

SPRING / SUMMER 2018

FOCUS

NTID

National Technical Institute for the Deaf • Rochester Institute of Technology



NTID ANNIVERSARY

A Milestone Celebration

FOCUS

NTID

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MARK BENJAMIN

A Grand 50 Years

On June 8, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 89-36, creating the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. RIT was selected as the host institution for NTID on November 14, 1966, and soon thereafter, the RIT Board of Trustees named D. Robert Frisina as NTID's first director. Frisina went right to work, assembling a team of faculty and staff who signed on to what Frisina called "The Grand Experiment," and in 1968, NTID enrolled its first class of 70 students on the campus of RIT.

It is not an overstatement to say that the establishment of NTID revolutionized education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. There had never before been a college offering degree programs designed specifically to prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to enter technical and professional fields. NTID administrators, faculty, staff and students alike understood that they were charting a new course, and none could have imagined then what a tremendous success "The Grand Experiment" would turn out to be.

Much has changed since our first class enrolled in 1968, but what has not changed, and what will never change, is NTID's commitment to the success of our students. Everything we do is focused on providing the education and experiences students need to pursue their goals and

lead successful lives. In our 50-year history, NTID has graduated more than 8,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students, who have crossed the stage ready to hit the ground running in scientific, technical and professional careers across the country and around the world.

"The Grand Experiment" is an experiment no more. Through the hard work and dedication of so many, NTID has become a proven federal program that changes lives through unparalleled educational opportunities and top-rated access services delivered in a campus community that fosters growth and achievement. I am so very proud to be an NTID alumnus and to now lead the college that has had such a positive impact on so many lives, including my own.

This summer, we are thrilled to welcome back to campus, indeed to welcome home, thousands of our alumni and friends along with current and former faculty, staff and administrators for NTID's 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend June 28 – July 1, 2018. What a grand celebration of 50 years of education, dedication, transformation and community spirit.

As we celebrate and reflect on the past 50 years, we pause to thank all those who have contributed so much to NTID's success. What began with the signing of PL 89-36 that June day 50 years ago has become a unique educational community with a rich history and a bright future. It truly has been a grand 50 years, and even as we celebrate all that has been, we look ahead to all that is yet to come.

Gerard J. Buckley, SVP '74, '78
NTID President
RIT Vice President and Dean

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ABOUT THE ISSUE

This special edition of "FOCUS" magazine commemorates the 50th anniversary of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, which was founded by an act of Congress in 1965 and enrolled its first class of students in 1968 on the campus of Rochester Institute of Technology. NTID is pleased to welcome to campus many alumni and friends as well as current and former faculty, staff and administrators for the 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend June 28 – July 1, 2018.



ABOUT THE COVER

The graphic element on the cover of this special edition of "FOCUS" magazine is based on a design by RIT/NTID alumna Beth Karbowski Noworatzky, '07. Noworatzky, who graduated from RIT/NTID with a degree in graphic design, won the NTID 50th Anniversary logo design competition.

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Milestones in NTID history

BY JAMES MCCARTHY

In 50 years, RIT/NTID has seen its fair share of change. Having gone from a group of 70 deaf and hard-of-hearing students who didn't have a building to call their own to more than 1,200 students spread across a functional and attractive complex of buildings, backed by a worldwide population of more than 8,000 alumni, "transformation" could be considered an understatement for NTID.

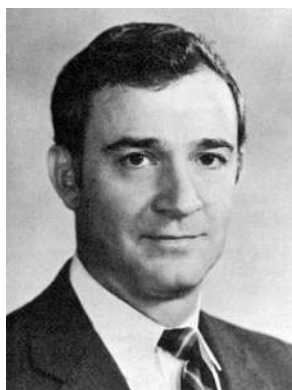
Here, we review only a few of the

high points in the past 50 years, paying attention to common themes of leadership and growth in pursuit of NTID's mission of ensuring employment for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Running through Dr. Frisina's appointment as NTID's first dean to Greg Pollock's second election as president of RIT's Student Government, overseeing the campus activities of more than 16,000 students, we can almost

glimpse the road that RIT/NTID has been—and still is—traveling, as an institution and a community.

One important note: You'll see that the construction of the various buildings of NTID has been omitted from this timeline. That's because this is a story about people. If you'd like to know more about the buildings of NTID, just turn to "The changing campus landscape" on page 22.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PHOTOS ARE ARCHIVE IMAGES.



1967
Dr. D. Robert Frisina begins his first year leading NTID.

1971
The groundbreaking ceremony for the NTID complex is held.

1972
The first NSC Board of Directors is elected; clockwise from bottom left: Mark Feder (SVP '71, '74, '76), vice president; Miriam Sotomayor ('72), secretary; Jerry Nelson, president; and John Swan (SVP '70, '74, '76), treasurer.

1976
Dr. William Castle is appointed NTID's Dean.

1968
NTID's first class of admitted students—known as the "Charter Class"—begin classes.

1974
Lady Bird Johnson, widow of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, kneels next to a plaque at the dedication of LBJ Hall.





1978

The NTID Center on Employment is established, solidifying NTID's commitment to job placement for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

2006

Elizabeth Sorkin (SVP '99, '07) is elected the first deaf president of RIT's Student Government.



1988

The theater in LBJ Hall is named "Robert F. Panara Theatre" after Dr. Panara, pictured above with his wife, Shirley.

1996

Dr. Robert Davila is appointed NTID's first deaf—and Latino—vice president.

2010

Greg Pollock ('12) is the second deaf president of RIT Student Government—and the first to win a second term.

1978

John "JT" Reid graduates as the first deaf captain of an RIT varsity team (wrestling)

1995

James DeCaro, who served as NTID dean 1985-1998, is named dean and interim director of NTID. He was named interim president of NTID in 2010.

2003

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz is appointed vice president and dean of NTID. In 2008, he was named NTID's first president.

2011

Dr. Gerard J. Buckley ('78) becomes the first alumnus to be appointed leader of NTID.



50 years of education excellence

COMPILED BY HEATHER EAGGLESTON AND SUSAN L. MURAD



PROVIDED PHOTO

Charles E. Schumer United States Senator

Congratulations to the entire RIT/NTID community as you celebrate 50 years since the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) opened its doors at Rochester Institute of Technology in 1968. NTID has produced more than 8,000 graduates and established itself as one of the nation's best schools providing an outstanding state-of-the-art education for its students. With its extensive program offerings, NTID prepares graduates with the skills they need to excel in their careers and thrive in our communities. The Rochester region, in particular, has been enriched thanks to NTID's contributions and graduates, many of whom have remained in Rochester to live, work and create new businesses that are today propelling the region's economy and community forward. NTID also extends beyond the classroom, combining research and outreach to prepare students and professionals alike to work in fields related to deafness and to enhance the overall social,

economic and educational success of deaf people.

The success NTID has brought to its students and the global community is remarkable, and I hold it as a top priority to encourage this progress by protecting and increasing federal support for this institution. NTID's many achievements over the past five decades is a testament to how access, affordability and resources can change communities and lives over many generations. I applaud the work and effort of the NTID faculty and students who continue to move our country forward with their commitment to education and success in the workplace. Once again, let me offer my warmest appreciation for NTID's longstanding work in providing world-class higher education. I commend you for 50 years of great success and look forward to continuing to work together to encourage the growth of this institution and the future success it will bring to students and our global community.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

It is my great pleasure to congratulate NTID on its 50th anniversary.

For half a century, NTID has been the standard bearer for postsecondary technical and professional education for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. I am honored to celebrate this remarkable anniversary, and I applaud the ways in which NTID has changed many people's lives.

I am immensely proud of RIT/NTID and its uniquely important role in making sure deaf and hard-of-hearing students receive equal education and opportunities.

I fight for NTID's federal funding to ensure that this institute can continue to be one of the world's great destinations for deaf and hard-of hearing students. With new outreach initiatives, new programs like the Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate, and new opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship provided at RIT, I know NTID will educate, employ and empower deaf and hard-of-hearing leaders for years to come.

Once again, congratulations on 50 years of history-making. Here's to the next 50 and beyond.





Honoring Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter

The RIT/NTID community was saddened by the passing of Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter earlier this year. Congresswoman Slaughter was a scientist, a legislator and a steadfast supporter of NTID and the deaf community in Rochester and throughout the country. She was an honorary member of NTID's National Advisory Group, helped launch NTID's Task Force on Health Care Careers for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community, worked in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act, supported legislation that requires closed-captioning on TV programs and more.

Upon receipt of the RIT Presidential Medallion in 2010, the Congresswoman said, "Over time this partnership [between RIT and NTID], which began as an experiment, has highlighted two of the most distinctive characteristics of the Rochester community: a dedication to technological innovation and a commitment to include and promote the needs of citizens from all walks of life. Here at

NTID, students and faculty do not only teach and acquire skills in highly technical fields that are rapidly changing with every new innovation, but with every endeavor and success, they blaze new trails and expand the boundaries of what the deaf and hard-of-hearing can accomplish... The work that you've done here at NTID for the deaf community continues in the fine tradition of RIT and Rochester, which we know to be a welcoming community that thrives on knowledge, innovation, and culture... I consider it a great privilege to represent Rochester and serve the people of Western New York. And it's been an honor to do everything I can to support RIT, NTID, and the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, who've played such an important and unique role in making Rochester what it is today, and charting a path for the future."

"FOCUS" extends our deepest sympathies to Congresswoman Slaughter's family, colleagues, constituents and friends. She will be missed.



Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York State

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered at the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Since 1968, NTID, a college of RIT and the first and largest technological college in the world for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, has provided an outstanding technical and professional education program, complemented by a strong liberal arts and sciences curriculum. This solid foundation of learning enables deaf and hard-of-hearing students to live and work in the mainstream of a rapidly changing global society as successful leaders in their communities.

As you come together to enjoy a milestone 50th anniversary celebration commemorating five decades of NTID's innovation and educational excellence with a variety of fun and memorable activities, know that we are proud of all of your

accomplishments. Reunions are wonderful opportunities to rekindle friendships and take time to remember your college days, looking back on the many changes you have experienced since your graduation day. In sharing this milestone anniversary with former classmates and teachers, you can take pride in RIT/NTID and in the personal and professional achievements that will contribute to New York and to future generations.



Patrick M. Gallivan
New York State Senator – 59th District

Congratulations to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf for 50 years of remarkable service to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. As the first and largest technological college of its kind anywhere in the world, NTID and Rochester Institute of Technology have led the way in educating deaf students and preparing them for rewarding careers.

More than 8,000 NTID alumni share their knowledge, expertise and passion for lifelong learning to enhance their lives and their community. I am confident this proud tradition will continue for many years to come.

To administrators, faculty, staff members, alumni and current students, congratulations on NTID's 50th Anniversary, and I wish you continued success.



Harry M. Bronson
New York State Assembly member – 138th District

I welcome you to the 50th Anniversary of the creation of National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, and thank you for your support of Rochester, the state of New York and the NTID campus and community. As a nation, we have made great strides forward in the education and equality of those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have many reasons to celebrate.

In the words of Peter Peterson, a Deaf teacher at the Minnesota School for the Deaf, who wrote in 1930 that: "A national technical institute for the deaf located in a large manufacturing city, is what deaf young America needs more than anything else..."

Starting with the first graduating class of 54 students, I believe that you have been able to accomplish that and so much more.

Today's campus proudly educates more than 17,000 students, including more than 1,200 deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled in programs

that are unmatched by any university in the world. RIT provides one of the most accessible education communities in the nation for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

There is no doubt in my mind that NTID has played a significant role in educating so many, both nationally and internationally, so they may live full and honest lives with dignity, equality and respect.

You have enriched our nation, celebrated our diversity and brought visibility to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community through academic and technical education.

Thank you to the alumni, current students, faculty and staff, both past and present, for your strong dedication and commitment to make NTID an internationally recognized institution of higher education.



Cheryl DiNolfo
Monroe County Executive

It is an honor to congratulate all of you at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) on providing 50 years of unparalleled education to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Students have come from all 50 states and more than 60 countries to be a part of this singular institution at the heart of Rochester Institute of Technology.

We are fortunate that many NTID alumni have made Monroe County their permanent home. In doing so, NTID alumni and students contribute to the vibrancy of our community. By developing access technologies for people with disabilities, as well as cultivating deaf poetry, theater, dance, painting and supporting start-ups by or for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, NTID helps make Monroe County a community of innovators, artists and entrepreneurs.

As County Executive, I am proud of our mentor partnership with NTID, which has led to collaborations with our Medical Examiner's Office, and I am honored to count NTID alumni as part of our staff. All of us in Monroe County pause to celebrate this milestone of 50 years of excellence in education, research, access, and outreach. You have transformed this community in many ways and made the whole world a brighter place because of your dedication to encouraging, educating and helping others.

On behalf of all of us in Monroe County, Happy 50th anniversary, NTID!



Stephen L. Schultz
Henrietta Town Supervisor
RIT Computer Science '89

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the students, faculty, staff and alumni of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on the 50th anniversary of its founding. As a freshman, I lived on a Deaf-Hearing floor and quickly became multilingual for the first time in my life, learning American Sign Language in order to converse directly with my deaf and hard-of-hearing friends. And now, my son is taking ASL in middle school as his second language. NTID has had a profound impact, not only on those who have come through its programs or used its services to help them complete an RIT education,

but on the entire RIT community as well as the Henrietta community at large. I am proud to have been a part of it for 38 out of the 50 years and look forward to more years of partnership as your Town Supervisor.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor of Rochester

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology.

In the City of Rochester, we make it our mission to ensure that every resident can enjoy safer and more vibrant neighborhoods, access to jobs and better educational opportunities. In addition, we want Rochester City Hall to be as accessible as possible for Rochester's Deaf community, with resources readily available to meet their needs. We are grateful to call NTID an instrumental partner in this effort.

This year, Rochester is celebrating the bicentennial year of the birth of the great abolitionist and freedom fighter, Frederick Douglass. As we reflect upon his legacy, I am confident that he would be proud to see us using our talents to create engaging events and activities such as this to build bridges and foster bonds throughout the community.

I would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, alumni, families and friends of NTID who have worked so hard to make this 50th anniversary an outstanding success.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. David C. Munson
President of Rochester Institute of Technology

I'm excited to wish RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf a happy 50th anniversary. When Nancy and I first arrived on the RIT campus, we knew this was a place like no other. And NTID is one of the main reasons why.

Just 50 short years ago, NTID was a concept in the minds of a handful of dedicated educators and public servants. Today, it is an international leader in the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing young people, and serves as a model for others to emulate. From cutting-edge pedagogy to groundbreaking research and the development of access technology, NTID will continue to lead through the 21st century and beyond.

RIT is richer for the presence of NTID on this campus. As we celebrate 50 years of RIT's home in Henrietta, we all can take great pride in the contributions of NTID students, alumni, faculty, staff and administrators to making the entire university such an outstanding place to learn, work and grow.



FILE PHOTO

Christine Whitman
RIT Board of Trustees Chairperson

On behalf of the RIT Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to congratulate NTID on the 50th anniversary of the first entering class.

NTID holds a unique place in RIT's history, and it is exciting to witness the ways the college continues to grow and lead the world in educating deaf and hard-of-hearing young people.

Several of our trustees trace their roots to NTID, and their contributions to our work on behalf of the greater university is valued and appreciated.

I look forward to seeing what NTID has in store for its next 50 years.

Congratulations and happy anniversary!



PROVIDED PHOTO

Colin Allen
President
World Federation of the Deaf

On behalf of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

As an International Member of the WFD, it is with great pride that the WFD has maintained long-standing cooperation with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf after this educational institution became a full Associate member of the WFD in 1980 and then changed to its membership status, International Membership in 2014.

Over the years, this close collaboration has yielded to support WFD in many ways, such as to sponsor materials for the past WFD Congresses. We are very grateful to have such ongoing relationships and look forward to strengthen this connection.

NTID is a highly respected international educational institute for the Deaf Community. I believe that NTID will continue to bring about meaningful changes to many deaf and hard-of-hearing students from over the world.

I wish NTID every success and congratulations once again on the 50th anniversary of foundation.





PROVIDED PHOTOS



PROVIDED PHOTO

Melissa Draganac-Hawk
Board President
National Association of the Deaf

Howard A. Rosenblum
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of the Deaf

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) congratulates the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on its 50th anniversary! This is an amazing milestone representing an amazing advancement for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

NTID has made possible quality education and top-notch employment to five decades of deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates. In today's fast-paced technological world, NTID has given these graduates a fighting chance to compete for jobs and promotions. NTID has also been a place for highly trained deaf and hard-of-hearing professionals to shine as professors, researchers, staff, technicians, administrators and deans.

The NAD is grateful to NTID for being a pillar of higher education excellence that elevates the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and wishes NTID much success in the decades to come.

Sean Gerlis
Chairperson
Empire State Association of the Deaf

It has been 50 years since this fine institution was founded in Rochester, New York, under the declaration when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 89-36, The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Act. Much has progressed since 1965 that leads to this prestigious institution that continues services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students across the world.

Empire State Association for the Deaf (ESAD) is proud to continue our partnership with NTID as we continue to strive for the betterment of the civil rights and quality

in education for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind students in New York state. ESAD wishes to extend their congratulations to the continuation of long tradition in providing an excellent education resource for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind students. Congratulations!



PROVIDED PHOTO

Emilio Alonso-Mendoza
Chief Executive Officer
The Alexander Graham Bell Association
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A national technical institute for the deaf was not just “a dream,” which Minnesota School for the Deaf teacher Peter Peterson acknowledged in 1930, but also “a possibility.” Thirty-eight years later, President Lyndon Baines Johnson realized this hope by creating the National Technical Institute of the Deaf (NTID). Seventy students (44 male/26 female) arrived on the RIT campus in 1968 to become NTID’s charter class and begin its semi-centennial legacy.

Over its subsequent 50 years, NTID has helped prepare more than 8,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from 17 different countries to live and work in the mainstream of a rapidly changing global community. The outstanding modern technical, professional, liberal arts and sciences education here enhances the social, economic and educational accommodations of deaf

people in a variety of fields. Last year, in fact, 94 percent of deaf and hard of hearing graduates received a job within one year.

This year, the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) recognizes the class of 1968 for their bravery and courage and celebrates the 2018 NTID graduating class. We are honored to have a rich history that has assisted NTID in ensuring that deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals have equal access to employment and success in life. Indicative of NTID’s roots, this class is the world’s latest chance to construct a society where one’s life matches the marvels of one’s labors.

Good luck to this year’s graduates, and I look forward to many more years of collaboration with NTID.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Christopher Lehfeldt
Chairperson
National Advisory Group

I’m pleased to join with my fellow members of NTID’s National Advisory Group to congratulate NTID on 50 years of excellence in teaching and learning.

The NAG was established in the earliest days of the college’s beginning to provide direction and guidance. Throughout our history, the NAG has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the leaders of RIT and NTID to fulfill the mission of the college: to prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing students with the best possible education to prepare them to live and work in an ever-changing global society.

Through the years, NAG members have come from every walk of life and have proudly enjoyed meeting on campus, watching the growth, change and progress of the physical space, academic offerings and talented students, faculty, staff and alumni.

It is also exciting to bear witness to the growth in awareness of NTID throughout the country and around the world. From Rochester to Japan, China, the Philippines, United Arab Emirates and more, NTID stands as a model for successfully educating deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Thanks to the hard work of many who have come before us, there is much to be proud of—and much to celebrate. Here’s to 50 years more and beyond!



MARK BENJAMIN

Chris Wagner, '94 NTID Foundation Board President

On behalf of the NTID Foundation Board of Directors, I'm pleased to add to those congratulating RIT/NTID on this 50-year milestone.

As Foundation board chair, it is important for me to note that this anniversary also signifies the maturation of our college, and the willingness of those who have given of their time, talent and resources to continue us on our path of providing outstanding educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Our board members have been leaders in helping to ensure that the vision of NTID's leadership is carried out, and I thank them for all they do.

As a proud alumnus, I take great pride in the accomplishments of my 8,000+ fellow alumni. For the past 50 years, you have been the greatest "advertisement" of what an RIT/NTID education can do. You are in every business and industry throughout the country and around the world, and I salute

you! I have watched with pride the positive growth and impact by our alumni to this institution.

And, finally, as co-chair of NTID's 50th Anniversary Reunion committee along with my wife, Staci, I am thrilled that so many have made time to 'come home' to NTID this summer and celebrate with us.

As we move on to the next 50 years and beyond, let us all take the spirit of NTID with us into our own communities and continue to make the world a better place, one Tiger at a time. I join my Foundation Board colleagues in extending congratulations to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on reaching this important milestone.

Happy 50 years, NTID!
Go Tigers!



MARK BENJAMIN

Joseph Riggio, SVP '88, '92, '01 NTID Alumni Association Board President

On behalf of my fellow alumni, I'm pleased and proud to congratulate NTID on its 50th anniversary.

I came to NTID with the SVP '88 group, graduated with an associate degree in printing production technology in 1992, and earned a bachelor's degree in applied arts technology from the College of Applied Science and Technology in 2000. NTID is where I learned to be a leader, to advocate for myself, and where I developed lifelong friendships.

Today, I'm fortunate to visit campus frequently both for work and as president of the NTID Alumni Association Board of Directors. It is always a thrill for me to return to our old 'stomping grounds' that

we still call home and walk through the doors of LBJ Hall and see all of the exciting changes that have taken place on our campus. But one thing that never changes is the feeling of family that exists with my fellow alumni, and those faculty and staff who are such an important part of our lives.

So congratulations, NTID! May you continue leading the way in deaf education for many decades to come!

50 years of outstanding leadership

BY PAMELA L. CARMICHAEL

NTID has been fortunate to have strong leadership throughout its 50-year history. From NTID's first director, Dr. D. Robert Frisina, to its current president, Dr. Gerry Buckley, NTID's leaders have guided the college and helped ensure its continued success.

In his chapter on NTID's leaders in "A Shining Beacon: Fifty Years of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf," retired NTID faculty member Dr. Gerard "Jerry" Walter, notes that:

Since its founding, NTID has had six leaders...What is interesting about these six individuals is that they are all still alive, have all known each other professionally and personally, have communicated with each other about their experiences as leader, and thus have had the luxury of learning from each other. These relationships have resulted in an unusually high level of mission continuity that is seldom achieved when organizations change leadership.

"FOCUS" asked NTID leaders, past and present, to share a favorite memory or accomplishment, and to reflect on what has contributed to NTID's success over the years and what they think lies ahead for the college.

Dr. D. Robert Frisina

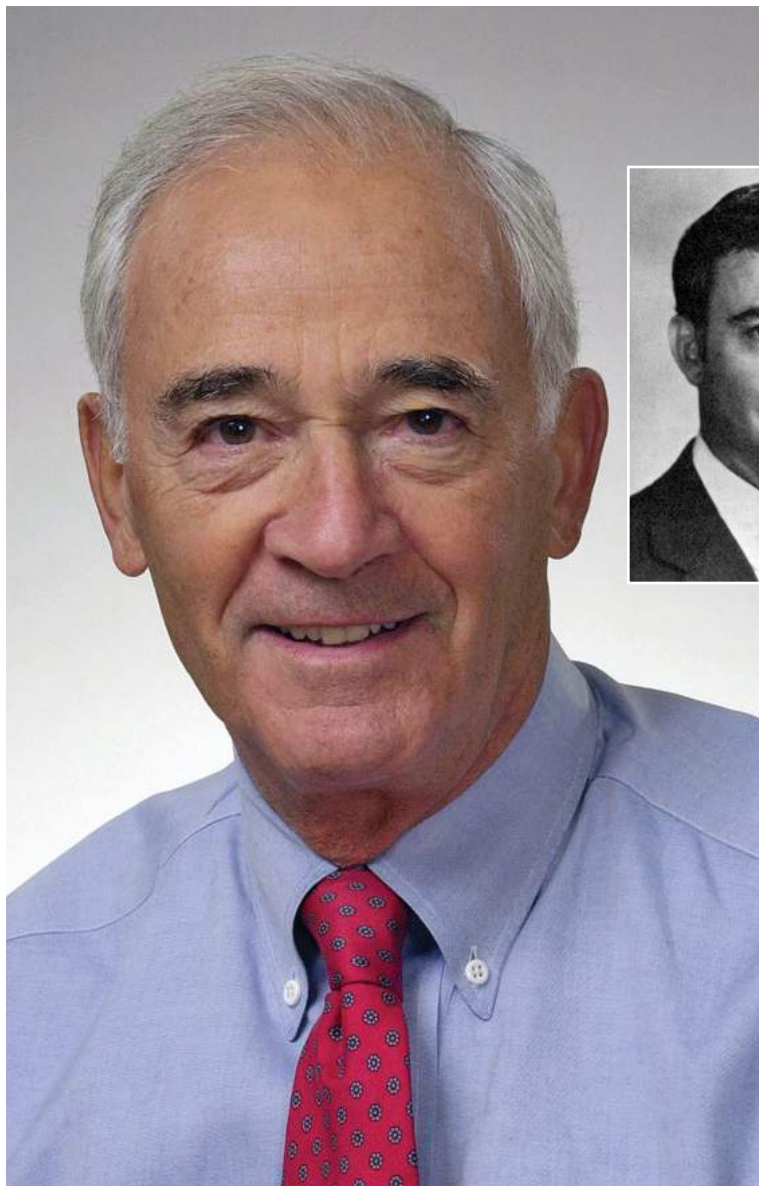
Led NTID Jan. 1, 1967 – Dec. 31, 1976

Favorite Memory or

Accomplishment: The most rewarding parts of my efforts at NTID were maintaining the integrity of the intent of the federal law that established the college and witnessing the unprecedented success of 'The Grand Experiment.' NTID is remarkable for its epic role in the history of deaf people, creating technical and professional career opportunities, inspiring changes in educational practices and enabling socioeconomic parity for individuals who are deaf.

Key to NTID's Success: Innovation has been the key to NTID's success from the beginning. When NTID was established, there was no model to follow. There were no large numbers of deaf students enrolled in existing traditional higher educational institutions. This was a new idea, and it required creative thinking in terms of how to organize such a program to increase the probability that we would be a success. Innovation and creative thinking have continued to be key to NTID's success as the college has adapted to changes over the years.

Looking to the Future: NTID will continue to be a place where dreams are made, where hopes are raised, and where students are encouraged to reach for their star, and, with a little help, to catch it.



MARK BENJAMIN



Dr. William E. Castle

Led NTID Jan. 1, 1977 – Dec. 31, 1994

Favorite Memory or Accomplishment:

I am proud that I was able to convince Congress that NTID should be allowed to admit foreign students. The assistant secretary for education and rehabilitation at the time argued against the proposition, insisting that NTID was a 'national' institution. As it turned out, Congress agreed with me, and in the years since, NTID has admitted hundreds of students from countries all over the world.



the years is clearly the employment history of its graduates. NTID was established to prepare students for successful careers, and it continues to consistently achieve that goal.

Looking to the Future:

It is difficult to predict what the future will hold, particularly when we look at the pace of technological innovation, which clearly will continue to impact how deaf and hard-of-hearing students learn and communicate.

Key to NTID's Success:

The most significant factor in NTID's success over



Dr. James J. DeCaro

Led NTID on an interim basis

Jan. 1, 1995 – Dec. 31, 1995 and Jan. 1, 2010 – Dec. 31, 2010

Favorite Memory or

Accomplishment: The high point of each and every one of the 47 years I've served at RIT/NTID has been graduation and seeing these young people fully prepared to enter society and the workplace and compete on a par with peers who hear. I am so proud of their accomplishments!

Key to NTID's Success: While interviewing for a position at NTID in November 1970, I was impressed by three pillars that provided the foundation of support for the entire academic enterprise...excellence, integrity and innovation. Thoughtful experimentation and innovation, and an honest reporting of outcomes was, and continues to be, part of the NTID DNA. Experimentation was expected. So, too, was collection of data upon which future interventions would be based...a commitment to continuous quality improvement to

meet the changing needs of the young men and women we served. These pillars are with us today; if this were not the case, we would not be the excellent enterprise we are.

Looking to the Future: I don't feel prepared to speculate regarding the changing nature of those we will serve on our 75th anniversary. If the past 50 years proves to be prologue, there will be technological developments that will change the way NTID needs to do business: artificial intelligence, speech to text, biomedical advances, electro-mechanical technologies, and other innovations and surprises that will come our way. Irrespective, it will remain imperative that excellence, integrity and innovation continue to be the hallmark of NTID whatever population we serve. The only constant will be the need to adapt to changes in technology, education, society and the workplace.



MARK BENJAMIN

Dr. Robert R. Davila
Led NTID Jan. 1, 1996 – Nov. 30, 2003

Favorite Memory or Accomplishment: I have many memories of my service as CEO of NTID. One significant accomplishment

that I recall with great pride is the conversion of the LBJ Hall open-air quad. I contemplated that perhaps I could find a generous donor to allow us to convert that little-used space. The opportunity came when I visited old friends Joe and Helen Dyer in Florida, and they expressed an interest in supporting erection of an arts center. Many people in the NTID community were delighted with the design, purpose and location of the Joseph F and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center. Over the years, it has become a very important teaching and learning space where the work of deaf artists from all corners of the world can be displayed.

Key to NTID’s Success: NTID’s affiliation with a major university was intentional, and its affiliation with RIT remains central to its purpose and programmatic design. Over the years, thousands of young deaf and hard-of-hearing students have completed degrees and gone on to impressive accomplishments in the world of work and their communities. NTID students function successfully

in a supportive and accepting, but also challenging, learning environment that includes many thousands of hearing peers. These experiences parallel the work world and community into which they aspire after graduation. The experiences on such a complex, yet friendly and supporting campus, facilitate their transitions to increasingly more complex and demanding life situations. This was an important element of the vision implemented 50 years ago, and it remains relevant and timeless.

Looking to the Future: Technology and medical science have solved some of the disabling effects of disabilities and diseases, and continued progress is likely to affect the way deaf and hard-of-hearing people learn, communicate and work. Every university and college in our country has acquired knowledge and ability to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students, some better than others, and many colleges will enroll more of them. NTID can be in a position to serve as higher education’s clearinghouse to help other colleges and universities in much the same manner that we developed an international support program during my service as CEO.



MARK BENJAMIN

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz
Led NTID Dec. 1, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2009

Favorite Memory or Accomplishment: My favorite accomplishment was the establishment of the CSD Student Development Center. This was made possible through a generous contribution from CSD blended with a creative budgeting process successfully negotiated with our dear friends in Congress and the U.S. Department of Education. The CSD center is the ‘heartbeat’ of NTID student growth and leadership development.

Key to NTID’s Success: The most significant factor in NTID’s success over the years is due to RIT’s progressive vision as the ‘one of kind’ university. This has allowed NTID to partner with RIT to provide the best quality postsecondary and higher education to young deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The many achievements of our alumni are truly a testimony to RIT/NTID’s success and excellence.

Looking to the Future: Technology definitely will have a profound impact on the future of NTID. In 25 years, I visualize NTID becoming the center of STEM education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students throughout the world through innovative and interactive online video/visual technology.



MARK BENJAMIN

Dr. Gerard J. Buckley
Has led NTID Jan. 1, 2011 – Present

Favorite Memory or Accomplishment: I have so many fond memories of my time at NTID—as both a student and administrator. I am proud to be an RIT/NTID alumnus, and I am proud to lead this college that has changed so many lives, including my own. One of my priorities as NTID president has been to ensure that the future leadership of NTID is increasingly diverse and reflective of the population we serve. We have made progress in that

area, and we will continue to make diversity and inclusion a top priority as we work to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students outstanding educational opportunities in a supportive and enriching environment.

Key to NTID's Success: The key to NTID's success always has been, and will continue to be, our people. Hardworking students and their incredibly supportive parents; highly skilled and dedicated faculty and staff; generous donors; and active, involved alumni all help NTID successfully carry out its mission to prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing students for successful careers and lives. Everything we do at RIT/NTID, both inside and outside the classroom, is focused on helping our students prepare for a successful future. It's this singular focus that drives all of our decision making, all of our programming and every activity and opportunity we provide. This is not just what we do; it's who we are.

Looking to the Future: We've been educating deaf and hard-of-hearing students for 50 years, and we have much to be proud of. I am confident our talented students, faculty, staff and alumni will continue doing great things. Our students will always remain at the heart of all that we do, and we will continue to build on our past successes

and ensure that our students get the skills they need to succeed in their careers and as leaders in their communities. As I look to the future, I see more collaboration and integration with the greater university while respecting the uniqueness of NTID's mission and remaining true to the reasons we were founded 50 years ago. I see RIT/NTID as the premier model of access and inclusion for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and I see a new generation of outstanding students, faculty and staff thriving and driving innovation further to improve the educational and employment success of deaf and hard-of-hearing people nationally and internationally. I see Rochester and RIT, in partnership with the University of Rochester and Rochester Regional Health, and with support from the National Institutes of Health, as the national hub of training for deaf individuals who want to pursue careers in science and in health care. I see a continued focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and growth in our STEM-related outreach programs as we create a pipeline for students who want to pursue educational opportunities and careers in STEM. I see our alumni continuing to be engaged and proud to be an integral part of the RIT/NTID family, helping with the recruitment, placement and fundraising work that will ensure NTID's future for generations to come.

Timeline

Dr. D. Robert Frisina



1967

Dr. James J. DeCaro



1995

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz



2003

Dr. Gerard J. Buckley



2011

1977



Dr. William E. Castle

1996



Dr. Robert R. Davila

2010



Dr. James J. DeCaro

"A SHINING BEACON":

excerpts from a new NTID history book

BY JAMES MCCARTHY

In time for NTID's 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, NTID is releasing a new history book. Titled "A Shining Beacon: Fifty Years of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf," the book collects chapters written by more than 30 authors about NTID's multifaceted history. The following excerpts are examples of the many stories that intertwine throughout this book.

"A Shining Beacon" is now available for purchase at the RIT Press: www.rit.edu/press/shining-beacon.

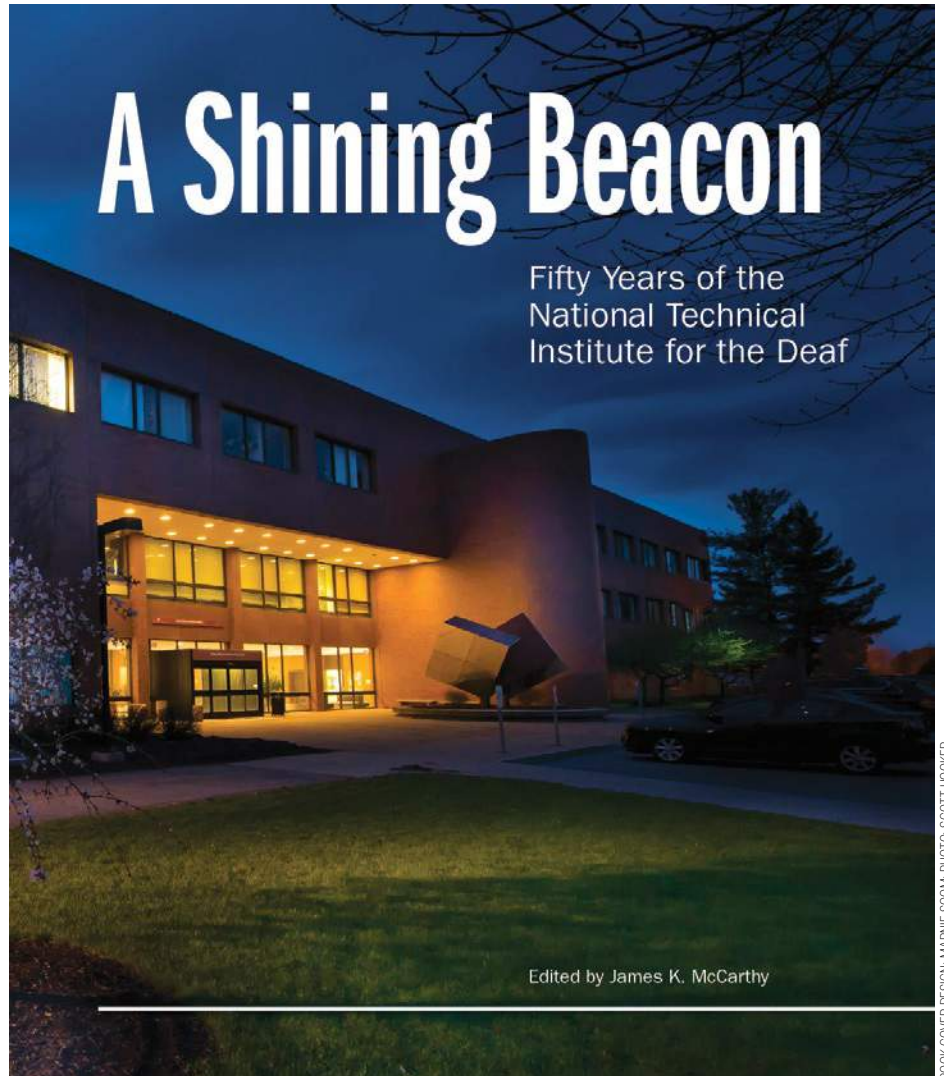
From "Finding a Home on Stage: The History of Performing Arts at NTID"

Dr. Bonnie Meath-Lang,
Dr. Aaron Kelstone, Jim Orr

NTID's commitment to the performing arts began even before the arrival of Deaf students on the RIT campus.

The founding director of NTID, Dr. D. Robert Frisina, in his request for funding of the Lyndon Baines Johnson academic building, specified that a full, state-of-the-art theater be constructed as part of it, cautioning that it not be an auditorium, or a "cafeteria with a platform." He envisioned the theater as a welcoming place where Deaf and hearing students and faculty could come together on the RIT campus. Frisina also saw theater as a way for students to develop self-confidence, learn literature and history and showcase their art to the wider community.

He was very much influenced by his colleague and friend, Gallaudet College English and drama Professor Robert F. Panara. In addition to his teaching and writing, Panara had served on the National Advisory Board that selected RIT as the resident campus for NTID and developed the guidelines for its mission. Panara was a charismatic teacher, whose creative signing in literature classes and in performance was cited by William



LBJ at Twilight: The cover of *A Shining Beacon*.

Stokoe as an inspiration for his early research on ASL as a language. Frisina was determined to bring Panara in as NTID's first Deaf faculty member, citing his ability to teach and advise both Deaf and hearing students. Panara enjoyed his work at his alma mater, Gallaudet, but he was ready for a change and a new adventure. Frisina recalled his own strategy in piquing and persuading his friend: "In wooing Bob to NTID, I indicated that he would be the 'Laurent Clerc' of this new college."

Panara came to RIT in 1967, in advance of the first NTID class. He taught language and literature classes

in the then-RIT College of General Studies (now Liberal Arts), and met with hearing students regularly to discuss the profound cultural change that would come to RIT with the presence of NTID. He also worked with Frisina on the proposals for the new academic building and its theater. In 1968, with the arrival of the first students, Panara headed the English program, and began a series of sign language and drama workshops. In the 1969–70 academic year, with the popularity of the workshops and a visit from the famed Deaf actor Bernard Bragg in the fall, momentum built for the establishment of a drama club.



MARK BENJAMIN

That winter, on a snowy night where students had to trek a quarter mile to the Webb Auditorium to vote, the Masquers Drama Club was established.

From: “The Kitchen Light of NTID”

Miriam Lerner

If this chapter were a river, we would now have side channels to wander, as there are two concurrent stories that meet again further downstream.

One story also takes place in the early 1980s, when a small group of extremely creative Deaf students at NTID began having parties in their rooms and playing translation games. They would read a story or a comic book, look at illustrated magazine or album covers (this was before CDs, iPods, or personal computers), and attempt to “translate” and perform the images in ASL. They played with the language and stretched their imaginations in ways they had not attempted before, but the aggregate synergy of their inner visions pushed them in surprising ways. Other students heard about the fun, and the rooms were soon so crowded that another venue had to be found to accommodate their fans and to carry on their experimentation.

At the time, there was a bar called The Cellar located in the tunnels underneath the dorms at NTID. The sign-play parties migrated there, and soon students were taking turns performing on a makeshift stage for any and all who showed up. One of those students was Peter Cook, who would later go on to become an accomplished ASL poet and storyteller, as well as a respected interpreter trainer, ASL and Deaf Studies professor, and chair of the ASL department at Columbia College Chicago.

It was Cook who came up with the idea of naming these weekly performances at the Cellar “The Birdsbrain Society,” after seeing a poem by Allen Ginsberg of the same name. Cook was also the

person responsible for organizing these first poetry “readings” in ASL by Deaf students. It was during this time that [Jim] Cohn first interviewed Cook about ASL poetry and began publishing his poetry in “ACTION,” a magazine of poetry and poets based in the Rochester community.

Meanwhile, in our second story, Cohn was hot on the trail of what ASL poetry might look like...

From “How to Educate an Interpreter: 50 Years of Interpreter Education”

Dr. Linda Siple and Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz

A history of interpreter education at NTID would be incomplete without further discussion of Alice Beardsley. Beardsley was affectionately referred to as NTID’s First Interpreter. Born hearing, Beardsley became profoundly deaf due to contracting measles and scarlet fever one month after her fifth birthday. She was enrolled at the Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD), where she learned the Rochester Method, which largely consisted of fingerspelling words, rather than using signs. Later, she developed her ASL skills through her involvement in the Deaf community. Many years later, in adulthood, her hearing was surgically restored in one ear,

which allowed her to interpret for many deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the Rochester community. In 1965, Beardsley served as the interpreter for the site-visit team that selected RIT as the host institution for NTID.

Once established, NTID hired Beardsley, where she served as a staff interpreter for more than 10 years. A series of severe ear infections once again left Beardsley profoundly deaf; unable to interpret in the classroom, she moved to the Department of Support Services Education and started training interpreters. Those fortunate to have Beardsley as an instructor will remember her impish grin and lightning-fast fingerspelling developed when she learned the Rochester Method at RSD. Most memorable were “morning exercises” during the [Basic Interpreter Training Program] BITP, which Beardsley taught every day in the NTID quad at 8:00 a.m., accompanied by Barry Manilow songs. She loved a good prank and could take it as well as she gave it. One morning in the summer of 1977, Beardsley arrived to find a pile of papers and no students. The papers contained a variety of excuses explaining the students’ absences (e.g., “Dear Alice Beardsley, Please excuse Pat from exercise class. She has a hang nail. Signed, Pat’s mother.”)

Left—A dramatic scene: Patrick Graybill, as Prospero, chastises Caliban in the 1981 production of “The Tempest.”

Right—Bracing for impact: Alice Beardsley leads morning exercises for interpreting students in the Quad on July 11, 1979, the day Skylab fell to Earth—hence the targets on the students’ heads.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

From “Dyer Arts Center: A New Home for Deaf Artists”

Tabitha Jacques and Robert Baker

Deaf artists have existed for centuries, but there have been limited resources for documenting and preserving the history of deaf-related art. That began to change when Gallaudet University was founded; after forming their Archives unit, efforts were set in motion to collect art by deaf artists and document information about their biographies, techniques, and processes.

As more attention began to be paid to deaf-related art, other organizations that began to contribute to this collection and the preservation efforts included residential schools for the deaf, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf (AGBAD).

In cases where deaf-related art was not actively collected or documented, environments where the general networking of artists could take place continued to grow. In the late 1980s, the Deaf Way I Conference sparked the movement of Deaf View/Image Art

(De’VIA), where a group of artists came together and drafted a manifesto that shaped their art. This was probably the first group of deaf and hard-of-hearing artists that started a movement. Although the Deaf Art Movement of the 1970s emerged earlier, it was powered mainly by a single artist named Ann Silver (and possibly a few other artists), but the movement did not become as widely recognized as De’VIA is.

At the same time that deaf-related art and the movements surrounding it were beginning to coalesce into what could be termed a “school” or a “philosophy”, NTID was founded in 1968. Applied Arts was one of the first academic programs. Many of the De’VIA founding artists were NTID alumni and graduates from the program, such as Guy Wonder (’71) (one of the first students to enroll at NTID), Chuck Baird, and Paul Johnston. Nancy Rourke, also a graduate of NTID, spearheaded the second wave of De’VIA in 2009. Many other previous graduates also identify with the second wave of De’VIA and participate heavily in the De’VIA Central Facebook page that has over 4,000 members.

In 1976, upon the completion of NTID’s Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Hall, C. Tim Ferguson, a professor in the Applied Arts, founded the NTID Art Gallery in the reception space for the office of the Director of NTID. Very little information is recorded, but it is assumed that 1976 was the same year that NTID started to collect art by deaf or hard-of-hearing people, at first drawing from the work of NTID students and art faculty. In this way, NTID became the second institution to actively collect and preserve deaf-related art. In 1984, the NTID Art Gallery expanded, and it was designated as the Mary E. Switzer Gallery.

In 2000, NTID received over \$2.5 million from the Dyer family, and a matching federal grant to focus on collecting, preserving, and displaying art by deaf and hard-of-hearing people. A beautiful 7,000-square-foot gallery was built and named the Joseph C. and Helen F. Dyer Arts Center. To date, the Dyer Arts Center houses approximately 1,000 pieces of artwork, and the collection is growing every year.

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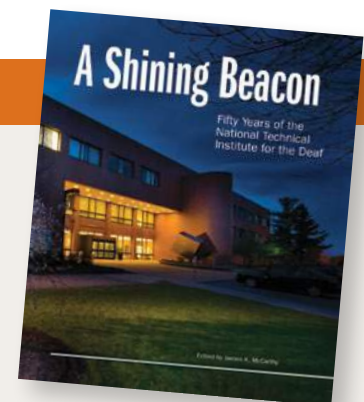
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Dr. Peter C. Hauser and Dr. Jess Cuculick



Dr. Ernest Hairston Appeared from the Popcorn Can (2015): A collage by Takiyah Harris ('99), a De'VIA artist.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DYER ARTS CENTER

The changing campus landscape

BY ILENE J. AVALLONE

Rochester Institute of Technology's landscape has changed dramatically in the time since the university moved from downtown Rochester to the Henrietta campus. In that time, NTID's

campus footprint also has changed. New buildings have been constructed, structures have been renovated and new spaces created to reflect the changing ways deaf and hard-of-hearing students

live and learn at a world-class university. In this article, "FOCUS" looks at the major construction projects that have created today's campus landscape for NTID.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PHOTOS ARE ARCHIVE IMAGES.

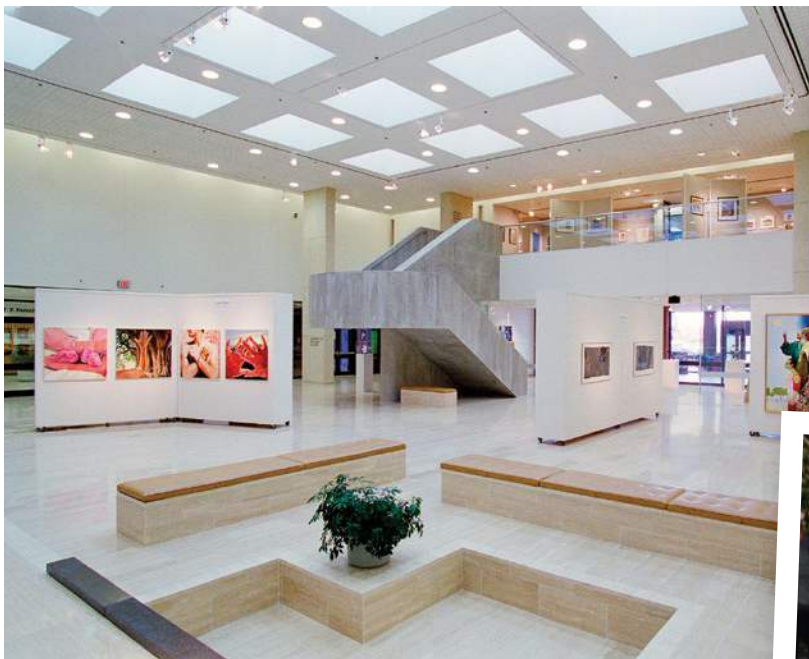


NTID Complex After the National Advisory Board officially announced RIT as the location for NTID on November 14, 1966, the architectural firm of Hugh Stubbins and Associates was hired to design the new complex. The groundbreaking was held in 1971. Construction took three years to complete, and the dedication of the \$27.5 million NTID facilities took place on October 5, 1974. The original complex for NTID included the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall academic building; Mark Ellingson Hall, Peter Peterson Hall and Residence Hall D student housing; and the Shumway Dining Commons.





Hugh L. Carey Hall Dedicated on October 14, 1984, the building was named in honor of Hugh L. Carey, the former governor of New York state who proposed the bill for NTID in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1965. NTID's Department of Access Services calls Carey Hall home. In 1991, an addition was built to accommodate the expanding number of interpreters and captionists needed to serve the growing number of deaf and hard-of-hearing students pursuing degrees in the other colleges of RIT.



Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center Eight months of construction in 2001 turned NTID's center courtyard into the 7,000 sq. ft. glass-enclosed Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center, the world's largest gallery devoted to exhibiting significant works by deaf and hard-of-hearing artists. Joseph and Helen Dyer were long-time supporters of NTID. They provided \$2.5 million to fund the construction and on-going support of the Dyer Arts Center. The grand opening took place on October 26, 2001.

A. SUE WEISLER



MARK BENJAMIN



MARK BENJAMIN

The Communication Service for the Deaf Student Development Center Opened in fall 2006, the \$6 million 30,000 sq. ft. building is the social and cultural center of campus life for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The CSD Student Development Center is home to the offices of NTID Student Congress, NTID Student Life Team and multicultural clubs. It also houses a coffee shop, a large multipurpose meeting/conference center and additional meeting rooms, a study center and informal spaces that facilitate interaction and socializing. This includes Ellie's Place, a lounge area in the center of the SDC that was dedicated in 2012 to honor the late Dr. Eleanor Rosenfield, who was former NTID associate dean for Student and Academic Services. For more than 30 years, Rosenfield was an integral part of the NTID community who worked with students to help realize their fullest potential.



MARK BENJAMIN



MARK BENJAMIN



JORGE SAMPER

Frisina Quad/Jan Strine Memorial Labyrinth Frisina Quad is surrounded by Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall, Ellingson and Peterson Halls, and the CSD Student Development Center. It was dedicated in 2007 in honor of Dr. D. Robert Frisina, the founding director of NTID. Frisina Quad is a venue for many events throughout the year, including the annual Apple Festival, held every fall to welcome RIT/NTID students back to school. It is also now home to the Jan Strine Memorial Labyrinth, which was dedicated in 2015. Strine was a mentor to many deaf students over the course of her 30-year career at NTID.



MARK BENJAMIN

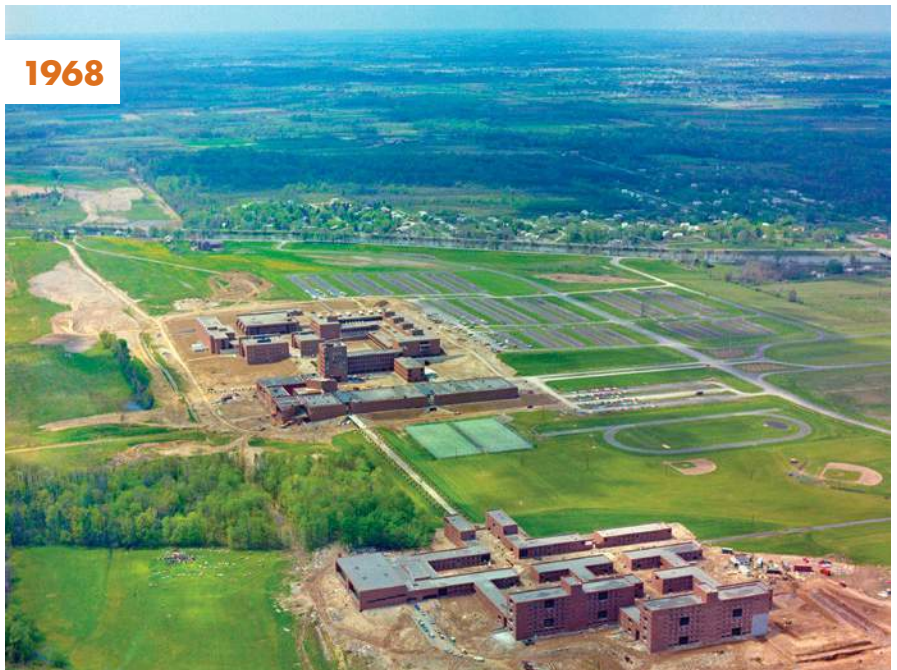


MARK BENJAMIN

Sebastian and Lenore Rosica Hall Devoted to innovation and research for students, faculty and staff of NTID, Rosica Hall officially opened on Oct. 11, 2013, and was made possible through a \$1.75 million grant by the Chicago-based William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. Additional outside private funds were raised to complete Rosica Hall. The Rosicas were life-long advocates for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Lenore Rosica was the sister of William G. McGowan, CEO of MCI Communications Corporation, and worked as a speech pathologist. Her husband, Sebastian, worked as an audiologist for 40 years at St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, New York, and was a trustee of the McGowan Charitable Fund.



MARK BENJAMIN



1968



2017

GENE AWALLONE

RIT campus construction by the decade

Take a stroll around RIT these days and it is hard to miss the construction activity or the new structures that have been added over the past 50 years. There have been 132 new buildings and major additions constructed at RIT since the opening of the Henrietta campus in 1968 after relocating from downtown Rochester.

Number of new free-standing buildings and major additions constructed by the decade:

- 1966-1969** 29
- 1970-1979** 44
- 1980-1989** 13
- 1990-1999** 6
- 2000-2009** 40
- 2010-Present** 14



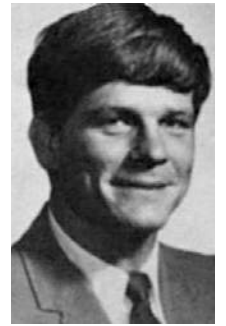
Distinguished alumni over the years

BY ILENE J. AVALLONE

RIT/NTID's Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually, and recognizes a deserving graduate of NTID or a deaf or hard-of-hearing graduate from one of the other colleges of RIT. "FOCUS" celebrates these past award winners.

Note: "FOCUS" used a recent photo of the distinguished alumnus/alumna if a photo from his/her graduation year could not be provided. No awards were given in 1987 or 2006.

ALL PHOTOS ARE ARCHIVE IMAGES.



1976
Donald H. Stoops,
'72



1978 (CLA)
Daniel J. Longholtz,
SVP '70, '74



1977
Kevin J. Nolan, '71



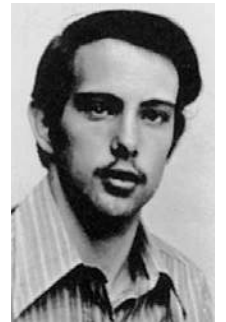
1978
William S. Mather,
SVP '71, '74



1979
Cynthia (Rohlin)
Davidson, '70



1980
Carmella (Sinaguglia)
Ramey, SVP '70, '72



1981
Robert J. Green, '75



1982
Thomas R. Nedved,
SVP '73, '76



1983
George O.
Kononenko, '75



1984
Edward B. Lord,
SVP '70, '73



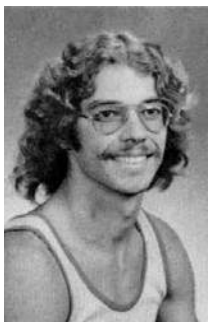
1985
1996 (CLA)
Gerard J. Buckley,
SVP '74, '78



1986
Darlene (Rhoads)
Sarnouski,
SVP '77, '80



1988
Gerald M. Isobe,
SVP '71, '74, '76



1989
Gary J. Etkie,
SVP '74, '77



1990
1995 (COS)
Andrew D. Baker,
SVP '74, '77, '79



1991
Fred R. Mangrubang,
SVP '74, '77



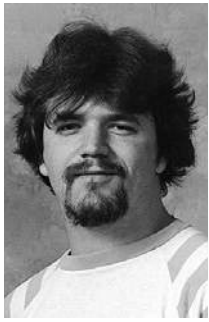
1992
Linda (Kessler)
Nelson, '73



1993
David Pierce, '84



1994
Sharaine J. (Rice)
Rawlinson,
SVP '77, '81



1995
James F. Northcutt,
SVP '77, '81



1996
David S. Rosenthal,
SVP '71, '78



1997
1980 (CLA)
Robert J. Mather
SVP '70, '74



1997
Susan (Mozzer)
Mather, '74



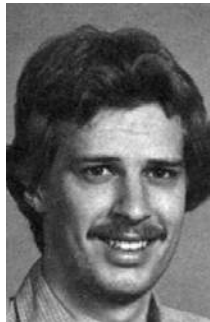
1998
Colleen Daviton,
SVP '73, '77, '83



1999
Philip J. Jacob,
SVP '77, '81



2000
Angela S. (Donnell)
Officer, SVP '83, '88



2001
David L. Binning,
SVP '77, '81



2002
W. Scot Atkins,
SVP '83, '89, '92



2003
Susan J. (Wolf)
Downes, '71



2004
Gary W. Behm,
SVP '74, '78, '81



2005
Jelica B. Nuccio,
SVP '83, '88



2007
Andrew N.
Brenneman, '88



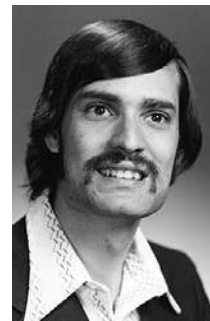
2008
Barbara M. Fallon,
'89



2009
Christopher D.
Wagner,
SVP '86, '94



2010
Sharon L. Applegate,
SVP '76, '79



2011
Mark Feder,
SVP '71, '74, '76



2012
1976 (CAST)
Gerald A. Nelson,
'74



2013
Robert W. Rice,
'94, '97



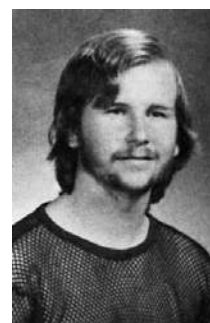
2014
Andrew R. Jacobson,
'90, '96



2015
David J. Nelson,
SVP '78, '81, '85



2016
1985 (CLA)
Barbara Jean
(BJ) Wood,
SVP '70, '75



2017
Sam Holcomb,
SVP '74, '77



2017
Barbara Ray Holcomb,
SVP '71, '74, '84

NTID Eisenhart award winners

BY SUSAN L. MURAD

Teaching excellence has been formally recognized at RIT since 1965, when the Awards for Outstanding Teaching and their accompanying ceremony were established. The scope of the awards program was broadened in 1967 to include Distinguished Young Teachers. The program was further expanded in 1975 to better recognize the diversity of RIT's education by providing a maximum of four awards to faculty members from various educational disciplines.

Although the program has changed, the reasons behind the awards have not: to encourage the professional growth and development of RIT faculty and specifically recognize those members of the academic body who contribute most to enhance student learning.

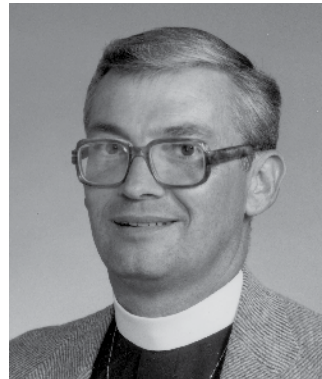
The late M. Herbert Eisenhart, former president and board chairman of Bausch & Lomb, Inc., was a member of RIT's Board of Trustees for more than 50 years. His contributions to RIT during that span were countless, and he was the recipient of the RIT Founders Award in 1971. His commitment to RIT was further evidenced by his generous bequest that created the M. Herbert and Elsa Bausch Eisenhart Endowment Fund, which provides perpetual support to the Eisenhart Awards for Outstanding Teaching as well as a major scholarship fund.

Members of the RIT/NTID faculty who have received the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching include:

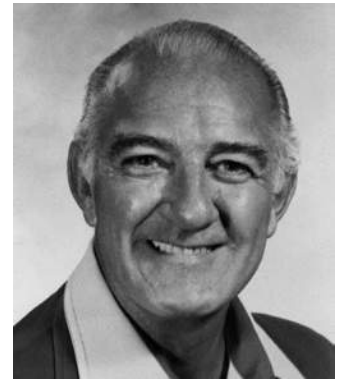
ALL PHOTOS ARE ARCHIVE IMAGES.



Building a legacy M. Herbert and Elsa Bausch Eisenhart



1970-71
Lawrence Mothersell



1974-75
Robert F. Panara



1975-76
Loy Golladay



1977-78
Edward L. Scouten



1978-79
Julie J. Cammeron



1981-82
Jack Slutzky



1982-83
Harry G. Lang



1983-84
Donna Gustina (Pocobello)



1985-86
Peter Haggerty



1988-89
Paul Peterson



1991-92
Paula Grcevic



1993-94
Marilyn Mitchell



1995-96
Lynette Finton



1996-97
Donald Beil



1997-98
Mary Louise Basile



1998-99
James Mallory



1999-00
Sidney Barefoot



2000-01
Sidney L. McQuay



2003-04
Patricia Durr



2005-06
Paula Grcevic



2012-13
Linda Fleishman Gottermeier



2014-15
Christopher Kurz

SVP class signs: a special tradition

BY DYLAN PANARRA

NTID established the Vestibule Program in 1969 as a one-year general education program designed to prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing students to enter RIT bachelor's degree programs. In 1970, the Vestibule Program was shortened and renamed the Summer Vestibule Program (SVP) in response to increased availability of NTID programs of study, especially those at the associate degree level. Offered in the weeks prior to the beginning of the academic year, SVP focused on preparing students for college life and placing them in courses

appropriate to their interests and skill level.

Because of the variance in students' programs of study—with some pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees and others certificates or diplomas—SVP became a common reference point by which each entering class of students identified themselves. This identification with SVP year supplanted the graduation-year affiliation often seen among students at other universities.

One of NTID's earliest traditions was for each SVP cohort to have a designated class sign. The sign for each SVP class was

selected by the previous year's cohort. So, for example, the entering SVP class of 2018 will be identified by a sign established by the SVP class of 2017. Each SVP class sign uses a "V" handshape and is unique from all others.

Every SVP class since 1969 has had its own sign. Many of them have been recorded by NTID faculty members Samuel Holcomb and Marguerite Carrillo. Following are some examples.

A full gallery of SVP signs from all cohorts is available online at www.ntid.rit.edu/alumni/svp-signs.

ALL PHOTOS BY MARK BENJAMIN.



Rules for selecting an SVP sign

There are four rules for the selection of each entering class's SVP sign:

#1

The sign must be selected by the previous year's cohort.

#2

The sign must use the "V" handshape.

#3

The sign cannot duplicate any other class's SVP sign; each class sign must be unique.

#4

No inappropriate signs are allowed.



1995



2005



2015



A history of transformative gifts

BY SUSAN L. MURAD

In the 50-year history of RIT/NTID, thousands of gifts—both large and small—have helped transform the campus and improve the lives of our students. Here, we recognize several major gifts that have helped to make RIT/NTID what it is today.

Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has been partnering with RIT/NTID for more than 20 years, providing more than \$11.5 million in support for scholarships, international educational outreach and more. The foundation's goal with this partnership is to help deaf and hard-of-hearing people from developing countries participate in information and cultural exchanges, increase leadership skills, and return to their home countries to improve the status of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer

With their gift of \$2.5 million and their desire to see a home for works by deaf and hard-of-hearing artists, Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer became the driving force behind the arts center that bears their name. The Dyer Arts Center is home



A Home for Art The Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center

to the largest known permanent collection of works by deaf artists, with an active exhibition schedule throughout the academic year. The center also serves as a place for gatherings and receptions for both NTID and the greater RIT community.

Additional contributors to the Dyer Arts Center were Elizabeth “Cookie” Williams and Milton H. and Ray B. Ohringer, for whom galleries in the center are named.

Communication Service for the Deaf

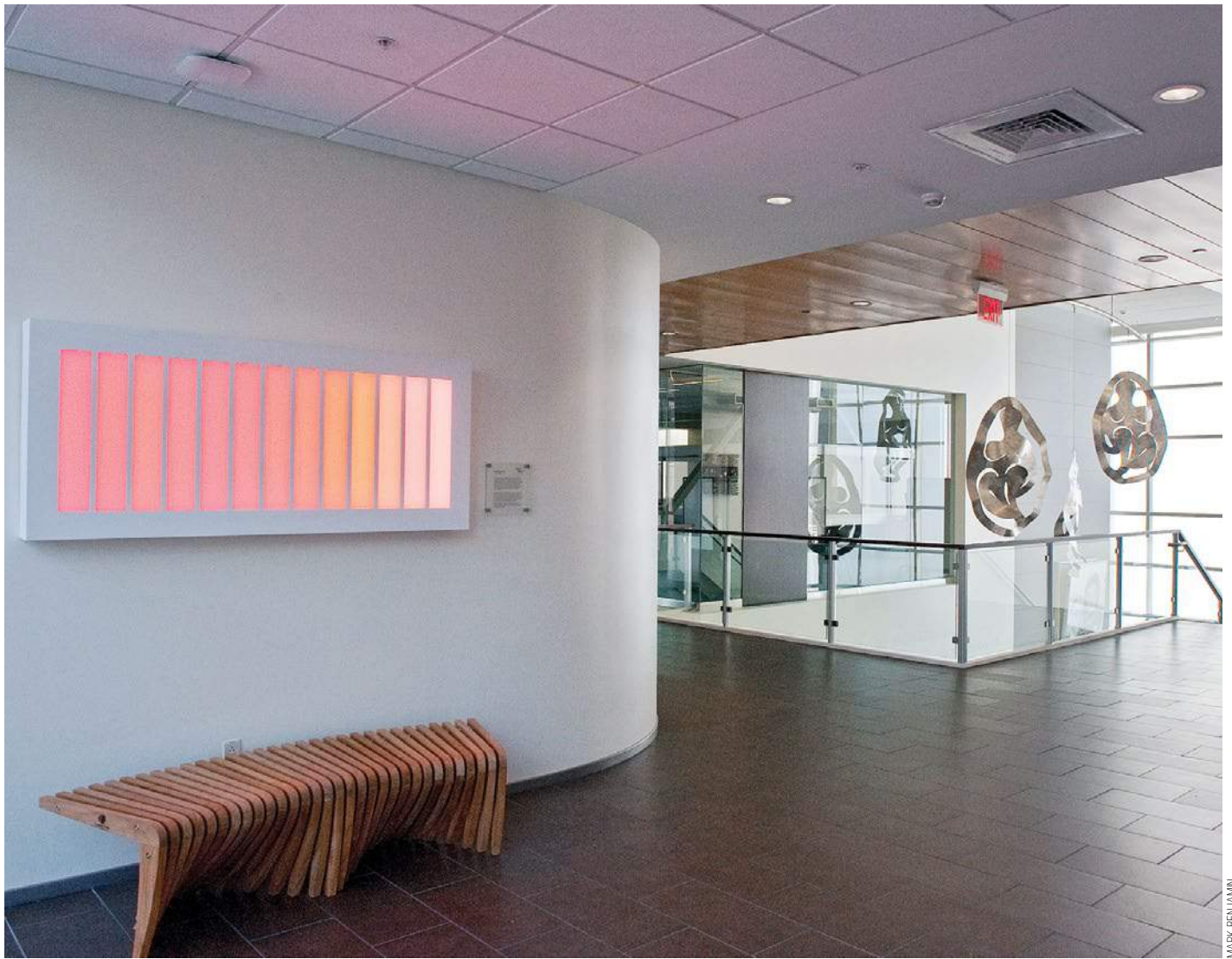
Known as CSD, Communication Service for the Deaf of Austin, Texas, is a major provider of telecommunications relay service and video relay service. In 2006, CSD provided a \$2 million gift to RIT/NTID for construction of the CSD Student Development Center, a 30,000-square-foot building that connects LBJ Hall and the Shumway Dining Commons. The facility consists of a large, state-of-the-art meeting room which can be divided, a home for several student-run organizations, and a popular lounge area, Ellie's Place, named in memory of Eleanor Rosenfield, NTID's associate dean for Student and Academic Affairs who died in 2010.

The William C. McGowan Charitable Fund

Through a \$1.75 million grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, RIT/NTID constructed a state-of-the-art facility specifically designed to foster



A Home for Student Life The Communication Service for the Deaf Student Development Center



MARK BENJAMIN

A Home for Research Sebastian and Lenore Rosica Hall

innovation, research and entrepreneurship among deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their hearing peers. The building, Sebastian and Lenore Rosica Hall, was named for McGowan's sister, Lenore and her husband, Sebastian, who were lifelong advocates for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Today, Rosica Hall is the home of a number of research centers, including the Center on Access Technology, Center for Cognition and Language, DeafTEC, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Motion Capture Lab in the Hearst Foundations Imaginarium.

Additional contributors to Rosica Hall include: the Weintraub family, the DeCaro family, an anonymous alumnus, the Webb family, the Crane family, alumnus Andrew Jacobson, and

the Pulver-Ratliffe families, as well as hundreds of gifts from alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the college.

Scholarship Support

In addition to these gifts, more than 120 endowed scholarships funded by individuals, groups, corporations or foundations have been established to help RIT/NTID students continue with their studies through graduation. More than 75 RIT/NTID alumni, faculty and staff have included RIT/NTID in their wills/bequests.

WEB EXTRA:

For more information or to make a donation, visit ntid.rit.edu/giving.



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Rosica Hall exterior

A history of student leadership

BY DYLAN PANARRA

Student leaders have played an important role in NTID's history. Over the years, student leaders have achieved milestones such as establishing the NTID Student Congress, international organizations, and even taking on positions in RIT Student Government. Leadership

opportunities help prepare students for success in their careers and in life. "FOCUS" asked a number of former student leaders to share the most significant learning experiences they had at RIT/NTID and to share words of advice for current and aspiring student leaders.

Helen Yu, SVP '10, '16 Washington D.C.



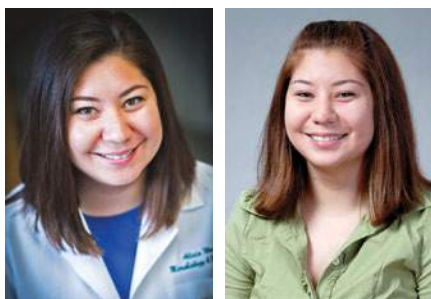
Significant learning experience:

My skills as a leader grew, and I still use the philosophies and experiences from NTID to make me a better leader today.

Advice for student leaders:

Never deny yourself of any opportunities that arise and continue to improve yourself every chance you get.

Alicia Wooten, '11 Boston, Massachusetts



Significant learning experience:

The whole experience as a student over the four years I studied at RIT/NTID molded me into who I am now. It taught me to embrace my deafness, take risks and apply myself.

Advice for student leaders:

Like the Nike slogan says, 'Just do it.' Everyone has to fail to get back up, so always take chances. If you don't, how will you know when opportunities arise?

Linda Siple, '79, '83 Rochester, New York



Significant learning experience:

I learned to take it upon myself to go out and meet deaf people, and embrace the community at RIT/NTID.

Advice for student leaders:

To interpreting students, allow opportunities for leadership to be afforded to your deaf and hard-of-hearing peers, and participate in the growth of their community by supporting it.

Brandi Rarus, SVP '86, '91 Austin, Texas



Significant learning experience:

How to network. My experience at NTID allowed me to have a rich network of colleagues and friendships that have supported my career and journey.

Advice for student leaders:

I've learned that the best way to challenge misconceptions of deaf people is through success. Success changes perception.

CJ Jones, SVP '70, '75 Los Angeles, California



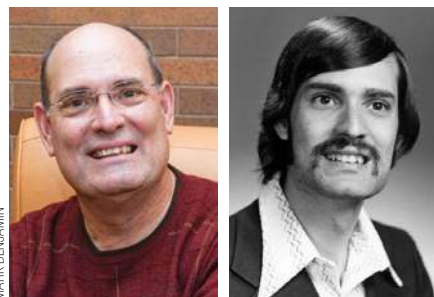
Significant learning experience:

I was lucky to have a mentor like Bob Panara, so be open and look for mentors. They will teach you and lead you, and I learned to not be afraid of being a mentor myself.

Advice for student leaders:

As a student, you have the access to lifelong relationships and success out of school thanks to the resources at NTID, so use that to your advantage.

Mark Feder, SVP '71, '75, '76. Hawthorn Woods, Illinois



Significant learning experience:

NTID Student Congress was the biggest experience for me that still stands out. It taught me how to be a leader and how to work with people for the community.

Advice for student leaders:

Deaf students need to understand the significance of Deaf culture and become better leaders on and off campus.

**Minoru Yoshida, SOAR '99-
associated with SVP '99, '08
Tokyo, Japan**



MARK BENJAMIN

Significant learning experience:

The most significant collaborative learning experience I had at NTID was my working experience with deaf and hearing colleagues (my supervisors, mentors, and colleagues) in both academic and professional settings.

Advice for student leaders:

Grab as many opportunities as you can to interact with great leaders or your mentors at NTID (students, faculty/staff and other members of the community) as you will not be able to get the same experience in this proximity with a great number of wonderful deaf colleagues once you leave campus. Some of them will become your lifelong friends and supporters.

**Tim Albert, SVP '91, '97
Rochester, New York**



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Significant learning experience:

The most significant learning experience I had was that I got involved with different clubs and organizations as a student to learn and improve the leadership skills that I still use in my life.

Advice for student leaders:

I would encourage students to continue fulfilling their vision and be enthusiastic about their passion! I love the quote from Muhammad Ali, "Don't count the days; make the days count."

**Erin Esposito, '96, '01
Rochester, New York**



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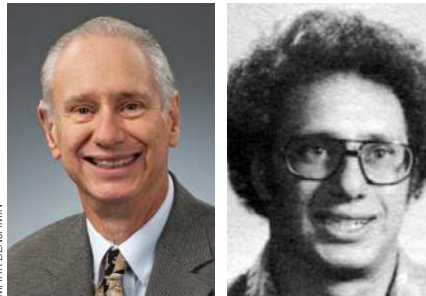
Significant learning experience:

I learned how to use any afforded privileges for the greater good. Closed opportunities are a call for changes to be made.

Advice for student leaders:

Either you're part of the problem or you're part of the solution.

**Robert Sidansky, SVP '72, '77
Northridge, California**



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ARCHIVE PHOTO

Significant learning experience:

I learned not to let opportunities pass me by. My lesson learned was to seize the moment and do it!

Advice for student leaders:

Don't stand by and let opportunities pass you by.

**Stephanie Albert, SVP '85, '88
Rochester, New York**



MARK BENJAMIN

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Significant learning experience:

My learning experiences, obstacles and challenges helped cultivate and prepare

the leader I am today. Often, I had to think outside the box to achieve my goals and dreams. NTID taught me to be persistent in my efforts toward greatness.

Advice for student leaders:

Be a servant leader with a humanitarian heart.

**Mary Beth Mothersell, '85
Geneseo, New York**



PROVIDED PHOTO

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Significant learning experience:

As a student at RIT/NTID, I also was an active member of the NTID theater program. In that environment I began to learn ASL and developed a profound appreciation and respect both for the language and the performance of theater in ASL.

Advice for student leaders:

Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are offered here at RIT/NTID, both academically and socially.

**Jerry Nelson, SVP '69, '74
St. Augustine, Florida**



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ARCHIVE PHOTO

Significant learning experience:

I was able to survive in the cutthroat corporate world thanks to what I learned at NTID, namely adaptability. Constantly adjust to become better.

Advice for student leaders:

Keep an open mind, diversity and inclusion has grown for the better and students should strive to constantly improve it.

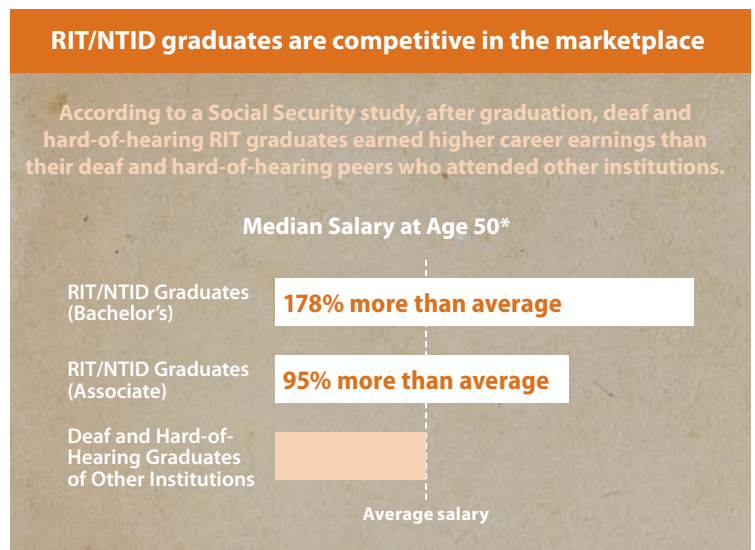
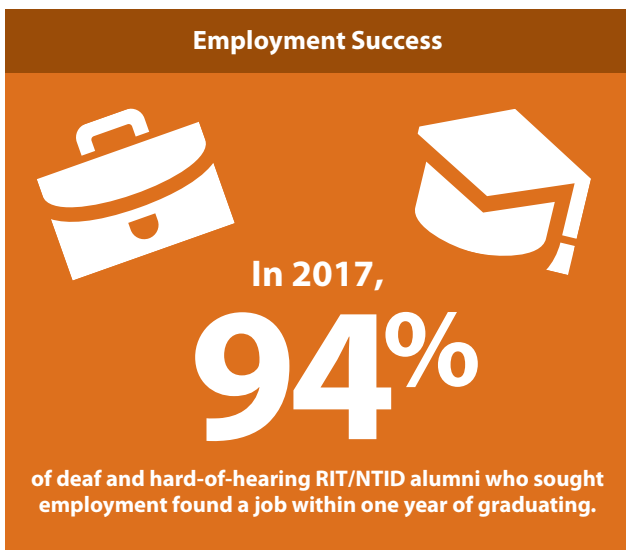
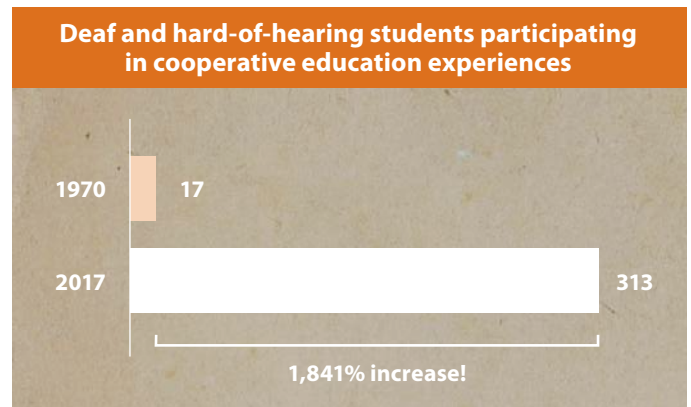
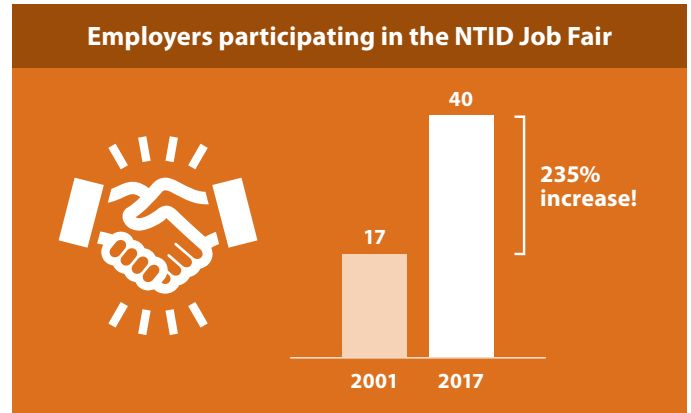
employment success through the years

BY DYLAN PANARRA

Since its establishment 50 years ago, NTID's mission has been to help deaf and hard-of hearing individuals prepare for successful careers. The NTID Center on Employment cultivates

relationships with employers to develop employment opportunities for students and graduates. NCE also helps deaf and hard-of-hearing students seek, find and prepare for co-ops and permanent jobs.

A review of employment-related statistics demonstrates the success RIT/NTID students and graduates enjoy in the job marketplace.



* Median salary at age 50 compared to average according to a study conducted with the Social Security Administration.

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

Joan “Jo” Bempong

*Kate Gleason College of Engineering
undergraduate delegate*



An RIT/NTID student from Irving, Texas, Bempong graduated with a BS/MS in computer engineering and a minor in Deaf cultural studies. She completed co-ops at Texas Instruments, Sandia National Laboratories, and VTCSecure. She was a recipient of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship Award, the Deep Learning Classification Challenge Award, and the Machine Intelligence Best Project Presentation Award. She was a finalist in both the Digital Rochester GREAT Award for student achievement and the RIT Tiger Tank competition. Bempong was invited to present her work at the 25th Anniversary Congress on Women's Health. She has accepted a full-time position at Texas Instruments.

Paula MacDonald

NTID undergraduate delegate



From Ontario, Canada, MacDonald graduated with an AAS in computer aided drafting technology. She completed a co-op with Fulcrum Engineering, where she prepared drawings and specifications for structural engineering projects. At RIT/NTID, she served as president of the Deaf International Student Association and was active with the Deaf Basketball Association and the Deaf Volleyball Association. MacDonald will be transferring to the BS program in civil engineering technology at RIT and plans to become a civil/structural engineer.

Rachel Abbett

*School of Individualized Study
graduate delegate*



From Rochester, N.Y., Abbett graduated with an MS in professional studies, with concentrations in communications and higher education administration. She completed a BS in visual arts and interpreting at Northeastern University. Her professional experience includes serving as a staff interpreter at RIT/NTID and the University of Rochester Medical Center, in addition to freelance sign language interpreting. She is certified in health care interpreting and is a nationally certified interpreter. She plans to continue working in the Department of Access Services at RIT/NTID, where she serves as the manager of the interpreting team for the College of Art and Design, formerly the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

R·I·T

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National Technical Institute for the Deaf
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MARK BENJAMIN

From blank canvas to work of art Susan Dupor, an RIT/NTID alumna and acclaimed deaf artist, was commissioned to commemorate 50 years of NTID on canvas. This is a small section of the triptych she created, which will be unveiled during the “Welcome Home” Celebration at NTID’s 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, June 28 – July 1, 2018.