A Message from Laurie Brewer

This quarter our new President and Dean, Gerard Buckley assumed leadership of NTID. You may be wondering what changes are in store and how they will affect our collective work. Dr. Buckley has given his full support for Strategic Decisions 2020 and will lead us in fully implementing this vision. So you can expect that we will not miss a beat.

Academic Affairs will continue to operate as a collaborative organization, with more opportunities for innovative and creative projects shared between departments. The business of Academic Affairs has been and continues to be centered around student and faculty/staff success. Departments and committees continue to do an outstanding job preparing NTID for semester conversion and rolling out the initiatives of Strategic Decisions 2020.

In this newsletter you will find many shining examples of our cross-departmental collaborations. For instance, the General Education Framework Committee for AOS programs collected feedback from departments and NFC and offered three Open Forums for faculty/staff discussion on the proposal for semester conversion. The Edmund Lyon Lectureship Series Committee invited Dr. Tom Humphries to NTID as a guest presenter. SD 2020 Innovation Funds for innovative instructional/student services projects were awarded to nine different collaborative teams. Innovation Funds are also supporting scholarship and research projects and professional development activities. NTID Professional Development is accepting grant applications to fund projects in teaching, research and scholarship. And the RIT American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Community Center opened its doors to the community after a long dream in the making.

Yes, we’re still rockin’ and rollin’ with President Buckley at the helm!
Semester Conversion Update

By Marianne Gustafson

NTID has made significant progress to convert programs and courses from quarters to semesters. Many programs have engaged faculty, staff and chairs in developing proposals to combine, replace, delete and add content to their courses. Several programs have completed their RIT/NYSED proposals showing how they incorporated the RIT Academic Program Profile components and revised their Assessment Plans to reflect appropriate program goals and student learning outcomes. Individual course outlines have been written to reflect the semester information, including the alignment of course goals and outcomes.

The NTID General Education (Gen Ed) Framework Committee for AOS programs drafted a set of Foundation and Perspective course categories based on student learning outcomes. The draft was revised after meeting with NCC, NFC and each department at NTID to gather feedback. A proposal was developed by the NTID Conversion Steering Committee to fit current mathematics, science and ASL/Deaf Cultural Studies requirements within the Gen Ed Framework established by RIT for AAS and AS programs.

In January there will be three Open Forums to discuss the associate degree Gen Ed requirements. Discussion has begun regarding content and format for the NTID Freshman Seminar and RIT First Year Seminar courses.

Eight program proposals have been reviewed and approved, pending finalization of Gen Ed outcomes and courses. They are:

- Deaf Cultural Studies/ASL Certificate program-NCC review
- Performing Arts Certificate program-NCC review
- Applied Optical Technology AOS/AAS programs discontinuance-NCC approval; sent to Provost
- Arts & Imaging Studies AOS/AAS programs-NCC and ICC approvals
- Computer Aided Drafting Technology AOS/AAS programs-NCC and ICC approvals; Diploma discontinuance-NCC approval; sent to Provost
- Computer Integrated Machining Technology AOS program-NCC and ICC approvals; Diploma discontinuance-NCC approval; sent to Provost
- Administrative Support Technology AAS program and Diploma discontinuance-NCC approval
- American Sign Language and Interpreter Education-NCC approval

Some faculty, program directors and chairpersons have been meeting with Marianne Gustafson to discuss/develop required documentation in preparation for NCC review:

- Masters of Science in Secondary Education
- Applied Computer Technology AOS/AAS/AS
- Accounting Technology, Business Technologies, AS in Business
- Career English-needed for AOS course masks
- Selected mathematics and science courses-needed for technical course masks

Three Open Forums on Gen Ed Semester Proposals

The NTID Gen Ed AOS Framework Committee hosted three Open Forums where faculty members were invited to discuss the new Gen Ed Framework and the NTID proposals for satisfying AOS, AAS and AS Gen Ed requirements. The Open Forums were held on January 19, 20 and 21. The ballot to vote on the proposals remains open January 27-31, 2011 at http://www.ntid.rit.edu/vote/AcademicAffairs/GenEdFrameworkVote/.

A big thank you goes out to the Gen Ed Framework Committee for its work preparing the proposals for a vote. The Committee is co-chaired by David Lawrence and Annemarie Ross. Other members are Linda Bryant, Karen Christie, Judy MacDonald, John Panara, Cindy Sanders, J. Matt Searls, and Brenda Whitehead.

NTID Online Student Rating System (SRS) 20102

The NTID Student Rating System (SRS) is now accepting online requests from classroom teachers and individual service providers for Winter Quarter surveys. Requests may be submitted through January 30th at www.ntid.rit.edu/srs/sp.

A new Online Handbook is available on the website to guide instructors through the process.

The SRS surveys will be accessible to students February 7-20, 2011. Survey reports will be distributed to faculty and staff during Break Week.

Questions regarding the SRS may be directed to the Advisory Committee chair, Stephen Aldersley at sfance@rit.edu, or to Sue Roethel at smrnvd@rit.edu.
Edmund Lyon Memorial Lectureship Series welcomes Dr. Tom Humphries

Tom Humphries opened the 2010-11 Lyon Memorial Lectureship Series to present “Deaf Identity Discourse: Some Theoretical Frames” to the NTID/RIT and Greater Rochester community in December. Dr. Humphries, an Associate Professor in Education Studies and the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego and Associate Director of Education Studies, challenged the audience to think differently about the complicated discourses of what it means to be Deaf and the local histories in which Deaf is constructed.

Approximately 250 people participated in the evening lecture and a follow-up workshop the next day to continue the discussion on applying cultural frames to everyday life. The events were organized by the Edmund Lyon Memorial Lectureship Committee, co-chaired by Katie Schmitz and Jerry Berent, along with members Pam Conley, Ila Parasnis and Mike Stinson.

The Edmund Lyon Memorial Lectureship Series is a joint venture of NTID’s Department of Research and Teacher Education and Department of Liberal Studies, and Rochester School for the Deaf. For more information, please visit http://www.rit.edu/ntid/lyon/.

THE RADSCC Celebrates its Grand Opening

The RIT American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Community Center (RADSCC) opened on January 19, 2011 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Student Alumni Union. The Center is designed to be a resource that will enrich and celebrate the achievements of the Deaf community, and support advocacy and education among deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing students, faculty and staff.

It is hoped that the RADSCC becomes a gateway, both physically and symbolically, of true cross-cultural collaboration throughout RIT and the Rochester community, as well as nationally and internationally.

The Center was developed by the RADSCC Advisory Committee, chaired by Donna Gustina. Other members include Jeanne Behm, the new RADSCC Director; Barbara Ray Holcomb, Joan Naturale, Aaron Kelstone, Pam Kincheloe, Dan Millikin, Fredda Bishop, Doney Oatman, Cindy Sanders, Greg Pollock and Helen Yu.

Innovation Fund Award Recipients Announced

Congratulations to the winners of the President’s Innovation Fund Awards Contest. The winners for Innovative Instruction/Student Services projects are:

- **Electric Bicycle Fleet Pilot Program**
  - Scott Bellinger, Engineering Studies

- **Adopt an Organization**
  - Ken Hoffmann, AIS

- **DCCS/DDW Study Abroad Program**
  - J. Matt Searls, CCS

- **Deaf History Website: Visual History Collection**
  - Patti Durr and Karen Christie, CCS

- **Ellie Rosenfield Personal Finance Club**
  - Mike Kane, Business Studies
  - Dan Millikin, Student Life Team

- **Enhancing Student Learning via Writing in Disciplines Pilot Program**
  - Rose Marie Toscano and Linda Rubel, Liberal Studies

- **Culturally and Linguistically Accessible Behavioral Health Outcome Measurement Tool for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing College Students**
  - Anne Steider and Susan Chapel, NTID Psychological Services/RIT Counseling Center

- **Cross-Departmental Innovation and Entrepreneurship Learning**
  - Wendy Dannels, Engineering Studies

- **Video of Lab Procedures**
  - David Templeton, Science & Math

Thank you to the Innovation Funding Committee, chaired by Peter Hauser, and Denise Kavin, Donna Lange, Chris Monikowski, Tina Nelson and Brian Trager for reviewing 89 project proposals and making recommendations for the funding.

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Department News

ASLIE

January 15th was the deadline for applications to be admitted into the first ever Certificate Program for Healthcare Interpreting. The new 12-month program, coordinated by Kathy Miraglia, begins in June 2011 and will feature 160 hours of classroom instruction plus practical experience.

Arts and Imaging Studies

About twenty Arts & Imaging Studies photography students enjoyed a beautiful mid-October Saturday with Profs. Tony Toscano, Tom Policano, and Ken Hoffmann for a photo shoot experience at Tony’s farm in Prattsburgh, NY. The students and faculty explored the grounds, had a nice cook-out lunch, and most importantly had fun photographing the scenery, animals, and each other. On Monday evening of fall quarter exam week, the photo students displayed their work for each other and enjoyed a pizza dinner in the lab. A great bonding experience for all!

Engineering Studies

DES’s Freshman Seminar students held their annual “Egg-Safety” Design competition. The challenge was to design a chassis to preserve and prevent eggs from cracking during a collision. Students from the DES’s Career Orientation & Retention Engineering (CORE) program outwitted and outsmarted all of the (directed and SVP-accepted) Freshmen students! Congratulations to the winners: Andrew Howes and Edwin Nirider (1st Place); Myrie Henderson and Orren Aden (2nd Place).

Cultural and Creative Studies

The Performing Arts Program in the Department of Cultural and Creative Studies received the Special Recognition Award from the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester at a ceremony held at the Hyatt Hotel in November. The award was presented in honor of over 35 years of contributions to the arts in the Rochester community. Bill Destler, Jim DeCaro, and members of CCS were in attendance, along with leaders from local governmental, business, artistic and community organizations.

The Signing in Public Spaces Committee (SPSE)

NTID has always committed itself to a fundamental respect for the language and communication preferences of its community members. The SPSE was created in 2007 in response to a need expressed by students, faculty and staff for a more inclusive communication environment, especially in regard to the use of sign language by faculty and staff in public spaces.

The SPSE is a standing committee whose current membership is: Deborah Makowski and Regina Kiperman-Kiselgof, co-chairs; Mistie Cramer, Chris Kurz, Don Sims, Wendy Dannels, Kristy Drouin (student); and Robb Adams (NAC rep). The committee asks that we all raise our hands and join in to demonstrate the individual and personal commitment of 100% faculty and staff to signing in public spaces.
By Marilyn Walker
Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Studies

I was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. Many years before I was recruited to teach at NTID, my parents encouraged my siblings and me to study the arts and literature. My aspirations and dreams have always resided with poetry. In my youth, I was fascinated with verse in the form of hip-hop music and the literary works of Langston Hughes. I especially admired that Hughes was prolific, considered the poet laureate of Harlem and wrote about people and scenes from urban life. Although the focus of my literary studies shifted from the Harlem Renaissance to British Romanticism, my investment in literary perspectives from socially and/or disenfranchised writers would remain consistent.

Now teaching writing composition, I have brought my diverse life experiences and love of literature and language to the deaf classroom. Recollecting on my own experience of initially gravitating toward writers of a similar racial and socioeconomic background to me, for my students I frequently assign deaf writers in my courses. Therefore, my students read articles by Lizzie Sorkin and book excerpts from Harry G. Lang’s Moments of Truth: Robert R. Davila and Harry G. Lang’s Teaching from the Heart and Soul: The Robert F. Panara Story. As well as providing role models for my students, these people and texts also provide examples for composition style.

Through the prism of these writers and leaders, we are able to discuss the innate connection between reading and writing and issues that affect the deaf community.

Subsequently, my pedagogy and learning ASL has also impacted my scholarship. I am presently crafting a comparative review of Harry G. Lang’s afore-mentioned books. My goal is to illuminate the various paths to deaf leadership, NTID institutional history and the obstacles Dr. Davila and Mr. Panara overcame without access services or modern technology. As well as the comparative review, I am also writing an article on composition teaching strategies for deaf and minority college students. I discuss visual learning techniques, listing ideas and creating assignments that connect to the daily lives and experiences of my students. The book review and article will develop burgeoning ideas from my discussions and teaching experiences with the NTID student body and my American Sign Language teachers and professors.

I have only just begun my journey at NTID, but I have already learned a tremendous amount about the power of literacy to change lives.

Spotlight on Student Mentoring

Business Studies’ AST Program

The Administrative Support Technology (AST) Program includes a seminar course that prepares students for their future co-ops through mentored experiences in business environments across campus. This course provides students with an opportunity to prepare for employment through a formal mentoring experience, team presentation, and guest presentations. Topics for discussion are project management, assertiveness training, leadership styles, effective one-on-one interpersonal and electronic communication, protocol for working with an interpreter, and lifelong learning as necessary for job success. Through weekly meetings with their mentors, students share responsibility for interactions, establish a learning relationship, increase self-direction, and gain a greater understanding of the workplace.

The course is team-taught by Mary Beth Parker, Business Studies, and Sally Skyer, Counseling/Academic Advising. Volunteer staff members from the RIT/NTID community are selected to mentor approximately 12-14 students in the program.
Five-Minute Interviews

Meet some of our newest members

Karen Tobin, Lecturer, Science and Math

**Years at RIT/NTID:** RIT Alumna ’00; 1st year at NTID

**Favorite thing about NTID:** The people are wonderful! The sense of community and support here makes every work day wonderful. I also enjoy showing students how fun Chemistry can be and seeing them start loving it as much as I do!

**Roots:** I grew up in Rochester and was happy to move back! Not just for my family, but for the city itself. There’s a lot to do if you know where to look!

**Ideal vacation destination:** I have always wanted to see a glacier, rain forest, jungle, volcano, desert…I would also spend time on a warm island during part of the winter months to help eliminate the cold chill!


**Hobbies:** I make jewelry, love to bake, find new parks in Rochester to walk in, discovering a new tea to drink, volunteer around town whenever I can, and going to Red Wings games.

Cheryl McLean, Staff Assistant, Engineering Studies

**Years at RIT/NTID:** 17 at RIT; 1st year at NTID

**Favorite thing about NTID:** Working with the deaf community and learning their language.

**Roots:** I grew up in the same general area where I live now.

**Ideal vacation destination:** It’s a toss-up between Switzerland, Australia and Alaska!

**Favorite Websites:** I have to admit I’m not one to surf the Web unless I’m looking for something specific.

**Hobbies:** Reading, spending time with my grandson and fitness training (I’m a Personal Trainer and love working with special populations.)

Dan Millikin, Director, Student Life

**Years at RIT/NTID:** Since June, 2010

**Favorite thing about NTID:** We have a good community here, as people are friendly and greet each other no matter how many times they pass by one another on a given day. It is evident that NTID values student success and people are committed to making this happen.

**Roots:** I grew up in the Philadelphia Metro area, and I enjoy going back there at times as I have family there.

**Ideal vacation:** I’ll love to go back to Santa Fe, New Mexico on a regular basis and hike up the Sangre De Cristo mountains in Northern New Mexico. It’s incredibly beautiful out there.

**Favorite Websites: The New York Times** is the first Website I read in the morning.

**Ways that Academics Affairs and Student Life Team can come together:** In light of Strategic Decisions 2020, we have a golden opportunity to work together to promote student success by creating collaborative and innovative projects that pair one or more disciplinary courses/programs with a department; i.e. a social and civil engagement course/program focusing on student development and leadership; community service and cultural sensitivity; financial literacy with the Business Studies Department; additional cross-disciplinary topics/programs, including tutoring with different academic departments.

The Student Life Team also provides the Step-Up Mentoring Program that promotes AALANA deaf and hard-of-hearing students’ academic success. I see endless opportunities for the NTID Student Life Team and NTID Academic Affairs to work closely together to enhance and promote student success.
The NTID Professional Development Team wants to remind you of several funding opportunities:

- **The Ronald D. Dodge Endowed Memorial Faculty Grant.** A grant of up to $1,000 is offered annually to RIT faculty for financial assistance in supporting research and development efforts conducted during the academic year. Projects must have as their purpose improving the effectiveness of faculty engaged in educating deaf and hard-of-hearing students at RIT. **Application Deadline: Friday, February 25, 2011.**

- **Mini-grants** are targeted to enable faculty and exempt staff to expand professional horizons, support scholarship dissemination and encourage participation in innovative discipline and higher education meetings (e.g. conference registration, skill development training, etc.). Applicants can apply for up to $500 annually to supplement their Department travel allotment. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.**

- **Time Grants** provide tenured and tenure-track faculty with the opportunity to: 1) research applications of new technologies; 2) pursue other innovative pedagogical approaches to learning; or 3) support the development and submission of grant requests to outside funding agencies. Application should be made at least two quarters prior to the requested course reduction. **The application deadline is Friday, June 17, 2011 for Winter Quarter 2011-2012.**

For information and application instructions, visit: [http://www.ntid.rit.edu/pd/grants.php](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/pd/grants.php)

If you have questions, please contact a member of the PD Team:

- Linda Rubel, [larnge@rit.edu](mailto:larnge@rit.edu)
- Hope Williams, [hdwedr@rit.edu](mailto:hdwedr@rit.edu)
- Sue Roethel, [smrnvd@rit.edu](mailto:smrnvd@rit.edu)

The winners for Innovative Scholarship/Research Projects are:

**Empowering Mainstreamed Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students with Personal Multiple View Perspectives**
Raja Kushalnagar and Brian Trager, ICS

**Development of a “See-Through” Monitor**
Chris Kurz, RTE

**Develop Imaging Technology for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students with Usher’s Syndrome**
Andreas Savakis, Gleason COE
Gary Behm, Engineering Studies, CAT

**Positive Psychology in Deaf Users of American Sign Language**
Peter Hauser, RTE

**Making Laboratory and Medical Instruments More Friendly for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students**
Gary Behm, Engineering Studies, CAT
Raymond Merrit, Gallaudet University

**Development of a C-print Collaboration Tool**
Michael Stinson, CAT

**Effects of “Evidence-Based” and Innovative Pedagogical Practices for Science and Mathematical Literacy in the Classroom**
Chris Kurz, RTE

**The Role of Climate Change and the Impact on Drinking Water**
Todd Pagano, Science & Math/LST

**Taking on the Glass Ceiling**
Ron Kelly, RTE

Innovation Funding for Professional Growth Plans is awarded to: Amy Stornello, Margaret Kangai, Jessica Cuculick, Charlotte Thoms, Cheryl Bovard, Mark Pfuntner, Hope Williams, Bryan Lloyd, and Pam Conley.

Congratulations to all of the winners!!
The Last Word...from Stephen Aldersley  
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Administration

Back in 1997, then dean Jim DeCaro asked the faculty to ratify a series of ten principles of shared governance. These principles have stood us in good stead, and they have been most recently evident first in the vote on the new tenure and promotion guidelines and now, as I write in the vote on the new general education framework for the AOS, AAS and AS degrees. I cannot remember a time when faculty were asked to vote on two such significant changes to policy and curriculum in such a short time period. Indeed, it had been a long time since we have had even one faculty vote of such consequence, the last one perhaps being the vote to change the promotion policy in the spring of 2001.

Once a final draft of the tenure and promotion guidelines had been completed by the faculty committee charged with its development, a series of feedback sessions was initiated, including department discussions, open forums and meetings with NFC. Early in the process, it was not clear that the document would be put up for a vote, the argument being that the Academic Senate had ratified new university-wide tenure and promotion criteria, and that the NTID document was no more than an interpretation of those approved criteria. The counter argument was that the interpretation included significant college-specific detail which necessitated faculty approval. As a sub-text, the question was raised as to what extent NTID was obligated to follow the university criteria, and that the NTID document was no more than an interpretation of those approved criteria. The counter argument was that the interpretation included significant college-specific detail which necessitated faculty approval. As a sub-text, the question was raised as to what extent NTID was obligated to follow the university criteria, and that the NTID document was no more than an interpretation of those approved criteria.

The vote on the General Education framework is scheduled for later this week. The process of developing the three frameworks has been long and complex. A General Education Committee with representatives from across the disciplines developed the proposal for the AOS degree. The frameworks for the AAS and AS degrees, heavily constrained by the university-approved General Education framework, was developed initially in consultation with the department chairs but, like the AOS proposal, has been subsequently refined by a long feedback process, culminating last week in three open faculty forums. The comment boxes? They will still be there, only this time, there is no requirement to write in them - faculty, whether they vote yes or no, being simply invited to append their comments if they wish.

After the General Education vote, it is time to turn our attention to developing (and voting on) a set of guidelines to implement RIT policy on the promotion process for lecturers. So we will shortly have another opportunity to follow the ten principles of 1997 and the particular lessons learned from these past few months.