito '07

Contributing Editors

Kim Slusser, Development and Alumni Relations
Cindy Sobieraj, Development and Alumni Relations

Photographers

Elizabeth Lamark '00, Marketing and Communications
A. Sue Weisler '93 MS, Marketing and Communications

Writers: Marketing and Communications

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS	Rich Kiley
Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA	Greg Livadas
Michelle Cometa '00	Vienna McGrain '12 MS
Susan Gawlowicz '95	Ellen Rosen

Copy Editor

Marie Lang, Marketing and Communications

Print Production

Brenda Monahan, Marketing and Communications

Marketing and Communications

University Communications
22 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5608
Voice: 585-475-5064
Fax: 585-475-5097
Email: umag@rit.edu

Office of Alumni Relations

Crossroads 41 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5603
Voice: 585-475-ALUM, Toll Free: 866-RIT-ALUM
TTY: 585-475-2764, Fax: 585-475-5308
Email: ritalum@rit.edu

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, publishes RIT University Magazine. RIT does not discriminate. RIT promotes and values diversity within its workforce and provides equal opportunity to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, creed, age, marital status, sex, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, veteran status, or disability.

Vol. 21, No. 1, 126M-P2362-4/2019-LANE-JSA
Printer: The Lane Press, Burlington, Vermont
© 2019 Rochester Institute of Technology
All rights reserved

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Serving the greater good

We shape the future and improve the world through creativity and innovation. As an engaged, intellectually curious, and socially conscious community, we leverage the power of technology, the arts, and design for the greater good.

RIT vision and mission, 2018-2025 Strategic Plan



Our university isn't like any other. RIT strives to be distinctive, to do things in our own way. That mentality of uniqueness is baked into our university, as we have no

interest in the status quo.

In November, the RIT Board of Trustees approved the university's new strategic plan—Greatness Through Difference: 2018-2025. The approved plan, along with a new vision and mission that capture who we are and who we plan to be, is now available at rit.edu/strategicplan.

Greatness Through Difference is the product of 14 months of collaborative planning throughout the RIT community. Its 25 goals support four critical dimensions: People, Programs, Places and Partnerships. The animating theme of the plan is innovation—the pivotal innovation that can only be achieved through harnessing the power residing within the intersection of RIT's core strengths of technology, the arts and design. In the RIT context, "innovation" is not about novelty or originality; it is about leveraging these signature strengths to produce graduates in every discipline capable of practicing transformative change that serves the greater good.

How are we doing this?

We are supplementing our classroom and online teaching with experiential and interdisciplinary learning, which ranges from paid cooperative education positions with startup and Fortune 500 companies to international experiences. On the global front, we are expanding our influence with strategic partnerships and overseas

learning opportunities at our campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

RIT prides itself in preparing our graduates to be citizens of the world. That means preparing our students not just for jobs and careers, but also for life. Today's world needs people who know how to create and innovate, analyze and implement, collaborate and lead.

Creativity begins with people, and at RIT we have an unusual assembly of exceptional individuals. Just take a look at pages 20-29 for examples of RIT Tigers doing good around the world.

You'll meet, among many others, Sabina Ismailova '13 (telecommunications engineering technology), who is helping children with disabilities in Kazakhstan. And Associate Professor Marcos Esterman, who with senior engineering students is helping at-risk residents of a Cali, Colombia, neighborhood develop marketable skills in fields like advanced manufacturing and agricultural technology. Elizabeth Bondi '16 (imaging science) is using her education to take action against elephant and rhino poachers in Botswana.

From Rochester to Honduras to Ghana to Tanzania, RIT alumni, students, faculty and staff are making a difference.

Now that's Tiger pride.

Sincerely,

David C. Munson Jr., President
munson@rit.edu
Twitter: @RITPresident

P.S. We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 27, when nearly 400 exhibits will be on display at our signature Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival.

RIT

University Magazine

Spring 2019



Photo by Kristen Denninger Snyder

Cover

Kristen Denninger Snyder '10 (environmental science) is opening a center in Tanzania to protect wildlife and promote conservation. This elephant, Meru, is wearing a GPS device so researchers can better understand her behavior.



2

RIT Esports is joining a national collegiate league and moving into a new esports lounge.



10

RIT research is helping North American river otters survive in the wild and be content in captivity.



20

A professor and engineering students are empowering citizens of Cali, Colombia. One of eight stories showing how RIT is doing good in the world.

Departments

- 2 On Campus
- 6 About Students
- 8 Student Work
- 10 Research
- 32 Alumni Updates
- 38 Class Notes
- 40 Tiger Love
- 42 Tiger Cubs
- 48 Archives

Features

12

Entrepreneurial ecosystem

The RIT Venture Fund helps turn ideas into businesses.

16

Online education

From MicroMaster to RIT master — how learners are advancing their skills and careers.

20

RIT doing good around the world

Alumni, students, faculty and staff are making a difference.

30

Faculty profile

Meet Hamad Ghazle, who has taught hundreds of sonography students.



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

First-year applied mathematics student Brandon Lai practices with his esports team. RIT Esports is joining the Electronic Gaming Federation and will have a new on-campus space for competitions. About 1,200 community members are involved with esports, including intramurals and recreational.

Esports levels up with new national league

RIT Esports is moving up a level, joining a national collegiate league commissioned by the Electronic Gaming Federation and moving into a new space the university is designating for esports competitions.

The esports industry is continuing to grow worldwide, with more than 300 million people engaging in electronic sports video games from the professional to the amateur level. On college campuses, student teams and programs are forming to represent their universities.

The Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF) works similar to an NCAA for esports. EGF will build on the model used in traditional sports to govern a collegiate league, which includes competitive seasons for different esports.

EGF was founded by RIT alumnus Tyler Schrodtt.

"Being able to add RIT as a member of EGF is one of my proudest moments, and I can't think of a better university to help forge this path with," said Schrodtt '13 (finance and international business), '15 (MBA). "It's great to see the university taking this growing group seriously and supporting them."

RIT Esports currently has about 130 people playing in 14 different esports. The university has won three national championships in the games *Dota 2*, *Dropzone* and *Rainbow Six: Siege*. Esports players have also received more than \$22,000 worth of prize money in tournaments.

To better support these RIT teams, the university is adding a new esports lounge in remodeled space on the first floor of Institute Hall.

"This will be a premier place for esports students to compete with the biggest

and best schools in the world," said Chad Weeden, assistant director of RIT's School of Interactive Games and Media and adviser for RIT Esports. "Top collegiate esports students can come to RIT to compete at a high level in something they love, while earning a great degree in anything from engineering to graphic design."

The lounge will be equipped with six gaming machines, gaming chairs, headsets and keyboards for specific games and player-types. It will also feature a coaching space and production station for the students in charge of helping direct the teams during gameplay. The Davis Room in the Student Alumni Union will also be outfitted with equipment to host larger esports events.

To learn more, go to esportsrit.com.

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Do you know this RIT slang?

Every generation has its own additions to the English language. From having a blast in the '50s to living your best life today, slang vocabulary is always evolving.

We asked RIT students what slang they use today. Take this quiz to test your knowledge of this generation's slang terms.

Felicia Swartzenberg '19

1

You failed your test and your friend tells you, "big oof." Your friend is—

- A. Laughing at you because you failed
- B. Making fun of the professor
- C. Empathizing with you

2

If someone refers to the RIT Weather Machine, they are talking about—

- A. The Quarter Mile
- B. *The Sentinel*
- C. The Zamboni in the Gene Polissen Center

3

Your friend is eating chicken wings and says, "this slaps!" Your friend is saying—

- A. The wings are really good.
- B. The wings are really gross.
- C. The wings are really spicy.

4

If friends are taking part in HVZ, they are—

- A. Participating in an experiment in a lab
- B. Attending a group video game session
- C. Playing themed tag on campus

Answers:

- 1. **C**—"Big oof" is akin to the phrases "that sucks," "sorry that happened" or "too bad."
- 2. **B**—Students like to joke that former RIT President Bill Destler (and now President David Munson) use the tall sculpture *The Sentinel* to control the weather on campus.
- 3. **A**—When something "slaps," it is really great.
- 4. **C**—Humans vs. Zombies (HVZ) is a live-action game of themed tag using Nerf guns.

In Brief

Moving up

RIT is now listed as a "high research activity institution" or "R2" under the updated Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning.

The R2 designation puts RIT among the top 6 percent of colleges and universities in the nation, those conferring at least 20 research/scholarship doctorates annually and spending a minimum \$5 million a year on research.

Photonics for quantum

Nearly 200 scientists and engineers developing cutting-edge quantum technology shared their latest breakthroughs at the Photonics for Quantum Workshop at RIT in January.

The conference was held in response to a congressional imperative to accelerate quantum research. Speakers from the National Science Foundation, NASA, AIM Photonics, national laboratories, industry and academia discussed quantum technology development in five main applications—computing, communication, imaging, sensing and clocks.

Don Figer, director of RIT's Future Photon Initiative, said RIT is in a unique position to help usher in the new wave of quantum technologies because of its multidisciplinary emphasis and exceptional faculty and students.

Figer said another conference is planned for the summer of 2020.

Production set for April

In preparation for a future production featuring new and innovative technologies in lighting, sound, special effects and mixed reality, the College of Liberal Arts will be presenting a staged reading of an original science-fiction play, *AI-Pollo*, by COLA Theater Program Director David Munnell.

Three performances are planned April 26-28 in RIT's new MAGIC Spell Studios building. Students from COLA, College of Art and Design, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and Kate Gleason College of Engineering are collaborating on the multidisciplinary effort. For details on the free performance, go to rit.edu/theatrearts.





Brainpower

Fourth-year students Rockella Caporale, applied arts and sciences, and Andrew Hennis, biomedical sciences, work together to identify parts of a model brain during an advanced clinical neuroanatomy class. The class, an elective offered by the biomedical sciences program, enables students to later learn on a cadaver, which heightens the quality of education for all health majors.

About Students



Student Hailey Sanidad, kneeling, monitors sensors while members of Reynolds Battery fire a cannon at Genesee Country Village & Museum. Students are creating a protocol to keep the buildings safe from cannon fire.

Photos by Lydia Palmer

Engineering students help bring cannon

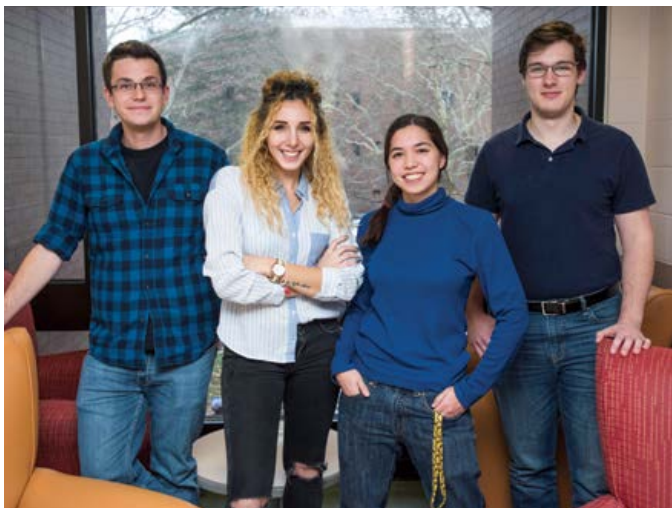


Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Four fifth-year engineering students are putting some fire back into historical reenactments at a country museum near campus.

Every July the Genesee Country Village & Museum in

From left: Fifth-year students Dylan Corbin, mechanical engineering; Dilan Koc, industrial and systems engineering; Hailey Sanidad, mechanical engineering; and Miles Bain, mechanical engineering, worked on a plan to protect a museum's historical buildings when a cannon is fired.

Mumford, N.Y., hosts a Civil War Encampment, which draws hundreds of infantry, cavalry and artillery reenactors. A highlight of the weekend used to be a town battle around the museum's 68 historic structures.

But in 2015, the museum stopped firing cannons in the historic village because the black powder charges appeared to be damaging the windows and plaster of the buildings.

"One of the reasons reenactors enjoy coming here is the opportunity to skirmish within



Student Dylan Corbin uses sensors to monitor the vibration of windows during cannon fire so the team can assess potential damage.



The multidisciplinary senior design team measured and photographed the windowpanes. The goal is to safely reintroduce cannon fire this summer.

fire back to museum

Watch

To see a video, go to bit.ly/RITGCMV.

the historic village,” said Peter Wisbey, the curator of collections at the museum. “To be able to move amongst a historic village is really a unique perspective for a reenactor.”

The museum wanted to reintroduce cannon fire but needed a plan to protect the 100- to 200-year-old structures. They looked to RIT’s multidisciplinary senior design students from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

“We aren’t focusing on a physical product,” said mechanical engineering student Hailey

Sanidad. “Authenticity is our main goal.”

To help reintroduce cannon fire for the reenactments this summer, the students are identifying the cause of the damage and creating a best practices procedure to protect the buildings while maintaining authenticity.

Mechanical engineering student Dylan Corbin said the experience has been invaluable.

“The communication aspect of working with other disciplines has a lot of direct real-world application,” said Corbin.

“Having that experience before I even start my career is great.”

Industrial and systems engineering major Dilan Koc also emphasized the value of communication.

“I try to explain our ideas to our clients in a language they understand,” Koc said. “Our audience is not engineers, so we need to change our language and our perspective to communicate well with them.”

In addition to improving their skills in communication, this project also provides students with unique problem-

solving opportunities.

“It’s very different from a class project where you are given a problem and you solve it with a defined process,” said Miles Bain, a mechanical engineering student.

“All of us will graduate with the necessary technical skills, but it’s going to be the non-technical, soft skills that will separate us in the workplace. Having those skills makes the difference between a good engineer and a great engineer.”

Felicia Swartzenberg ’19

Student Work



Photo by Elizabeth Lemark

This sculpture, made by fine arts studio major Levi Cassidy Cooper, is being displayed on the RIT campus near the entrance to the Vignelli Center for Design Studies.

Why I created this sculpture

I've always been quite existential and extremely considerate in my interactions with the world. Feeling so deeply, and expressing so intensely, becomes exhausting if there is no digestion and energy that's released back to me. Art allows the courage to give up trying, to move confidently through the void, embracing the fear of success.

"FIELD was created and installed at RIT in the spring of 2018. With guidance and support from Professor Elizabeth Kronfield, I committed over 250 hours of welding and fabricating steel. The sculpture represents the electromagnetic toroidal energy field that all life generates.

"This energy body can be felt between humans when they are close enough to share or blend this 'personal' space. While sometimes we are drawn closer and other times we resist, everything vibrates at a

frequency that resonates and responds to other vibrations.

"The point of this sculpture is to address the energy fields that we are all very familiar with, subconsciously. Furthermore, by stepping inside and pausing for a few moments, giving in to the moment and breathing deeply, it becomes a sort of personal grounding machine. It vibrates in response to touch, it dances with the elements of nature and interacts with life as we do, as all art does."

Levi Cassidy Cooper

Fine arts studio BFA
(now called studio arts)
Class of 2020
Hometown: Dansville, N.Y.



I am **RIT** for Life

Connected. Engaged. Involved.

These alumni embody the spirit of *RIT for Life*. They give of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure Tiger Pride extends beyond campus and you can too! Attend an alumni event, mentor a student, give to the area of RIT that means the most to you—be *RIT for Life*.



Dave Gallagher '91

“RIT’s reputation allowed me to get my foot in the door and its education allowed me to succeed, which is why I continue to be *RIT for Life* and give back to the university.”



Becky Brubaker '93

“As a student, I knew then the prestige of RIT. What I have later learned is the great power that has come from reconnecting and seeing how much RIT continues to transform the lives of many. My reconnection, 15 years after graduation, has strengthened the pride I have in exponential ways. It’s an honor to be *RIT for Life* and give back.”

**Denishea '04 and
Orlando '04, MBA '08 Ortiz**

“RIT led us to find our purposes. We had great opportunities and we want current and future students to have even greater ones. This is why we give back. We give back to help Tigers change the world, to set the standard, to be boundless at every opportunity. This is why we are *RIT for Life*.”



rit.edu/alumni

RIT | Alumni Association

© 2019 Rochester Institute of Technology. All rights reserved.
Rochester Institute of Technology | One Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, New York 14623

Research will help river otters survive in the wild

Caroline DeLong, associate professor of psychology, is conducting research with river otters at the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester. The research will help zoos better care for the river otters.

Research involving North American river otters based at a zoo in Rochester has concluded that the aquatic mammals can visually discriminate between two-dimensional objects and detect differences in shapes and colors.

"That is a significant finding because otters may use visual object recognition to detect predators and prey," said Caroline DeLong, an associate professor of psychology at RIT, who started doing otter research at the Seneca Park Zoo in 2010.

The research, which also proved the first preliminary behavioral evidence for color vision in North American river otters, was published in the journal *Learning and Behavior* and a short video of the otters during their testing was produced by the BBC.

DeLong said the research is helping otters survive in the future in nature. River otters practically disappeared from western New York for decades, as their habitat in and along the Genesee River had them clashing with predators, including humans hunting them for their fur. In the 1990s, the state Department of Environmental Conservation, with support from Seneca Park Zoo, captured them in the Adirondacks and repopulated them in western New York.

"They would get caught in beaver traps, run over by cars ... their habitat disappears when they clash with humans," DeLong said. "The more that we know about their visual perception, the better we can do in future preservation efforts."

DeLong said the findings "can also assist us to better take care of them in zoos. Otters need enriching activities when under human care."

As a result of her findings, DeLong is continuing otter research with two other studies: One is whether otters have the ability to classify shapes into different categories (such as being able to tell the difference between circles and triangles if

they are in various forms); and one study will determine whether otters look at items in a global perspective or a local one—the question of whether one sees "the forest or the trees."

The new research, which continues into 2019, is supported by a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Grant to support student research from the Department of Psychology and the College of Liberal Arts.

Catina Wright, the primary zoo keeper who cares for the otters at the zoo, was also instrumental in the research project by training the otters—named Heather and Sailor—to target on the stimuli, giving them gestures, talking to them and pointing to the place where the otters start the trials, and rewarding them by giving them a fish when they succeed.

The original study was supported by grants from the River Otter Alliance Foundation and the Milwaukee branch of the American Association of Zookeepers, as well as support from RIT's College of Liberal Arts and its Department of Psychology.

"This study took us about seven years to complete. It was a major research effort," DeLong said. "And there's almost nothing out there on the perceptual and cognitive abilities of North American river otters. There are very few scientists conducting research on North American river otters."

RIT graduate students Irene Fobe '17 (experimental psychology), Kenneth Tyler Wilcox '13 (psychology), '17 MS (applied statistics) and Evan Morrison, who expects to graduate this spring with a degree in experimental psychology, also participated in the research, as well as numerous undergraduate students from DeLong's Comparative Cognition and Perception Lab who assisted in running the research sessions.

Greg Livadas

Transforming RIT

RIT publicly launched a \$1 billion blended campaign last July called Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness. A pillar of the campaign, which is the largest fundraising effort in RIT's history, calls for the university to improve the world through research and discovery. To learn more, go to rit.edu/transformingrit.



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette DeVito



I have always felt like the Venture Fund investors are like our guardians. They provided us with terrific support and a home base in Rochester that we could always come back to if we needed it."

Kailey Bradt '15 (chemical engineering)
'18 MS (product development)

RIT Venture Fund helps turn ideas into businesses

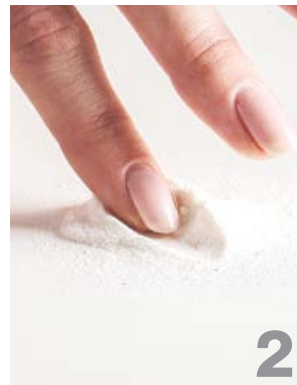


OWA HAIRCARE™

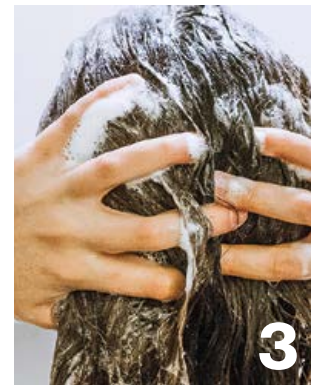
OWA (Out of this World Amazing) Haircare is headquartered in Manhattan. The waterless shampoo will be available this spring.



Encountering the inconvenience of traveling with many bottles of liquid haircare, OWA founder Kailey Bradt sought alternatives to conventional hair products.



OWA's sustainable haircare products are sourced from naturally-derived ingredients free of sulfates, parabens, silicones, and artificial color and fragrance.



The line of powder hair wash hydrates with water to form ready-to-use products.

Kailey Bradt '15 (chemical engineering), '18 MS (product development) had an idea for a waterless, powder shampoo that could change the way the world looks at haircare.

When she needed funding to get her company, OWA (Out of this World Amazing) Haircare, off the ground, she got it from her alma mater.

Launched in 2012, the RIT Venture Fund invests in early-stage, high-growth companies founded by students, faculty, staff, alumni and RIT Venture Creations client companies in fields that complement RIT's core academic competencies.

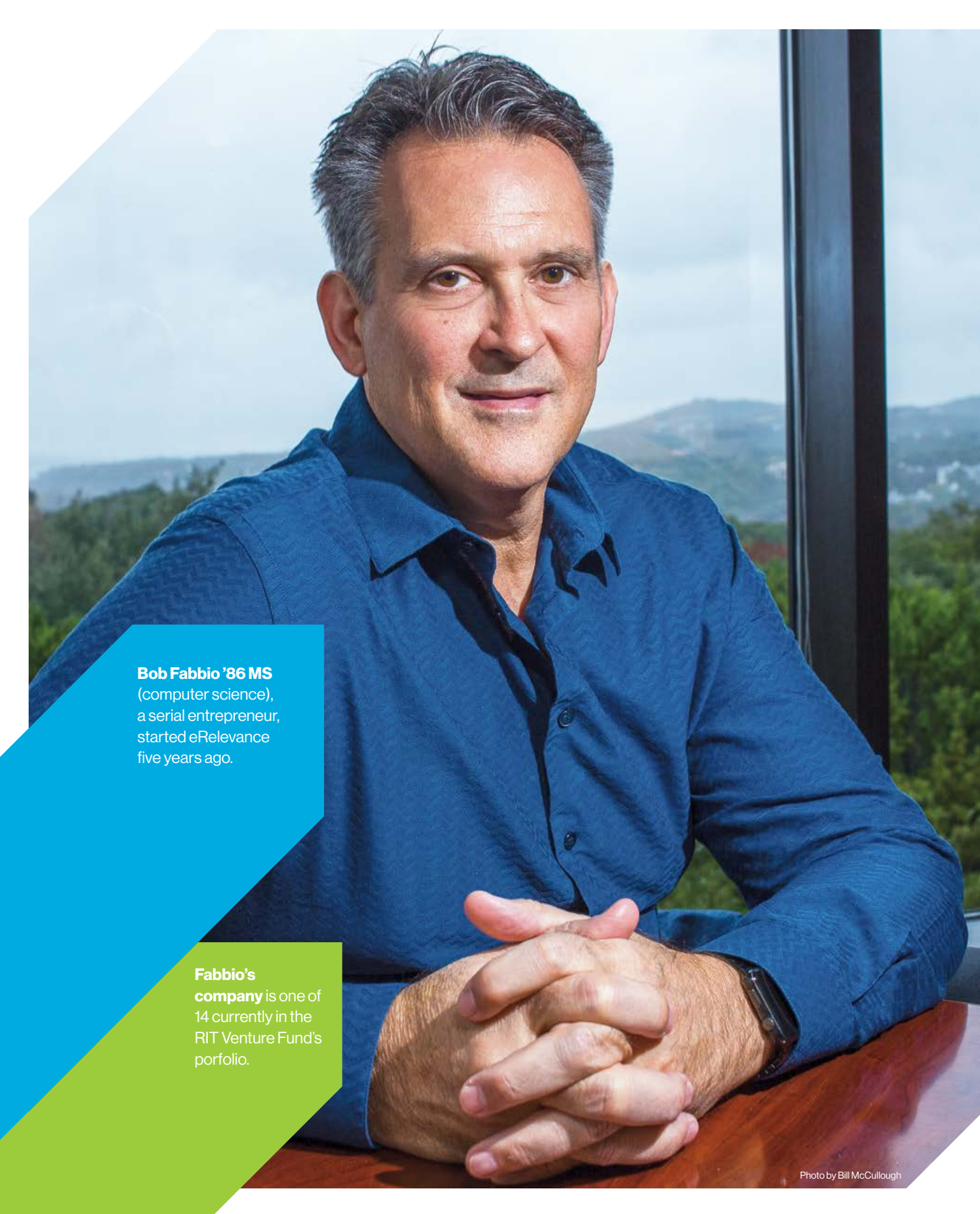
From block chain and clean-energy technology to telecommunications, manufacturing and game development, the Venture Fund looks to create industry diversity and

a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

With the Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Intellectual Property Management Office, Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, RIT Venture Creations technology business incubator, and the RIT Venture Fund, RIT is committed to providing an innovative environment where makers and doers flourish.

"Typically, this early investment is the hardest money to raise, and we understand that," said James Watters, RIT senior vice president for Finance and Administration, treasurer and chief investment officer for RIT Venture Fund. "There are a lot of solid, marketable ideas out there, and RIT is fortunate to be able to help our growing community of entrepreneurs around the world."

The fund typically invests between

A portrait of Bob Fabbio, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt. He is sitting at a wooden table with his hands clasped, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a view of a valley with green hills and a cloudy sky, seen through a large window. The image has a white diagonal graphic element in the top left corner.

Bob Fabbio '86 MS
(computer science),
a serial entrepreneur,
started eRelevance
five years ago.

**Fabbio's
company** is one of
14 currently in the
RIT Venture Fund's
portfolio.



eRelevance helps small companies generate more business from current customers and prospects. The company is based in Austin, Texas.

\$100,000 and \$250,000 in select start-ups. And, as with other venture capital arrangements, RIT receives an equity in exchange for the financial support.

However, unlike most other venture capital firms, the RIT Venture Fund is an “ever-green” fund, meaning all of the investment gains are re-invested into new start-ups.

eRelevance

Bob Fabbio '86 MS (computer science) was part of the Venture Fund's initial consultation team just prior to launching five years ago. Today, Fabbio's Austin-based eRelevance is one of 14 companies currently in the fund's portfolio.

His company provides a tech-enabled service to small businesses, which are spending money on digital ads that convert leads into customers.

Fabbio's company captures the leads with software they developed and markets to potential customers across multiple digital channels to keep their interest while contacting them through an automated call center to convert customer inquiries into business.

As a result, eRelevance's service is increasing its customers' lead-conversion rates by up to 400 percent.

Fabbio started his business working with clients in the elective health care industry. He has since branched out to include real estate firms, law and accounting firms and HVAC companies, boasting more than 1,700 clients throughout the United States and Canada.

Fabbio is quick to add that being a serial entrepreneur—he has seven other start-ups under his belt—doesn't guarantee success.

“The folks at RIT have all been very supportive of entrepreneurship, and I truly appreciate the financial support they have provided eRelevance,” he added. “They're an easy bunch to work with, and my intention is to continue to stay involved and connected to RIT for as long as they'll have me.”

Along on the journey

Bradt's OWA Haircare, which received funding in May of 2018, is headquartered in Manhattan but will ship its products from Rochester. The patent-pending shampoo is naturally derived and environmentally friendly and underwent years of testing before hitting the market.

“I have always felt like the Venture Fund investors are like our guardians,” Bradt said. “They provided us with terrific support and a home base in Rochester that we could always come back to if we needed it. It means so much to have the RIT Venture Fund come along on this journey with our team.”

And what a journey it has been. Bradt has exhibited her product in competitions and pitched to other potential investors all over the world, from Los Angeles to New York to Paris. OWA is accepting orders through owahaircare.com and plans to expand to retail stores by the end of this year.

“RIT has always been ahead of the game when it comes to investing in our community members,” added Watters. “We are thrilled with how our companies have grown and we look forward to expanding our portfolio in the coming years.”

Vienna McGrain '12 MS

To learn more

Over the past three years, the portfolio of RIT Venture Fund companies has increased to 14, and it will continue to add start-ups in expanding industries such as machine learning, cybersecurity and robotics. The start-ups must adhere to criteria, including having capable management teams, the ability to prove significant market opportunity and distinct advantages over industry competitors. To learn more, go to rit.edu/venturefund.

From MicroMaster to RIT master

Emily Parana began instructing computing classes as an adjunct professor at University of Pittsburgh at Bradford a few years ago and immediately caught the teaching bug.

She decided that if she wanted to continue teaching, she needed to hone her cybersecurity skills and earn a master's degree. However, between her current job as a technical analyst II at the college, having two young children at home and living in the small town of Bradford, Pa., she needed a flexible online option.

After some research, she discovered RIT's fully-online master's program in computing security. She was also introduced to RITx—a partnership that RIT has with the nonprofit online learning platform edX.

RIT was one of the first universities to offer a MicroMasters program on edX. This new graduate-level learning opportunity would allow Parana to try a few online offerings with RIT instructors and earn a RITx MicroMasters certificate in cybersecurity. She would then have the chance to take it a step further and apply that certificate toward earning an accelerated and reduced-cost master's degree from RIT.

"I'm funding this all on my own, so I feel the investment of every cent and want to absorb as much knowledge as I can," said Parana, who completed the MicroMasters program in 2018. "It's been a great, flexible transition back into being a student."

MicroMasters programs are designed for learners with an undergraduate degree who

are looking to advance their careers and learn new skills. Learners who successfully earn an RITx MicroMasters certificate may apply for admission to the RIT program that offers a pathway to credit aligned with their certificate. If accepted, students may be awarded nine credit hours toward their graduate degree requirements—which typically take about 30 credits to complete.

Since RITx launched MicroMasters programs in Project Management and Cybersecurity in 2017, more than 500 people have completed a certificate. RITx also launched a Design Thinking MicroMasters program in 2018, which the first learners will complete in April. As a result of this edX partnership, more than 200 people have applied to RIT master's programs, with many now starting to matriculate.

"Our partnership with edX has surpassed our expectations," said Thérèse Hannigan, director of RIT Online. "We have increased visibility and introduced the RIT brand to hundreds of thousands of learners worldwide. In addition to recruiting students for RIT, working with this global platform has inspired pedagogical explorations, online delivery innovations and collaborations with prestigious universities which include MIT, Berkeley, Harvard and more."

Mastering your skills

Since becoming an instructor on edX, RIT computing security senior lecturer Jonathan S. Weissman has gone from teaching 100 students a year to more than 100,000.

Once **Emily Parana** earns a master's degree in computing security this July, she will put that degree to work as an adjunct professor teaching in Pennsylvania. Parana got a jumpstart on her RIT master's degree by completing the RITx Cybersecurity MicroMasters program early last year.

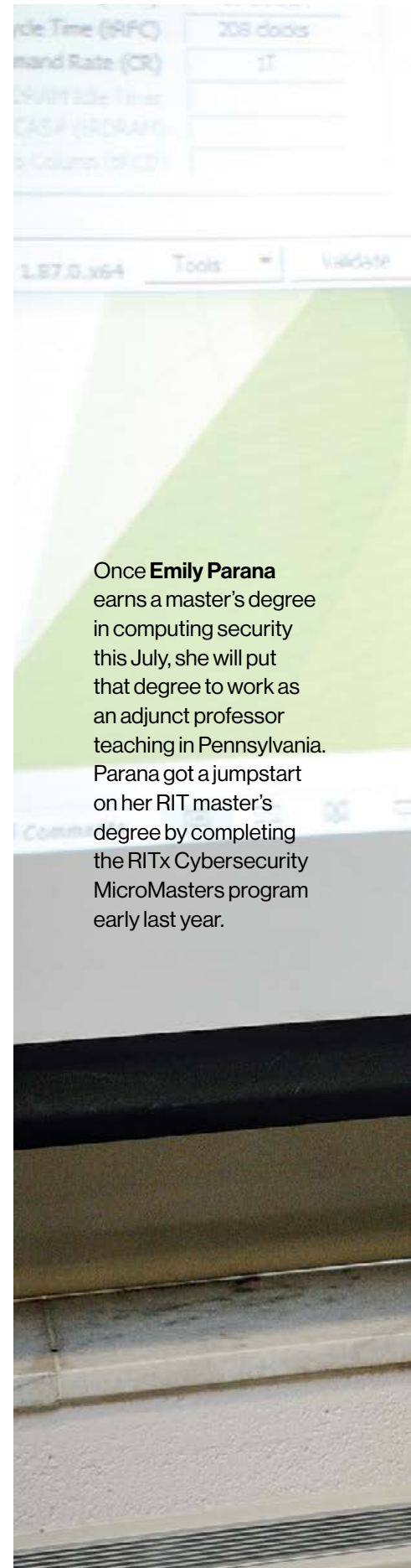




Photo by Glenn Melvin



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

Jonathan S. Weissman, senior lecturer in computing security, teaches more than 100,000 students each year in his online classes. He was nominated as a finalist for the edX Prize for Exceptional Contributions in Online Teaching and Learning for his offerings in the Cybersecurity MicroMasters program.



To date, more than half a million people from around the world have enrolled in RIT's three MicroMasters programs on edX.

His eight-week Cybersecurity Fundamentals, Network Security and capstone offerings in the Cybersecurity MicroMasters program feature lecture videos, discussion forums, quizzes, labs, assignments and readings. He sees this as an opportunity to be accessible to even more learners, especially since he's now connected on LinkedIn with more than 5,000 of them.

"Every day I read, post and discuss dozens of cybersecurity articles, since it's one of the many ways to stay current with the cybersecurity industry," said Weissman. "As I say in all of my classes 'Once a student of mine, always a student of mine.'"

Parana said that she can tell how much time Weissman puts into his teaching.

She took MicroMasters offerings with

Weissman and has even taken classes with him again, as part of the RIT computing security master's degree that she'll complete this summer.

Pathway to credit

Kathrine Ehrlich-Scheffer always wanted to go back to school to earn her master's degree, but she was never exactly sure where to start.

As director of the Women in Engineering program at RIT and a mother, she knew that she wanted to try online classes. However, the idea was a little unnerving, since the modern internet wasn't even a thing the last time she took college courses. Then she learned about RITx and the MicroMasters program.



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

Kathrine Ehrlich-Scheffer is following a new pathway to get an RIT master's degree through the RITx MicroMasters program on edX. The program allows her to do the schoolwork from her kitchen table at home in Hilton, N.Y.

"I knew this was a low-risk way to dip my toe in, try online graduate classes and learn something new," said Ehrlich-Scheffer, who is now working on a professional studies master's degree at RIT. "And at \$150 per class, the edX courses were so affordable I thought it was almost criminal not to do it."

Ehrlich-Scheffer navigated her way through the online learning environment and now has a MicroMasters certificate hanging on her office wall. Using that certificate, she is also well on her way to earning new academic regalia and a master's degree.

"It's a learning process and I think that anyone who has the desire to work toward a master's degree should try at least one whole online course to figure out the rhythm," said Ehrlich-Scheffer.



Mike Barcomb, a program director at IBM, has been able to work on his MicroMasters program offerings on the go—whether he's at home in Massachusetts or on a work project in Europe.

Mike Barcomb, program director of X-Force Incident Command at IBM, has also found the MicroMasters program flexible, yet technically demanding.

Barcomb discovered the certificate from a co-worker's LinkedIn page and began to research it. He has since completed two offerings and found that the self-paced learning is a good fit for his busy life.

"It's also been a great way to sharpen my skills and find new ways to be more productive at my job," said Barcomb, who is also a retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel. "My goal is to someday call myself an RIT alumnus, so I'm going to continue taking this path one step at a time."

Scott Bureau '11, '16 MBA

Q&A

How does a MicroMasters program work?

There are typically four or five online offerings in the program, culminating with a final capstone experience. When starting an offering, there is an option to pay a fee to earn a verified certificate of completion. Learners may audit content for free, just to learn something new. When a learner successfully completes a verified certificate for all parts of a program, they have earned an RITx MicroMasters certificate.

How long does it take to earn?

Learners may complete a MicroMasters program in as little as six months or decide to spread it out over a few years. While some MicroMasters programs are delivered in a self-paced format (where all course content is available upon enrollment), others are instructor-paced (where content is released on a weekly basis). On average, offerings require 6–12 hours of work per week.

How much does it cost?

Between \$150 to \$240 per offering.

How does the pathway to credit work?

Learners who successfully earn an RITx MicroMasters certificate may apply for admission to the RIT graduate program that offers a pathway to credit aligned with their certificate. If accepted, students may be awarded nine credits toward their graduate degree requirements—which typically take about 30 credits to complete. A program adviser will work closely with students to select a plan of coursework.

How can I learn more?

Go to rit.edu/ritonline/ritx or contact RIT Online at ritonline@rit.edu or 585-475-2400.

Write to us

Do you know someone with an RIT connection who is doing good around the world? Email us at umag@rit.edu.

RIT doing good around the world

Kristen Denninger Snyder '10 (environmental science) will open the Research and Innovation for the Serengeti Ecosystem (RISE) center with the Grumeti Fund in Tanzania later this year to promote environmental conservation.

A post-doctoral fellow is looking for ways to reduce anemia in mothers and their children in Ghana.

An alumna is helping residents of Puerto Rico who live in the aftermath of destructive hurricanes.

An alumna is improving educational opportunities for kids with special education needs in Kazakhstan.

A multidisciplinary contingent of faculty, students and alumni is improving the quality of medical care for some of the most vulnerable in Central America.

An associate professor and engineering students are empowering citizens of Cali, Colombia.

RIT alumni, students, faculty and staff are using their education and skills to make the world a better place.

Here are eight of their stories.





Photo by Kate Tiedeman



Photo by Kristen Denninger Snyder

Kristen Denninger Snyder '10 (environmental science) has helped start a research center in the Western Serengeti to help wildlife.

Tackling conservation challenges head on



Kristen Denninger Snyder '10

Some people see massive environmental issues as unsalvageable, but Kristen Denninger Snyder '10 (environmental science) sees them as motivation to keep working toward environmental conservation.

"As dire as the environmental outlook currently is, demonstrable successes show positive outcomes are possible," said Denninger Snyder.

The issue Denninger Snyder is tackling is wildlife conservation in the Western Serengeti.

Later this year, with the Grumeti Fund, she will open the Research and Innovation for the Serengeti Ecosystem (RISE) in Tanzania and serve as the center's head scientist.

"After participating in a number of internship and volunteer experiences working with animals in the wild and captivity, it became clear to me that I wanted to make

contributions to the protection of threatened species and their habitat across their range in the wild," said Denninger Snyder.

After graduating from RIT, she did extensive research on African wildlife at the University of California, Davis, and is now living in Denver and working as a post-doctoral scholar at Colorado State University and the Grumeti Fund.

In 2015, while a graduate student in Davis, Calif., Denninger Snyder connected with the Grumeti Fund, a nonprofit organization tasked with wildlife conservation and community development in the Western Serengeti. Her skills aligned well with the fund's objectives, and they have worked together on establishing the research center and other projects.

"The center will develop and support research initiatives that provide tangible solutions to benefit the people and wildlife of the Serengeti ecosystem and beyond," she said. "Inclusive conservation that creates opportunities for women and youth is fundamental to our objectives."

The research center will help fund graduate student education for scientists

in Tanzania, develop local talent and make space for women and youth in conservation and develop collaborative projects with other academic institutions and organizations. Current projects the center is conducting are the monitoring and spatial modeling of wildlife damage and illegal activity, camera trapping to evaluate human-wildlife interactions, and the study of elephant movements and crop raiding behavior.

Although this region faces a number of challenges, previous conservation efforts have made an impact on the local environment and communities.

"Since 2003, elephant populations have increased four-fold and buffalo 10-fold. Community-initiated task forces aim to prevent crop losses to elephants using non-lethal approaches," she said.

Denninger Snyder encourages people to consider how individuals can contribute to environmental solutions.

"When people are invested in and support conservation efforts, we have the best chance at success," she said.

Felicia Swartzenberg '19



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

Brenda Abu, a post-doctoral fellow at RIT, is trying to reduce anemia in Ghana. She and three undergraduate students visited Ghana last summer to begin researching solutions.

Battling ‘hidden hunger’ in mothers and children

As a graduate student in Ghana, Brenda Abu witnessed the toll of anemia, a condition that afflicts as many as 70 percent of the children and 45 percent of the women in that West African nation.

Her experiences convinced Abu to pursue a career researching nutrition, specifically looking for ways to reduce anemia in mothers and their children. Now as a post-doctoral fellow at RIT, she has developed a program that capitalizes on the university’s goal of offering more global and experiential learning experience for its undergraduates.

It’s the first global research experience to be offered by RIT’s Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition, and there are plans to apply what the students learned back in

Ghana and elsewhere in the world, including Rochester.

Anemia is sometimes called the “hidden hunger.” It creeps up slowly, causing severe fatigue. But it can also affect the heart, cause pregnancy complications and stunt children’s physical and mental development. Unchecked, it causes chronic illness, even death.

The causes vary: poor diet, genetics, malaria and diarrheal infections contracted from pathogens in dirty water—all factors that deplete the body of necessary nutrients, especially iron, and weaken the immune system.

What Abu is trying to do is better understand all the factors—such as food choices, social programs, health and sanitation—



Photo by Brenda Abu

Olivia Garror, a biomedical sciences major from Bainbridge, N.Y., assesses a child for malnutrition in a refugee camp in Ghana.

that contribute to anemia and find ways to make them less of a factor and reduce the likelihood of the condition.

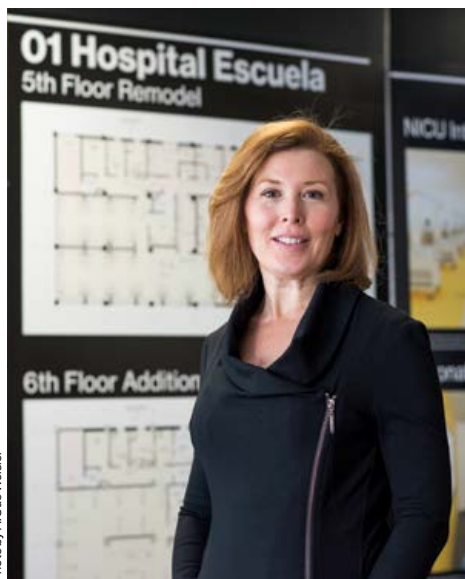
Using a grant from RIT’s Paul and Frances Miller Chair in support of International Experiential Learning, Abu and her student team crisscrossed the country, interviewing agency and program staff who work with the Ghanaian community to resolve anemia, as well as leaders of governmental and non-governmental programs. They spent time with a mother whose child suffers from anemia and met with a midwife who is respected and influential in her community. Abu took her team to open-air markets to see what food is sold and how it is handled and stored in the heat. They traveled to a remote village built on stilts over a lake and to three refugee camps.

Abu envisions a holistic approach that includes public health programs and other sectors that aim to prevent the problem through different means—fortified foods, agricultural projects, financial programs to help families improve their income and access to clean water and sanitation services. Each contributes to building resilience against undernourishment and disease.

She says sharing nutrition research with the people who need it is her calling.

“It’s not enough to publish a paper,” Abu said. “I think researchers have so much more to do.”

Susan Gawlowicz ’95



Photoby A. Sue Weisler

Mary Golden, program chair of interior design, launched Hope for Honduras.



Victoria Tripp '18 (mechanical engineering), left, talks with a Honduran medical resident during a research trip to identify ways to improve the quality of medical care in Central America.

Designing better care for sick newborns

A multidisciplinary contingent of RIT faculty, students and alumni is creating awareness and innovative design solutions to improve the quality of medical care and education for some of the most vulnerable in Central America.

At the heart of the university's Hope for Honduras initiative is the collaboration with in-country partner Hospital Escuela—Honduras' largest public hospital—and the not-for-profit organization Little Angels of Honduras (LAH).

"The overarching objective of this effort is to establish a viable, equitable model of accessible and quality medical care to reduce infant mortality and improve the experience of patients, families and caregivers through innovative design and engineering solutions," said Mary Golden, director of Hope for Honduras and program chair of interior design.

Golden helped identify the challenges of caregiving for premature and critically ill newborns in Honduras during a 2017 trip to Honduras with LAH founders.

In addition to the spatial constraints of Hospital Escuela, the group identified additional key areas impacting accessible medical care, including transporta-

tion, equipment and "skin-to-skin" care practices. Skin-to-skin incubation—also called kangaroo mother care—has dramatic positive effects on preemies and full-term babies.

RIT faculty and students from interior, industrial and graphic design as well as electrical, mechanical and biomedical engineering programs began working together to identify solutions that offer better access to medical care.

A growing list of corporate collaborators, including Herman Miller, Autodesk and American Medical Response (AMR)—led by Ted Van Horne '99 (applied arts and sciences), CEO at AMR in Dallas—are providing support and are stakeholders in the realization of project prototypes.

Golden was originally approached with a request to prepare interior design packages for a proposed 4,200-square-foot addition to Hospital Escuela by LAH.

Twenty seniors in healthcare studio, led by Shannon Buchholtz '96 (interior design), adjunct professor, created concepts in collaboration with Herman Miller.

"While developing the initial proposal, however, it became clear that holistic changes would be a more expansive

approach to addressing infant mortality," Golden recalled.

LAH is currently working with a team of volunteer architects, engineers, RIT interior designers and alumni on the construction drawings for the now-14,000-square-foot addition and renovation.

To address the need for safe transportation of critically ill newborns from local and rural hospitals to Hospital Escuela, a multidisciplinary team of senior capstone students "designed and created a full-scale prototype for an inter-hospital transport ambulance staged on a Toyota Landcruiser 78 chassis," Golden added.

The compact design addresses the country's transport practices and road conditions in a cost-effective vehicle that is easily maintainable, repairable and properly outfitted with resuscitation and stabilization equipment, including incubators, ventilators, patient monitors and medical gases.

In partnership with AMR, RIT is working on constructing a prototype of the vehicle.

"We're making huge steps forward in promoting better access to medical care for women and neonates in Honduras," she said.

Rich Kiley



Photos by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

Computing engineering technology student Andre Lebron helps the Shore Foundation give away refurbished computers to Rochester residents.

Fixing up computers to help people in need

When he was in high school, Josh Geise, a fifth-year computing security student, was involved in the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program. Through the program, Geise became a program manager and helped run events where the group donated refurbished computers to local families.

"It's something I really like doing because it makes a huge difference in people's lives," said Geise. "But when I came to college, I couldn't participate in that program anymore."

To continue his work in computer refurbishment and help increase computer accessibility in the Rochester area, Geise and his high school friend Brian Martens '18 (management information systems) started the Shore Foundation, their own nonprofit organization that donates refurbished computers to people in need.

In December, the Shore Foundation donated 548 computers to families and organizations in downtown Rochester. Fellow board members Charlie Henle, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student;



Josh Geise, computing security student

Chance Wright '18 (advertising and public relations); and Nathan Bracalente, a fifth-year mechanical engineering student, and their friends from the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity helped.

"I've planned a few different events in the past, but there is nothing that even came close to how I felt during this event," said Geise, president of the Shore Foundation. "The months of hard work our team put into this event was instantly rewarding as we were able to tangibly see the difference we were making in people's lives."

In addition to the physical device, the

foundation pre-installed essential operating systems, like Windows 10, to ensure that each computer is ready to use once it finds a new home.

Families who attended the event repeatedly expressed gratitude for the philanthropic gesture.

"I'm a single parent of five children; I couldn't get them all computers on my own," said Rochester resident Tashawada Heard. "I didn't have anything like this when I was younger; it's great that they have programs like this now."

Heard's daughter, Jaemahni Hall, is a junior in high school. This new computer will help open doors and prepare her for her future.

"It will help me with assignments in school and it will help me look up colleges, fill out applications for college and help me research essays on how to get into college," said Hall. "I really appreciate this. You only get something like this once in a lifetime."

Felicia Swartzenberg '19



Providing safe power after a hurricane

Entrepreneur David Rodriguez '92 (MBA) is doing his part to provide new clean energy solutions to the nearly 3.4 million residents of Puerto Rico who live in the constant presence of destructive tropical storms and hurricanes.

With his company, inverSOL, he and his team have developed a lower-cost, no maintenance solar generator designed to power basic home appliances. The company was formed in March 2018 and, six months later, inverSOL opened a

manufacturing and retail facility on the island.

David Rodriguez '92 (MBA) has developed a solar generator to help Hurricane victims without power in Puerto Rico.

"After Hurricane Maria hit in 2017, most people were using gas generators to power their homes. This is not only expensive, but can also

be dangerous," said Rodriguez, who has a home, an office and several family members on the island.

InverSOL units are focused on providing power to refrigerators, LED lights, charging stations, laptops, fans, televisions and radios via solar energy.

"We've put a lot of thought into the design of the product, and the No. 1 priority is safety," he said. "My direction to the inverSOL team is that no matter what, we must think about our kids or grandparents using the generators."

InverSOL's solar generator relies on technology that enables the unit to run silently, without gas or oil, and be weather-proof and portable.

The inverSOL team is in the final stages of prototype design for a whole-house solution using lithium batteries. Several new initiatives are also underway, including a mobile app that will remotely operate the units and wind turbine add-ons so the units can run optimally at night.

Vienna McGrain '12 MS



Photo by A. Sue Weisler

Elizabeth Bondi '16 (imaging science) and her team have created a deep learning system to detect elephant poachers.

Cracking down on poachers with imaging

Elephant and rhino poachers in South Africa can run, but they can't hide from drones.

An imaging system created by a team led by Elizabeth Bondi '16 (imaging science) automatically detects illegal hunters infiltrating national parks at night.

The conservation group Air Shepherd flies drones carrying thermal infrared cameras to find the body heat of humans and animals at night. Bondi's research is helping Air Shepherd save time by rapidly analyzing imagery and predicting the presence of potential poachers.

The process of monitoring videos at night is slow and tedious, and poachers don't wait around to get caught.

Bondi's deep learning system, called "SPOT" (for Systematic Poacher detector), alerts the monitoring team who notifies park rangers or law enforcement of a potential threat to the animals under their protection.

All night, staff at the base station monitors videos streaming from the drones. Once the imagery hits the computers, Bondi's system takes over to check for human activity in the park. Her team labeled and fed the learning system thousands of sample images provided by Air Shepherd to build a memory bank and the basis for making predictions when scanning new videos.

"We've been able to do .3 seconds per image," Bondi said. "After we process the image, either locally or by using cloud computing, then we're able to display the detections we predicted."

Bondi is leading the project at the University of Southern California's Center for Artificial Intelligence and Society, where she is a Ph.D. candidate in computer science.

Her goal is to make drones into agents that can detect activity in the field and decide whether detections are certain enough to alert park rangers or people monitoring the videos, she said.



Image by Air Shepherd

AI software developed by Bondi scans infrared videos for wildlife and trespassing humans.

"Elephants are one of my favorite animals, so poaching and conservation is a cause I care about," Bondi said. "If SPOT can be used to help people save animals and investigate further, then that would be really exciting for me. It's one of the main reasons that I wanted to work on this project, to make sure all the work I am doing for my Ph.D. is useful in the real world and protecting animals, hopefully."

Susan Gawlowicz '95



Photo by Kamila Rollan



Photo by Dias Zhumabayev

Sabina Ismailova '13 created an organization to help children with developmental disabilities in Kazakhstan.



Creating educational opportunities for all

Sabina Ismailova '13 (telecommunications engineering technology) was working as a telecom engineer at a prominent global company in Kazakhstan when she realized something was missing.

"I liked my work, but I wasn't making any contribution to my society," said the Kazakhstan native.

She changed that in 2017 by creating Education for All, a growing nonprofit organization for children with developmental disabilities.

"In our country, kids with special education needs and with disabilities are segregated. They study in special schools, which in our country are called correctional schools," said Ismailova, now executive director of Education for All. "They have a completely different curriculum, which is not individualized, and there are extremely low standards."

Her organization began three programs

to balance the scales—an after-school program for 8-to-12-year-olds to learn English, math, sports and arts for academic and social inclusion; an inclusive theater created to increase socialization opportunities for teens and young adults with special needs; and professional orientation courses, such as food preparation and cooking, for older participants. Most of the programs are conducted with volunteer help.

Before starting Education for All, Ismailova participated in the Global Solutions Program, a nonprofit called Singularity University based in Silicon Valley that helps people use technology to create social change.

Ismailova saw an opportunity to combine her degree and technical skills to help build a distance learning initiative for people with low incomes or disabilities so they could study at universities in Kazakhstan. Although it did not come to fruition at

that time, she retained her focus on helping people with disabilities.

"Having come back and studying issues of education of people with disabilities, I understood that the project wasn't going to work, at least not right now. I am not abandoning my technical education though—we are preparing to open the first assistive technologies library soon in our center. Later, we have plans to start developing apps to help people with different disabilities with their day-to-day life as well as education."

Kazakhstan is home to more than 18 million. Nearly 10 percent of the population is made up of people with disabilities.

"My goal is that every child, no matter their background, ability, need or social status, gets a quality education and an opportunity to enroll in an elite school or college, and to get a job they love," she said.

Michelle Cometa '00



Associate Professor Marcos Esterman works with engineering students to bring technology to Cali, Colombia.

Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette DeVito

Making a social impact with technology

Associate Professor Marcos Esterman and several RIT senior engineering students are on a mission to empower citizens of Cali, Colombia, through cutting-edge technology including solar-powered 3D printers and aquaponics.

RIT is working with partners from the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (UAO) to help residents of a Cali neighborhood at high risk of attracting youth to gang activities to develop marketable skills in fields like advanced manufacturing and agricultural technology.

The globe-trotting, collaborative projects are part of the students' multidisciplinary senior design course. Esterman believes these types of opportunities to solve real-world problems while making a social impact are where RIT students truly thrive.

"This generation has a much greater awareness of the issues facing the planet and is passionate about addressing those issues in proactive ways," said Esterman.

Last year, a team of six engineering students created a versatile solar-powered 3D printing system that can function either on or off the energy grid, providing much greater portability and access.

This year, a new team of six multidisciplinary senior design students is building on that work to expand the printing system's capabilities, adding elements like a pellet extruder and pellet dryer.

The project is being funded with donations from Bill Hard '74 (industrial engineering) and Sally Hard '71 (business administration).

Another team of six engineering seniors

led by Esterman is focused on helping families in rural areas near Cali harness the power of aquaponics to sustainably farm fish and plants. The goal is to develop modular systems that families can initially implement to support their household and expand on for commercial possibilities.

Three UAO students, led by UAO faculty member Alvaro Rojas Arciniegas '08 (industrial engineering), '13 (imaging science), flew to RIT in January to study abroad and work on the project. They are the first cohort of UAO students to study here. Late this spring, students from RIT and UAO will fly back to Colombia to deliver the two systems to the Cali residents and to participate in a one-week workshop on commercialization.

Luke Auburn '09, '15 MS

Faculty profile

Hamad Ghazle
is pronounced
“HAH-med
Gha-zlah”

He has won the RIT
Eisenhart Award
for Outstanding
Teaching.

Hamad Ghazle '88

Tucked in Hamad Ghazle's bookcase, next to volumes on ultrasound and human anatomy, is a battered Arabic-to-English dictionary with dog-eared pages and notes scribbled in the margins. Ghazle left war-torn Lebanon on a scholarship to Georgetown University in the 1980s, with the dictionary as his compass for navigating a new language and life in the United States. Within a year, he transferred to RIT, dictionary in hand, to study ultrasound. He graduated with his BS in 1988 and returned in 1994 to lead the program. Since then, Ghazle has graduated hundreds of sonography students, helping them navigate the profession that means so much to him.

What draws you to sonography?

Ultrasound is an embodiment of engineering and medicine all blended together. Sonography is life to me. Sonography is passion and joy. If you're scanning someone, you are seeing inside of them without cutting them open, without using radiation. Each human is different. It's a mystery.

The ultrasound program started in the College of Science and is now part of the College of Health Sciences and Technology.

How has the program evolved?

The curriculum has changed. We increased our affiliations with hospitals and clinics. The student number has increased. The majority of the equipment we have is through donations from industry. We're offering more specialties, workshops and conferences. Many of the adjuncts and guest speakers are our graduates.

How do you approach teaching?

When someone comes to me, I am not only teaching them ultrasound. I'm teaching them how to go out there and behave and interact with people. I want to teach them about life. We all work together. I care about our students as human beings. If I can attend to their needs and help them and treat them with respect, why wouldn't I?

Your eldest daughter is in the diagnostic medical sonography class of 2021.

What does this mean to you?

First thing, she made the decision herself. That's what is important to me. I teach my kids to be honest, respectful and independent. We didn't even have a conversation about ultrasound, and I didn't know. Admissions told me. I'm looking forward to it. I want her to see a different side of me, to see how caring her father is. I think that is where the reward is.

You are famous for your upbeat personality and positive attitude—and a few signature phrases like, “I can't complain.”

It's really true. I do mean it. I can't complain. Maybe it's my childhood. I don't take things for granted. There's always hope.

Do you ever complain?

We all have problems. I could complain, but what's the gain? It makes yourself feel horrible and makes people around you feel the same way. There are things that make me sad. When people condone behaviors that they know are disruptive and they intentionally encourage it. Violence begets violence. Respect begets respect. Kindness begets kindness.

What does RIT mean to you?

RIT, to me, is a totally different place. It was my home, my family, my existence. I made great friendships and relationships and RIT embraced me. After I graduated, I maintained contact with professors and friends, and I came to visit. I never left.

I want to contribute to the reputation of RIT. I want this place to be seen as a hub of tolerance and learning, a hub for diversity and inclusiveness and respect and honesty—a microcosm to be applied elsewhere. I am only one constituent of this whole picture, and someone else is another aspect. That is the richness of who we are as a community.

Susan Gawlowicz '95

Tune in

Intersections: The RIT Podcast is a twice-monthly conversation between people whose daily work is making a difference in the world. To listen to Hamad Ghazle in one episode, go to <http://bit.ly/RITpodcast>.



On Sundays,
Ghazle works as
a sonographer.

He has a cuckoo
clock in his office to
break the silence
when working late.

Ghazle sleeps about
four hours a day and
wakes up without an
alarm clock.

He loves classical music,
especially Beethoven.

Ghazle's hidden
talent is soccer.

He's never had
coffee in his life
and he doesn't
like chocolate.



Jackie Bergin '16 (advertising and public relations) uses her communication skills beyond storytelling by working as an associate product marketing manager at Squarespace.

Photo by Ilya Timofeyev

Passion for communication turns into a career

When Jackie Bergin was growing up, she entered essay contests and enjoyed telling her cousins scary stories.

"I loved storytelling and I always imagined I'd be an author," she said. "Writing was always a passion of mine. It was something I felt confident in."

Bergin '16 (advertising and public relations) is parlaying that passion into a career as an associate product marketing manager at Squarespace, a website builder and hosting company in New York City. She develops marketing strategies for new and existing products, developing messaging or advising on competitive positioning.

"Writing and storytelling is a huge part of marketing, advertising and public relations," she said. "Product marketing involves working across many teams in the organization, including the product, public relations and creative teams. It's a lot of juggling different things, but that also means it's exciting. No two days are the same."

A native of the Rochester suburb of



Webster, Bergin chose to attend RIT for "its vibrant, diverse community, small class sizes and distinguished faculty with experience in the field. However, what sealed the deal for me was the focus on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship."

She said RIT's communications courses and research coupled with real-world practical application in the advertising and public relations industry also were appealing.

"Advertising took my passion for writing and applied it in a practical way," she said.

Bergin credits RIT for teaching her how

to think both strategically and creatively and how to apply that thinking in the industry.

"Many of my courses included hands-on advertising experiences, when we formed student-run agencies and pitched integrated marketing campaigns," she said. "I constantly find myself applying the marketing and communication principles I learned at RIT within my role at Squarespace."

She said RIT also helped her conceptualize, conduct and present research, and think as an entrepreneur. That helps her craft messages for both current and potential customers, encouraging them to make their dreams a reality with a website.

"Most importantly, RIT taught me how to effectively work and communicate with individuals from technical disciplines," Bergin said. "This skill has become invaluable in my role at Squarespace as I partner with engineering and product teams to help build future products."

Greg Livadas



Mark Oney '81 (electrical engineering) helped start EmployeeChannel Inc., which provides software and services that improve communication. The San Francisco company opened a second office in Rochester last year.

Entrepreneur creates communication solution

Mark Oney '81 (electrical engineering) credits his interest in start-ups to working at Apple Inc. in the late 1980s. He was employee No. 4,204.

"That was probably the time period that had the greatest influence on my career and who I am as an entrepreneur and leader," said Oney, who managed software product development for Apple and was part of the team that helped turn around the company's ailing PowerBook business. "Our teams were constantly challenged to deliver against a steady stream of near-impossible goals. And yet somehow teams managed to find success despite the fact that the odds were often stacked against them from the start."

That success, Oney said, gave him the confidence to leave Apple and embark upon an entrepreneurial path, helping to create and grow eight startups. His current startup, EmployeeChannel Inc., provides communication software and services that help employers better communicate and engage with employees using mobile, cloud

and artificial intelligence technologies.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that it is going to be the biggest one yet," said Oney, whose earlier companies were all acquired.

Oney, senior vice president of product operations of EmployeeChannel, said the company was founded in 2015 in San Francisco. In early 2018, the company wanted to expand its product development team and open a second office. Oney began looking at onshore locations outside the West Coast. He put Rochester on the list of possible cities because of his relationship with RIT. Oney is a founding member of RIT's West Coast Board of Advisors.

"We wanted access to affordable top talent. We wanted to be close to a nationally recognized university. We wanted to be at a location where there was a commitment to developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem," he said. "Rochester had all of the ingredients."

The company moved into the RIT Downtown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at 40 Franklin St. last May. The office started with five employees, all of

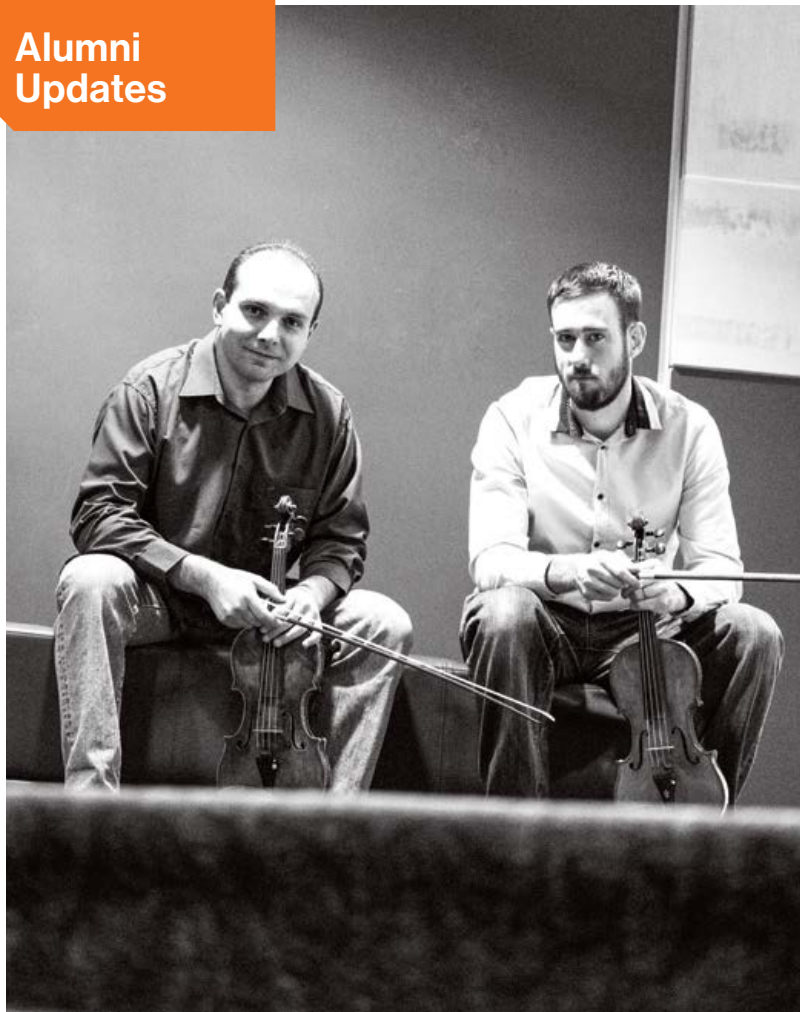
whom have an affiliation with RIT. Oney expects that number to conservatively grow by 50 percent each year.

Unlike with email blasts or internet portals, EmployeeChannel has created an app that enables employers to more effectively interact with a modern workforce. Employers can engage employees in a two-way dialog, and communicate to distinct audiences through their mobile devices. Employees can get personalized responses to requests and receive information from the company easier and faster.

Oney said the company's goal is to own the leadership communication space.

"I never stay awake at night thinking are we going to be successful or fail," Oney said. "I stay awake wondering how successful we will be. The market opportunity is huge and it's on us to determine how much of that market we will earn. We intend to be the leader in this space. I'm excited that we are on to something big."

Mindy Mozer



Tigran Vardanyan, left, and Aaron Bailey '05 (mechanical engineering) are friends, violinists and founders of the ArcRest, a company that builds a new style of shoulder rest for stringed instruments.

Photos by Luis Pena '07

Engineering and art make beautiful music

When Aaron Bailey and Tigran Vardanyan restyled a shoulder rest for their own violins, little did they know their simple design, made in Bailey's home workshop, would be sought by musicians around the world.

Just as there are unique designs of violins and other stringed instruments, there are many different styles of shoulder rests available to musicians. Bailey '05 (mechanical engineering) and Vardanyan found a way to build a shoulder rest that fits both the curves of violins—and bodies—but still allows for freedom of movement and does not impact sound.

The ArcRest shoulder support is made of flexible materials, lightweight padding and minimal anchors to hold a violin in place. Over the last two years since the company was incorporated, artists from the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Pacific Symphony and several chamber music ensembles in

Europe use the ArcRest.

"As musicians we want to be able to connect with the instrument, to have nothing intrusive in there so that you can blend with the instrument and it blends with your body. The ArcRest allows you to approach the instrument more naturally," said Bailey, who began playing the violin at 3, played with RIT's Philharmonic and continued studying after college with Vardanyan.

Both looked to tradition and the old masters, who often played their instruments without shoulder rests, when they started to design the ArcRest.

"Our question was, how did they do this without anything? You had to learn to balance the instrument yourself. But we thought with a little support, especially if it helps the sound rather than takes away from it and doesn't destroy that natural relationship between instrument and artist and gives some support, this could work," said

Vardanyan, who is celebrating 20 years with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

As they developed the ArcRest, they asked musicians they knew to test the device.

"We were pleasantly surprised. One colleague had used the same type of rest his entire career. We asked his opinion of it, maybe he'd show it to his students. We never thought he'd use it himself," said Vardanyan. But that was what he did.

Bailey, a senior mechanical engineer with Council Rock Enterprises in Rochester and current member of the Brighton (N.Y.) Symphony Orchestra, continues to make the devices in his basement workshop.

He and Vardanyan have designed new models made of carbon fiber composite materials and they continue to produce several different thicknesses of pads. They also created smaller rests for children.

Michelle Cometa '00



Moving across the country for an internship helped Suzanne Farrell '12 (motion picture science) realize she was on the right career path. She is now a software engineer in the applied vision science department at Dolby in San Jose, Calif.

Photos by Liz Pieri

Alumna finds her place at Dolby Laboratories

There is an RIT graduate behind the enhanced image quality of movies viewed with Dolby Laboratories' technology. Suzanne Farrell '12 (motion picture science) is a software engineer in the applied vision science department at Dolby.

"We are always trying to deliver a quality experience to the consumer by tailoring the experience to the way each individual consumes media and preserving the director's artistic vision for how they want their film to look," said Farrell.

Much of her work toward achieving these goals involves research in luminance dynamic range preferences, backlight modulation using image statistics and fidelity video testing.

Farrell stumbled into software engineering as a junior in the motion picture science program.

"I took my first post-production class and realized it was not my cup of tea," said Far-

rell. "I never saw myself as an engineer, but I knew working in a post-production track would never work for me."

After completing her degree, Farrell moved to San Jose, Calif., for an internship at Dolby Laboratories.

During the internship, she did research on technology the company was developing regarding viewer preferences on luminance dynamic range and presented it at the National Association of Broadcasters conference in 2013. At the beginning of 2014, she graduated from an internship to a full-time position.

"There is a nurturing and supportive atmosphere at Dolby," said Farrell. "I stayed because I wanted to see my research through to the end."

Farrell is one of five RIT motion picture science alumnae working at Dolby, and it's not just the company's popularity that's reeling graduates in.

"A lot of what we learned in the motion picture science program is directly applicable to the work we do here at Dolby," said Farrell. "They were interested in me and my degree because it was quite unique."

For someone unsure of her path, landing an internship at Dolby was a stroke of luck that helped Farrell determine what she wanted to do for her career.

"Early on, I definitely had many bouts of frustrations and would question if this was what I wanted to do with my life," said Farrell.

"Ultimately, I believe this was the right company to come to. It helped me develop and hone my skills, gave me unique opportunities to share my research with a wide audience, and living across the country, away from friends and family, is something that helped me grow as a person."

Felicia Swartzenberg '19



Ali Vatansever '08 (film production) directs on the set of *Saf*, which was shown at the Toronto International Film Festival in September. The film received an honorable mention at its U.S. premiere in January at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Photo by Dogancan Heperler

Alumnus who fled hurricane directs film that took Toronto film festival by storm

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is one of the world's largest publicly attended film festivals in the world, attracting nearly half a million people annually.

For Ali Vatansever '08 MFA (film production), the festival served as an incredible showcase for his film, *Saf*, which "weighs a family's transformation in a poor region of Istanbul where urban gentrification and the Syrian refugee crisis are intertwined."

Vatansever admitted to being "absolutely overjoyed and terrified" upon learning his film would be screened in Toronto. It was an astounding achievement for the Turkish director, an Istanbul native who overcame a tumultuous arrival to the United States when he arrived on the Gulf Coast to attend the University of New Orleans.

"During my third week in the U.S., Hurricane Katrina hit the city," said Vatansever, who was attending school on a Fulbright scholarship. "I left the city right before it

devastated everything and stayed in a shelter for 11 days."

When the university shut down for months to rebuild, Fulbright officials sent Vatansever to RIT to continue his studies.

"I arrived in Rochester with nothing more than a small backpack," he said. "It was a challenge, but the RIT community made the transition easy."

Six months later, when Fulbright officials offered him the chance to go back to New Orleans, Vatansever opted to stay at RIT. "I felt at home," he said.

He became a thesis student of Adrienne Carageorge, an associate professor in the School of Film and Animation (SOFA) in RIT's College of Art and Design.

"I sensed right away that intellectually and creatively Ali was truly exceptional," said Carageorge, who currently serves as SOFA's interim director.

Herself an award-winning filmmaker, Carageorge became a mentor and friend of

Vatansever. She reviewed and critiqued her former student's scripts, including the one for *Saf*, when she would visit him in Turkey during trips to neighboring Greece.

Saf had its U.S. premiere at the Palm Springs International Film Festival in California in early January. Meanwhile, Vatansever is working on his third film—about a father and son's journey in modern Turkey as the father seeks consent to take his terminally ill son's life.

"I tell stories to connect people," Vatansever said.

He recalls discovering some of those stories during his time at RIT—"two years full of art and joy in the city of Kodak," he recalled. "We were shooting films, watching movies at the Dryden and The Little, and enjoying student life as much as possible. I connected with the world on a different level. I learned which stories matter to me."

Rich Kiley

A great professor makes all the difference to the student experience.

Engaged, motivated students at all degree levels look for faculty members to offer a valuable mix of knowledge, inspiration, and exposure to opportunities that will help them set the stage for professional success.

Great professors teach students how to challenge assumptions and think across the boundaries of their disciplines. Great professors ignite passion in students by demonstrating that passion in their own research and scholarship.

Professors launch careers and futures that will change industries, lives, and the world. Learn more, and make your gift at rit.edu/transformingRIT.

Donor support of professorships helps to champion outstanding teaching, a hallmark of the student experience and student success.

The Caroline Werner Gannett Endowed Chair is charged with challenging students to interpret modern media and communication in ways that include critical and creative analysis of digital culture and data curation. Design visualization, geospatial technology, electronic literature and virtual or augmented reality are part of the student experience guided by the Chair. Professor Lisa Hermsen, Ph.D., the current Gannett Chair, specializes in the rhetoric of science, technology, and medicine. She is the principal investigator for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study community from many perspectives, including historical, geographic, literary, environmental, and socioeconomic.

“

As students head into the world on internships and jobs, we want them to be prepared to interact with communities that have a very distinct sense of identity and place but are also dealing with myriad economic and cultural changes.”

—Professor Lisa Hermsen, Ph.D.
Caroline Werner Gannett Endowed Chair



**Drive progress.
Shape what's possible.
Transform the future.**

Transforming **RIT**
The Campaign for **Greatness**

Class Notes

CAST	College of Applied Science and Technology (now CET)
CAD	College of Art and Design
CCE	College of Continuing Education (now SOIS)
CET	College of Engineering Technology
CHST	College of Health Sciences and Technology
CIAS	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (now CAD)
CLA	College of Liberal Arts
COS	College of Science
FAA	Fine and Applied Arts (now CAD)
GAP	Graphic Arts and Photography (now CAD)
GCCIS	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
KGCOE	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
NTID	National Technical Institute for the Deaf
SOIS	School of Individualized Study
SCB	Saunders College of Business
SVP	NTID "Summer Vestibule Program"

About Class Notes

Class Notes are edited for space, clarity and style. Share information by going to www.rit.edu/alumni/class-notes.

1956



Jon Blanchette '56 (KGCOE) retired from General Motors with 34 years of service and an overlapping career of 24 years with the U.S. Navy. Then he bought, repaired and sold used cars for many years. Needing another challenge, he imported a scrap MiG-17PF aircraft and restored/rebuilt it. It is now flying in airshows in the Northeast. It received a first place at Oshkosh in 2016 and was featured again in the November issue of the *Smithsonian Air & Space* magazine.

1961



Gene DePrez '61 (FAA), '62 (FAA), '68 MFA (FAA) received the Lake Mohawk Preservation Foundation

Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, with his wife, **Patty DePrez '76 (CLA)**. He also presented the inaugural Thérèse DePrez Award for Outstanding Production Design honoring his late daughter at the High Falls Women's Film Festival in Rochester.

1968



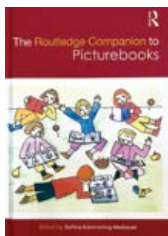
David Folkman '68 MFA (FAA) co-publisher and design director of *Hogan's Alley, the Magazine of the Cartoon Arts*, reports

issue No. 22 is now out. Included is a detailed look at the origins of the classic *Jonny Quest* animated series, along with rare production artwork.

1971

Norman Wironen '71 (GAP) retired after a 20-year career as a financial adviser with Edward Jones. Prior to Edward Jones, he owned and operated the family photography businesses, Wironen Inc. and The Wironen Studio Inc. in Gardner, Mass. He looks forward to enjoying retirement with his wife, Chris, with whom he celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary, his two daughters and six grandchildren.

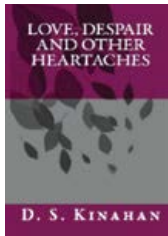
1973



Jane (Chase) Wattenberg '73 MFA (GAP) wrote the chapter, "Picturebooks and Photography" in the new *Routledge Companion to Picturebooks 2018*. She is an author/

artist of photo-illustrated books for children including the photomontage, hip-hop retelling of *Henny-Penny* (2000); the Children's Choice Award winner, *Never Cry Woof!* (2005); and the Baby Board Books, *Mrs. Mustard's Baby Faces* (2007) and *Mrs. Mustard's Beastly Babies* (2012).

1976



Deborah Kinahan '76 (SCB), '88 MBA (SCB) is pleased to announce that her first novel, *Love, Despair and Other Heartaches*, is now available on Amazon.com.

1977

Gregory Hafer '77 (GAP), '79 (GAP) retired from his position as manager technical development and support at Lehigh Valley Health Network-Schuylkill. He and his wife, Elaine, are splitting time between their homes in Pottsville, Pa., and Fort Myers, Fla.

Company helps musicians find rehearsal space



Gabriel Isserlis '16 (film and animation) created Tutti, an Airbnb for music rehearsal space. Isserlis is an amateur musician.

What do you get when you combine a love of music with a degree in film and animation and a strong background in internet technology? Gabriel Isserlis '16 (film and animation) used the combination to create a company called Tutti.

Tutti is an Airbnb for music rehearsal space. Launched in late 2018 in London, Tutti enables musicians to book and pay for rehearsal space in private homes, public spaces such as community centers and churches, and professional studios.

"Most of my family are musicians and I'm constantly hearing them complain about being able to find cheap, accessible rehearsal space, especially in a city they don't know," said Isserlis, an amateur cellist who was in the RIT Orchestra and on tech crew while he was a student.

Isserlis started working on

the idea for the company even before he graduated from RIT. He was at RIT for seven years taking IT courses on the side.

He came up with a couple hundred ideas and narrowed his business plan down to the Airbnb concept because it got the most positive feedback.

He attended Founder Institute in February 2018 and launched the idea later that year with eight venues. His goal in the coming years is to expand to other cities, including in the United States.

Isserlis said he has used his RIT network of designers, software engineers, animators, and businessmen for help with the company.

And he's interested in more input from the RIT community. To learn more, go to www.tutti.space.

"I can't imagine my life without music," he said. "I want to support musicians."

Brian Peterson '77 (GAP), '78 (GAP) is pleased to say that he is still going strong in photography, doing aerial and function photography in Portland, Maine. He also has a part-time job doing yacht restoration with a friend, which helps him with maintaining his 25-foot sailboat. He has no plans to retire because he is having too much fun.



Nicholas Whitman '77 (GAP) began photographing North Adams' abandoned Sprague Electric Co. factory in 1988. Documenting the then-deteriorating 19th-century mill buildings, Whitman captured scenes ranging from vast post-industrial landscapes to minute traces of the plant's former workers. Whitman's meticulously composed photographs are on view at MASS MoCA.

1978

Gregory Hitchin '78 (GAP) has been named as one of the 2018 North America's top 50 economic developers by Consultant Connect. He serves as the director of economic development and tourism for the City of Waynesboro, Va.



Deborah Marcuccilli '78 (KGCOE) was accompanied by **Alyxandra Vanderweel Sherwood '15 MS (CLA)** on a quest to knock a long-time item off her bucket list with a trip to the Grand Canyon in November 2018.

1980



David Imme '80 (NTID) retired as a computer programmer for the 19th JDC after 20 years and joined Sorenson

Communications as a trainer in 2008. He was recently promoted to district manager for the states of Arkansas and Louisiana. At 60, he is still active as a golfer, bowler, fisherman and a motorcycle enthusiast.

1981

Jonathan Abes '81 (CAST) recently retired from the U.S. Army after 21 years, with duty in the Middle East, Germany, Korea, Ft. Bliss, Ft. Belvoir, Ft. Bragg, Hawaii and Pittsburg Recruiting Battalion. He is a combat veteran of the war in Iraq. He is presently working as a data center facility manager/engineer for the Department of Defense.

John "CJ" Asselta '81 (KGCOE), '84 (CAST) worked at Lockheed Martin in Colorado for 30 years. He is currently retired as of 2015 and living the good life in the foothills of the Rockies.



Howard Goodman '81 (GAP) got the crazy idea in the fall of 2013 to walk el Camino de Santiago, the ancient pilgrimage

route that spans nearly the entire width of Spain. It took him 35 days to walk the 540 miles and he was commissioned to produce an exhibition of photographs which he has since exhibited widely. This past fall, he decided to take two and a half weeks to walk from Porto, going north for about 160 miles and ending in Santiago. The coolest part was that **Julio de Matos '82 MFA (GAP)**, who lives near Porto, was able to take the time from his busy schedule to accompany him.



Gerald "Chip" Hoffman '81 (GAP), '83 (GAP) is honored to be teaching documentary photography/photojournalism in the spring semester at Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jeff Rowoth '81 (SCB), '91 MS (CAST) joined TE Connectivity as global travel manager. His company

leads with innovation that enables life-saving medical care, sustainable communities, efficient utility networks, along with global communications infrastructure and is headquartered in Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

1982



Dawn Campbell '82 (GAP), '83 (GAP) has been busy pursuing photography since retiring from the U.S. Air Force. She exhibited extensively in juried exhibitions and had two solo exhibitions. Most recently, the Studios of Cocoa Beach invited her to participate in its gallery exhibition "Exposed to a View" July 24-Sept. 24. She received Best of Show for her piece "Into the Looking Glass."

1983



Gerard Kiernan '83 (CAST) is director of operations at the Eastern States Exposition. A record number of visitors attended the 2018 Big E, in West Springfield, Ma., breaking the fair's all-time high attendance figure, with a final tally of 1,543,470. The all-time highest single day attendance record was also broken when 172,659 visitors attended Sept. 22.

John Letteney '83 (CLA) was elected as the fourth vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police during its annual conference in October in Orlando, Fla.

1984

John Viggiano '84 MS (CCE), '87 MS (GAP), '10 Ph.D. (COS) presented "Calculation of Scalars in Neugebauer-Like Models. II: Final Scalar Function is Copula" at the 26th Color and Imaging Conference Nov. 12-16 in Vancouver. The paper was previously published in the September-October 2018 issue of the *Journal of Imaging Science and Technology*, and has applications in more efficient and accurate profiles for color printers. He is an assistant professor of photographic sciences at RIT.



Martha DiMeo '84 (GAP) is a contributor to the *Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing & Ethical Guidelines*, 15th Edition. She shared her expertise in the Digital Imaging & Photo Retouching & Restoration category.

David Noyes '84 (GAP), '85 (GAP) was awarded the second annual Keith Bellows Award for Excellence in Travel Journalism by the North American Travel Journalism Association. Noyes has received numerous awards for his photography and travel writing, including the NATJA Travel Photographer of the Year, four of the past seven years, and four prestigious Lowell Thomas Awards for excellence in travel journalism.

1986

Albert Zahniser '86 (CAST) joined Amazon Web Services as a solutions architect in the Philadelphia metro area.

1989

Matthew Miller '89 (GAP) is now senior photographer and studio manager at Cole Haan in Greenland, N.H.



Chris Brenner '87 and Marcy (Thurman) Brenner '87 lived on the same floor in Gleason Hall as students. They were married in 1991.

Love at first double-take

Shortly after Marcy (Thurman) Brenner '87 (new media marketing) arrived at RIT in the fall of 1984, she caught a glimpse of Chris Brenner '87 (graphic design) skateboarding down the Quarter Mile.

"I literally stopped and spun around and did a double take as he went by," said Marcy, who had just transferred to RIT from Buffalo State.

Later that day, Marcy attended her first residence hall floor meeting. She had been assigned to live on the special-interest floor called Community Service Clubhouse. To her surprise, the skateboarder was there.

"I was like, 'Oh my God, he lives on my floor,'" she said. "It was meant to be."

Meant to be it was—the two have been together ever since.

Chris, who had just started his second year at RIT, requested to live in the Community Service Clubhouse. He lived on the same floor in Gleason Hall during his first year and had gotten to know the residents.

"The best way I can describe Community Service Clubhouse is it was like the most fun co-ed fraternity ever," Chris said. "We



The Brenners returned to RIT last October during Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend for a reunion of the Community Service Clubhouse, their special-interest housing floor in Gleason Hall.

did do community service projects and made some really tight friendships."

Community service projects included fixing up a playground in Rochester and doing art projects with elementary-school children.

Chris and Marcy had their first date in January at an RIT hockey game. They were married in 1991 and have two children, Thomas Brenner '16 (photojournalism), and Amy Brenner, a senior at Quinnipiac University. They live in Fair Haven, N.J.

Chris, who works in the enterprise sales group for Apple, said he remembers that first meeting where he met Marcy, who

recently retired as a preschool aide.

Living in the Community Service Clubhouse was a special time for both of them and their classmates. At least three other couples from the floor also got married, Chris added.

Some former residents gathered for a reunion last October during Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend.

"When you walked up on that floor, for some reason it felt very magical," Chris said. "You just never knew when you got off that elevator what was going to be happening."

Mindy Mozer



Karl Espenhorst '90 (FAA), '91 (FAA) celebrated 25 years of marriage on Dec. 11 with his lovely bride, Jacque.



Kristen Tobin-Risk '90 (SCB) co-founded Frankly Organic Vodka, which launched in September 2018 and has gained distribution in Texas and Arizona with expansion plans in 2019. Frankly Organic Vodka is the first functional spirit—the company uses functional ingredients like turmeric root, maca root, wild cherry bark and ginger root.

1991

Mitchell Bilker '91 (SCB), '95 MBA (SCB) accepted a position as controller at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. He will be responsible for accounting and financial affairs of the college as well as oversight of student billing and collections and benefits accounting and administration.



Deborah (Schubert) MacKenzie '91 (GAP) was promoted to vice president of operations at Schubert b2b in the fall of 2017. She worked her way up the agency ladder for 15 years. She is happily married and loves being a mom to two teenaged daughters.



Oscar Gutierrez '91 (GAP) launched his Nelson Mandela exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the birth of former president Mandela in July 1918. The photographs capture Mandela and other South African luminaries from the initial stages of the negotiations of South Africa's constitution, the first democratic elections and important moments that formed democratic South Africa.



John Simmons '91 (SCB), '94 (SCB) and his wife, **Kristine Simmons '90 (CLA)**, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

1992



Brian Stumm '92 (KGCOE), '93 MS (KGCOE) joined Jade Bird Universal Fire Alarm Co. Ltd. as vice president global strategy in March 2018.

He was appointed general manager for Jade Bird Fire Alarm International (Europe) S.L., a business unit of Jade Bird Universal Fire Alarm Co. Ltd.

Michael Ryan '92 MBA (SCB) published a new book, *Make Your Career Go BOOM! Not Bust: Practical tips to succeed in an ever-changing world*. The book is now for sale on Amazon.

Donald Urmston '92 (SCB) presented "Using Technology to Differentiate Instruction" at the NYIT Speedtech conference on Nov. 30, 2018. He is an assistant professor of business at SUNY Orange, where he specializes in entrepreneurship and marketing.

Graduate receives DOD award



Photos by Dave Vergun, U.S. Army

Tracy Tao-Moore '92 (graphic design) received an Outstanding Department of Defense Service Members and Civilian Employees with Disabilities Award for 2018.

A graduate of RIT is one of about two dozen Department of Defense employees who received an Outstanding Department of Defense Service Members and Civilian Employees with Disabilities Award for 2018.

Tracy Tao-Moore '92 (graphic design), who is hard of hearing, is the lead graphic artist for the Mission Support Branch, Technology Division, U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

She received the award Oct. 4 during the 38th Annual Disability Awards Ceremony at the Pentagon. The ceremony is part of DOD's annual observance of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, held each October.

The award recognizes

personnel with disabilities for their contributions in support of the DOD mission and recognizes exemplary department organizations for their efforts to advance a diverse and inclusive workforce.

"I am shocked and totally surprised. I feel humbled to be selected for this prestigious award," Tao-Moore said. "It never occurred to me that I would receive it. This is probably my proudest achievement."

HRC's graphic arts office produces more than 500 printed and designed products each year. Tao-Moore collaborates with customers to ensure visual presentations, training aids, briefing resources and other graphics-oriented materials meet their needs.



Kevin Kelly, deputy director of the Office of Force Resiliency for the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, presents Tracy Tao-Moore '92 with the award.

Tiger Cubs



1



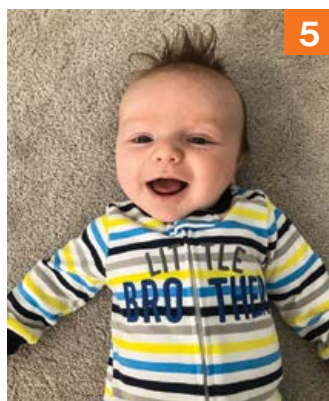
2



3



4



5



6



7

1 Luke Auburn '09 (CLA), '15 MS (CLA) and his wife, Chelsey, welcomed their first child, Emma, to the world in November 2018.

2 Stephen Staurovsky '08 (GCCIS) and Crystal Staurovsky welcomed Logan Charles—king of Peepo the dog, lord of tummy time and protector of the realm.

3 Jeffery VanTassell '03 (SCB) and his wife, Tracey, welcomed Ella Rose in November 2018.

4 Sara (Paduano) Frandina '09 (CAST) and Peter Frandina '08 (KGCOE) welcomed Nora Bridget, their first child, into the world in November 2018.

5 Lauren Iuranich '12 (CAST) and her husband, John, are happy to announce the birth of their second child, Enzo, in June.

6 Christine (Lowry) Moulton '10 (KGCOE), '10 MS (KGCOE); Alex Moulton '10 (KGCOE), '10 ME (KGCOE); and big sister Charlotte are proud to announce the addition of their new baby girl, Madelynne Alexandra, in August 2018.

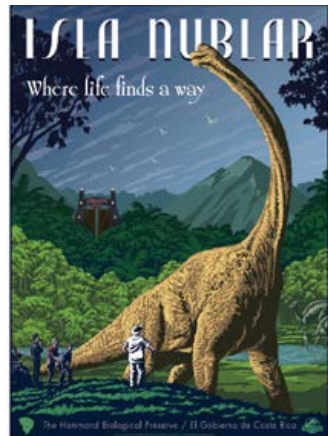
7 Steven Haber '09 (GCCIS) and Stephanie (Lipari) Haber '09 (CIAS) announce the birth of their first child, Olivia Rose. This future Eight Beat Measure groupie was born in May 2018.

Samuel Rueby '11 (GCCIS) and his wife, Samantha, had their baby daughter in September. Both baby and parents are happy and healthy.

1993

Richard LaRocco '93 (FAA) has been a firefighter/paramedic for the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service for the past 14 years and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2015. He lives in Mount Airy, Md., with his family and is still playing and coaching lacrosse.

1995



Jeremy Sniatecki '95 (CIAS) was chosen by Universal Studios/Factory Entertainment to create a retro travel poster design to commemorate the 25th anniversary of *Jurassic Park*, inviting visitors to the fictitious Isla Nublar where the original film takes place.

1997

Sumir Varma '97 (KGCOE) accepted a position at Intel Corp., working in the RAMP organization to bring new technology nodes into production.



Rachel Coene Spence '97 (CIAS) has joined FIFTEEN, a Buffalo, N.Y., full-service marketing agency, as creative

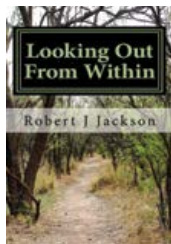
director. She previously served as creative supervisor at the former Roberts Communications in Rochester.

1999



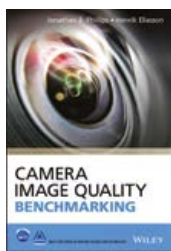
Jason Adlowitz '99 (CIAS) has owned his own business, aW Marketing,

for 10 years. He develops smart marketing communications for small and medium-sized companies as well as global brands.



Robert Jackson '99 (CAST) is now a high school engineering educator and author. His first book, *Looking Out From Within*, A

Journey Into A Poetic Landscape, is available on Amazon.com. He is preparing to release the first children's book of a three-book set, *A Family Like Me*, discussing a blended family from a child's perspective.



Jonathan Phillips '99 MS (COS) released his book *Camera Image Quality Benchmarking* with co-author Henrik Eliasson in January of 2018 as the

newest of the Wiley-IS&T Series in Imaging Science and Technology. He has been a leading contributor to the notable camera image quality of the Google Pixel smartphone line of products since its inception and currently manages the Display Color Science Team at Google.

Nicolás Rubio '99 (SCB), '01 MBA (SCB), a member of Grupo Orinoco, an energy and environmental policy think tank, and visiting professor at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA), was project leader for the I Forum on Competitiveness of Cities and Regions: A Theme for the Public Policy Agenda. It was held on May 31, 2018, at IESA in Caracas, Venezuela.

2000



Colleen Anguish '00 (CIAS) and Timothy McMahon were married on Sept. 29, 2018, in Buffalo, N.Y. The

groom is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University and works in finance. Many alumni from RIT were on hand for their wedding celebration.

Erin Shawkey-Thaete '00 (SCB) has joined Morgan Stanley's Ithaca, N.Y., branch as a financial adviser. She is also serving as president of the board of directors for Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schuyler County.

2002

Chad Heitzenrater '02 (GCCIS) was awarded his DPhil (Ph.D.) from the University of Oxford Department of Computer Science in November 2018.

2003

Richard Gary '03 EMBA (SCB) was promoted to chief operating officer, Imaging Solutions Business Unit of Change Healthcare.



Jose Padin '03 (SCB) is Citrix CTO and director of sales engineering. He combines 20 years of IT leadership with more than a decade of experience in the public sector, including the Department of Defense. He is happily married to his beautiful bride of eight years, Victoria Padin. They have three children.

2004



Megan Lessard '04 (CIAS) joined Providence College as digital publishing services specialist at Phillips

Memorial Library. She will be providing technical and logistical support for college faculty, students and staff in all aspects of digital publishing services.

Andrew Graves '04 (COS) was promoted to assistant director of lab operations for FlowMetric Inc. in Doylestown, Pa. He will be leading the science staff in labs in the U.S. and Europe.



Daniel Lee '04 (CLA) has started a new company to help people remember the important people they meet. Their first product is Rememorate, a photo-based contact management app. It's a small team that includes three RIT grads and is available on the app stores for both iPhone and Android devices. Learn more at rememorate.com.

2007



Erhardt Graeff '07 (CLA, GCCIS) is an assistant professor of social and computer science at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. He completed his Ph.D. in media arts and sciences at MIT in June 2018.



Kelly Monahan '07 (SCB) released her first book with Academic Press last fall, *How behavioral economics influences management decision-making: A new paradigm*. The text

critically re-examines the management function in 21st century workplaces.



Daniel Uerz '07 (KGCOE) has joined Erdman Anthony as an electrical project engineer in the facilities core business in the Rochester

office. He has more than 10 years of experience specializing in the building design industry.

2008



Christina Lewellen '08 EMBA (SCB) and her husband, Richard, have adopted two teenaged sisters, Kaitlyn, 17, and McKenzie, 13. They join the couple's biological children, Morgan, 15, and Bryn, 13. The family lives in Stephens City, Va.

Brian Abraham '08 Ph.D. (GCCIS) joined the faculty of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., as an assistant member. He arrives at St. Jude having completed a post-doctoral fellowship in computational biology at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Ma.

2010

Diane Currie '10 MS (CAST) was a recipient of the Bronze Portfolio Distinction from the Photographic Society of America for her photo collection, "Winged Ambassadors." It was featured in a four-page spread in the September issue of the *Photographic Society of America* journal.



Olgun Cengiz '10 MS (GCCIS) started to work as a senior software engineer at Vereign.

2011



Elizabeth Cardella '11 (CIAS) is the video and media specialist for Miranda Real Estate Group Inc., an award-winning real estate brokerage based out of Clifton Park, N.Y. She is FAA drone certified and creates compelling video marketing pieces for all areas of the industry.

Alumnus receives Presidential Rank award



Clayton Turner '90, center, was honored with a 2018 Presidential Rank Award for outstanding leadership. He recently returned to RIT to visit with researchers in the Center for Detectors.

Clayton Turner '90 (electrical engineering) is a 2018 Presidential Rank Award Meritorious Executive recipient. The deputy director of NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., received one of the nation's highest civilian career leadership awards, given to only 5 percent of senior executive service employees in recognition of outstanding career achievements and contributions to NASA and the U.S. government.

Turner began his career with NASA in 1990 and has held many leadership positions. At Langley he is responsible for the planning and execution of complex flight and ground system projects involving 3,600-plus employees and onsite contractors.

In addition, he is responsible for the creation and development of technologies

and capabilities for future missions and projects. He became deputy director of the center in 2015.

"I am humbled and honored to receive the Presidential Rank Award for doing what I love, exploring and inspiring for NASA and the nation," said Turner, who is a member of the RIT President's Roundtable.

Turner was recognized specifically for delivering key aeronautics engineering milestones such as Greased Lightning, a small un-crewed aircraft system which became a test bed for distributed electric propulsion technology and resolving complex calibration anomalies in the CERES scientific satellite. He also chaired the standing review boards for the Orion deep-space vehicle, the SLS rocket and the Ground Systems Development and Operations programs.



Malory Hendel '11 (NTID) moved to Kansas after living in Maryland for 16 years and started a new job at Savers, a thrift shop in Olathe, Kan.



Katherine McCooley '11 (CIAS) and **Ryan Kelly '12 (SCB)** exchanged wedding vows on Aug. 4, 2018, in Woodinville, Wash. They were fortunate to have several RIT alumni friends join their celebration, including **Katie Harris '12 (CIAS)**, **Drew Lierheimer '12 (SCB)**, **Devin Lamb '12 (SCB)**, **Chris Anderson '12 (KGCOE)**, **Moe Sedlak '11 (CAST)**, **Lauren Bell '14 (KGCOE)** and **Derek Burkhardtmeier '14 (CIAS)**.

Samuel Rueby '11 (GCCIS) passed his third Microsoft certification exam, awarding him the title Microsoft certified solutions developer. He did this while he and his wife were expecting a baby in October.

Sara Roger '11 (CIAS) received one of two Distinguished Alumni Awards from Cultural Leadership St. Louis in October 2018.

2012



James R. Gimbi '12 (GCCIS) is serving as a policy adviser for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul through the

TechCongress Congressional Innovation Fellowship.

Toni Jolevski '12 (CLA), '12 MS (CLA) became a school psychologist at Rochester City School District.



Jessica Portilla '12 (SOIS) and Michael Mulvaney '11 (CLA) were married on May 11, 2018, in Cancun, Mexico. More than 55 guests traveled to Mexico to celebrate their wedding, including 13 RIT alumni. They have been together since their third year at RIT in 2009. They live in Rutherford, N.J.



Jacquelyn Schulman '12 (COS) completed her Ph.D. in pharmacology at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y., on Nov. 2, 2018. Her dissertation is titled "The Significance of the Bok-IP3 Receptor Interaction and the Role of Bok in Mitochondrial Dynamics."

2014

George Glessner '14 (SOIS) was promoted to manager, emergency preparedness for Rochester General Hospital, and also serves as the interim emergency preparedness manager for Unity Hospital in Rochester.

2015



Matthew Partacz '15 (KGCOE), '15 ME (KGCOE); Saul Fernandez '17 (KGCOE); and Craig Bishop '15 (KGCOE) pose for a photo with an F-14 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on Oct. 4.



Samantha (Vent) Schreiber '15 (SCB) and Andrew Schreiber '16 (KGCOE) were married on Sept. 29, 2018, in Rochester. They met in orientation group during their freshman year in 2011. Several RIT alumni and students were in attendance including: **Jon Runkel '15 (GCCIS); Tyler Koski '16 (CAST); Keith Shaughnessy '16 (CAST); Chad Monkhouse '16 (KGCOE); Erik Hamnvist '16 (KGCOE); Rory Glackin '16 (KGCOE); Veronyka Martinez '18 (SCB); Ashleii Kono '15 (CIAS); Billy Moore '17 (KGCOE); Drazen Gasic '12 (CAST); Ray Glegg '83 (CCE); Elizabeth Reeves O'Connor '99 (CLA), '07 MS (CLA); Michael O'Connor '07 (COS) '17 MS (SOIS); Liza Borton '78 (FAA); Justin Vent '62 (CCE); MacKenzie Crable '18 (CAD); Eric Gardiner '18 (CET); and Cassi VanBuskirk '12 (CIAS),** the photographer and owner of Creative Touch Photography and Design.

2016



Emily Moore '16 (CIAS) graduated with a dual master's degree from American University in May 2018 and began her career at Booz Allen Hamilton as a design strategist in Washington, D.C.



Sarah Meacham '16 (CIAS) married Kyle Midden in Old Forge, N.Y., on Oct. 13, 2018. One of her sorority sisters was her maid of honor, with several more sisters in attendance.



Jeanette Schramm '16 (CLA) married **Justin Rueb '17 (KGCOE), '17 ME (KGCOE)** on July 28, 2018, in Boise, Idaho, after five and a half years together. The two met during their freshman year at RIT and were among the founding members of the sci-fi club Space-Time Adventures at RIT. Justin works as a statistical process control engineer for Micron Technologies. Jeanette is the owner of JR Writing and Editing and works from home as a professional editor and content creator.

2018



Michael Begonja '18 (CAST) joined CPL, a full-service design firm. In his new role as civil designer, he will assist

the civil engineering team with stormwater, water and wastewater treatment projects.

Alumni contribute to award-winning teams



Alumni of RIT's new media design program had much to celebrate when Google announced the winners of its 2018 Material Design Awards.

Of the four companies honored, three had a new media design graduate play a major role: **Linzi Berry '09**, product design systems lead for Lyft; **Valentin Drown '11**, lead product designer for Simple Habit Meditation; and **Emmi Hintz '12**, lead product designer for Anchor.

The awards honor achievements in employing Google's material design system in four categories: adaptation, experience, expression and innovation. Anchor won for adaptation, Simple Habit Meditation for experience and Lyft for innovation.

Samantha Killian '18 (CIAS) is a packaging engineer at Unilever leading ice cream brands Magnum, Klondike and Good Humor for North America and Canada refreshments.



Peter Bruschi '18 (KGCOE) is a design engineer at Detroit Speed in Mooresville, N.C. The job allows him to be hands-on and work directly with a world-class machine shop and fabrication staff to bring his designs from paper to product.

Alumni

- 1938**
Melania (Mowchan) Rogers '38 (SCB) Aug. 24, 2018
- 1939**
Dominick Diiorio '39 (FAA) Nov. 1, 2018
- 1942**
Rita Fox Dermody '42 (FAA) Jan. 7, 2018
- 1943**
Ann (Gustin) Zetterlind '43 (SCB) Oct. 27, 2018
- 1944**
Mary (Bayer) Decker '44 (SCB) Aug. 27, 2018
- 1947**
Betty (Cleverly) Delles '47 (SCB) Oct. 21, 2018
Shirley (Stone) Sumner '47 (SCB) Nov. 3, 2018
- 1949**
Charles F. Elam '49 (KGCOE) Dec. 8, 2018
Olive (Murphy) Goodwin '49 (SCB) Nov. 20, 2018
- 1950**
Don M. Thurau '50 (GAP) Oct. 22, 2018
William C. Pevc '50 (GAP) Nov. 13, 2018
Lee S. Knight '50 (KGCOE) Aug. 24, 2018
William F. Wilson '50 (KGCOE) Dec. 13, 2018
Martha (Kirk) Lays '50 (SCB) Sept. 13, 2018
Ida Warzecha '50 (SCB) Sept. 13, 2018
Audrey (Cady) Francis '50 (SCB) Nov. 9, 2018
- 1951**
John S. Simpson '51 (FAA) April 24, 2018
Louis J. Zeh Jr. '51 (GAP) Oct. 7, 2018
Donald S. Weidemiller '51 (KGCOE) Nov. 5, 2018
- 1953**
Anthony P. Scalise '53 (CCE) Oct. 19, 2018
Donald B. Schoepf '53 (KGCOE) Sept. 14, 2018
- 1954**
Walter J. Penazek '54 (CCE) Oct. 4, 2018
- 1955**
George J. Searle Jr. '55 (GAP) Nov. 11, 2018
Milton L. Rapkin '55 (SCB) Sept. 4, 2018
- 1956**
Clifford J. Provost Jr. '56 (CCE) Aug. 31, 2018
Louis A. Zollo '56 (CCE) Sept. 6, 2018
- 1957**
Anthony E. Personale '57 (CCE) Oct. 14, 2018
Robert A. Ross '57 (FAA) Sept. 23, 2018
Jerry D. Price '57 (GAP) Aug. 25, 2018
George A. Scatton '57 (KGCOE) Nov. 19, 2018
- 1958**
Samuel T. Randazzo '58 (KGCOE) Dec. 8, 2018
- 1959**
Albert F. Puttlitz '59 (KGCOE) Sept. 7, 2018
Gilbert W. Countryman '59 (SCB) Oct. 23, 2018
- 1960**
Pasquale A. Russo '60 (CCE) Sept. 7, 2018
Richard Szulewski '60 (KGCOE) Sept. 17, 2018
- 1961**
Francis L. Lotemplito '61 (CCE) Aug. 18, 2018
John D. Izzo '61 (CCE) Nov. 2, 2018
Duane K. Palmiter '61 (SCB) Nov. 7, 2018
- 1962**
Andrew A. Fehlner '62 (CCE) Sept. 9, 2018
William A. Miller '62 (CCE) Oct. 6, 2018
John C. Kern '62 (CCE) Nov. 17, 2018
Charles L. Branch '62 (GAP) Nov. 1, 2018
Victor J. Plati '62 (SCB) Sept. 18, 2018
Leni Lee (Lyman) Brusso '62 (SCB) Oct. 15, 2018
- 1963**
Charles O. Wright '63 (CCE) Oct. 29, 2018
William D. Wright '63 (COS) Nov. 27, 2018
- 1964**
Earl A. Dupra '64 (CCE) Dec. 4, 2018
Lawrence M. Sasso '64 (GAP) Nov. 2, 2018
Robert C. Lambert '64 (SCB) Oct. 28, 2018
- 1966**
Barbara (Kohler) Fritzberg '66 (FAA) Oct. 12, 2018
- 1967**
James J. Knapp '67 (GAP) Aug. 22, 2018
John C. Lanphear '67 (SCB) Oct. 3, 2018
- 1969**
Lyle A. Ross '69 (CCE) Sept. 7, 2018
Arthur G. Mitton III '69 (GAP) Dec. 3, 2018
Raymond L. Warn Jr. '69 (SCB) Sept. 24, 2018
- 1970**
Ronald G. Raleigh '70 (CCE) Aug. 29, 2018
Richard E. Vanness '70 (CCE) Sept. 18, 2018
Leonello Casilio '70 (CCE) Oct. 3, 2018
Robert F. Lochner '70 (CCE) Nov. 28, 2018
Roger T. Goss '70 (GAP) Aug. 26, 2018
Michael J. Spencer '70 (GAP) Sept. 11, 2018
David L. Edmunds '70 (SCB) Aug. 22, 2018
- 1971**
Alvin L. Lentzer '71 (CCE) Aug. 15, 2018
Richard J. Leary '71 (GAP) Oct. 1, 2018
Frank Pincelli '71 (KGCOE) Aug. 19, 2018
Jeffrey P. Burdick '71 (SCB) Nov. 27, 2018
- 1972**
Clark D. Nash '72 (CCE) Oct. 3, 2018
William H. Nash Jr. '72 (CCE) Oct. 9, 2018
Deborah (Goldblatt) Sprengart '72 (SCB) Oct. 30, 2018
- 1973**
Ronald H. Stiggins '73 (CCE) Dec. 4, 2018
John P. Magnani '73 (GAP) Aug. 20, 2018
- 1974**
Robert A. Reddy '74 (CAST), '78 MS (CAST) Sept. 7, 2018
Wilson P. Crawford '74 (CCE) Sept. 16, 2018
Robert D. Deegan '74 (CCE) Oct. 28, 2018
Mark R. Matusak '74 (FAA) Oct. 16, 2018
Joseph J. Pasky '74 (GAP) Nov. 18, 2018
- 1975**
Peter C. Swarts '75 (CCE) Aug. 20, 2018
Roger W. Dewispelaere '75 (CCE) Sept. 16, 2018
- 1976**
Mark Stanley Edmondson '76 (CAST) Nov. 27, 2018
Kenneth S. Willi '76 (CCE) Nov. 28, 2018
Daniel Thomas '76 (CLA) Nov. 30, 2018
Joan Greule '76 (COS) Dec. 7, 2018
John E. Lyons '76 (KGCOE) Oct. 30, 2018
Mary E. McCrossen '76 MBA (SCB) Sept. 06, 2018
- 1977**
Robert Francis Hawthorne '77 (CCE) Oct. 1, 2018
Joseph P. Cosentino '77 (CCE), '78 (CCE) Nov. 30, 2018
Jill (Binyon) Kurtz '77 (FAA), '79 (FAA) Aug. 19, 2018
Jeffrey F. Hainon '77 (KGCOE) Oct. 17, 2018
- 1978**
Martin P. Carroll '78 (CCE) Nov. 12, 2018
Louis J. Moneta '78 (CLA) Oct. 25, 2018
Raymond Swain Jr. '78 (GAP) Oct. 23, 2018
- 1979**
Geraldine E. Krenzer '79 (CCE) Oct. 20, 2018
Elinor Lavell '79 (CCE) Nov. 16, 2018
- 1980**
Alison Wong Noto '80 (FAA), '82 MST (FAA) Nov. 3, 2018
- 1981**
William Robert Jones '81 (CCE) Sept. 22, 2018
- 1982**
John P. Huss Jr. '82 (CAST) Aug. 14, 2018
- 1983**
Ronald Samuel Valentine '83 (CCE), '86 (CCE), '90 (CCE) Nov. 24, 2018
Jeffery Gene McGuire '83 (NTID) Nov. 16, 2018
- 1984**
Roland Thomas Bowks '84 (CCE), '85 (CCE), '86 (SCB) Oct. 8, 2018
Deborah S. Pickhardt '84 (COS) Nov. 16, 2018
Theresa (Ciccone) Broderick '84 (GAP), '93 MS (KGCOE) Sept. 23, 2018
Thalia Hambas '84 MS (CAST) Aug. 23, 2018
- 1985**
Ralph Thaxton '85 (CCE) Nov. 14, 2018
Judith Ann Mattern '85 MBA (SCB) Oct. 27, 2018
- 1986**
Mary (Latham) Pedersen '86 (SCB) Sept. 18, 2018
- 1988**
Stephanie Smith Albert '88 (NTID) Oct. 4, 2018
Bernadette Corina Ebanks '88 (NTID) Dec. 13, 2018
- 1989**
Dawn K. Oryl-Patino '89 (NTID) Oct. 4, 2018
- 1990**
Paula E. Oehmke '90 (CCE) Nov. 12, 2018
James Richard Cotie '90 (SCB) Oct. 29, 2018
- 1991**
Lloyd E. McKee '91 (CCE) Dec. 13, 2018
- 1993**
Jason William Cicora '93 (CAST) Aug. 22, 2018
David S. Bobik '93 (CAST) Sept. 20, 2018
Robert F. Cimmino '93 (GAP) Nov. 7, 2018
- 1994**
Samuel J. Kost '94 (SCB) Sept. 9, 2018

1996

Charles M. Heckert '96

(CAST) Aug. 18, 2018

Francis Andrew Cook '96

(CAST) Sept. 2, 2018

Gary Roger Greene '96 MS

(KGCOE) Nov. 4, 2018

1997

George Michael Nadeau '97

MFA (CIAS) Sept. 19, 2018

1998

Jon R. Fox '98 (CAST)

Sept. 4, 2018

John C. Henshaw '98 (NTID)

Sept. 13, 2018

2000

Christine C. Cass '00 (CAST),

'00 MS (CAST)

Oct. 6, 2018

2002

Jason J. Bowers '02 (CAST)

Nov. 22, 2018

2003

David L. Childs '03 (CAST)

Nov. 11, 2018

2004

Phillip I. Boykin '04 (COS)

Sept. 24, 2018

Matthew R. Davis '04

(KGCOE) Oct. 18, 2018

Michael P. McCarthy '04

(NTID) Aug. 29, 2018

2009

Evan M. Lafferty '09 (CAST),

'10 MBA (SCB) Oct. 31, 2018

2011

Matthew E. Reynolds '11 MBA

(SCB) Sept. 18, 2018

Faculty and Staff

Stephanie Smith Albert '88,

NTID's director of Diversity and Inclusion, Oct. 4, 2018

Robert Golden, former professor in the Division of Language, Literature and Communication, Nov. 29, 2018

Joseph Mincey, dining services employee, Jan. 13, 2019

Remembering Tristan O'Tierney



Tristan O'Tierney '08 (computer science) gave RIT one of the first sketches he made of Square's original mobile payment app.

Tristan O'Tierney '08 (computer science), who co-founded Square, a company that revolutionized the mobile payment process for small retailers, died unexpectedly on Feb. 23. He was 35.

Square is the electronic payment service that allows people to accept credit cards with a square-shaped card reader that attaches to a tablet or mobile phone through the audio jack.

Prior to joining Square in 2009, O'Tierney worked at Yahoo!, Apple and VMware. He also worked on the official iPhone app for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and on Twinkle, one of the first Twitter client apps.

O'Tierney met Jack Dorsey, the creator of Twitter who had the inspiration for Square, through Twinkle. Dorsey's friend and Square co-founder, Jim McKelvey, was losing sales at his glass blowing studio in St. Louis because he could not accept credit cards. O'Tierney joined them in creating the company.

O'Tierney, who developed the original iPhone application, left Square in June 2013 after more than four years to develop his

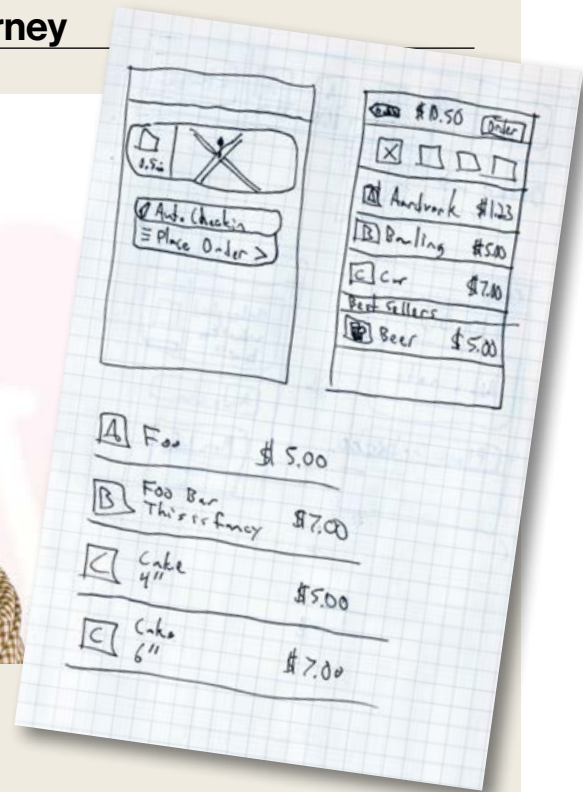
passion for photography.

When he was a student at RIT, O'Tierney was active in Computer Science House. The 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient had continued to be a big supporter of Computer Science House and had donated toward an upcoming renovation effort to create a project room in the living and learning community. He was also a member of RIT's West Coast Board of Advisors.

Paul Tymann, a professor of computer science and director of the Center for Computing Outreach, Research and Education, first met O'Tierney when he was a student in his accelerated first-year computer science class.

Tymann kept in contact with him after he graduated and visited him before he left Square.

"There are certain students who stand out, and Tristan was one of those," Tymann said. "He was incredibly smart. He was really gifted when it came to technology, but he also had a real creative, artistic streak to him. But the thing I remember most about him was that he was an incredibly nice person."





Photos by A. Sue Weisler

The May 21, 2004, convocation celebration, which included fireworks, was the first event at Gordon Field House. Since then, many big-name performers, such as Jimmy Fallon (2008) and Rihanna (2007), have performed there.

Gordon Field House has served the RIT community for 15 years

When making plans to further develop and enhance the Henrietta campus, former RIT President Albert Simone and former trustee Lucius “Bob” Gordon felt that a key component that could enhance student life activities was missing: a field house.

In May 2004, Simone and Gordon proudly opened the Gordon Field House and Activities Center to provide students with a center for athletics and community.

Situated in the center of campus, just off the Quarter Mile between the dorms and academic side, the \$25 million facility contains a two-story fitness center and weight room, an aquatics center, meeting spaces and a 60,000-square-foot indoor track field and event venue.

Former President Simone believed the

campus was “incomplete without a field house” and predicted that it would be the most used building on campus; and he wasn’t wrong.

The field house is open 17 hours a day, seven days a week, and serves as a gathering place for the community. It also serves as a venue for events such as Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival, commencement ceremonies, as well as conferences, talks, concerts and other student life events.

When it came to naming the new facility, it made sense to honor long-time RIT contributors Gordon and his wife, Marie, because of their dedication to this project, according to stories published at the time.

They supported former President Simone’s idea for a field house from its

conception and assisted both financially and conceptually with the project. Gordon in particular was an avid advocate for a field house and thought it would greatly enhance student life on the main campus.

“Having experienced the important part a field house played in my years at Andover and Yale, I became one of Al’s most enthusiastic supporters for one at RIT,” said Gordon in an interview about the dedication of the field house. Gordon passed away in 2008.

Fifteen years later, Simone and Gordon’s idea of a central, community space for athletics has been fully realized. With nearly 430,000 people passing through and using the facility annually, it has become a thriving hub for student life and wellness.

Felicia Swartzenberg ’19



No. 1, March 2019—RIT (USPS-676-870) is published 6 times annually by Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603, once in March, two times in May, two times in August and once in November. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to RIT, Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623-5603.






BRICK CITY

**HOMECOMING
& FAMILY WEEKEND**

rit.edu/brickcity

Join us October 18–20, 2019!

Engage in new events and favorite traditions including Presidents' Alumni Ball, Hockey, Speakers, Reunions, Music, Tours, and more.

-  **Book your hotel now for October!**
-  **RIT Brick City Homecoming**
-  **@RIT_BrickCity**

Experience the creativity

A Free Festival For Everyone

What

Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival is the university's signature event, a showcase that displays the ingenuity of students, faculty and staff.

Admission

Free and open to the public, rain or shine. Parking available on RIT's campus and at Monroe Community College with a free shuttle service to RIT.

What you'll see

Nearly 400 interactive presentations, exhibits, research projects, hands-on demonstrations, and live performances.

New this year

Futurist Symposium with alumni panel at 11 a.m. in MAGIC Spell Studios.

To learn more

Visit www.rit.edu/imagine.

April 27, 2019

Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Rain or shine

**Free and
open to
the public**

