



## Parent News

Spring/Summer 2005



From the  
Vice  
President  
and Dean

*Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz*

Commencement? What does it mean? Maybe it mostly means "relief." After years of having a student in college, you now have a college graduate.

However you view it, commencement is a beginning, not an end. Each year, more than 3,000 students proudly walk across the RIT graduation stage. In their heads are calculus equations, business principles, essays they've read and—hopefully!—all the knowledge they've accumulated in their relatively short time here. As they approach the stairs to the stage, they are students; as they leave, they are alumni. For them, it's the beginning of a different way of life and a different relationship with the college.

Their undergraduate study may be behind them, but they still have decisions to make. Shall they look for a job in their hometown or elsewhere? Shall they set their sights on additional academic degrees? Should they travel the world? Whatever they decide, they should know there is support for them right here.

NTID's Director of Alumni Relations, Erin Esposito, herself an RIT alumna, is your graduate's direct connection

*Continued on Page 2*

## Student Life

### NTID/GALLY Weekend

**A** pep rally kicked off NTID/GALLY Weekend, a spring event, sponsored by NTID Student Congress that alternates locations between RIT/NTID and Gallaudet every year. Students come from colleges as far away as California to meet and socialize with other deaf and hard-of-hearing students from all over the country.

After the scheduled sporting events, students danced and ate their way through the evening at Brickfest and ended up at a post-party held on campus that offered a climbing wall, sumo-wrestling, and of course, more food!



*In one of several friendly competitions, RIT/NTID's flag football team breezed to victory over the Gallaudet team.*



*Jon LeJeune was really into the swing of things showing school spirit with classic RIT brown and orange face paint.*



*The RIT tiger mascot helped get things started at the NTID/GALLY Weekend pep rally.*

#### *In this issue:*

- Home for the Summer*
- Calm Down*
- Staying Hale and Hearty*
- Parents Make it Happen*
- Financial Aid*

Continued from Page 1

to the college and to other alumni after commencement. I encourage your graduate to remain active in the alumni community. He or she can contact Erin at [Erin.Esposito@rit.edu](mailto:Erin.Esposito@rit.edu) or go to the RIT Alumni Network at [www.rit.edu/alumni](http://www.rit.edu/alumni).

If your son or daughter is looking for a job, the Alumni Career Portal is at [www.rit.edu/ntid/alumnicareers](http://www.rit.edu/ntid/alumnicareers). To stay in touch with college friends and network with other alumni, your graduate can join the RIT Online Community at [www.alumniconnections.com/rit/](http://www.alumniconnections.com/rit/). More than 95,000 alumni living in all 50 states and 90 different countries belong to this network.

To those of you with students who are graduating, thank you for sharing your young adults with us these past several years. To those of you with students who are just beginning their college careers at RIT/NTID, be assured that these resources exist, and when your son or daughter crosses the stage to head off into the world, well prepared for whatever comes his or her way, we'll remain just as dedicated to keeping in touch and helping him or her succeed.



## Home for the Summer

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



"She's home for the summer, but she's hardly ever *at* home."

"He doesn't really talk that much with us anymore."

**T**hese are some of the comments I hear every year from parents who have first year students in college. Some parents see changes in their student during the Thanksgiving break. Others notice the change when their child calls to inform them that he or she is going on vacation instead of coming home for the holidays. What's happening? Why are these first-year students changing so much in such a short period of time?

It's not totally unexpected that students who leave home to spend most of the next ten months in college will change in fundamental ways. They're in a new environment with new expectations. At the same time, they are meeting new people, making new friends, and interacting with instructors and others in very different ways than they experienced in high school. They are developing a new sense of self in this new environment. Students may share their experiences with parents along the way, but often they do not.

What's different at college? There are fewer limits. They can chat until 3:00 a.m. without being told to go to bed. They are accessible through IM (Instant Messaging) on the computer 24 hours a day. In many cases, they can communicate with more people, more quickly they have ever done before. Many of our first-year students experience peer relationships here on a level that is new to them. And these relationships become a primary influence in their lives. Your student at times will appear to listen to and even agree with your advice, but behavior may tell you otherwise. It's tough to accept, but you just don't have the influence or control that you once had

when your son or daughter lived under your roof.

So, how can you most effectively welcome your student back into your home and family during the summer?

1. Listen without judging when they talk about friends or future plans.
2. Ask open-ended questions such as "Tell me more about your plans this fall."
3. Express your values and opinions, but don't force them onto your student.
4. Communicate with your student on his or her terms (even if he or she doesn't communicate back). Write notes. Send them e-mail. Yes, even when they're home. They will read your e-mail.
5. Trust them. Eventually, they'll have to live with the consequences of their decisions. They need practice in doing that now.

If you have questions or concerns about your student's experience at RIT, we have people here who can help. Become familiar with the RIT and NTID Web sites. There are a wide variety of resources available. Or call me at 585-475-6597 (voice/TTY) or e-mail me at [reanse@rit.edu](mailto:reanse@rit.edu). I'd be happy to provide you with information, advice or resources that may help.

## Calm Down!

by Dr. Ellie Rosenfield, Associate Dean,  
Student and Academic Services



**T**here seems to be a lot of tension in the world today. With stories about fan-fever, road rage, and bullying in schools appearing regularly in local and national media, it appears that tempers in our world certainly do flare.

If you view college communities as microcosms of the larger world, you can imagine that campuses are not immune to such social issues. For example, research shows that more often than not, students entering college are sharing a room for the first time, and sharing it with a roommate who is a virtual stranger. This new relationship is happening while students are trying to adjust to all other aspects of college life. Sometimes these interpersonal relationships are not easy to manage. And then we read that, on campuses around the nation, students are complaining about being hassled by fellow students—often via e-mail.

Many of the difficulties that arise are the result of inadequate conflict resolution skills. Here are a few conflict resolution tips to share with your student that will hopefully help him or her avoid interpersonal difficulties.

- Communicate directly with the person with whom you have the issue.
- Try not to discuss the issue in the heat of the moment.
- Talk about concerns while they are small; don't wait until a disagreement escalates.
- If necessary, ask for help—an instructor, peer, or a resident assistant may offer a good perspective on resolving the conflict.

Stress is a normal part of college life. Our goal is to help your son or daughter learn to advocate for him or herself in a productive way and to positively negotiate the encounters that will add richness to his or her campus experience. Developing conflict resolution skills serves us all—both on campus and on the nation's highways. Here's to controlling the road rage in all of us!

## Student Poets Visit Japan

**L**ast year, Film and Animation major Sam Sepah was thrilled when he learned that, as a winner of the Robert F. Panara Haiku/Tanka Competition, a video of him performing his haiku would be shown on an outdoor video screen in Tokyo, near the United States Embassy.

Thanks to the Postsecondary Education Network (PEN)-International, sponsor of the annual competition, Sam and four other winning poets from RIT/NTID will visit Japan in May to celebrate their artistic success and enjoy a cultural exchange.

Combining an ancient Japanese poetry form with the expressive beauty of American and Japanese Sign Languages, the Haiku/Tanka Competition has become an annual opportunity for students from both RIT/NTID and Japan's Tsukuba College

of Technology (TCT) to try their hand at creative poetry writing.

The competition began in 2000 as the brainchild of now-retired NTID Professor Jerome Cushman, as a way to honor beloved Professor Robert F. Panara, Panara, NTID's first deaf faculty member, who regularly incorporated haiku into the English classes he taught for deaf and hearing students.

Cushman's idea found support from PEN-International Director James DeCaro and The Nippon Foundation of Japan, the philanthropic organization that funds PEN-International.

According to competition rules, students may submit both Haiku (three-line poems) as well as Tankas (five-line poems).

This year, a record 249 poems were submitted by 28 students from both schools.

Competitions were staged separately at both colleges, but video conferencing allowed the students to watch each other's performances.

This year's RIT/NTID student winners are Stephen S. McDonald, Sam S. Sepah, Jessica A. Thurber, Jack R. Williams, and Christopher J. Zahniel. Honorable mentions were given to Leon Lim, Michelle Peterson, and Cassie Haynes. McDonald's Tanka follows:

*red sun  
on the horizon  
reflecting off  
knolls of sand  
my desire to drink*



TCT's five student winners and four faculty members visited RIT/NTID in March, and will welcome NTID's student winners and chaperones in May. Winning poems can be found on the PEN-International Web site at [www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/news.php](http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/news.php).

# Parents Make it Happen!

**P**arents overcome many challenges to help their children get to college, but it doesn't stop there. After college, the search for a job begins. How can parents help?

One parent, Josephine Mendonsa, mother of Charmaine, who graduated from RIT/NTID in 2001, read her e-mail as usual one day while at work in asset management at JPMorgan Chase. On that particular day, there was mention of a disability employment seminar, and that reminded Mrs. Mendonsa that at one time, her employer had hired many students from RIT/NTID for summer co-op positions. She made some inquiries and was told there had been cutbacks, but yes, there had been a

hiring connection in the past. Mendonsa provided information on her company's recruitment program for students with disabilities to Linda Iacelli at the NTID Center on Employment (NCE). Iacelli then re-established a connection with JPMorgan Chase human resources that resulted in two co-op positions for RIT/NTID students last summer, and a contact for the future. And representatives from JPMorgan Chase have attended the NTID Job Fair two years in a row to interview students for employment opportunities. Iacelli and NCE colleague John Macko presented NCE's employer workshop at several JPMorgan Chase sites around the country.

"I want people to realize what deaf young people are capable of," says Mendonsa.

"Many employers probably think they won't hire deaf workers because they wonder, 'How am I going to communicate?' It's easier than they think."

Mendonsa describes her daughter as "a real go-getter" who is employed by the New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and involved in several deaf organizations in her area.

"I admire her, and she inspires me," says Mendonsa.

If you think your employer might consider an employment relationship that will benefit NTID students, contact the RIT/NTID Center on Employment at 585-475-6219 (voice/TTY) or e-mail at [ntidcoe@rit.edu](mailto:ntidcoe@rit.edu).

## Staying Hale and Hearty

**S**tudents at RIT/NTID have two very good reasons to get, or stay, in shape during their years here. The first is the new Gordon Field House and Activities Center, which includes a 60,000-square foot field and event venue, an aquatics center for both competition and recreation, and a fully equipped 16,000 square-foot fitness center. The field house is open seven days a week, 17 hours a day.

"This is an amazing facility that offers a variety of classes to fit every fitness and interest level," says Michelle Blind of RIT's Center for Student Transition and Support.

"We encourage students to take advantage of courses, such as the RIT Health Challenge, Fitness Seminars, and programs offered in collaboration with the Student Health Center and the Counseling Center."

The second reason students have for keeping in shape is that the Center

for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation works year round to find the best programs and ideas to keep students motivated, fit and active. Students can take classes designed around seven areas of interest that include:

- Wellness
- Fitness
- Health and Safety
- Lifetime Recreation
- Interactive Adventures
- Martial Arts

RIT estimates that there are nearly 17,500 members of the RIT community participating in wellness programs, with another 8,500 intramural athletes enjoying team and individual events. Two NTID staff members, Marsha Wetzell and Jan Strine, support deaf and hard-of-hearing students interested in classes and programs. All programs are open to RIT students, faculty, and staff.

## Three New Webcams Show RIT Live!

RIT's University Web Services Team in the Information and Technology Services Department has positioned three new Web cameras at different locations around the college so that you and grandma and grandpa, aunts and uncles all can use them to catch a glimpse of campus. Two cameras are mounted outside, one at the Kodak Quad/Quarter Mile, and another at the Administration Circle/Paley sculpture. The third is mounted inside the Student Alumni Union (SAU) pointing at Ben and Jerry's, providing an excellent view of one of the busiest spots on campus.

How can you take a look at live action from RIT? Just visit [www.rit.edu/~webcam/](http://www.rit.edu/~webcam/). You will have three choices of images, and you can control the cameras, which can tilt, pan and zoom for up to one minute.

Here's a thought. Have your student meet you online in front of the webcam at an appointed place and time and wave! See your student in his or her element!

# RIT Libraries Have Something for Everyone

**D**o you picture your son working on a class project, hunched over piles of research journals in the campus library? Or your daughter checking out dozens of books to get her final paper done on time? Think again. Today's students are taking advantage of the high-tech resources available to them at the library.

RIT's Wallace Memorial Library has dozens of features designed both to appeal to the high-tech way students are used to getting information today, and to keep students interested and engaged in their class work.

The library goes a step farther and has among its staff of librarians, Joan Naturale, who is focused on finding resources to help both deaf and hearing



*"Meet the Authors" At this regular event in the Idea Factory at the library, Dr. Harry Lang, far left, professor at NTID, discussed two of his books, "Edmund Booth, Deaf Pioneer" and "A Phone of Our Own: The Deaf Insurrection Against Ma Bell". Left to right: Sarah Reynolds, Outreach Coordinator for RIT Libraries; Becky Simmons, RIT Archivist; and Joan Naturale, deaf resources librarian, had questions after the presentation.*



*Deaf Poetry Jam Assistant professor of creative and cultural studies at NTID, Luane Haggarty, introduces her student, Isabelle Williams, who recited a poem. Her poetry class participated in a "Deaf Poetry Slam" in the Idea Factory where NTID Literature classes and Drama Club groups gave performances of works studied in class.*

members of the campus community appreciate the abundance of information about deafness and deaf culture as well as topics related to their course projects available through the library.

Naturale, who is deaf, promotes access services in the library and helps students do research for projects, keep up with library events, find captioned entertainment videos, and enjoy special programs appealing to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Each year Naturale has seen a growing number of deaf and hard-of-hearing students discovering all that the library offers. Here are some of the reasons these students love the library!

- A popular and accessible cafe/coffeehouse called Java Wally's, located right in the library. Here students can use one of 50 wireless laptops while eating giant cookies and sipping their own "cup of tea." Java Wally's also has an after-hours room that is open 24 hours a day, Sunday through Thursday.

- "Get Acquainted" library tours for freshmen.
- Office, e-mail, TTY, videophone, and email/Internet/Instant Messaging consultations for students to assist them with research.

- Interpretive systems at both the reference and circulation desks to facilitate written communication between people who sign and people who don't.

- Special deafness-related events, such as a "Meet the Author" series that highlights deaf authors, Deaf Awareness Week, and deaf guest speakers.

- Video and DVD/DVD-ROM collections on ASL, Deaf Culture, Deaf Biographies, Deaf Heritage, ASL Literature and Poetry, and other related topics students can borrow up to five days.

"I really like developing the deaf studies collection here at the library," says Naturale, "because it is unique and motivating for both faculty and deaf students to use. I especially like when new faculty members become aware of all that we have for students. Professors are very influential in spreading the word about what the library has to offer."

## Financial AID

### File online!

File online!  
File online!  
File online!  
File online!  
File online!  
File online!



Renew your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).  
(RIT's federal school code is #00280.)

- Request your PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov/](http://www.pin.ed.gov/), if you forgot yours!

- Complete the RIT Financial Aid Application at [www.rit.edu/financialaid](http://www.rit.edu/financialaid).

- Remember to file after January 1, 2005 and before April 1, 2005.

- Remember to file your FAFSA every year!

As always, if you have questions regarding financial aid, please feel free to contact me at 585-475-2186 voice, 585-475-6909 TTY, or by e-mail at [finaid@rit.edu](mailto:finaid@rit.edu).



*by Denise Hampton, Coordinator, Student Financial Services*

## File online!

# DATE TO REMEMBER

## RIT FALL QUARTER 2005 September 5 – November 19

September 5	Daytime and evening classes begin
September 10	Saturday classes begin
September 12	Last day to drop/add courses
October 14	Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"
November 11	Last daytime class
November 14-18	Final exams - day classes
November 18	Last evening class
November 19	Last Saturday class
November 20-27	Fall/Winter break

## RIT WINTER QUARTER 2005-2006 November 28 – March 4

November 28	Daytime and evening classes begin
December 3	Saturday classes begin
December 5	Last day to drop/add courses
December 17	Last class before break
January 9, 2006	Daytime and evening classes resume
January 14	Saturday classes resume
January 27	Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"
February 24	Last daytime class
Feb 27 - March 3	Final Exams - day classes
March 3	Last evening class
March 4	Last Saturday class
March 5-12	Winter/Spring break

## Who to contact



These resources are available to help answer questions you and your student may have 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.

Editor/writer: Kathy A. Johncox; kajnod@rit.edu  
Contributing Writer: Kathleen Sullivan Smith.

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

National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Office of the Vice President and 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