



From the  
Vice  
President  
and Dean

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz

Strategic visioning or planning processes seem to be the way to organize change in today's workplaces. I'm pleased to report that at NTID, we recently completed a process of reflection, discussion and self-evaluation, resulting in an exciting multi-year plan that will be our guide for advancing the institute the next 10 years and beyond.

As a response to changes in the workplace and in the needs of our students, our plan involves some restructuring of degree areas as well as expanded access and support services. We also envision using our extensive expertise to offer effective educational outreach and training for deaf and hard-of-hearing young people, with the goal of increasing the number of future deaf youth that will be qualified to attend college.

As we carefully study the market and make informed changes, your son or daughter has the advantage of being able to continue in whatever program or path he or she originally chose here at RIT/NTID, or if he or she qualifies, may take the opportunity to switch into one of the newly restructured programs as they emerge.

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## Student Life

### NTID Student Congress

**T**he NTID Student Congress (NSC) is an organization that encourages students to get the most of their college experience by getting involved in student government and interacting with other students, faculty and administrators at RIT/NTID. In the past, NSC has provided events such as Snow Holiday, RIT/Gallaudet Weekend, and NTID Star Search as well as various workshops and seminars to help build student leadership skills.

For this academic year, NSC president Charles Stering (left), and vice president Cassie Haynes (right), together with other NSC members, are planning exciting activities. Already, in conjunction with the Student Life Team, NSC worked on the annual Midnight Breakfast, a popular event that gives students an opportunity to eat a free late-night breakfast served by NTID



faculty and staff as a way of gearing up for finals.

"My main goals are not only to educate students about the political system of NSC, but also to enrich the experiences of deaf and hard-of-hearing students at RIT/NTID through learning and socializing," says Charles. "I'd like to create the best year possible—a year that no one will forget!"

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- Campus Involvement Leads to Success*
- Residence Hall or Apartment*
- Avoiding Identity Theft*
- Financial Aid*

Dean Hurwitz continued

What will not change is our focus on preparing students for careers in a society where technology is changing at an incredible speed. We are intent on giving our students the skills, confidence, conviction, and courage to compete in these changing times.



## NTID Center on Employment Hosts Potential Employers

**D**irector of the NTID Center on Employment, Allen Vaala, and NTID employment advisor, Lynne Morley (far left) chat with visitors from the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NAVSEA) in Virginia. NAVSEA representatives Laura Tronge and Andrew Humphrey (far right) came to campus to learn about NTID's programs in science and engineering with a view toward providing future co-op work experiences for students or permanent employment for graduates. They toured the facilities, and had the opportunity to talk with students about NAVSEA and job opportunities there. This visit was part of NCE's employer development program in which NCE staff work with potential employers to make them aware of the advantages of hiring RIT/NTID graduates. If your company is interested in participating in the employer development program, please contact Allen Vaala, arvnce@rit.edu.



On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the NTID Center on Employment in collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Job Fair for NTID students and graduates. Hundreds of students took the opportunity to meet face-to-face with 31 different employers. Students found out what kinds of jobs are available and made some contacts for future co-ops and permanent employment opportunities. For information on other services your student can take advantage of at NCE, visit their Web site at [www.ntid.rit.edu/nce](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/nce).

## Residence Hall or Apartment...

**Y**ou may cringe when your son or daughter says he or she is going to be moving into an apartment, or you may welcome that idea as another significant step toward independence.

Either way, how do you know when your son or daughter is ready to move into an apartment, either on or off campus? The most important characteristic he or she should have is the ability to communicate effectively. Students must be able to articulate their needs and concerns to their roommates or landlords. Students also should possess basic budgeting skills, and be willing and able to take responsibility for their actions. Finally,

while residence halls and meal plans usually go together, students learn that with apartment life come the joys and challenges of getting and preparing their own food!

In choosing apartment life, students have the opportunity to experience independence and responsibility. In RIT's on-campus apartments, they are able to gain that experience with a safety net. RIT apartments offer services that provide students with assistance in dealing with any issues they may encounter. For example, Residence Life has a close-knit staff that offers mediation and coaching services to help students resolve any issues with roommates that might arise.

If your son or daughter experiences a

roommate conflict or other type housing problem, what should you do?

Be prepared to ask questions, listen attentively, and encourage your student to see the other side of the story. However, the most important step you should take is to ask your student if he or she has talked to the person with whom he or she is having a conflict. You would be surprised how many students say no!

For questions or more information about housing at RIT/NTID contact Cha Ron Sattler, assistant director, apartment area, Center for Residence Life, at [cksrsla@rit.edu](mailto:cksrsla@rit.edu) or at 585-475-4300 (voice/TTY).

# Getting Involved Can Lead to Success!

by *Ellie Rosenfield, Associate Dean, Student and Academic Services*



**H**as your son or daughter contacted you to let you know that he or she is running low on funds and to ask you to send a few bucks his or her way? Were you tempted to tell him or her to get a job, but didn't because you vaguely remembered hearing that sometimes when students have jobs, their grades suffer?

Don't reach for your wallet just yet! Student employment, along with other

types of campus involvement, can be beneficial to your student. Research suggests that there is a positive relationship between working part time on campus and student success. One reason is that campus employment goes beyond the needed paycheck. By working on campus, students can strengthen relationships with faculty and staff, focus on time management, increase their sense of belonging, and make a positive contribution to the campus. A healthy balance between social and academic life can mean all the difference in your student's successful completion of college.

One interesting fact is that students who work on campus are more likely to be academically successful and to graduate than students who work off campus. While working on campus, students have the ability to schedule their work hours to accommodate their class schedules, whereas off-campus employers may not be so flexible—requiring extra hours during academically demanding periods like final exams.

A campus job is one way to get involved, but I also would encourage

other forms of campus involvement. Students have access to over 100 clubs and organizations on campus. However your student chooses to get involved, encourage him or her to get involved as soon as possible. Sometimes, freshmen take a “wait and see” approach—afraid to get involved. Many of the rewards of college life come from activities found outside the classroom. Getting involved can lead to new friendships and a reason to stay motivated for class.

As the parent of a college student, you can be extremely influential in helping your student find the balance between campus involvement and his or her academic pursuits. Encourage your student to engage in activities that will be both meaningful and beneficial to him or her in the long run.

For more information, or if you have any questions or concerns about student clubs and activities, please visit the RIT Center for Campus Life's Web site at: [www.campuslife.rit.edu](http://www.campuslife.rit.edu), and visit [www.ritathletics.com](http://www.ritathletics.com) for information about athletic clubs and teams. To learn more about the national research on campus involvement and student success, visit: [www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov).

## What's Happening on Campus?

**T**here are many opportunities for your student to get involved and enjoy life on campus. Here are just a few of the exciting activities happening at the start of 2005. For a more complete list of activities now and throughout the year, visit <https://events.rit.edu>.

- January 6 Thursday Night Cinema Series begins - free movies each Thursday
- January 11 SG Shuttle Day - free juice and breakfast to students on shuttle buses, courtesy of Student Government
- January 14 Club Day, SAU Lobby - students can chat with members about clubs and organizations on campus
- January 14 Friday Night in the Ritz: Jared Campbell
- January 19 Annual Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.
- January 21 Friday Night in the Ritz: The Whatnot
- January 22 College Bowl
- January 28 Major concert: Dropkick Murphys  
● ● ● ● ● ●
- February 4 Friday Night in the Ritz: Last Comic Standing
- February 5 Faculty vs. Student Flag Football game
- February 6 Superbowl Sunday Extravaganza in the Clark Gym - free food and raffles
- February 7 Begins Homecoming Week
- February 10 Homecoming Pep Rally
- February 11 Student Government Tailgate Party Friday Night in the Ritz
- February 14 Valentine's Dinner - decadent desserts
- February 21 – 25 Finals Week - Student Government Breakfast Stops located within each college

# Financial Aid: Frequently Asked Questions

by **Denise Hampton**,  
Coordinator, Student Financial Services



**Q:** Our billing statement shows funds marked as "anticipated financial aid." What does this mean?

**A:** Financial aid awards are not actually credited to your student's account until after add/drop day. However, the first billing statement will include the amount the Bursar's Office expects to receive through financial aid and places that under "anticipated financial aid." By the time the second billing comes in mid-quarter, the financial aid awards should have been credited to the account. If they are not, please contact Gail Brown, coordinator of NTID financial counseling services at 585-475-6863 (voice) or 585-475-6909 (TTY) or e-mail us at [NTIDAID@rit.edu](mailto:NTIDAID@rit.edu) to see if there is something you need to do.

**Q:** Our bill is a lot more than we expected. What should we do?

**A:** Carefully review your statement. If your student is receiving Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) support, check to see if a payment has been credited to his or her account. If not, contact the VR counselor to see when payment will be sent. If you have questions about the billing statement, contact the Bursar's Office at 585-475-2080 (voice/TTY) or e-mail [152ask@rit.edu](mailto:152ask@rit.edu).

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 585-475-6863 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at [dchnod@rit.edu](mailto:dchnod@rit.edu).

## One-of-a-Kind

**T**he Gordon Field House and Activities Center, the newest addition at RIT, has become the center of attention on campus. Students, faculty and staff can now enjoy the 60,000 square foot arena and indoor playing field for lacrosse, soccer, tennis and track; the two-story 16,000 square foot fitness center; and both a recreational and an intramural competition swimming pool.

"This one-of-a-kind facility will motivate many of us in the RIT community to find the time to put exercise and wellness back into our busy schedules," says Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs.

In addition to being an athletic center, the \$25 million establishment, which was funded in part by long-time RIT friend and trustee Lucius Gordon and his wife, Marie, also will serve as a venue for various concerts, lectures and special ceremonies such as commencement. The field house can hold 8,500 people, making it second in size only to the Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester for holding special events. Indeed, its size and versatility are what makes this new facility so unique.

The Gordon Field House and Activities Center is open for business 17 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, visit [www.rit.edu/~field/index.php3](http://www.rit.edu/~field/index.php3).



*The Gordon Field House is already one of the main attractions on campus, and it is estimated that more than 428,000 individuals will pass through the facility each year. Commencement 2004 was the first event held in the new facility (see below).*



# If you think your student is homesick...

by *Robb Adams, Chairperson,*  
*NTID Counseling Services Department*



**L**et's talk about being homesick. We've certainly all been there. Homesickness comes in many forms with varying intensity.

Simply defined, it's a person's longing for a familiar setting when separated from it. And going away to college is high on the list of events that can cause it.

Naturally, you're concerned about your student's adjustment to college life. Sometimes parents tell me that their student is calling home often, and expressing that he or she is unhappy or dissatisfied with school life or saying that he or she wants to come home. Some students may call home as soon as they arrive, while others may not call until later in the fall, after a school break, or after an upsetting incident, like getting a lower than expected grade on a test. If you get a call, know that what your student is feeling is normal and that it's experienced by many students. It's okay to be anxious and miss home. The good news is that, most often, homesickness is temporary.

The key to overcoming homesickness is to develop a sense of belonging in the new setting. It's a complex process, requiring a person to establish new relationships, find his or her way around a new environment, understand a new set of rules and expectations, and achieve certain levels of performance. This can take time.

Students need to make the adjustment, on their own, to being away from home. You can't do it for them. What you can do is listen, understand,

and support. And you can encourage your student to seek help by using one of the many ways we have to connect with students here.

- Your student and all NTID-supported students are assigned a professional counselor who is trained to help in these and other situations. Your student's assigned counselor will make contact with him or her at the beginning of the fall quarter. Or your student can contact his or her counselor at [www.ntid.rit.edu/counseling](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/counseling).

- Your student also can take advantage of the RIT Counseling Center's services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students by going to [www.rit.edu/ntid/RITcounseling](http://www.rit.edu/ntid/RITcounseling).

- Students also can contact the Resident Advisor on his or her floor. This is an older, experienced student, trained to work with those who might be struggling to adjust.

- The Student Life Team (SLT) is a group of professionals located in the residence halls who provide programming and guidance for all NTID-supported students. Your student would do well to contact one of these folks and participate in SLT activities, especially if he or she is struggling to feel connected in college.

With your support from home and the support of people at college, most students will make this adjustment successfully. However, if your student's anxiety seems extreme, if it begins to affect academic work or prevents him or her from developing meaningful relationships or from reaching out for help, then you should feel free to contact the school. Call me at 585-475-6597(voice/TTY) or e-mail me at [reanse@rit.edu](mailto:reanse@rit.edu). You may also call Dr. Ellie Rosenfield, associate dean for student and academic services at NTID at 585-475-6202 (voice/TTY) or e-mail her at [ERosenfield@ntid.rit.edu](mailto:ERosenfield@ntid.rit.edu).

## AVOIDING IDENTITY THEFT

**Y**our student's first credit card may be an exciting step toward becoming an adult. But hopefully your son or daughter knows that along with the responsibility of monitoring the use of the card, comes the responsibility of making certain the card is secure, both to protect themselves, and in some cases, you, against identity theft.



*To avoid identity theft, your son or daughter should:*

- Be cautious of where he or she places wallets or purses containing identification, credit, and bankcards.
- Shred expired cards and related documents before putting them in the trash.
- Be wary of giving out a social security number.
- Follow up with creditors if his or her bills don't arrive on time.
- Choose passwords that are not easy to guess.
- Order a copy of his or her credit report each year to make sure it is secure.
- Be reluctant to give out information over the phone, by mail, or through the Internet unless he or she knows whom he or she is dealing with, and even then be very careful.

If you or your student feel he or she has been a victim of identity theft, call the toll-free identity theft hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) (voice) or 202-326-2502 (TTY).

# DATE TO REMEMBER

## RIT WINTER QUARTER

November 29 – February 26

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| November 29     | Daytime and evening classes begin        |
| December 4      | Saturday classes begin                   |
| December 6      | Last day to drop/add courses             |
| December 18     | Last day of classes before break         |
| December 21     | Holiday break begins                     |
| January 3, 2005 | Daytime and evening classes resume       |
| January 8       | Saturday classes resume                  |
| January 21      | Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" |
| February 18     | Last daytime class                       |
| February 21-25  | Final exams – day classes                |
| February 25     | Last evening class                       |
| February 26     | Last Saturday class                      |
| February 27     | Winter/Spring break begins               |

## RIT SPRING QUARTER

March 7 – May 21

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| March 7   | Daytime and evening classes begin        |
| March 12  | Saturday classes begin                   |
| March 14  | Last day to drop/add courses             |
| April 15  | Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" |
| May 13    | Last daytime class                       |
| May 14    | Last Saturday class                      |
| May 16-20 | Final Exams – day classes                |
| May 20    | Last evening class                       |
| May 20    | Academic Convocation (7:30 p.m.)         |
| May 22    | COMMENCEMENT                             |

## Who to contact



These resources are available to help answer questions you and your student may have in order to assure a successful college experience at RIT.

NTID Student and Academic Services  
Dr. Ellie Rosenfield, Associate Dean  
edrhd@rit.edu  
585-475-6202 (v/TTY)

NTID Student Life Team  
Karey Pine, Manager  
ktprla@rit.edu  
585-475-6230 (v/TTY)

Student Health Center  
585-475-2255 (v/TTY)  
585-475-5515 (TTY)

NTID Counseling Services  
Robb Adams, Chairperson  
reanse@rit.edu  
585-475-6597 (v/TTY)

NTID Student Financial Services  
Denise Hampton, Coordinator  
dchnod@rit.edu  
585-475-6863 (v/TTY)

RIT/NTID Financial Aid Counseling Services  
Gail Brown, Coordinator  
gabsfa@rit.edu  
585-475-2186 (v)  
585-475-6909 (TTY)

Campus Safety  
585-475-2853 (v)  
585-475-6654 (TTY)

NTID First-Year Experiences  
Linda Bryant, Coordinator  
lmbnca@rit.edu  
585-475-6554 (v/TTY)

RIT Residence Life  
Wendy Hagele, Residence Director  
Ellingson, Peterson & Bell Halls  
wmhsar@rit.edu  
585-475-5518 (v/TTY)

Substance and Alcohol Intervention Services for the Deaf (SAISD)  
Wendy DiMatteo, Staff Specialist  
wmdgrl@rit.edu  
585-475-4978 (v/TTY)

Office of the Vice President and Dean  
585-475-6317 (v/TTY); 585-475-5978 (FAX)  
alan\_hurwitz@rit.edu (e-mail)  
www.rit.edu/NTID

NTID ParentNews is a publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

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Contributing Writers: Nicole Robinson, third-year Professional and Technical Communication student.

RIT will admit and hire men and women; veterans; persons with disabilities; and individuals of any race, creed, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age or marital status in compliance with all appropriate legislation.

# R·I·T

## Rochester Institute of Technology

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