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REPORTER

11.09.12 reportermag.com



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RIDING THE CREST

“I sound my barbaric yawp over the rooftops of the world.” – Walt Whitman

As RIT’s final fall quarter draws to a close, I can’t help but detect the distant rumble of discontent. All around me, I hear my fellow students express concerns related to class credit, graduation and co-op opportunities. Tension hangs in the air.

Concerns about semester conversion are perfectly normal; it is an uncertain time in RIT’s history. However, it’s also an exciting one. Personally, I couldn’t think of a better time to be a student. Amidst this chaos, there is also tremendous opportunity to shape the Institute’s future.

I understand students’ trepidation — the decision to switch to semesters has been fraught with controversy. When the Student Government (SG) Senate voted on a proposed conversion in early 2010, then-SG President Matt Danna chose to recommend semesters after a straw poll contradicted the official SG vote against them. Understandably, many students felt their voice was lost in the process.

These fears were exacerbated when last spring’s conversion to a new Student Information System caught many off-guard. Ultimately, however, I feel most opposition to the semester system stems from the uncertainty it brings.

This is happening. Change is coming whether you love it or hate it. After the discontent settles like dust upon a floor, your legacy will remain. Whether you feel excited, anxious or indifferent, you are the class future generations will remember. They will not remember how you felt, but they *will* remember what you did. I advise you to choose wisely. If you don’t like how RIT is going about this change, then do something. You may be surprised who will listen.

There is an old — and often over-quoted — curse, which states, “May you live in interesting times.” You may feel anxiety and discontent, but it’s only natural. You’re riding the crest of a wave of opportunity that will crash far too quickly upon the shore. Embrace it for what it is.

Good luck.



Alex Rogala

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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photo by Rob Shook

SIS FEEDBACK SOUGHT

At the Friday, November 2 Student Government (SG) Senate meeting, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar Joe Loffredo and Student Information System (SIS) Project Communication Specialist Luke Auburn fielded questions and addressed Senate concerns regarding the new system.

Within the last two weeks, the new SIS was used to register 14,000 students for winter quarter and encountered only a few snags. The system was down on first year registration day; according to Loffredo, they are still investigating the cause. They also noted issues with the look and feel of the SIS site.

The waitlist process was one of the most common concerns among the student representatives. To address the incorrect display of successful enrollment in a class when one is actually waitlisted, Loffredo and his team are working to change the symbols to show either enrolled or waitlisted. He also mentioned waitlist size is the responsibility of each academic department, not an SIS-related issue.

Many students expressed concerns about faculty and staff training. Although sessions have not been mandatory, there are ongoing meetings within each college, often held weekly. There have also been eight to 10 large group training sessions to help train faculty on the new SIS.

The team currently uses Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and an RIT enrollment email address maintained by Auburn to gather feedback on SIS. Loffredo stated that they are also looking to create a standing committee of students for the winter quarter to help them better identify and prioritize problems with the system. They have also considered having someone proficient with SIS present in a computer lab during future enrollment times.

R

FORECAST

by Alyssa Jackson

FRIDAY

09 TABLE FLIPPING

At the Tiger Statue. 10–4 p.m.

Feeling stressed out from your Week 10 workload? Join students from the Society of Software Engineers, and flip a table to let off some steam. *Cost: Free without place setting; \$1 with place setting.*

SATURDAY

10 CLOUDS IN MY COFFEE

696 University Ave. 12–4 p.m.

Cloud themed paintings, photography and fiber art created by eleven local artists will be on display at Starry Nites Café. While there, enjoy soup, sandwiches, coffee and more. *Cost: Free*

SUNDAY

11 FLY IN

Gordon Field House. 10–5 p.m.

Pilots, helicopters and airplanes, oh my! Local pilots will be flying RC helicopters and airplanes. *Cost: Free*

MONDAY

12 KARAOKE AT FLIPSIDE BAR & GRILL

2001 East Main St. 9–2p.m.

Have a case of the Mondays? Enjoy great food, and vent your academic frustration with some karaoke. *Cost: Free to get in.*

TUESDAY

13 DIWALI CELEBRATION

Global Village Cantina & Grille. All day.

Head over to Global Village to try traditional Indian food in honor of Diwali, or the Festival of Lights. Diwali is an Indian holiday that celebrates the New Year, typically by using fireworks and bonfires. *Cost: Free*

WEDNESDAY

14 OPEN MIC COMEDY

Bolder Coffee Company, 739 Park Ave. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Need a few laughs to hold you over until the weekend? Head out to the Boulder Coffee Company to watch budding comics take a swing at humor. *Cost: Free to get in.*

THURSDAY

15 REGGAE THURSDAY

Club NV, 123 Liberty Pole Way. 10–2 a.m.

Don't have any classes on Friday? Why not head out to Club NV to start your weekend? Hit one of Rochester's largest dance floors and jam out to some reggae. 18+ with ID for women; 21+ for men. *Cost: \$5 to get in before 11p.m.* **R**

RIT PROFESSOR CREATES SCIENCE SHOW

by Danielle Delp with contributions by Peter LoVerso
photograph by Matt Burkhart

Two years ago, Physics professor Dr. Brian Koberlein was searching for good science television shows for his son, who was approaching middle school age at the time. After a little research, he realized how little educational television was beneficial to children in his son's age group; everything was either over-simplified to make it suitable for young children or far too complicated for someone younger than 13. "You can see on television, you have lots of little kids' science shows, and you have lots of high school science shows," said Koberlein. "You don't have anything for the kids in the middle."

To add insult to injury, some were poorly presented, making it difficult for children to understand the material, and others featured scientific facts that were obviously incorrect. Frustrated, Koberlein gathered a team of child psychologists, professors, scientists and educational experts to begin laying the foundation for a project that would evolve into a plan to create a new kind of educational television.

"Prove Your World," an upcoming television show developed by Koberlein to encourage children to take an early interest in science, is the result of this project. Aiming to encourage curiosity and inquiry into the world around them, Koberlein is taking a different approach than similar shows. Shows such as "Bill Nye the Science Guy" portray the scientist as a knowing sage in a lab coat, which Koberlein feels isn't an effective format for teaching science to children. "Bill presented the ideas and the answers," he said. "This show helps you discover those answers for yourself."

"Prove Your World" was built around a concept called inquiry-based learning, where questions guide the learners to find their own path to learning. Children, represented by puppets in the show, are guided by Koberlein to ask one question after another to show the audience what a difference it makes when a child's curiosity is allowed to roam free.

The show features a fully stocked "science shop" where a group of children can explore different scientific concepts. Two other characters, an adult puppet and live-action adult portrayed by Koberlein, will serve as mentor figures. When the children find something in the world around them that interests them, they will be encouraged to solve problems on their own through exploration, experimentation and observation.

The program is unique amongst its peers in that it will not feed children information via a lecture format, something the show's founders dislike because it does not engage or teach children. The mentors are always present, nudging children in the right direction, but the final results will be the product of the children's actions. The idea behind this format is that, because people learn best when they have a reason to be interested in what they're learning, it will become easier for children to become personally involved in the scientific methods they see.

The project's two years of development have been rough for those involved. In order to maintain full creative control, the team started from scratch without the support of a large-scale production company. The group has been struggling to find sufficient backing for their idea.



Things are slowly coming together, however, and the pilot featuring the question "How do airplanes fly?" is currently being produced by WXXI, Rochester's local PBS station. If it is well-received after its initial airing on WXXI, "Prove Your World" may gain enough popularity to become a full-fledged PBS children's show. An educational website to supplement the TV show is already up and running, where kids can ask their questions about the world directly to a team of scientists. Two of the videos on the website were funded by the College of Science, and, according to the RIT Athenaeum, aired on WXXI in fall 2011.

As the chief science adviser for the project, Koberlein eagerly awaits its completion and has high hopes for its impact on the television world. "I think, if we can bring it forward, it will be a transformative way of doing science programming for children." **R**

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Overseen and Overheard

“He got like eight valentines... *from girls!*”

-Jealous student on the quarter mile.

Send your *Overseen and Overheard* entries to leisure@reportermag.com with “Overseen and Overheard” in the subject line, or tweet with #OnO to @reportermag.

Reporter Recommends

KC Tea

It’s a Friday night, and you’re all ready to be the life of the party. You finished all that chemistry homework and studied day and night to pass that economic exam, so now the only thing on your mind is enjoying the night — and hopefully remembering it tomorrow.

But you have a problem — you need a drink. No one wants to drink a Keystone Ice after a study marathon; you need something with a bit more kick. Why not some KC tea? Made famous by Kansas City rapper Tech N9ne, all you need for KC tea is Hennessey, some sprite and lemon juice. Pour some Hennessey into a cup, add sprite and lemonade, and enjoy your evening. The combination of flavors sounds odd, but once you have the first sip, your choice of drink will be made clear. Don’t overdo it though, because your student-sized bank account won’t take kindly to all that money disappearing every weekend.

Editor’s Note: Reporter does not endorse nor condone irresponsible or underage drinking.

Definition

Protuberate

v. - To swell or buldge.

After two burritos from Chipotle, Sammy’s stomach began to *protuberate*.

Definition taken from <http://thefreedictionary.com/>

Haiku

Hurricane Sandy,
You tried to touch my music.
Please, don’t kill my vibe.

Stream of Facts

Elvis has total of 55 certified **PLATINUM** records, each of which has sold over one million copies since its release.

PLATINUM’s melting point is approximately 1,772 degrees Celsius (3,221 degrees Fahrenheit). Now that’s **HOT**.

While many may know the karaoke-favorite “**HOT**, Hot, Hot” as a Buster Poindexter song, it is actually a cover. The original song is by Caribbean artist **ARROW**.

The modern English longbow can fire an **ARROW** up to 200 yards. That’s two football fields for those of you who know football better.

Comic illustration by James Lecarpentier



What’s On Your iPod?

Rare Essence– “Overnight Scenario”

It’s go-go, a genre originated in Washington D.C. and involves high percussions and the wildest live performances. Rare Essence is one of the oldest bands of the genre, but there’s nothing wrong with being old. *Old is rare.*

Favorite Lyric: “Three in the morning at the pancake house / Four in the morning she be rolling to my house/ Five in the morning the light goes out / Six in the morning you can us jump and shout/ Seven in the morning she’ll be calling a cab, taking about the overnight scenario.”

Quote

“Success is having to worry about every damn thing in the world, except money.” - Johnny Cash **R**



Kendrick Lamar: Good Kid, M.A.A.D City

★★★★★

Album | Hip-Hop | 68 mins

By: Patrick Ogbeide

To declare an album as a classic comes with certain stipulations that must be met. If the requirements aren't met, then chances are that album isn't a classic. This dilemma faces California rapper Kendrick Lamar, whose been crowned as the "Nas of our generation" by some of his peers and a rapper who can do no wrong. After delivering mixtapes full of stories and setting a lyrical standard that few can breach, Kendrick's full-length debut is finally in the hands of his fans, ready to determine if his album is truly a classic or not.

Kendrick's album can be described as a short film, as evidenced by the cover, but it's through the music that you begin to weave the elements he brings together. By the time you reach the title tracks "Good Kid" and "M.A.A.D City," you understand the life Kendrick's character live — robberies, the pursuit of money and being in the middle of an area that doesn't take kind to the weak of heart. Tracks like "Bitch, Don't Kill My Vibe" sound highly offensive, but one listen and you'll become addicted, muttering it every time someone attempts to disrupt your good mood.

The true surprise of the album is "Real," a testament to what Kendrick Lamar wants. He confronts the question of self-worth and declares himself as someone who can look at himself in the mirror and understand that where he is from doesn't determine who he is. Near the end of the song, you hear Kendrick's mother express love for her son and leave some words of wisdom, emphasizing that growing up in a negative area doesn't make you negative — you can be positive. It is this moment where we understand Kendrick Lamar. He doesn't rap because he has talent or he wants money; he raps to tell a story and show beauty from a dark place.

While it's hard to determine whether "Good Kid, M.A.A.D City" is a classic, as you listen to "Money Trees," listen to the chorus. People respect the shooter, but the one behind the gun lives forever and when the time comes to judge Kendrick's debut, remember that piece of knowledge he blessed you with, then make your decision. **R**

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FUN with FUN. by Alyssa Jackson

“Who would have thought Rochester would be the biggest show we’ve ever played?” Nate Ruess, lead singer of the band Fun., questioned. “Fuck that, w I would have fucking thought that.” Fun. performed at RIT on Sunday, November 4 and blew the students away. Literally — with confetti.

The Miniature Tigers, a band based out of Brooklyn, N.Y., opened for Fun. Although they were similar in style, it was easy to tell that everyone was anxious for the main event. The energy within the field house was indescribable, and despite the lack of arm room and the overall smell of B.O., everyone was in good spirits.

Fun. began with the song “Some Nights,” the title track from their recent album. Their set was a mix between songs from “Some Nights” along with their older album “Aim and Ignite.” They also made sure they showed Rochester a lot of love. “I need to collect myself. I’m a little nervous tonight. I fucking love Rochester,” stated Ruess to a screaming crowd. “This was the first place that ever liked any of our bands.”

Fun. was formed after the breakup of Russ’s previous band “The Format.” The band essentially began when Ruess asked Andrew Dost, vocals and guitar, and Jack Antonoff, guitar and trumpet, to join. The band’s two hit songs, “We Are Young” and “Some Nights” have both been massively popular in the U.S. and in the U.K. and are the reason Fun. is so well known today.

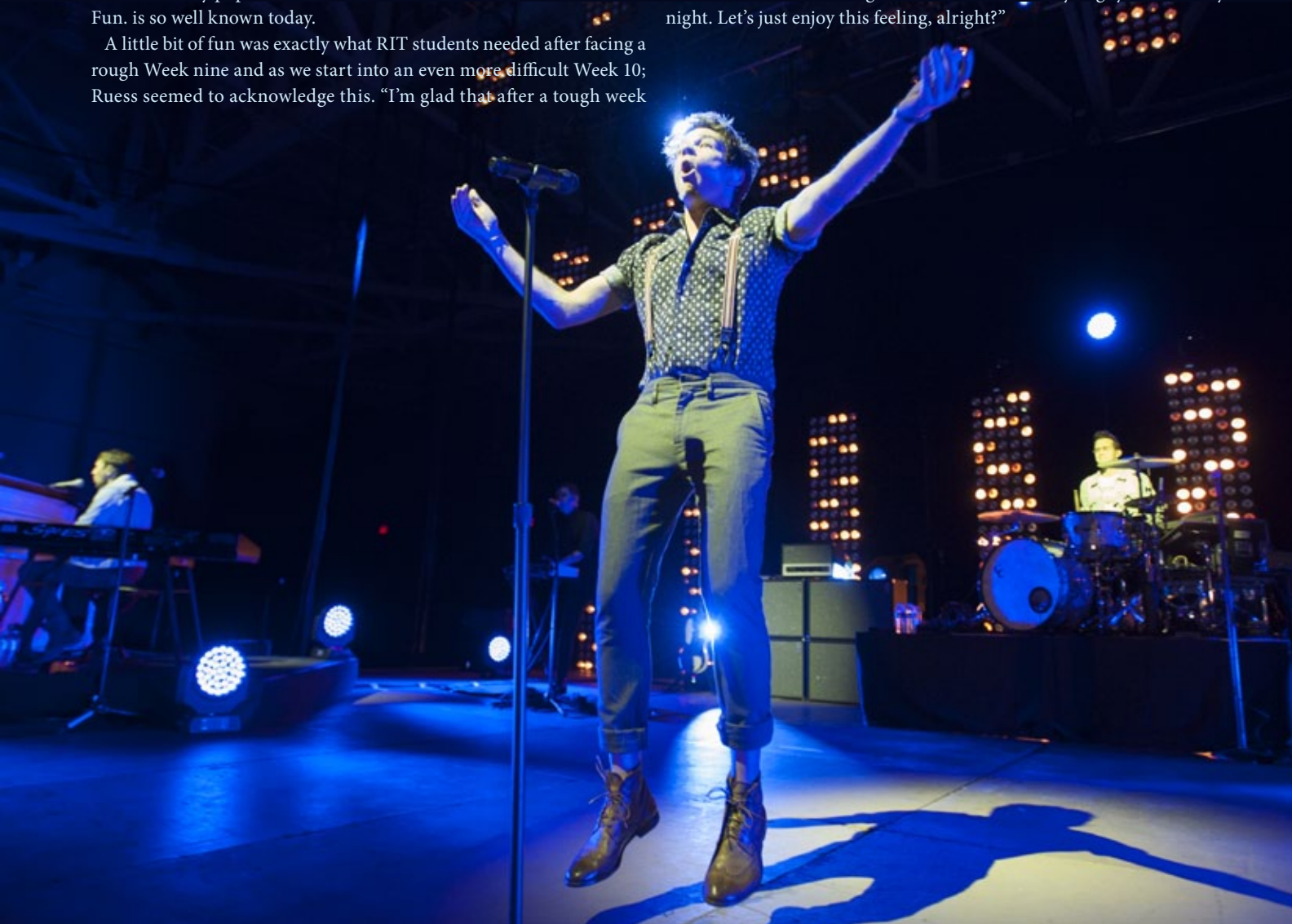
A little bit of fun was exactly what RIT students needed after facing a rough Week nine and as we start into an even more difficult Week 10; Ruess seemed to acknowledge this. “I’m glad that after a tough week

we can all just kind of be here together.” Of course, no student can have the Week Nine blues when it’s raining confetti. During their song “Barlights,” confetti was shot from the stage, pouring over the students and guests and creating a magical feel.

Many fans have expressed dissatisfaction with the band for allegedly selling out to pop music, but after the show it was pretty undeniable that Fun. has a unique sound and atmosphere about them that they can’t simply conform to popular culture. They even managed to make the concert politically relevant by showcasing their obvious liberal views. The band had a few booths up giving information about “The Ally Coalition,” a group that they created to raise funds to fight for LGBTQ issues and equality. “When we’re talking about your human rights at stake, you can fucking cheer,” yelled Jack Antonoff, hoping to and succeeding in raising hysterical shouts from the crowd. “We’re talking about a fucking crazy person being elected here.” Whether you agree with this statement or not, Antonoff’s words riled people up and encouraged them to vote.

The field house was in uproar as Fun. walked off stage, and after several minutes of applause and chants reappeared for an encore that would blow anyone away. They covered the Rolling Stones’ “You Can’t Always Get What You Want” and then finished with their own song “Stars.”

Ruess closed the show on a sentimental note. “I love Rochester more than anything. There is no better feeling that being in Rochester. I want to thank the Miniature Tigers, and I want to thank you guys. It’s Sunday night. Let’s just enjoy this feeling, alright?”



A watercolor illustration featuring a school bus in the foreground and a mermaid in the background. The bus is painted with broad, expressive strokes of red, orange, and blue, with a window showing two figures. The mermaid, in shades of purple and blue, is positioned in the upper left. The background consists of soft, layered washes of color representing a landscape or sky.

THE STUDENTS BEHIND THE SIRENS

by Steven Markowitz | illustration by Elisa Plance



The fire rages in the hot July sun. Flames consume the house. Thick, black smoke rises into the air. In the streets of Chili, N.Y., a house fire is spreading. Matt Pillsbury, an RIT Fine Art Photography alumnus and Zach Roberts, a third year Criminal Justice major, both volunteer firefighters for the Chili Fire Department and volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMT) for the RIT Ambulance (RITA), rush to the scene in a blazing red truck, prepared to handle whatever awaited them.

They arrive at the scene and immediately join the efforts of several other trucks. The chief instructs them to drill a ventilation hole on the roof. Chainsaw in hands, they ascend to the roof. In the heat of the moment, they have to remain focused and level-headed at all times, or the physical and psychological exhaustion will cripple them.

In that environment, all of their senses are diminished. The full body suits remove any physical contact, their peripheral vision is gone, and their only source of air is through a tube. They cannot feel stressed or panicked since they have to keep their breathing slow and in control. With every action they perform they have to consider their own safety and the health of those around them. "You have to remind yourself you are only human," remarks Pillsbury.

At the end of the day, Pillsbury, Roberts and the many other student volunteers in all the fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS) such as RITA and police stations across the country have to return to work or their studies. No matter what happens, the world moves on. Being a volunteer in emergency services is often physically demanding, psychologically taxing, time consuming and managerially challenging, but the people who do it would not have it any other way. For these students, it is a way of life.

TAKING THE PLEDGE



According to Neil Mathews, a fourth year International Business major and chief of operations for RITA, the ambulance service receives about 800 calls a year. Open all day, every day of the year, the ambulance demands time and effort from its drivers, medics and dispatchers. For each of the three positions that a volunteer holds, he is required to put in at least 10 hours a week.

The program currently has 10 medics who are both EMT certified, through a free class that takes 140 hours and some time working in a hospital to complete, as well as road cleared through a unique in-house training program. Most of the medics are also drivers and dispatchers, meaning they put in 30 hours a week minimum.

Many of the firefighters undertake the fire academy, a training program which Monroe County requires in order for a person to step off the sidelines and enter into an interior during a fire. The Chili Fire Department also has drills every Monday night for three to four hours to keep its members physically and mentally sharp.

Even when not on active duty as an EMT, Matt Purcell, a fourth year Industrial and Systems Engineering major and deputy chief of operations at RITA, says, “We are always on call all the time.” No matter the time of night, if a call comes in, many of the volunteers will gladly give up their time to help.

Each call, even the simplest of injuries, takes a large chunk of time that could be used for schoolwork or sleep. After the call, the EMTs have to fill out paperwork, which takes about 45 minutes to two hours to complete. The documentation has to be locked down three hours after the call, again regardless of the time, and must be of high enough standard that it can be called into court or summoned by a local hospital.

With all this, plus managing resources and personnel, planning to cover events, training and generally administering all operational aspects, Mathews puts in 60 hours a week. Purcell puts in about 30 to 60 hours at RITA, and Pillsbury about 25 to 30 across all his volunteering plus an additional 30 hours at his paid job at Gates Ambulance. With such strenuous hours, they each have to love their job, and they have all found — or have always had — a passion for the work they do.

Mathews has been involved in emergency services since the age of 18. He looked up to his grandfather, the chief of the local fire department for 25 years. Pillsbury wanted to be a firefighter since he was four years old, and Roberts always wanted to be a sheriff. These men took action and their dreams have led the two to where they are today.

Others, such as Purcell, gained this passion or as he describes it jokingly “an addition,” after joining RITA. He found a flyer during his orientation freshman year and joined with no experience other than a driver’s license. He describes how many people, after driving around and watching their partner perform, realize they want to help and begin to pursue certification. The group even has a strong alumni presence. Many stay around years after they graduate to take shifts, continuing to give back to the community and help others.

THE SCENE OF THE CALL



Working as an emergency responder, each call is unique. “It’s not like your daily desk job ... I can come in one day and it will not be like tomorrow and it was not like yesterday,” says Mathews. Therefore, volunteers have to develop a certain mind and skill set to be able to handle each situation on a minute-by-minute basis.

The volunteers admit that arriving at a scene can be at times be overwhelming, often due to chaos and hysterical or resistant patients. Yet for experienced members, it is always manageable. Mathews says that the entire series of events that unfold after reaching a scene is determined within the first five minutes after arrival. Come cool and collected, and the call will go smoothly. Come panicked and frightened, and more than likely the call will be chaotic.

“It’s all scary but you are just coming to the scene, you did not create it or cause it, all you are doing is helping and trying to make things better,” says Purcell. He describes his process as an EMT as similar to that of a detective. When analyzing a scene, one has to determine not just what has happened, but how it happened. One cannot just look at the symptoms; one has to find the cause.

A classic example of how the detective mindset is beneficial is a call common in and almost exclusive to the college setting: Someone is acting unusually. With little further information and no knowledge of the patient, it is the responsibility of the EMT to determine if there is a problem. Is that person suffering from a medical or psychological illness? Do they act that way all the time? Are they or could they be dangerous to the responders or their own friends? Answering those questions is crucial to success.

Yet this is no easy task, it takes immense knowledge and experience to solve such problems. This experience is not just medical; leadership among peers and the ability to control a situation are also instrumental for success. One must be able to work with many different personalities and people of such varying experience level since, when it comes down to it, he has to rely on others to help patients or stop fires or complete whatever task is asked of him.

With each of these roles comes a different mindset, which can be challenging to the large percentage of volunteers who hold certifications in all the services. For example, an EMT cannot chase after a suspect at the scene; they have to pass on that to help those who need it, and vice versa. Yet the uniforms all share common sets of skills such as creativity, which is necessary when new ways of dealing with situations are demanded, as well as being able to think and respond quickly while remaining level headed.

To this day, Pillsbury says, “Sometimes you pull up to a scene and think: Where do I even begin with this?” In these situations, every brain is useful, and considering every option can be the key to success. “As long as you do what you are trained for, you will do the right thing,” encourages Purcell.

A BALANCING ACT



Requiring such large commitments, being a volunteer for emergency services — whether it be for RITA, a fire department or a police station — is a challenging job. To start, between always being on call, doing any amount of volunteer hours, completing a full credit load and working any other jobs on top of that, finding the time to sleep can be difficult. Mathews runs off of three to four hours of sleep a night, and now finds that amount can fuel him throughout the day.

Beyond inconsistent sleeping schedules, many volunteers face time management challenges while trying to balance being an emergency responder and school. Pillsbury recalls having seen many students who let their academics slide because they could not pass on an interesting sounding call.

Pillsbury himself once received a call that a propane facility exploded — a call of a lifetime — yet he had the self-restraint to decline. With class in an hour and the reality that the call would easily take six to 10 hours, he had to make a choice.

Sometimes it is difficult to decline a call, especially when the ambulance is on a call and help at another site is needed, or if the knowledge of a commanding official is necessary. This can come at the most inconvenient times, describes Roberts, such as during an online test or when writing a paper. This inability to know when the next call might come in and therefore be able to plan an accurate schedule often causes immense stress.

The events that these volunteers witness can also cause psychological stress, yet this is uncommon. Still, a particularly nasty incident or injury of a fellow volunteer can leave the images in the minds of the volunteers well after the call is wrapped up, even seep its way into the social world and classroom. “You try not to feel guilty but you can’t help it sometimes,” says Roberts. “I have found myself sitting in class thinking: What could I have done better on that call?”

There are also physical concerns for the emergency responders. For firefighters, dehydration and heat stroke are serious issues. For EMTs, chronic back pain is common from constant heavy lifting of patients and stretchers. Even with the proper training, one has to act in the moment regardless of what that entails.

RITA likewise faces prejudices that they are somehow not a real ambulance. Mathews argues to the contrary; each medic is fully licensed in accordance with New York state policy and provides the same level of care that EMTs in hospitals in the city of Rochester would. The ambulance can even be called off campus if necessary.

Still, even with all of these hardships, the men and women who volunteer their talents do so because they love the job. The environment breeds comradery. All the members of RITA move through the base of operations with smiles; laughing about getting little sleep as they prepare for the night shift. The social aspect is what keeps many coming back.

The experience also teaches the volunteers skills that they can take beyond the institute, such as time management, communication and leadership. Purcell, Mathews, Pillsbury and Roberts all plan to continue to volunteer wherever the road takes them.

For some this means continuing their education in medical treatment through classes relates to specific areas of care or expertise. Pillsbury is currently pursuing an associate’s degree at Monroe Community College for fire protection and technology. For others, this means getting a full time job in one of these services. Whatever the motivation, they want to help people and enjoy coming into work and always doing something different.

“We don’t do it for the ‘thank you’s’, we don’t do it for the gratification. We do it because we like to do it,” says Mathews. “I am humbled almost daily that I can help [RITA] provide the services it does to the RIT community.”





1



5

HANDLING THE HEAT

photographs by Rob Shook

1 Michael Remkus, a third year Mechanical Engineering Technology major, adjusts his mask between drills.

2 The Chili Fire Department "Company 4" truck prepares to leave a training facility at the Rochester Fire Academy.

3 Matt Pillsbury and Nate Ayers prepare their equipment for training.

4 Firefighters support the hose during a training exercise.

5 Three firefighters work to put out a simulated car fire at the Rochester Fire Academy's training facility.



3



4

THREE STARS MORGAN MOWINS

by Danielle Delp | photograph by Joshua Barber

For eight years now, crew has been a key aspect of Morgan Mowins' life. Her mother, a former rower, first introduced her to the sport during her freshman year of high school, and Mowins took to it like a fish to water, quickly becoming a strong team member for Fayetteville-Manlies high school in Syracuse.

Mowins found rowing incredibly enjoyable and liked the sense of camaraderie on the team: "Just having that bond and that friendship with your team and being able to work all together. There's a feeling when you're in the boat that just feels amazing." She became completely absorbed in the sport and began rowing for the Syracuse Chargers rowing club in her spare time.

When it came time to apply to colleges, RIT caught her eye as one of just five institutions on the east coast at the time with both a crew team and an interior design degree program. She was recruited to join the crew team as a first year and now as a fourth year Interior Design major, she is captain of RIT's Women's Crew team.

In addition to doing schoolwork and training with the team, Mowins works as the chair for the Tiger Den of the Student Affairs Committee. The heavy workload hasn't posed too much trouble for her. "Rowing has taught me time management," she commented.

A typical day for her begins early; "I wake up at 4:15 in the morning, I go and pick up all of the girls in the carpool, and we're on the water by 5:45." If it's a weekday, she needs to be ready for classes immediately after practice. With such a busy schedule, you are essentially forced to learn how to handle your work and responsibilities.

Mowins' family has supported her for the past eight years but her mother's support has been particularly essential: "A big part of rowing for me is my mom, and how she's only missed one of my races throughout all of my high school and college career. She really pushed me."

Notable achievements in the past year alone include second place at the Head of the Textile, fourth at the Head of the Fish, and fourth at the Head of the Genessee regattas. Under her leadership, the team placed seventh out of over 30 teams at the last Head of the Charles regatta, a major crew competition that RIT hadn't even qualified to compete in for over five years.

As she gets closer and closer to graduation, Mowins is preparing to say good-bye to RIT's team. The reality of leaving finally began to sink in at the Head of the Charles regatta; "My coxswain, Anna, she made a call, and said, 'This is your last race; you're going to be a senior now.' We got off the dock, and I started bawling. I didn't even realize this was my last Charles race until she said something."

After graduation, Mowins' goal is to find a career in interior design. She has no intention of abandoning her sport, however; she will start looking for local crew clubs wherever she ends up working. Additionally, she is undergoing training to become a coach. Crew has had too powerful of an impact on her life to simply give it up. Years from now, odds are Morgan Mowins will still be on the water. **R**

THREE STARS SUZANNE JOKAJTYS

by Emma Rogers | photograph by Michael Di Pietro

A standout athlete, leader and scholar, fourth year Biomedical Sciences major Suzanne Jokajtys has it all. Jokajtys has been a team captain for the past two years for the RIT Women's Volleyball team, leading and motivating the rest of the players through her attitude and hard work. She would rather talk about her team's successes, but her phenomenal volleyball skills shine on their own.

Last year Jokajtys recorded 191 kills (a legal, successful point-scoring spike), 131 digs (a defensive pass against an opponent's attack), and 23 service aces (a serve that lands on the opponent's court without being touched or passed back legally over the net) for the Women's Volleyball Team.

Being a prominent player of the Volleyball team while demonstrating success in Biomedical Sciences distinguishes her from the ordinary college student. In 2011, Jokajtys earned the Liberty League All-Academic Team honors for maintaining a 3.2 cumulative grade point average.

Being able to balance her schoolwork and activities is a challenge, but one that Jokajtys has been more than willing to face. At times when she has felt like she wanted to give up or when she has felt too stressed, being part of a team kept her going. "You're not just playing for yourself," she says; "You're playing for everyone." Jokajtys attributes to their success during games to the team's great chemistry.

Next year she is applying to medical schools in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Vermont. After growing up in Boonville in the Adirondacks; she wants to move around while she can.


Someday, she hopes to be a pediatrician, but can't tell for sure where she'll be in the years to come.

With the Volleyball season wrapping up, Jokajtys hopes that other activities will "fill the empty spaces." She especially enjoys going to the Red Barn to rock climb, and started bouldering last year with a friend of hers on the team. Jokajtys has also participated in a few triathlons in the past and hopes to continue and someday complete in an Ironman with a 2-mile swim, 118-mile bike ride and a 26-mile run.

She is also heavily involved with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as one of its representatives. Having a say in this organization means a lot to Jokajtys because they're capable of making so much change for athletics. For instance they are working on obtaining another trainer so the athletes can receive the amount of attention they need.

Jokajtys has loved everything about RIT and what it's had to offer. She finds that the diversity of programs and its students make RIT a unique college compared to others. "Everyone has a bit of nerd in them, and I love that" she says.

She particularly loves having NTID at the school; she chose ASL as her minor after falling in love with the language and the culture.

With volleyball as a centerpiece in her college life over the past four years, playing with the five seniors for the last time was bittersweet. They have been together for so long that their bond carries over into their games when relying on each other is vital. Jokajtys has noticed the freshmen on the team are beginning to bond as well and is certain that if they stick together they will have what the seniors have right now. The relationships that Jokajtys has formed with her fourth year team members have been unlike any other for her. "They're my best friends, and I know I'm going to be friends with them for the rest of my life." 



THREE STARS SEAN COOTS

by Kayla Emerson

| photograph by Jonathan Foster

"I've always found myself being in a leadership kind of role in every team I've been on," said Sean Coots. "It's cool to have that sort of influence on people." The fourth year Mechanical Engineering major has captained the RIT Men's Soccer team for the last two seasons, playing on the team a total of four years.

Coots is from Binghamton, N.Y., so his parents can come to all of his home games. And his parents get to see him play plenty at each one: Coots has started every game during his four years at RIT, according to the RIT Athletics website. He plays center back (center defense) because, as Coots said, "I'm a defensive-minded player, and my coaches know that."

His last game at RIT was Saturday, October 27 against Hobart. Coots said that while playing, "It was no different than any other game," but afterwards, the players recognized the weight of the moment: Eight players were leaving, including many starters and good friends.

"There's a team culture ... I think it stems a lot from our class," said Coots. "For the winter workouts that were optional for my freshman year there would be maybe five or six of us. In the years since then, we've required kids to come." As a captain he learned, "Once you build that into the culture, the new kids coming in are going to have that passed on to them."

As the class of 2012 finishes its influence on the team, Coots is optimistic about the future of RIT soccer. Over the past few years, the soccer program at RIT has gone through a lot of changes for the better, notes Coots.

Coots' favorite moment in RIT soccer was last year, when his team switched from the Empire 8 conference to Liberty League: "Last year was big. We had a really good year... The teams are a lot better, in my opinion, in Liberty League than in Empire 8. We made it to the conference finals... It was nice to be a part of that, because we surprised a lot of coaches, a lot of teams in the Liberty League. They didn't really know what to expect — they didn't expect much, I don't think." He smiles, "We proved them wrong."

This year, Coots helped organized a charity game called, "Be the Match for the Cure" with his co-captains and in coordination with Alpha Sigma Alpha. The weather was bad, but Coots reports that they added 50 names to the donor list, twice the average amount for college events. He hopes the team will make the philanthropy game a regular event.

In addition to his diligent leadership on the team, Coots' play has also been exemplary. The Liberty League honored Coots by naming him to their Men's Soccer All-



Conference Team as one of three defenders on the first team. He was selected for the second team in 2011. Despite playing center back every game, Coots is tied for second-most goals on his team this season, including two game-winning goals. Coots has also been recognized for his academic achievement: The Liberty League named him to the Men's Soccer All-Academic Team for both seasons RIT played with the league.

Fitting a varsity sport into an RIT schedule is difficult, especially since the team trains all year round, but when Coots went on co-op in the spring and summer, he caught a lucky break: "I just came after work to practices, or before work. I actually worked for the guy who used to coach the girls' soccer team. He was obviously very understanding." Between schoolwork and soccer, he doesn't have much time for fun activities, but he says, "Soccer *is* the fun thing to do."

Since Coots is in the dual degree (BS/MS) program, he plans to graduate from RIT in spring 2014, or earlier if he can. But his soccer career here is over. He said, "It's bittersweet ... and it's going to be weird not having something to have to do in the winter and in the spring, especially being here next year on campus."

After he graduates, Coots said he'd "love to coach" the men's soccer team at RIT. As for the city of Rochester in particular, he said, "I like it here, I think there is a lot of opportunity from an engineering standpoint," but the location he ends up at will depend on where he can find a "job that fits." **R**

Who Would You Elect to be President?

photographs by Juan Madrid



1



2

1 Diane Catlin,
Fourth year Biochemistry
“**Stephen Colbert.**
If he can make his own
Super PAC, he can run
the country.”

2 Mujtaba Shafiq,
Fourth year Biology.
“**Obama.**
Pick the lesser of the
two evils, what’s better
for us. Obama is a little
better than Romney.”



3



4

3 Val Booth,
First year Computer
Science
“**Anderson
Cooper.**

He seems to be a
reasonable, practical
person. He’d be good
at foreign affairs.”

4 Jose Tavaros,
First year Networking and
Systems Administration.
“**Obama.**

I feel more confident
with him, and he’s done
a good job so far. He’s
more active in getting
people involved in
society than Romney. He
needs more time to do
things.”

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON BRICKS

by Angela Freeman | illustration by Emily Gage

Anyone who's been to RIT knows that the Brick City is notorious for existing in a near-constant state of construction. Fountains pop up seemingly overnight, cranes are a permanent feature of the RIT skyline, and interruptions in the sidewalks for traffic cones and neon tape are a regular occurrence. At the same time, tuition rises annually, and the shaky economy certainly isn't helping matters. Taken as a whole, this leads me to question whether these additions to the RIT campus actually are actually necessary.

According to a 2012 letter written by President Destler, this campus holds over 200 buildings, with more to come. RIT already possesses an extravagant Global Village plaza, more inexplicable statuary and fountains than is reasonable, and the bane of campus, the toilet-bowl shaped Innovation Center. Recent projects continue the trend, giving cause to wonder if such additions are a truly worthwhile use of student tuition.

The Midnight Oil, a soon-to-be-completed coffee shop and café at Crossroads, will come equipped with its own fireplace lounge. Rosica Hall, a 24,000-square foot research center due for completion in 2013, will apparently include a meditation garden along with study spaces and

a connection to the Commons. No doubt more fountains will show up somewhere along the way. Most worrying of all, though, is the financial haziness surrounding RIT's plans for a new hockey arena.

Despite the fact that RIT holds an admirable devotion to its hockey teams, and no doubt wishes to encourage their continued success, it seems plausible to assume that this non-academic endeavor should be funded separately from the money utilized for education-related undertakings. However, few students are aware of the fact that the Gene Polisseni Center, slated for completion before the 2014-2015 hockey season, will cost RIT an estimated \$35 million to construct, despite the fact that the initial benefactors contributed a mere \$4.5 million.

The financial deficit has been reduced with contributions to the Tiger Power Play hockey campaign, which earned approximately \$9 million of its \$15 million dollar fundraising goal. According to the campus website, "RIT is developing a business plan for the venue's operation intended to cover the remaining expenses" — that is, planning on finishing payment for the project only after its completion. In the meantime, it may be presumed that the remaining capital will be appropriated from other channels; for example, RIT tuition.

While extracurricular activities are unquestionably important, RIT is first and foremost an academic institution. It would do well to reexamine its priorities, with special attention to the financial obligations of both current and prospective students. College costs are rising across the board, and RIT tuition is no exception. It is bound to continue its yearly increase, and thus take precedence over less pressing matters, such as the fountain-to-building ratio, or the availability of multiple hockey arenas.

If RIT is to maintain a solid retention rate and influx of new students every year, its leaders need to recall their primary goals of ensuring future generations of students, but also to best serve its current students in return for fair compensation. At this rate, enrolled and prospective attendees may have second thoughts about their financial contributions, whether through tuition or fundraisers, and wonder just where their hard-earned money is actually going. **R**



WHY THANKSGIVING SUCKS

A VEGAN PERSPECTIVE

by Nicole Howley

do not like Thanksgiving. When I was younger, I wasn't really a fan of eating. Mashed potatoes had a weird texture, green beans were vegetables, and stuffing was not macaroni and cheese. I might have eaten a bit of turkey here and there, but generally I just ate a few apple slices to appease my parents and moved on to a Cosmic Brownie.

Now that I'm older, I'm a huge fan of eating, just not Thanksgiving food. Mashed potatoes have milk, green beans have butter, stuffing has turkey juice all over it and turkey is a dead bird. Vegan Thanksgiving sucks.

I like the whole "giving thanks" thing, but Thanksgiving seems to have become more about stuffing your face with dead things, animal products and pie than being thankful. And if you don't want any of those foods, then what's even the point? Eating a few plain, steamed green beans and some pasta with mushroom gravy isn't really a good celebration either.

But while my family passes around the turkey and I eat my green beans, I don't regret becoming a vegan; I just think about how ridiculous the whole holiday is. Around 46 million turkeys are eaten every Thanksgiving, and for what? It is a holiday celebrating the Pilgrims gaining a whole bunch of land because their smallpox killed off the majority of the area's Native American population.

Now, I didn't give up bacon and ice cream and other delicious foods for the sake of animals and I don't expect you to either; that's way too much to ask. But eating as much meat as we do as a society and for this holiday has a lot more negative effects than most people would like to think about.

For instance, most Thanksgiving turkeys are raised in factory farms where they are overfed, doped up on antibiotics and growth hormones that you will in turn eat when you eat their flesh, cooped up in cages where they can barely move and genetically modified to the point where they couldn't move even if they had more space because their breasts are too heavy to even stand. Personally, I find these farming methods — as well as people's financial support of them — to be more excessive, gross and selfish than an expression of thanks.

The United States has such a high demand for cheap meat that these factory farms are able to thrive by using these methods to produce a large number of animals in a small amount of space and a small span of time, and it's not just

affecting the animals or the people eating them. Factory Farms have a strong negative impact on the world around them too.

Factory farms now feed many of their animals grain to make them gain weight faster, but it also makes the animals who do not naturally eat grain produce more methane: a greenhouse gas that traps heat and slowly cooks the Earth. Now, all of us living creatures produce methane. We all fart and poop and that's basically where it comes from. But factory farms are producing so many animals who in turn produce more methane than normal and are responsible for polluting air and water and destroying the Earth.

PERSONALLY, I FIND IT TO BE MORE

EXCESSIVE, GROSS AND SELFISH

THAN AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS.

And that's why I personally gave up meat; to me, having the option to eat ice cream and bacon isn't as important as other things. But really, meat eating is not the problem as much as how the excessive amount of meat we eat maintains factory farms and encourages their practices. It's natural for people to be omnivores, but it's not natural or healthy for people to eat as much meat as they do.

I'm not going to suggest that you eat Tofurkey instead of turkey this Thanksgiving. We both know that stuff does not compare to actual meat. But maybe you could get a free range turkey that didn't come from a factory farm. Or better yet, have some awesome family time while hunting for your own bird from the wild. You could even say a vegan told you too. How great is that?

Also please remember to be thankful; the turkey isn't really what should matter on Thanksgiving anyway. Just forget the turkey, literally. Leave it at the store if you have to. I generally don't like Thanksgiving not because of the excess of meat or my under-exciting vegan meal, but because factory farms are profiting from a holiday founded on genocide and used as an opportunity to stuff our faces with the excuse of family time and thankfulness. If those excuses were real, then I think Thanksgiving would be a lot more bearable. **■**

RINGS

585.672.4840

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

compiled by Brett Slabaugh

FRIDAY

TXT 9:55A.M.

RINGS WHAT DO YOU THINK CAMPUS SAFETY'S POLICY IS ON RIDING A HORSE TO CLASS?

TXT 2:40A.M.

I JUST WATCHED A VIDEO WITH SOMEONE IN A KILT, DARTH VADER MASK AND CAPE, PLAYING THE DEATH MARCH ON A BAGPIPE WHILE RIDING A UNICYCLE. RIT PEOPLE NEED TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM. WE'RE BEING OUTDONE!

TXT 4:47A.M.

I WAS JUST OUTSMARTED BY A ROLL OF TOILET PAPER FOR A GOOD 40 SECONDS. MY RIT EDUCATION HAS FAILED ME...

TXT 4:47A.M.

IF BEARS COULD RATIONALIZE, THEY'D KILL US ALL.

MONDAY

VOICEMAIL 12:17P.M.

HEY RINGS, WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT A HURRICANE? THE WEATHER LOOKS PRETTY NORMAL TO ME.

TXT 2:43P.M.

FROM WHAT UPPERCLASSMAN HAVE TOLD ME THE NEW SIS IS A HUGE IMPROVEMENT ON THE OLD SYSTEM. REGARDLESS, IT STILL MAKES ME WANT TO PUNCH A KITTEN.

TUESDAY

TXT 1:09P.M.

PURE GENIUS, RIT. LET'S KEEP THE FOUNTAIN ON DURING A TERRIBLE STORM. LIKE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH WATER TO GO AROUND TO HIT ME IN THE FACE! [FRACKING] WIND!

WEDNESDAY

TXT 1:02P.M.

AFTER DOING MAKEUP FOR EVIL DEAD, HAUNTED HOUSES JUST SEEM LIKE CHILDREN'S GAMES.

TXT 1:26P.M.

A GIRL IN MY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY CLASS JUST REFERENCED "BANJO-TOOIE" IN HER PRESENTATION ABOUT THE AZTECS... IT'S WEEK [BOOKING] NINE, EVERYBODY! R

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