From the NTID President and RIT Vice President and Dean

Dr. Gerard J. Buckley

I’m honored and invigorated to be taking the helm at such an exciting time for our college. There are a number of new initiatives on the horizon that will enhance our students’ college experience and ensure that RIT/NTID remains a leader in providing career education for deaf and hard-of-hearing young people.

Our community is actively engaged in implementing our new strategic plan, Strategic Decisions 2020, which includes strategic initiatives involving six areas: Students, Program and Curriculum Development, Communication, Access, Faculty/Staff, and Innovation and Scholarship Research. More information on our plan is available on our website at www.ntid.rit.edu/president/sd2020.

We also currently are raising funds for NTID’s Imagination Hall, a state-of-the-art facility that will be the focal point for innovation, original research and entrepreneurship for our students. We expect to break ground in 2012 and open the new building in 2013. To learn more, visit www.ntid.rit.edu/imaginationhall.

We invite you to be part of our initiatives in any way you see fit—by helping identify employers where our students can do their co-ops, by contributing and participating in...

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From Quarter to Semester

Starting in fall 2013, RIT will move from the current quarter system to a semester-based academic calendar, and the semester conversion project is well underway. The planning committees are on schedule, ever vigilant about RIT’s commitment that no student will see any loss of progress toward a degree, have a delay in graduation date or see any increase in tuition or fees related to the transition. To see RIT President Destler’s Commitment to Students and Parents and get more information about the conversion, visit www.rit.edu/conversion.

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Let’s Behave

by Mark J. Rosica
Interim Chair, NTID
Department of Counseling and Academic Services

IT/NTID students recently had an opportunity to attend a discussion and learn about the topic of civility from Dr. P.M. Forni of the Johns Hopkins Civility Project. You might wonder why it is important to promote civility to college students.

Forni explains that the quality of our lives depends on the quality of our relationships, and the quality of our relationships depends on our relational skills. Exhibiting civility means we are aware, caring and respectful of others.

It may not be obvious to young adults why they should care about the impression they leave with others as a result of their interactions, but think about what civil behavior does. It strengthens social bonds and reduces stress. It’s necessary for all relationships, and therefore is good for business. It’s the foundation and most powerful influencer for how people form their opinions about others. Bottom line, our social skills make us likeable.

There are many causes of incivility. Lack of self-restraint, stress, insecurity, anonymity and lack of time are just a few, according to Forni. He says we have done a very good job of teaching our children self-esteem. However, when we emphasize it too much, it’s possible our children will believe that their needs and wants are more important than those of others, and when they become adults, they won’t have the important balance of self-esteem with self-restraint.

At college, your students are dealing with the ups and downs of being away from home, having their independence, dating, managing their time, interacting with peer groups, coping with academic pressure and prioritizing tasks in the face of nearly unlimited freedom. These young men and women need to learn how to deal with these challenges while being respectful to and patient of the needs of others. Certainly we are interested in your student’s academic accomplishments and progress in his or her major, but we also are concerned with teaching civility skills and role modeling to effectively deal with life’s challenges.

Seeing you be role models and practicing civility at home will help your son or daughter improve his or her response to disappointment, stress and the challenges he or she will face as an adult in a civil and respectful way.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about your student and his or her college experience, feel free to contact me at mjrvc@rit.edu or by phone at 585-475-6288 (voice/TTY).
Movie Star Sighting

Al Pacino was a featured speaker at RIT’s 2010 Brick City Festival in October. Student Government officials, event volunteers and others spent a short time with Pacino backstage before his presentation, and Greg Pollock (in the light suit jacket), RIT’s student government president, was one of the people who met Pacino.

“Bringing Al Pacino to RIT was a fantastic experience,” he says. “The view from the stage was fantastic; it was amazing to see so many people, some of whom had traveled great distances to see the sold-out show. RIT’s star is definitely rising.”

Pacino entertained the audience with vignettes from his acting career; answered questions posed by film critic, Jack Garner, longtime columnist for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle; and took questions from the audience.

Change as a Way of Life

by Dr. Robb Adams
Associate Dean, NTID Student and Academic Services

Change has occurred in surprising abundance at NTID this past year. It’s not that I don’t expect change, or that it’s a bad thing. In fact, I think it can be refreshing at times. It’s just that sometimes I find myself looking for stability in a world that will not stand still. Your students may be feeling some of this as well. Let me take a minute to outline some of the changes in the works at RIT/NTID.

• We’ve just completed a year with an interim NTID president and now have a new permanent president, Dr. Gerry Buckley.
• Faculty and staff are busy making plans to convert our academic programs from quarter to semester-based systems—a conversion that will be implemented in fall 2013.
• We currently are implementing changes to our programs and services as a result of Strategic Decisions 2020, the outcome of our strategic planning efforts.

These are a few of the many changes that have begun and will continue over the coming years. Continuing to provide an outstanding academic experience to your students is the motivation behind these changes.

And yet students may be wondering if any of these changes will have a negative impact on their graduation, or if trusted services will be missing. We can’t always predict how students will react to these changes, but we certainly are interested in their reaction.

We’ve made sure that all of the changes I’ve mentioned have included student participation. Communication has been constant and pervasive. Still, because our students today are flooded with information from e-mail, texting and social networking like Facebook, Twitter and more, we know that the details of life—and of change—can be missed, misunderstood or ignored.

Our website and publications are full of helpful information. And our faculty, staff and administration are ready and willing to communicate with you. If you or your student has questions about the changes occurring at RIT/NTID, please feel free to contact us. Change has become a way of life here at RIT/NTID, and I’m hopeful that communicating with you will be part of this life as well.

You can reach me at reanse@rit.edu, by phone: 585-475-6597 or videophone: 866-948-6871.
Financial Aid: Vocational Rehabilitation Support

by Donna Podeszek
NTID Student Financial Services Coordinator

If your student receives support from Vocational Rehabilitation in your state, remind him or her to give the VR counselor copies of grades and registration schedules at the end of each quarter so that VR payment authorizations for your student are not delayed for the following quarter. Your student can give both you and VR access to this information. The bill your student gets from Student Financial Services allows him or her to register two people to have access to his or her billing information. This is a great resource for VR counselors as they consider support for your student because it gives them access to student grades, schedules and bills.

VR support is reassessed each quarter. To make sure VR funding goes smoothly, remind your son or daughter to contact his or her VR counselor regarding funding requirements for the rest of the 2010-2011 academic year. Your student is expected to maintain good academic standing and is required to keep his or her VR counselor up to date with all transcripts, changes in courses or curricula, financial status or problems encountered. Please make sure that you discuss VR support and any changes in graduation date with your student.

If you have questions about VR, contact me at 585-475-6863 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at nsasaid@rit.edu, or visit NTID’s VR website at www.rit.edu/NTID/VR.

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.

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<th>Office of the NTID President</th>
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<td><a href="http://www.rit.edu/NTID">www.rit.edu/NTID</a></td>
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NTID ParentNews is a publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.