A NOTE FROM DEAN ASH RAO

In August 2011, I announced my retirement from the Saunders College of Business and RIT [read more on page 11]. While I am looking forward to retirement—traveling and spending time with my grandchildren—this decision is very bittersweet. During my four years here at the Saunders College, I worked with incredibly talented and dedicated individuals—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who truly embodied the mission of the Saunders College, especially in building a collegial environment for all. I firmly believe that we are such an exceptional place of learning because of the cohesive and caring community that resides here. I felt welcome and at home from my very first day at Saunders.

I traveled near and far to meet with alumni, and time after time, was asked how one of their former professors or advisors, or a kind and helpful staff assistant was doing. Yes, while we have much to be proud of with respect to rankings, reputation, and achievement, we must remember it is our people and our relationships that create an atmosphere where we can do amazing things—and that is what I’ll miss most about the Saunders College of Business and RIT. Fortunately, we can stay connected through online social networks, so please “friend” me. And for those who are wondering how a favorite teacher has been, connect with us at Facebook.com/saunderscollege.

Cheers!

Dr. Ash Rao, Dean
Recent Rankings
The Saunders College continues to be ranked among the top business schools in the world in surveys conducted by the national and international media.

The Saunders College was named among the best graduate business schools in the 2011 edition of The Princeton Review’s “Best 301 Business Schools.” According to the Review, graduate schools were selected “based on our opinion of their academic programs and offerings, as well as our review of institutional data...We also strongly consider the candid opinions of students attending the schools who rate and report on their campus experiences.” Once again, the Saunders College is ranked among the top business schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The Saunders College is tied for #63 in the 2011 ranking of the best graduate business schools. Our undergraduate program is at #69 in the 2012 ranking. Both rankings are based on quality assessments by peer institutions and corporate recruiters, placement success, and student selectivity factors. Accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International is required for inclusion in the rankings.

FACTS & FIGURES
972 Undergraduate Students
480 Graduate Students (including EMBA)
49 Full-Time Faculty
30 Staff Members

#63 out of 437 – U.S. News and World Report ranking of best graduate business schools
#69 in U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Colleges” (top 5% every year since 2004)
Over 1,700 (10%) of Saunders graduates are C-level executives

For past issues or the online edition of this issue of Dividends you can check out at saunders.rit.edu/alumni/dividends.php
Also check out Saunders on...
Facebook facebook.com/saunderscollege
Twitter twitter.com/saunderscollege
LinkedIn Groups RIT Saunders College The Official RIT Alumni Association RIT Wall Street Alumni

If you have any questions or would like to find out how to get involved you can contact...
Sally Haigh Assistant Director of Development shaigh@saunders.rit.edu/ 585-475-4189
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Office of Alumni Relations rit.edu/alumni ritalum@rit.edu/ 1-866-RIT-ALUM
Lowenthal Service Group

Founded in 1988, the Lowenthal Service Group has been the lead student organization in the Saunders College of Business. Over the years, hundreds of students have served as ambassadors for the College, taking part in Lowenthal’s many activities, including open houses, RIT Orientation, social events, and volunteering in the community. This fall alone, Lowenthal students donated their time to the Salvation Army, FoodLink, the Al Sigl Center, and coordinated a blood drive for the Red Cross.

Lowenthal alumni, please contribute to our future success. To get involved or donate, contact advisor Cassie Peltzer at cpeltzer@saunders.rit.edu.

Like us on Facebook, search “Lowenthal Service Group.”

Women in Business

Established in 2007, the Women in Business (WIB) club provides support to women students to advance their career ambitions, broaden their business goals, and develop friendships with one another. Founded by Heather Knowles ’11 in her second year as an undergraduate at the Saunders College, WIB has quickly become an important resource for women students throughout the RIT campus. The club’s activities include working with Kiva, an organization that grants micro-loans to individuals in third-world nations, raising money for local charities, hosting speakers and workshops for fellow students, and participating in fun campus events like the RIT Mud Tug.

To learn more about Women in Business or to help support their goals, please contact advisor, Melissa Ellison at mellison@saunders.rit.edu.

Website: http://wibrochester.blogspot.com/
Like us on Facebook, search “Women in Business.”

SAUNDERS CHALLENGE

In 2010, Phil Saunders challenged all Saunders College alumni and friends to come together to raise $20 million to help the College become the choice among U.S. business schools for an exceptional innovation-focused, technology-related business education. Mr. Saunders pledged the first $5 million toward this goal. To date, nearly $5 million more has been raised [see page 4 for the latest major gift].

The Saunders Challenge vision includes expanding and renovating Lowenthal Hall, establishing graduate fellowships to attract top students, developing new professorships, and creating a student business venture fund.

Join us in making the vision a reality! For more information or to make a gift, go to saunders.rit.edu/challenge. There will be more coming soon!

“It is my goal to further energize RIT’s position as a center for entrepreneurship and innovation.”

- Phil Saunders
Alumnus Donates $3 Million to Establish Endowed Chair in Critical Thinking
by Marcia Morphy

A Rochester Institute of Technology alumnus has donated a $3 million gift to establish the Eugene Fram Endowed Chair in Critical Thinking in RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business. Fram is a renowned retail expert and marketing professor emeritus who retired from RIT in 2008 after 51 years of teaching in the Saunders College. The $3 million commitment is the second largest single gift ever received from an RIT alumnus.

“It is clear to me, as I imagine to most Americans, that many of us in America seem to lack the essential skill of critical thinking—at least in our public life,” says the donor, who prefers to remain anonymous. “My gift to RIT acknowledges my indebtedness to Dr. Fram for teaching me how to think critically, and I hope it ensures that graduates of RIT genuinely appreciate the vital nature of this skill.”

According to RIT President Bill Destler, it’s a wonderful gift for the university. “This endowment not only honors one of RIT’s most distinguished faculty members, but it will ensure that future generations of RIT students graduate with the critical thinking skills that lead to success not only in their careers, but in their lives as well.”

RIT Provost Jeremy Haefner says the chair will be housed in the Saunders College but will be assigned to develop and teach courses specifically directed toward critical thinking throughout the university’s nine colleges.

“There is a sense, shared by many, that RIT is on the verge of a transformation—of leaping into the national spotlight as a great university,” Haefner says. “This gift, to create an endowed chair in critical thinking, exemplifies that. It is rare for a university, particularly one of a technical nature, to have the means to devote a prestigious position such as an endowed chair to supporting and promoting critical thinking in our students’ education.

“The person in this position will be an evangelist for critical thinking, working with faculty and students to elevate the importance of this learning outcome. I am excited to help implement this endowed chair and set a foundation that will affect our students for years to come.”


Fram is also the author of more than 125 published articles and six books. The third edition of his nonprofit governance book, Policy vs. Paper Clips, was published earlier this year.

“I am deeply honored to have the chair established in my name,” says Fram, who was awarded the RIT Presidential Medallion during the 2008 commencement ceremony for his significant contributions to the university.

“Those who hold the professorship will significantly enhance the professional and personal lives of RIT students for many generations. Critical thinking is a mandated process for the 21st century to solve a host of business and societal problems.”

Saunders College Dean Ashok Rao says Eugene Fram exemplifies the kind of teaching for which RIT prides itself. “He connects with students inside and outside the classroom to guide them in their careers and through life. We are grateful for the generosity of the anonymous Saunders College of Business alumnus who appreciates the influence of teachers like Gene. His gift will support our efforts to continue delivering high quality education for future generations of students.”

The anonymous donor is a member of the Ellingson Society at RIT, a philanthropic endeavor that honors those alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff who establish a planned gift for the university. The Society is named for Mark and Marcia Ellingson, respectively fifth president and first lady of RIT, who together propelled the university to a new level of national and world prominence.
ALUMNI PORTRAITS

Jake Torcello ’09 MBA

Saunders College Alumnus Jake Torcello Opens Nathan’s Soup and Salad at RIT

by Peter Rosenthal

“I am sure he is going to be successful at whatever he chooses to do. This is a great first step to get the experience of managing his own business, which is not a trivial challenge. He’s determined and smart. This will work out well for him.”

Those are the words of Marketing Professor Laurie Dwyer regarding Jake Torcello ’09, who recently expanded Nathan’s Soup and Salad, which had never been done before in the 30 years of the business’s existence.

Dwyer taught Torcello in two courses at the E. Philip Saunders College of Business: Buyer Behavior and Marketing Management. In those and other marketing, finance, and operations courses, Torcello used Nathan’s as a case study. His father had recently purchased the take-out restaurant located on Park Avenue in the City of Rochester from the original owners, the family of Walter Nathan Harby.

Nathan’s at RIT is located in the Student Alumni Union in the renovated space formerly known as the Candy Counter. Its menu includes soups, breads and salads. Soups and other food items are prepared at the Park Avenue location and then transported each morning to RIT.

“All of my business courses at RIT helped me accomplish this goal,” says Torcello, who was a recipient of the prestigious McGowan Scholarship that is awarded annually to a Saunders College student.

“Operations helped me forecast and determine different logistics for the new venture,” he says. “Finance helped me better understand the future of our financials. In my Marketing Management class, my group worked on a marketing plan for Nathan’s that we are still using now.”

Torcello spent two quarters on a cooperative education assignment at Toyota in Kentucky. While the experience was valuable, he says the time away convinced him he wants to live and work close to his family in Rochester and help his father grow Nathan’s.

“It is a small business, and I will be a part of anything and everything needed to succeed,” he says. “I value family, and there is nothing better than being able to work close to home and with family members.”

Photograph taken by Jake Maynard

Editor’s note: If you would like to find out more about Torcello’s family business you can visit www.nathanssoupandsalad.com. Also, if you happen to be on campus, stop by Nathan’s to warm up, no matter the temperature outside! For hours and their daily menu for their RIT location, you can visit finweb.rit.edu/diningservices/nathans/.

Photograph taken by Jake Maynard

Photograph taken by Jake Maynard
Committing to Lifelong Learning: Alumnus John Brantley’s Path to Saunders

by Alecia Crawford ’11

When the quality movement hit IBM hard and the company’s net losses reached $8 billion in the mid ’90s, John Brantley began to reflect on his career. He didn’t feel as though he had the educational background that would get him to where he wanted to go, even with his fairly senior position within the company.

After graduating high school in Lowell, Massachusetts, Brantley was enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America, where he hoped to become a chef. About a month before classes began he realized that being a chef just wasn’t for him. Instead, he went to the University of New Hampshire for his associate’s degree to become a restaurant manager. While in college, he recognized that there was a lot of competition out there and that he needed a four-year degree. “I didn’t have enough money to keep going to school, but I happened to be at the right place at the right time. A position became open to run the restaurant at the University of New Hampshire. I applied for and got accepted and got free tuition.” said Brantley.

Around this time IBM caught his eye and while working on his bachelor’s degree, Brantley conducted all the research he could on IBM and practiced his interviewing skills with other companies. Once the opportunity came, Brantley and his friend camped out on the IBM stairs just to be first to sign up for an interview that morning. At the time, interviews were first come, first served. He received an offer soon after and began working for the company. Back in the early ’90s Brantley was working out of the Rochester branch, and while evaluating his options he noticed that RIT had just starting the Executive MBA program. He enrolled in its very first class.

“It was very rewarding. Anyone that goes through the EMBA program has a family and a full-time job. It was definitely challenging to keep all those balls in the air, but I would definitely say being able to do all that has definitely helped me balance multiple things... to be [good] at being a father, husband, employee, and student.”

Today, Brantley is General Manager in charge of over 5,000 employees who primarily sell business consulting services to optimize production and profits for steel and chemical companies all around the world. Those two groups bring in around $4.5 billion in revenue and some of the companies include Exxon Mobile, Petrobras in Brazil, and Filiton, which is based in Australia. As General Manager, Brantley travels all around the world meeting customers and selling IBM solutions.

While traveling to all those different countries, Brantley tries to understand the various customs because he isn’t just representing himself he’s representing the IBM Company and the United States. He suggests reading books such as *Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands* by Wayne A. Conaway, “to make sure you don’t totally mess up when you go somewhere and meet people”.

“There’s something new to be learned every day. There’s something new to work on that relates to yourself individually. And hopefully everyone in the program has that same belief that life should be about lifelong learning, and to do that, you have to work hard.”

Brantley noticed that learning how to speed read benefited him, so he set up speed reading courses for all the employees that were interested. Perfecting things such as business writing and public speaking has helped him progress in his career. “The more things you have in your toolbox,” said Brantley, “the easier it is to get your job done.”

Brantley believes that on top of learning it is also a good idea to have a hobby or something that you are passionate about to keep you occupied outside of work. He rides motorcycles and currently owns eight. “It’s one of those things where flying around at 100-something miles, you really can’t be worrying about something at work. And for me it’s just a real passion, it’s totally different than walking around in a suit giving corporate speeches and stuff like that so… a lot of fun.”
Dr. Joy Oguntebi

From: Originally from Nigeria, but grew up in Atlanta, GA
Speciality: Management
Interesting fact: “I don’t like chocolate. So people tend to think, you know, give her a box of chocolates for Valentine’s, because most [women] like chocolate. I should qualify that, though, to say that I don’t like chocolate candy. When it comes to baked goods, that’s a different story. That’s the way to my heart: brownies and chocolate cake.”

When Assistant Professor Dr. Joy Oguntebi isn’t teaching classes, she is conducting a few studies of her own. One of the projects that Dr. Oguntebi is working on is called “Diasporic Synergies: Conceptualizing African entrepreneurial teams based upon trans-continental networks,” in collaboration with Dr. Eliada Nwosu of the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business. “What I studied in my dissertation, initially, was teams. [The] idea of virtual teams and how understanding things such as their internal processes, collaborated efforts, and their communication approaches would enable the teams and consequent organizations to be more effective.”

Dr. Oguntebi and Dr. Nwosu are both looking at trans-continental diasporic networks to see how these networks engage in entrepreneurial activities within the continent of Africa. The two main networks focused on in this study are continental Africans, and diasporic Africans who do not live in the continent of Africa. Diasporic Africans, who are primarily from England or the United States, contribute their western knowledge to the project, and continental Africans, being native and very familiar with the area, know what is viable in Africa. The study is currently finding that teams comprised of both groups of Africans have been more effective at engaging in entrepreneurial activities within the continent and are associated with the long term perspective. “I am very excited about [the project] because it’s a concept relatively new with this whole idea of globalization... I’m very interested in figuring out what type of internal and external processes enable these teams to be more effective.”
Over spring break, a group of Saunders College of Business Honors students traveled to Southern California to visit companies and network with alumni. Eleven students and two staff members flew across the country for a week to experience a completely different culture from snowy Rochester. The trip covered a broad array of industries and opportunities for business professionals. The Honors students talked with alumni and professionals in businesses ranging from software companies to television studios.

Monday afternoon, the group met with Phil Ohme ’99 at Intuit to discuss the opportunities for business majors in the software industry. The tour of the company started with observing a meeting that included all the product managers in the various corporate locations via videoconference. The students helped to keep the meeting lively and contributed to a pre-brainstorming session. The group later spoke with two product managers and the VP of Software Development. Topics such as design thinking, entrepreneurship, and market research drove the discussions and gave the group from RIT a glimpse of what it was like to work at Intuit.

The Honors students hosted an alumni event at Dillon’s Irish Pub in Los Angeles Tuesday night. Jen Smith ’06 helped to organize the event and publicize for it. Alumni who attended the event included: PJ Gaynard ’99, Jim McPartlin ’88, Curtis Sherman ’02, Debra (Segar) Sherman ’04, Mike Timm ’94, and Brian Veronica ’00. The students enjoyed the opportunity to speak with industry professionals who graduated from RIT. The event also served as a reunion since some of the alumni had not seen each other in 20 years.

The week was not all business meetings and alumni visits. One morning, the students met up with fellow Honors students from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering to attend a taping of the Price is Right. The group also had an opportunity to visit the San Diego Zoo and tour San Diego’s Old Town. Some students even attended an LA Clippers game one evening.

Following the visit to the Price is Right studios, the students visited Harold Gutierrez ’99 at Red Bull North America. Harold was finance manager for North America and has been promoted to regional finance director for Red Bull. Harold talked about how important it is to get your work done in school and how it will reward you in the future. With an unlimited supply of Red Bull, the Honors students were eager to learn about working for a large, international company that focuses its efforts on creating a culture around high intensity, full-throttle sports.

The final day of the trip was filled with visits and culminated with a tour of the W Hotel Hollywood courtesy of Jim McPartlin ’88. Being that it was the week after the Oscars, Hollywood was buzzing with excitement, and that meant a busy week for Jim. After providing accommodations to multiple celebrities at his hotel and bringing his staff to the opening night of Avenue Q, Jim was gracious enough to give the group an all-access tour of one of the nicest hotels in Hollywood. From rooftop pools to multi-million dollar condos, the W Hollywood embodies the fame and fortune of Hollywood. The students enjoyed discussing with Jim what it was like to interact with celebrities and manage such a popular hotel. It was sad to see the week come to a close, but the visit to the W Hollywood ended it on a high note.

Over the course of the trip, students also met with a panel of business professionals at Hewlett-Packard; Bob Carroll ’08, software engineer at DefenseWeb Technologies; several product managers at Yahoo!; Patrick Garney of Nickelodeon Studios; and business managers at KABC-TV Los Angeles. Eric Senna ’91 was an active contributor to the activities in the Los Angeles area and helped put together the visit to KABC-TV (pictured below). The challenge for next year will be to top this action-packed week.
Saunders 13th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

The Saunders College 13th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament was a resounding success, raising over $10,000 for the Saunders Challenge. The 14th annual tournament is scheduled for June 18, 2012 at Cobblestone Creek Country Club. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact mellison@saunders.rit.edu.

Top picture from left to right: Adjunct Professor David Alkins, Michelle Cohen MBA ’93, RITchie, Professor John Ward, and CPA John Curran.

Bottom picture from left to right: RIT Trustee Bal Dixit ’74 MBA, David Ayoub ’86, and CPAs Mark Blood and Mollene Benison.

EMBA Annual International Trip

From Oct. 2 - 8 the Online Executive MBA program went to Prague, Czech Republic for their annual international trip. While in Europe, the EMBA students spoke with some alumni, created a business plan that would be sustainable in the Czech Republic, and toured various businesses such as Skoda, a car company in the Czech Republic (pictured here).

Front Row (left to right): Brian Wagner, Rheal Gagnon, Enesa Carbone, Stan Widrick (faculty), Alexa Louis, Chris Wallace, Alexander Soroka, Julie Jackson-Forsberg, Robert Weitzman, Mecca Baker, Scott Strother, Wilson Sanchez

Middle Row (left to right): David Anderson, Bhuvnesh Khosla, James Rollins, Francesca Byanyima, Bernard Gay, Karamjit Singh, Ross Voorhees, Shaun Eller, Phillip Burris, Man Au-Yeung, Jamice Obianyo, John Ward (faculty)

Back Row: Mark Petersen-Overton, Shawn Carson, Jason Miller, Ethan Gill, Eric Pautz

Not pictured: Manisha Hunter

8th Annual Entrepreneurs Conference

The 8th annual RIT Entrepreneurs Conference featured keynote speaker, David Kidder ’02 (CIAS), Founder & CEO, Clickable, Inc. Mr. Kidder’s highly energized presentation, before a standing room only crowd, focused on the opportunities and challenges in monetizing the worldwide web. The 2011 conference, which took place on campus in October was the one of the most successful to date, featuring 12 concurrent sessions covering a broad array of topics, and attracting over 500 attendees.
Art-in-Business Gallery Reception

On September 15, 2011 faculty, staff, and students came to admire the artwork on the third floor of Lowenthal Hall.

Students were able to take a break from class and enjoy the art right outside their classrooms. From left to right: Paulina Eroy, fourth year international business and marketing major, Stephanie Seaman fourth year marketing major, Robert Buda fourth year marketing major, Aaron Lat-tazio fourth year marketing major, and Dean Ash Rao.

Bill McNabb Visits Saunders

Photograph by A. Sue Weisler '93

William McNabb, right, chief executive officer of Vanguard, was the keynote speaker at the Executive Leaders Network Luncheon on May 6 at the Genesee Valley Club in Rochester. Prior to the event, which was sponsored by the Saunders College, McNabb held an informal discussion with Saunders students.

Jennifer Freer Wins National Contest


Photograph by A. Sue Weisler '93
Ashok Rao, dean of the E. Philip Saunders College of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology, has announced his retirement effective the end of the 2011–2012 academic year. Rao previously was professor of technology operations and information management at Babson College of Business before joining RIT in 2007—shortly after local entrepreneur and philanthropist E. Philip Saunders donated $13 million to name the college.

During Rao’s tenure, the Saunders College has made significant strides in raising the visibility of entrepreneurship and business. First-year retention grew from 77 percent to 94 percent, diversity of faculty and students increased and faculty research has more than doubled. U.S. News & World Report recently ranked the Saunders undergraduate program 69th overall and the graduate program at 63, which placed the college in the top five business schools in New York state.

“These results are largely due to Ash’s efforts in helping to establish an excellent collaborative environment on campus,” says Jeremy Haefner, RIT provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “He has helped foster a number of collaborative projects including the product development programs with engineering, collaborations with the School of Design and the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences to develop a business simulation, and several entrepreneurial programs that attract students from across the campus.”

Rao has also been highly active in the local business community and writes a monthly column, “Innovation Edge”, for Rochester Business Journal. His plans for retirement include travel, visiting with family and moving back to Cambridge, Mass., to spend more time with his wife, Janis, a tenured professor at Bentley University. Their plans include a trip to Mongolia and Siberia next July.

2011 saw the retirements of many long-standing members of the Saunders College. In January, Donna Slavin retired after 19 years of service to the Saunders College. Slavin, assistant director of special events, was instrumental in coordinating many of the College’s signature events, including the Entrepreneurs Conference, the Power Your Potential Conference, and the alumni golf tournament.

June saw three more retirements: Nancy Heuer, assistant to the dean, served RIT for 29 years, all but two of them at Saunders. She was an incredible resource for her colleagues, having a wealth of knowledge on the history of RIT and its business programs. Kathy Ozmikowski ’99 MBA, assistant dean for student services, worked at RIT for 32 years in a variety of roles, leading many initiatives for Saunders and providing support to students and faculty alike. Dr. Stanley Widrick, professor emeritus and an expert in marketing research and strategy, joined RIT in 1977, serving as department chair for management and marketing at the Saunders College from 1999 to 2007. His last post was director of RIT’s Online Executive MBA Program, where he remains very involved.
1940s
W. Eugenia “Gene” Grant Mazzara ’40 was presented with the 2010 Scholarship Fund Award by the Family & Children’s Association Board of Trustee chair Patricia Pryor-Bonica, in honor of her many years of generosity and compassion. Gene has been giving back to the community of Bathego since 1953 and is a dearly loved and respected member. The award was presented to Gene on June 23, 2010, which also happens to be the very month she turned 90. Gene plans to retire to do all the other things she wants to do.

1960s
Eugene Rosa ’67 has been awarded the Boeing Professorship in Environmental Sociology at Washington State University. The professorship, established through a grant from the Boeing Company, is to recognize Professor Rosa as a social scientist with a national and international reputation for outstanding scholarship on environmental issues. He is a recognized leader in the field of environmental and technological risk and in understanding the social drivers in coupled human and natural systems. He simultaneously holds the Edward R. Meyer Professorship in Natural Resource and Environmental Policy in the Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service, also at Washington State University. Professor Rosa is concurrently a visiting scholar at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University.

1970s
Stephen Gulack ’75 (SCB) recently accepted a position with Golden Memories Transportation located in Rochester as a tour coach operator. Stephen previously had been employed by Star Travel as a tour coach operator. “Golden Memories called and called, they wanted me back!”

1980s
Garrett Traver ’82 has been promoted from retail account sales manager to eastern canned vegetable specialist at Allens, Inc., the largest privately held vegetable company in the nation. Before joining the Allens team, Traver worked as the Northeast region sales manager for Dole Food Company, Inc. In that position, Traver managed Dole Fresh-Cut Salads sales in the Northeast region. In Traver’s new position he will be responsible for managing canned vegetable sales for the Eastern US.

John Bannister ’80 (COLA) and Keely Murphy Bannister ’97 (SCB) are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Royal James. He was born on October 6, 2010 in Albany, N.Y. and weighed 7 lbs, 6 oz. Royal joins older sister, Ruby, who is three. The Bannister family lives in the capital region. In Traver’s new position he will be responsible for managing canned vegetable sales for the Eastern US.

Thomas Caine ’80 (CAST) writes, “my wife, Rebecca Koebernick Caine ’80, ’82 (SCB) passed away on March 18, 2011 after a long illness. Rebecca and I met at RIT in 1979-80 and have been proud alumni ever since. Rebecca is also survived by her two sons, Brian and Matthew. Matthew is now a third year student at RIT majoring in game design and development. I would welcome hearing from classmaters and can be reached by email at Tom@CaineAssociates.com.”

Anthony Marzo ’81 (SCB) and Christopher Pong are proud to announce the completion of their adoption of son, Christopher Anthony Marzo-Pong. Anthony adopted him in April, 2011, when little Chris was 2 years old, following an earlier international adoption by his partner. Anthony recently closed his law office to become a stay-at-home dad, and is enjoying every minute of fatherhood. They are looking forward to the day when their son can be the flower boy at their long awaited wedding in California.

Paul Gelose ’82 (SCB) has officially gone nuts! “Ricky’s Lucky Nuts” was founded upon a revelation that a perfect marriage of peanuts and spices could be created to bring something entirely new to the marketplace. Paul’s wife and business partner, Carolyn Lamb, came on board and a company was born. Five exceptional flavors are currently available with more on the way!

Joy Parker ’82 (SCB) has been awarded the 2011 Robert Ross Muscular Dystrophy Association’s Personal Achievement Award from the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s Greater Rochester Finger Lakes Chapter. Recognizing the accomplishments and community service of people with disabilities, Parker received the award in recognition of her commitment to raising awareness about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), of which she was diagnosed in April of 2010. Parker also shares her experience living with disease by chronicling her journey on her blog at simplejoysonline.com. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is a progressively fatal disease that destroys the nerve cells controlling muscles in healthy adults, ultimately causing complete paralysis while leaving mental function intact. “MDA has given me a voice, and helped me feel I’m not alone in this,” explains Parker. The philosophy she lives by and uses to guide her life is “Live simply, simply live.” Parker continues to maintain a full-time career at WXXI Public Broadcasting Council and remains busy with family activities. While she has a positive attitude, she admits she gets frustrated as physical tasks become more difficult for her. “The accomplishments of individuals like Joy Parker underscore that people with disabilities make valuable contributions to their communities,” said Sally A. Cramer, executive director of MDA’s Greater Rochester Finger Lakes Chapter. “She really embodies the spirit of the Personal Achievement Award, and we’re extremely fortunate to have her representing our community.”

Christopher Lerch ’84 (CAST), ’91 (SCB) accepted a position at Heritage Christian Services located in Rochester, as chief information officer. Christopher was previously employed at RIT as manager of IT at The Wallace Center.

Sharlene Nally ’84 (SCB) recently joined the Homes for Heroes Program as a lender affiliate for Rochester and surrounding areas. Homes for Heroes gives discounts on realtor, mortgage, attorney and inspection services when the hero is buying or selling a home. “Our heroes include anyone who are military, police, firemen, educators, and medical personnel. It’s a great program and I am happy to be giving back to the homes in our community who give so much to make this nation great!”

Robert Manuse ’87 (SCB) recently accepted a new position with MCR Federal, LLC, the nation’s premier integrated program management consulting firm. He is a principal with responsibility for managing and building the firm’s business at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He was previously a senior associate and senior manager at Booz Allen Hamilton in the business analytics practice with a focus on homeland security. Prior to Booz Allen Hamilton, he served in a variety of financial management positions at the U.S. General Services Administration in Washington, D.C.

Margaret Lane Glitch ’88, ’94 (SCB) was recently promoted to senior director of communications and benefits for RIT Alumni.
Matthew was previously employed at the New York City Economic Development Corporation as an assistant vice president, marketing. "After four years working on the client side building up New York City’s social media presence, the time was right to move back to the advertising industry to work with clients like BMW, etc.”

Kevin Sheldon ‘02 (SCB) and his wife, Angie, are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Christopher John Sheldon. He was born on June 30, 2011 in Reston, Va., and weighed 8 lb., 14 oz. His nickname is CJ, and he is a proud new member of the RIT tiger family!

Stacey Wronkowski ‘03 (SCB) is the ITP program leader at General Electric located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Previously, Stacey was a manager at Ernst & Young. “Having grown up in Schenectady, the Wronkowski family has a long history of working for General Electric. I too wanted to join this company and help solve the world’s toughest challenges.”

Joy Brophy ‘04 (COS), ’05 (SCB) and Brandon Brophy ‘05 (GCCIS) are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Alexander Smith. He was born on January 13, 2011 in Lititz, Pa., and weighed 8 lb., 9 oz.

Micah Hagan ‘04 (GCCIS) and Tara Taylor Hagan ‘04 (SCB) are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Mya E. Hagan. She was born on October 25, 2010 in Burlington, Vt., and weighed 6 lb., 5 oz.

Ian Bennett ‘05 (SCB) appears on the front page of the Salem News Business on “Grapes Expectations!” “Wine making is fermenting on the North Shore, and the latest addition is Isaaks of Salem, a micro-winery housed in a nondescript industrial space in Beverly. Husband and wife owners, Ian and Brittany Bennett, who live in Salem, shipped out their first batch of Dry Honey Wine and Sweet Tooth Honey Wine December, 2010. Their business formula relies heavily on local products and local appeal. “We thought people in Massachusetts and New England should not be forced to drink wines from California, Australia and France,” Ian Bennett said. “They should be able to drink something else. Everything we do is local.” Visit our website at www.salemn-news.com/business/x982165720/GRAPE-EXPECTATIONS.

Anne Culver Malitis ‘05 (SCB) is proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Arianna Elizabeth Malitis. She was born on February 5, 2011 in Rochester, and weighed 7 lb., 7 oz. Big brothers, Roman (age 3) and Ethan (age 2) adore their new little sister!

Lindsay Taplin Tiballi ‘05 (SCB) and Daniel Tiballi are happy to announce their marriage on July 31, 2010 at Waypoint Food and Spirit, North Rose, N.Y. Lindsay received a masters degree in management from Keuka College in November 2010. The couple resides in Phelps, N.Y. and are proud parents of Jackson (age 5).

Seth Burgess ‘06 (GCCIS), ’09 (SCB) and Jessica Burgess are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Anderson James. He was born on February 12, 2011 in Geneva, N.Y. and weighed 7 lb., 8 oz.

Jeffrey Sulik ‘06 (SCB) has been kicking it in the desert of Doha, Qatar since February 2008 working for Texas A&M University at Qatar. As the assistant director for the Department of Student Affairs, he is responsible for providing co-curricular learning opportunities for students from 39 countries. He and his bride, Michelle, celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary in June and are proud parents of Jackson (age 9), Benjamin (age 7) and Erin (age 5).

Beth Karpowskis Noworatzky ‘07 (CIAS), ’08 (NTID) and Erik Noworatzky ‘05 (SCB), ’08 (CAST) are happy to announce their marriage on July 2, 2010 in Wailea, Hawaii. They had a small wedding of immediate family members on the island of Maui. After the ceremony, the couple honeymooned on the big island. They currently reside in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Matthew De Persis ‘07 (SCB) recently changed roles in the Content Distribution & Marketing department at MTV Networks located in New York City to partner marketing coordinator for TV Land. Matthew was previously employed at MTV Networks as partner marketing coordinator, EPIX & Logo.

Kristin Semmler-Frame ‘07 (CAST), ’07 (SCB) is happy to announce her marriage to Robert Frame on October 9, 2010. The marriage took place in Spencerport, N.Y. In June 2011, the couple took a cruise through the Mediterranean for their honeymoon. They currently reside in Brockport, N.Y.

Allison Ingalls ‘08 (SCB) and Fabien Cinus are happy to announce their marriage on July 30, 2011 in Cuba, N.Y. Allison currently resides in Cuba, NY. Fabien currently resides in France and will be joining Allison in New York when he receives his visa. Katie Grenga ‘08 (SCB) was a bridesmaid.

Gregory Ventura ‘08 (SCB) started his own business, SNAPpod NY in July 2011. He serves Western New York with photo booth rentals for weddings, birthdays, corporate parties, or most any event. The POD photo booth is a modern, high-tech version of the traditional photo booth and was most recently featured in an MTV commercial with Britney Spears for their 2011 VMA Awards show. For information please visit www.snappodny.com.
The Saunders College suffered a great loss with the passing of Donna Scheid, associate director, RIT EMBA, who passed away on Oct. 17, following her battle with cancer. Donna was an amazing person who lived life with a grace and passion that was reflected in the smile always found on her face. We are better for having known her and less than we were with her here. Donna received an RIT Golden Brick Award for exemplary service from Alumni Relations during Brick City Homecoming in Oct.

**In Memorium: Donna Scheid ’86, ’05 EMBA 1956-2011**

The Saunders College suffered a great loss with the passing of Donna Scheid, associate director, RIT EMBA, who passed away on Oct. 17, following her battle with cancer. Donna was an amazing person who lived life with a grace and passion that was reflected in the smile always found on her face. We are better for having known her and less than we were with her here. Donna received an RIT Golden Brick Award for exemplary service from Alumni Relations during Brick City Homecoming in Oct.

“Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming ‘woo hoo what a ride.’”

-One of Donna’s favorite quotes, author unknown

“Donna has exemplified what it means to be passionate and committed. We can all only hope aspire to show the same level of patronage and tenacity she has shown while being a major part of the push forward for the Saunders College of Business.”

- Ken Greenwood ’10 EMBA

Contributions from Jeff Davis ’10 EMBA & Kristi Mitchell, Online EMBA Coordinator
Upcoming Saunders & RIT Events

RIT Men’s Hockey vs. U.S. Air Force (Colorado Springs Chapter)
February 4, 2012
Colorado Springs, CO

Power Your Potential Women’s Leadership Conference
March 30, 2012
Golisano Hall

Jersey Boys Theatre Event (Rochester Chapter)
April 6, 2012
Rochester, NY

Imagine RIT Innovation & Creativity Festivial
May 5, 2012
RIT

14th Annual Saunders Alumni Golf Tournament
June 18, 2012
Cobblestone Creek Country Club

To sign up for an event or to find more events go to rit.edu/alumni and click on event calendar or e-mail alumni@saunders.rit.edu

For more news on Saunders alumni check out pages 12-14.