



the BEST OF ALL WORLDS...

Parent/News

Spring 2001



Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz

From the dean

Each spring, as yet another class prepares to leave NTID, I find myself reflecting on their educational experiences here. During this past year, NTID developed a number of new initiatives and creative programs to improve our students' quality of life, safety, and opportunities for success.

Our Quality of Life Task Force sought to identify, address, and put into action specific strategies to improve the co-curricular portion of our students' college experience. The task force identified character building as a priority because when students develop character, they are more prepared to become successful, productive citizens upon graduation.

Another effort implemented as a result of the task force involved creative intervention strategies related to social behaviors. Several "Up All Night" programs, which offered students alcohol-free social opportunities, boasted attendance of up to 300 students each, a clear indication that students are interested in these types of activities. More of these events are planned for the next academic year.

Because the first year of college is critical to students' long-term academic success, the task force also looked at several strategies to improve students' first year experiences. Freshman Seminar, offered during the fall, winter, and spring quarters, played an important role in helping students find their place both academically and socially. By teaching students time management as well as other life skills, and by ensuring that they choose career programs that mesh with

their talents, our First-Year Experience team met the challenge of making each new student feel valued as a member of the university community.

I've mentioned in past columns the ways in which we are addressing safety, arguably many parents' foremost concern when sending their children off to college. While RIT always has prided itself on its safe suburban location, we continue to look for ways to make our campus more secure.

During the \$14 million renovation of the Ellingson-Peterson-Bell residence halls complex, several safety suggestions were incorporated in the architectural plans. You can read about the renovations in greater detail on Page 4 of this newsletter, but the addition of security cameras in residence hall entryways probably is the single most important crime deterrent we have implemented. We know from experience that when cameras were mounted in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Building last year, the incidence of theft decreased dramatically.

NTID takes student safety, satisfaction, and success seriously. Our ongoing evaluation of our students' total educational experience keeps our perspective fresh and our enthusiasm high for meeting the challenges we face. When we take the time to listen carefully to what our students, graduates, and parents are saying, you can be assured that not only will the quality of an NTID education continue to be superior, but the quality of life on campus as well.

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Co-ops

•

Addressing Parent Concerns

•

Student Financial Aid

•

Saluting 4.0 Students

•

Dorm Renovations

Summer co-ops provide valuable experience

Forget what you've heard about those lazy days of summer. A sizeable number of NTID/RIT students spend their summer vacations applying the knowledge they've gained in classes to real-world work situations.

Cooperative work experiences (co-op), which are a requirement in nearly every program, continue to be a valuable component of an NTID/RIT education. While students cross-registered in RIT's other colleges have more flexibility in scheduling their co-ops, summer remains the main time for associate-level students to co-op, typically for a 10-week stint. Whether it's working for a high-powered Wall Street firm or a small Midwest company, co-op allows students to look at their own employment futures and allows businesses to evaluate future employees.

Helping devise this win-win strategy for students and employers is NTID's Center on Employment (NCE), whose basic premise since its formation 30 years ago remains the same: well-taught, well-prepared students make valuable employees.

"Co-op is a good way for a company to bring someone in to help on a short-term basis, perhaps to cover a special project or summer vacation schedules," says Linda Iacelli, senior NCE employment specialist. "At the same time, the students gain work experience and an opportunity to see if their chosen academic program is indeed a good fit for their skills and interests."

Students are encouraged to co-op in sequence, meaning that if their academic program suggests doing a co-op after the first or second year of college, they should follow that schedule. Parents can help their son or daughter secure a co-op by encouraging him or her to seek NCE services for co-op placement.

"Summer co-op allows students to come back to school in the fall revitalized," Iacelli says. "It enriches their studies and hopefully confirms their career choice. Co-op really is part of the educational process."

Iacelli encourages parents to approach their own or other companies in their area to suggest NTID students for summer employment and to share their student employment leads with NCE staff members.

"We often can turn a lead into a summer co-op job for a student," Iacelli says.

While employment leads from parents and faculty/staff are welcome and encouraged, NCE's objective is to help students become confident, successful job seekers who can secure a job on their own.

"We teach our students to develop skills so that they can look for jobs themselves," Iacelli says. "Our goal is to prepare them for life."

Editor's Note: For more information about NCE, visit our Web site at www.rit.edu/ntid/coops/jobs or call 716-475-6219 v/TTY.

NTID E-News

If you would like to know what's going on at NTID on a regular basis, please subscribe to NTID E-News. This electronic newsletter is sent out once or twice a month and provides timely news about NTID and its community members.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to: NTIDMC@rit.edu with SUBSCRIBE NTID E-News [e-mail address] in the subject of the message. Please indicate whether you are a parent or an RIT alumnus. To remove yourself from this list, type UNSUBSCRIBE NTID E-News [e-mail address] in the subject of the message.

You can find past newsworthy items on the World Wide Web at <http://www.rit.edu/NTID/Newsroom> if you prefer to check the news at your leisure.



Strikes, Spares, and Fun... More than 200 students, faculty, and staff participated in the NTID bowling tournament held January 13 at Olympic Bowl. The annual event, which began in 1989, pits students against faculty/staff and provides an opportunity for off-campus social interaction in a fun setting. This year's tournament winner, with a high score of 1570, was

a student team whose members included Barbara Trozzo, team captain and second-year applied computer technology major; Tasha Goodrich, fourth-year social work major; and Stephanie Hurwitz, Jen McLaughlin, and Matt Pocci, all third-year applied computer technology majors.

Addressing parent concerns

By Lee Twyman, chairperson of the NTID Counseling Services Department



Lee Twyman

When parents have questions about some aspect of their son or daughter's college experience, they can turn to the NTID Counseling Services Department. If we can't address your concerns, we'll be happy to direct you to the appropriate NTID resource for assistance.

Following are some questions that we frequently receive from parents. If you have a question you would like to see addressed in this column, please send me an e-mail: LHTNBU@RIT.EDU.

How can parents maintain regular communication with their son or daughter while he/she is in college?

College represents a significant transition period for students and parents. Many students are living away from home for the first time in their lives. They're making their own decisions and establishing their independence. Parents want to foster that independence, but would also like to know how their son or daughter is doing and what's happening in his/her life.

To encourage communication with your son/daughter, try negotiating a regular communication schedule with him/her. Perhaps you will agree to touch base every week or every other week. Whatever schedule you establish, be sure it's convenient and acceptable for you both.

Besides telephone/TTY calls, parents and students can keep in touch through e-mail and/or instant messaging via the Internet.

Whatever method of contact you use, it's a good idea to decide who will contact whom, on what day, and at what time. This way, both of you know what's expected and can plan accordingly.

What can parents do to help students through final exams?

The end of the spring quarter and traditional academic year can cause many students to feel extra pressure. Students may have multiple research papers and/or projects due, in addition to final exams. Spring quarter final exams are scheduled for May 21-24, but some students will take final exams during the last week of regular classes, which is the week of May 14.

Parents can help students through this difficult period by letting them know that you understand the pressure they are experiencing. Encourage your son/daughter to prepare ahead and keep up on assignments and long-term projects to help avoid an end-of-year crunch.

A card or a "care package" of cookies, snacks, etc. from home can be a nice way to help students through the end the quarter and final exams. RIT Food Service offers "Special Delivery," which allows parents to choose from a list of cakes, baskets, and balloons to be delivered to any on-campus residence. For more information, call 1-800-473-0956 or visit our Web site at: www.rit.edu/NTID/SpecialDelivery.



Spring is financial aid season

By Susan Austin, NTID student financial services coordinator



Susan Austin

FAFSA

This is the busiest time of year for financial aid. Most high school seniors and college students across the country are submitting their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor. Students who have filed a FAFSA will receive a green Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Because of the huge volume of forms being processed, turn around time is usually four to six weeks. When the SAR arrives, students should check to be sure their Social Security number is correct. Continuing students at NTID/RIT must also fill out a second financial aid form called the Financial Aid

Application for Undergraduate Students, which can be picked up in the RIT Financial Aid office or my office. Continuing students who fail to fill out the second form will not receive financial aid packages.

Review your award letter

The most important step in the financial aid process is parents and students sitting down and going over the award letter together. Oftentimes, students come to college and do not know that they are getting a loan and must

continued on page 4

financial aid...continued from page 3

sign a promissory note or are eligible for a state grant, but have not signed the application. Also, the financial aid office estimates the amount of support from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Students and parents must verify that the award letter includes a correct estimate of VR support. If not, students can receive a revised financial aid package, but not until the financial aid office has confirmation of VR support.

New law

One big change for federal aid is a new law relating to leaving school. In the past, if students had received federal aid, such as the Pell grant, and withdrew from school, they did not have to pay back the government. As of July 2000, students who withdraw from college must pay back half of their unearned federal funds. This is definitely an incentive to stay in school!

Scholarships

I receive many questions about scholarships. The deadline for most external scholarships is March, although some are not due until April or May. The best place to search for scholarships is www.fastweb.com. Another source of scholarships for many of our students is local clubs like Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Optimist. Phone numbers are usually available in your local phone book. NTID awards many academic scholarships to continuing students who do well in their classes and/or are recommended by the chairpersons of their departments. The key for most scholarships is good grades and participation in activities.

If you have any questions related to financial aid at NTID/RIT, please contact me at 716-475-6863 (v/TTY) or via e-mail at seanod@rit.edu.



Dorm renovations

When the Ellingson-Peterson-Bell residence halls complex was built in 1975, students didn't bring microwaves, computers, or portable refrigerators to college. Today's "essentials" of college living, in comparison, include sophisticated computers, pagers, DVD players, and myriad other electronic devices. Thanks to the ongoing renovations occurring in the residence halls, all of these creature comforts and more will be accommodated with ease when the complex reopens in August.

Undergoing its first major renovation in more than 25 years, the new living spaces of the three residence halls will reflect the changing climate of on-campus living, arguably a student's most important social haven. New walls, carpet, lighting, and an overall contemporary appearance will greet students who arrive for the Summer Vestibule Program

in August, says Al Smith, director of NTID's Division of Institutional Services and one of the project's driving forces.

"The whole infrastructure of the buildings will be changed," he explains.

Renovations include new electrical systems and fire alarms (with sprinklers in each room), a special wing for students requiring assisted living services, and an elevator in Peterson Hall to allow students to move more freely within the three-building complex. Walls will use double drywall to reduce maintenance, and windows will be double paned instead of single.

Updated signs will be visible, particularly near each building's primary entrance. Whiteboards will be mounted next to each student's

Major renovations...Work on the Ellingson-Peterson-Bell residence halls is expected to be completed in August.



doorway for message writing. The Information Desk in Ellingson Hall will be prominently located near the main entryway to make students and parents feel immediately welcome. To address safety concerns, security cameras will be mounted at many entryways. The project planning group still is considering adding other security

continued on page 5

Dorm renovations...continued from page 4

measures, including panic buttons in each room that would send an instant signal to Campus Safety in the case of an emergency.

Additionally, several apartments within the complex will be available for short-term emergency parent visits (in the case of a student accident) as well as for special guests of the institute and a new NTID faculty-in-residence program.

While Smith stresses that the reason for the \$14 million renovation project was to improve the

buildings' infrastructure, he allows that a second priority was to enhance the buildings' appeal to its residents. To that end, planners solicited student input throughout the renovation process by allowing student groups to evaluate potential furnishings. Planners even created four "mock up" rooms and asked for students' opinions on details ranging from lighting and furniture style to bathroom fixtures.

The result? Smith invites families to come and see for themselves next fall.



Winter quarter 4.0 students

NTID is proud to acknowledge the following students who achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the winter quarter.

Jennifer Accordino, ASL English Interpretation
David Adams, Applied Art & Computer Graphics
Carl Adamski, Applied Computer Technology
Michael Adsit, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Melinda Armbrust, Applied Art & Computer Graphics
Elizabeth Ayers, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
John Becker, Applied Accounting
Sarah Bienias, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Diane Blastic, ASL English Interpretation
Anna Blice, ASL English Interpretation
Melissa Bonaventura, Imaging Technology
Aaron Bosley, Applied Computer Technology
Carolyn Brewer, Printing
Daniel Burton, Digital Imaging and Publishing Technology
Sara Calatrava, Business Technology
Karen Campbell, Healthcare Billing and Coding Technology
Patricia Canne, Healthcare Billing and Coding Technology
Stephanie Chester, Applied Computer Technology
Thomas Clark, Information Technology
Carol Convertino, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Tatyana Coryell, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Wendy Craig, Digital Imaging and Publishing Technology
Christopher Cuculick, Information Technology
Tamala David, ASL English Interpretation
Jenamarie Daviton-Sciandra, Fine Arts Studio
Margaret DeFranco, ASL English Interpretation
Binky Dela Cruz, Applied Computer Technology
Paul Ehlke, Information Technology
Erin Esposito, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Crystal Ferrell, ASL English Interpretation
Juan Flores, Applied Computer Technology
Michael Freeman, Film & Video
Christine Giancola, Career & Human Resource Development
Star Glynis Grieser, Professional & Technical Communication
Nathaniel Herring, ASL English Interpretation
Matthew Huray, Environmental Management
Rukiya Isoke, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Kamilla Joskowiak, Medical Technology
Teddy Kenopic, Applied Computer Technology

Regina Kiperman, Career & Human Resource Development
Mian Sheng Lim, Interior Design
Heather Maltzan, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Anthony Manion, Film & Video
Allison Masteller, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Charles McKelvey, Applied Computer Technology
Amanda Miller, Applied Art & Computer Graphics
Amanda Mothersell, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Anthony Napoli, Criminal Justice
Tara Nesbitt, Social Work
Salvatore Nigro, Business Technology
Kevin O'Shea, Electrical Engineering Technology
Jingjing Pan, Applied Computer Technology
Patricia Pangborn, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Samantha Parish, ASL English Interpretation
Jessica Petty, Applied Art & Computer Graphics
Phiuyen Pham, Applied Computer Technology
Susan Postlethwait, Career & Human Resource Development
Concetta Pucci, Social Work
Qing Quan, Applied Computer Technology
Kenneth Rankin, Applied Science and Technology
Kenneth Rosa, Applied Accounting
Donna Scheier, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Ann Scherff, ASL English Interpretation
Steven Schneiderman, Social Work
Priscilla Schultz, Applied Art & Computer Graphics
Stephanie Shubert, Science
Sara Sibenik, Applied Computer Technology
Robert Skaggs, Applied Computer Technology
Sara Stallard, Graphic Design
Terence Stewart, Industrial Design
Thomas Stockley, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Benjamin Stromme, Applied Computer Technology
Chad Taylor, Information Technology
Kalpana Varia, Secondary Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Jarrod Wagoner, Applied Accounting
Glenda Wilcox, Social Work
Noritaka Yuyama, Information Technology

Dates to remember

Spring Quarter 2001

May 18
May 19
May 21, 22, 23, 24
May 25
May 26
May 27-June 3

Last Daytime Class
Last Saturday Class
Final Exams—Day Classes
Last Evening Class
Commencement
Spring/Summer Break

August 11
August 13
August 14, 15, 16
August 17

Last Saturday Class
July 4th Make Up Day
Final Exams—Day Classes
Last Evening Class

Summer Quarter 2001

June 4

June 9
June 11

July 4
July 13

Daytime and Evening
Classes Begin
Saturday Classes Begin
Last Day to Drop/Add
Summer Courses
Holiday (No Classes)
Last Day to Withdraw
with a Grade of "W"

Fall Quarter 2001

September 4

September 5

September 6
September 8
September 13

October 19

Move-In Day for
Returning Students
Evening Classes Begin
(6 p.m. or later)
Daytime Classes Begin
Saturday Classes Begin
Last Day to Drop/Add
Fall Courses
Last Day to Withdraw
with a Grade of "W"



Who to contact



These resources are available to help students and their parents answer questions and assure a successful college experience at RIT.

NTID Student Affairs
Dr. Gerard Buckley,
Associate Dean
gjbcof@rit.edu
(716) 475-7496 (v/TTY)

NTID Student Life Team
Karey Pine, Manager,
ktprla@rit.edu
(716) 475-6230 (v/TTY)

Student Health Center
(716) 475-2255 (v/TTY)
(716) 475-5515 (TTY)

NTID Counseling Services
Lee Twyman, Chairperson
lhtnbu@rit.edu
(716) 475-2876 (v/TTY)

NTID Financial Services
Susan Austin, Coordinator
seanod@rit.edu
(716) 475-6863 (v/TTY)

Campus Safety
(716) 475-2853 (v)
(716) 475-6654 (TTY)

Ellingson Hall
Information Desk
(716) 475-6149 (v)
(716) 475-2894 (TTY)

NTID First-Year Experiences
Ellie Rosenfield, Coordinator
edrdhd@rit.edu
(716) 475-6202 (v/TTY)

Substance and Alcohol
Intervention Services for
the Deaf (SAISD)
(716) 475-4978 (v/TTY)

RIT Residence Life
Wendy Hagele,
Residence Director
Ellingson, Peterson &
Bell Halls
wmhsar@rit.edu
(716) 475-5518 (v/TTY)

Office of the Dean
(716) 475-6643/TTY; (716) 475-5978/FAX
alan_hurwitz@rit.edu (e-mail)
<http://www.rit.edu/NTID/> (World Wide Web)

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

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.

Editor/writer: Pamela L. Carmichael; plcnmc@rit.edu

R·I·T

Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Office of the Dean
Lyndon Baines Johnson Building
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit 626