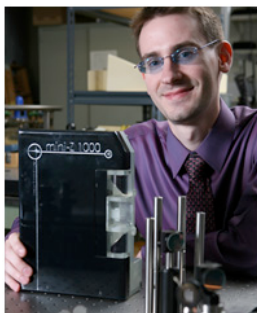


## Volume 1, Number 1

### Featured Story

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#### Brian Schulkin Wins Lemelson-Rensselaer Student Prize



Brian Schulkin, a doctoral student studying terahertz science and technology in the Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy is the inaugural winner of the Lemelson-Rensselaer Student Prize. The \$30,000 Student Prize is awarded to a Rensselaer senior or graduate student who has created or improved a product or process, applied a technology in a new way, redesigned a system or in other ways demonstrated remarkable inventiveness. [Read more.](#)

Credit: Rensselaer/Kris Qua

### Honors and Awards

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#### Faculty

- **James Crivello** (Professor, Chemistry) was elected a Fellow in the Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering of the American Chemical Society.
- **Daniel Freedman** (Associate Professor, Computer Science) won a Fulbright Fellowship to visit and study in Israel for ten months.
- **Leonard Interrante** (Professor, Chemistry), along with Christopher Whitmarch, was awarded the 2007 Inventor of the Year Award by the Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association.
- **Shirley A. Jackson** (President and Professor, Physics) was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- **Frank Spear** (Professor, Earth and Env. Sci.) is the winner of the 2007 Dana Medal from the Mineralogical Society of America.
- **Frank Spear** (Professor, Earth and Env. Sci.) was elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.
- **Gwo-Ching Wang** (Professor, Physics) was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

#### Students

- **Brian Schulkin** (Doctoral Student, Physics) won the first Lemelson-Rensselaer Student Prize for his work on the development of Mini-Z, a portable terahertz imaging device.

### Research Accomplishments

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- **James Ferris** (Director, Center for the Origins of Life) chaired the National Research Council task group on Organic Environments in the Solar System. The task group published its report, "Exploring Organic Environments in the Solar System," last month.

- **Andrea Page-McCaw** (Assistant Professor, Biology) received a two-year Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award from the March of Dimes with total funds of \$150K.
- **Andrea Page-McCaw** (Assistant Professor, Biology) is the lead author of the featured review in the March 2007 issue of *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology*. The review is titled, "Matrix metalloproteinases and the regulation of tissue remodeling."
- **Chjan Lim** (Professor, Mathematical Sciences) along with co-author Joseph Nebus (National University of Singapore) published a book titled *Voricity, Statistical Mechanics and Monte Carlo Simulations*. The book is part of the Springer-Verlag series, Monographs of Math.
- **Robert McCaffrey** (Professor, Earth and Env. Sci.), and **David Wark** (Research Associate Professor, Earth and Env. Sci.) are featured in an episode of the National Geographic Channel show *Naked Science*. The episode is titled "Stone-Age Apocalypse" and aired for the first time on February 28, 2007.
- **Gwo-Ching Wang** (Professor, Physics), **Toh-Ming Lu** (Professor of Physics) and **Fu Tang** (Post-doc, Physics) discovered a surface pole figure method using RHEED (reflection high energy electron diffraction) to monitor the texture evolution in polycrystalline or single crystalline growth of nanostructures in real time.

## Other News

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- The Hirsch Observatory held an open house for the public with extended hours and a new control system funded by the NSF. Over 150 people attended. The new control system will allow students to use CCD cameras in their observational astronomy classes.
- Dean Wei Zhao recently announced two recruiting initiatives that are designed to encourage top quality doctoral applicants to accept our offers for admission and financial aid: (1) the School of Science Distinguished Scholars programs provides \$1000 supplements to the stipends in financial aid packages offered to the strongest doctoral candidates, and (2) the School of Science Prospective Doctoral Student Visit program provides travel funds for the strongest doctoral applicants to visit campus.
- A group of 45 IT students visited New York City for the day on February 21. The visit was hosted by the RPI NYC Alumni group and included visits to the New York Stock Exchange and the 311 Call Center. A reception with NYC alumni was also held for networking and mentoring purposes.

## Upcoming Events

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- Graduate Accepted Students Celebration, Friday, March 30 (all departments participate).
- Spring Town Hall Meeting with President Jackson - April 2, 1:00PM, DCC 308 (all faculty staff and students are encouraged to attend).
- Undergraduate Accepted Students Day - Saturday, April 14 (all departments participate).
- School of Science Town Hall Meeting on CCNI, Wednesday, April 18, CII 4050 (all faculty are encouraged to attend).

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This newsletter is prepared monthly and distributed to faculty, staff and students in the School of Science to keep everyone informed of accomplishments and events within the school. Corrections and items for the next newsletter should be sent to [spond@rpi.edu](mailto:spond@rpi.edu).