RIT Libraries receive national recognition

The RIT Libraries have received the 2006 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award sponsored by Rittenhouse, Book Solutions and The Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. RIT Libraries, comprised of Wallace Library, the Cory Collection and the RIT Archives, is the first library in the Rochester region and only the second library in New York state to earn this distinction.

This national award recognizes the staff of a university, college or community college library for programs delivering exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of an institution, and acknowledges staff collaboration and innovation in particular. RIT Libraries have been nominated in the university library category.

This award puts RIT in prestigious company—Carnegie Mellon University, North Carolina State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Virginia, Loyola University (New Orleans) and the University of Washington—are the six university library award recipients. It is worth noting that RIT and Loyola libraries have fewer than 50 staff, where the other universities have hundreds. An informative outline of RIT Libraries’ achievements is available at http://library.rit.edu/about/awards/ritlib.htm.

Each winning library will receive $3,000 and a plaque. RIT's plaque will be presented to RIT President Albert Simpson at an award ceremony held at RIT from 2:30-3 p.m. on May 12.

"We are proud to be the recipients of this award, not only for what the staff at RIT Libraries has already accomplished, but also in recognition for what we are doing right," says Chandler McEachin, assistant professor and director, RIT Libraries. "This strategic plan that we created together is moving us toward improving support for our constituents, the university, and the mission of RIT. The ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award encourages us to believe that how we are doing this work reflects a model of service excellence. What is most important to us is that we are all Library award, page 6.

IT Collaboratory to open during March 3 ceremony

One of the focal points to RIT's expanding portfolio of research initiatives will be formally dedicated during an on-campus celebration. The IT Collaboratory building, a recently constructed three-story facility directly north of the Center for Imaging Science and Computer Engineering, will officially open during a ceremony on Friday, March 3.

The IT Collaboratory got its start in 2003 with a $14 million grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant, which will be awarded to RIT in stages over four years, will fund the Collaboratory and help develop the Collaboratory’s strategic initiatives. The Collaboratory is an initiative to foster creativity and innovation in research, education and outreach.

It is a small preview earlier this month, representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security visited the lab within the IT Collaboratory, Dan McGuiness, for the lab, RIT's flagship initiative in the Center for Cyber Security for Imaging Science and Digital Forensics, for right, RIT's vice president for research, were among the presenters.

Podcasting allows for mobile classrooms

Move over Bozo and Sonny. Make way for RIT's Steve LaValle in podcast land:

For spring quarter, LaValle will be offering a graduate class—applied machine learning—via podcasts for students. It will be the first-ever class offered through podcasting at RIT.

Podcasting—posting an audio or video recording online that can be heard or viewed on a computer or downloaded to a portable device like an iPod—is yet another interactive technology catching on as a teaching tool, says Iraan Humbert, director of Online Learning.

"This is a major step for the industry," says Humbert.

"Podcasting as a tool allows students to review material anytime, anywhere. We know from our surveys of distance students that flexibility in course delivery is one of the main reasons students choose to take online courses. Having the added benefit of accessing this content in a mobile format will enhance student satisfaction.

"Many students will want to access course materials for clarification on difficult concepts or for course content, especially before final exams," adds Humbert. "The ability to access course content allows students with Podcasting, page 7.

Researcher discovers hypergiant stars

The discovery of dusty disks—the building blocks of planets—around two of the most massive stars known suggests that planets might form and survive in surprisingly hostile environments.

The discovery was made through NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope observations of two hypergiant stars by a team led by Joel Kastner, a professor at RIT's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. This team's findings appeared in the Feb. 10 issue of Astrophysical Journal Letters.

Kastner used infrared spectra obtained by Spitzer to study a population of dying stars in the Large Magellanic Cloud—our Milky Way's nearest neighboring galaxy. Spitzer's sensitive spectrometer, which breaks down infrared radiation into component wavelengths, is a prime driver visible light into a rainbow, revealed that a third of the stars in the population thought to be in decline were actually younger stars in varying stages of development. Two massive and exceedingly luminous hypergiant stars stood out from the rest.

The curious spectra of these two hypergiants—with one star 70 times bigger than the sun—led Kastner to reexamine the stars' classifications as dying. The slope of the spectra, or the amount of light from different wavelengths, was characteristic of flattened, dusty disks orbiting the stars. Kastner describes the complex mixture of dust detected around the stars as the "tip of the iceberg."

"Discovery of hypergiant stars, page 7.

Student spotlight

As a junior at Council Rock High School, in Newtown, Pa., Christina Bryce was told by a guidance counselor that she wasn't college material. But Bryce, with the belief that she could succeed, went on to earn college credits while still in high school through the Pennsylvania governor's magnet program. She went on to graduate early from the University of Virginia, Loyola University (New Orleans) and the University of Washington—and the University of Virginia, Loyola University (New Orleans) and the University of Washington—which has led her to become the first student to be awarded a scholarship to attend RIT.

As a student at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.

As a junior at RIT, Bryce took a variety of classes, from video game design to computer science, and began thinking about what she would do after she graduated. She knew she wasn't interested in making games, but she did like the idea of working on something that would be a part of our daily lives. She decided to pursue a degree in computer science, which led her to RIT's Computer Science and Engineering program.
RIT artists catch ‘spring fever’

Jennifer Frieda is a student at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. She is also a budding artist who creates by thinking and doing. Or, as renowned artist Leonardo da Vinci once explained, 'Where the spirit does not work with the hand there is no art.'

RIT Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate Frieda, along with a dozen other students, will be showcasing their work at the Sensor Fine Arts Studio Exhibition: Spring Fever at Gallery 4, RIT's student-run contemporary gallery, located at 375 Park Ave. The show runs through March 14.

Spring Fever highlights works recognized and selected by RIT's fine arts faculty, featuring drawings, prints, paintings, sculpture and new visual forms.

As Frieda describes her piece in the show Self Portrait, Deaf Culture, 2006, "I create a sense of motion with my art, working with various textures and colors to express my feelings for an audience that I am not a part of. This piece is a collage of different techniques and materials that I have used in my art. The viewer can see the forms that I have made and how they relate to each other. The piece is meant to be a representation of what I am, not just what I do." For more information about the show or for gallery hours, call Gallery 4 at 262-9470.

Six more weeks of winter

Rows, Korea: Third-year professional and technical communication student, enjoys the festivities at the annual Gwanghwamun’s Day Gala, sponsored by RIT’s Department of Communication. The grand opening, performed in traditional Korean dance, was held to celebrate the 308th anniversary of the Korean Empire. February 22, 2006. © Jennifer Frieda

NTID grants help enhance innovations for deaf students

Two initiatives concerned with equal access to technological education and career awareness for deaf students have been awarded grants totaling $1 million.

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has awarded $1 million to the NTID-sponsored Postsecondary Education Network-International to continue to work in expanding career and education opportunities for deaf people around the world. This brings the total award given to PEN-International to $7 million. PEN works with college and universities in China, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Philippines, Russia and Thailand and plans to partner with colleges in Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong this year. Since 2000, PEN has influenced attitudes, practices and policies among educators and industry leaders on behalf of deaf or hard-of-hearing people.

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation has awarded $66,000 to NTID to develop the initial phase of an interactive Web site to promote graphic communication as a viable career path for deaf high school students. Principal investigator Thomas Reece, faculty member in NTID's arts and imaging studies program, will lead the three-year project, working with AIS Chairperson John Con, AIS faculty member Jean-Guy Naud, and Counseling Services Chairperson Bob Adams, to create a site with information about careers in graphic communication.

Since 2000, PEN-International has influenced attitudes, practices and policies among educators and industry leaders on behalf of deaf or hard-of-hearing people.

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation has awarded $66,000 to NTID to develop the initial phase of an interactive Web site to promote graphic communication as a viable career path for deaf high school students. Principal investigator Thomas Reece, faculty member in NTID's arts and imaging studies program, will lead the three-year project, working with AIS Chairperson John Con, AIS faculty member Jean-Guy Naud, and Counseling Services Chairperson Bob Adams, to create a site with information about careers in graphic communication.

Since 2000, PEN-International has influenced attitudes, practices and policies among educators and industry leaders on behalf of deaf or hard-of-hearing people.

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation has awarded $66,000 to NTID to develop the initial phase of an interactive Web site to promote graphic communication as a viable career path for deaf high school students. Principal investigator Thomas Reece, faculty member in NTID's arts and imaging studies program, will lead the three-year project, working with AIS Chairperson John Con, AIS faculty member Jean-Guy Naud, and Counseling Services Chairperson Bob Adams, to create a site with information about careers in graphic communication.

Since 2000, PEN-International has influenced attitudes, practices and policies among educators and industry leaders on behalf of deaf or hard-of-hearing people.