

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Rose Thorn Staff

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R O S E

Thorn

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Tuesday, October 12, 2004 Volume 40, Issue 6

## News Briefs

By Lissa Avery

### Pamela Dopka named Homecoming Queen

Pamela Dopka, a junior electrical engineering major, was named Homecoming Queen by President Jack Midgley at the pep rally on Friday, October 8. She was nominated by the Triangle fraternity. Her escort was Mike Reeves, a junior civil engineering major.

Other finalists were Kristy Bailey, Jenny Hodson, Brianna Leahy, Amy Sibilia, Stephanie Smith, Amber Brannan, Alicia Gehlhausen, Kristin Miller, and Kara Jackson.

### Flu shot shortage is becoming critical

Of the approximately 90 million people in the U.S. at high risk for influenza, only about 55 million will be able to be vaccinated with an injected vaccine from Aventis Pasteur.

Chiron Corporation, who supplies nearly half of the U.S. demand for flu shots, has had their drug quarantined due to the drug being contaminated with a dangerous bacteria.

The nasal spray FluMist may be able to fill up to two million doses of the shortage.

### Alzheimer's drug may help leukemia

Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute have found a gene mutation that may cause childhood leukemia in up to 60% of cases.

Researchers have suggested that drugs currently in use for Alzheimer's patients may inhibit the effects of the gene. This could spare children with leukemia the need to undergo chemotherapy, which tends to have a detrimental effect on their health later in life.

Tuesday  
Showers 69 Hi / 45 Lo  
Wednesday  
Showers 66 Hi / 43 Lo  
Thursday  
Light Rain 56 Hi / 35 Lo  
Friday  
Few Showers 56 Hi / 36 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

## Career fair brings over 110 companies

Bridget Mayer  
Staff Writer

Wednesday, October 20, the Student Recreation Center will be flooded with companies searching for new employees at the 2004 Career Fair. Over 110 companies will attend, an increase of twenty over last year's career fair.

The Career Services office has been planning the event since last year's fair ended. A career fair team comprised of Rose-Hulman students has corresponded with each company for the past several months; preparations for the Fair include a booklet of companies in attendance, folders of information for the companies, nametags for all involved in the Fair, and arranging food for the businesses and their recruitment staff.

Major companies in attendance include Boston Scientific, Cinergy, Sun Chemical, and Archer Daniels Midland Company. There are a number of new companies coming this year, according to Jan Ford, Associate Director of Career Services. Most, she says, are very interested

in attending; however, there are always some that cannot come due to scheduling difficulties.

Last year, almost 50% of students found jobs through on campus recruiting provided by the Career Services office—a much better percentage than the national average of 24%. The Career Services office encourages all students to attend the fair even if they are not looking for a job; says Ford, "A lot of first contacts are made through the Career Fair, and it is always a good idea to follow up on those contacts."

Many students have had good experiences with the Career Fair, not only in learning how to talk to potential employers, but in acquiring internships. Senior

chemical engineering major Jessica Frank related her experience with last year's fair: "I got an internship last year because the company didn't hire sophomores, but they remembered talking with me the year before. They hired me when I was a junior.

It's a really good idea for freshmen and sophomores to get their resumes out there, because companies will remember you."

"It's a really good idea for freshmen and sophomores to get their resumes out there, because companies will remember you."

— Jessica Frank,  
senior chemical engineer

As for the companies, only a few have special needs at the Fair. Some booths ask for internet access; others bring many recruiters and request an extra booth. Last year, the Michigan Economic Development recruitment team brought a car with a simulated driving program for students to try; General

Motors also brought a car for display.

The Career Fair is Rose-Hulman's largest employment opportunity event. The school also sponsors an annual internship fair, to be held on January 26, 2005 this year, and a smaller spring career fair, on April 13, 2005. While these fairs are also popular, only about 20-30 companies attend them.

Each year, many students are concerned that their field of interest will not be well represented by the companies present. Students of the computer science and biology curricula seemed the most disappointed with the choices last year's fair offered.

Sophomore chemistry major Andrea Brown attended last year's fair "just to look around and see what it was like", a common reason for attendance among freshmen.

Mechanical engineer Paul Meyer said he wished there were more companies at last year's fair, but felt his major was well represented among the attending businesses.

Continued on Page 3...

## Alternatives to the workforce

Angela Smiley  
Staff Writer

Rose-Hulman prides itself on placing its graduates with some of the finest companies in the world. This is not a coincidence - Rose sponsors a number of activities designed to match students with employers for internships and co-ops as well as more traditional full-time jobs. Whatever your plans are, you have at least heard of the Fall Career Fair by now, and more likely than not you have started polishing up your resume.

But even if you are planning on a speedy dive into the workforce after you graduate, it's important to know the alternatives. Consider just a few of the other options pursued by those who have gone before you.

Volunteer service: Many organizations actively recruit college graduates to spend six months to a year doing work either domestically or overseas.

Military enrollment: Even if you are not in ROTC at this point, you can decide to become involved as a sophomore or junior. Even if you

never become a member of ROTC, you can still consider a military career.

Graduate school: By far the most common alternative to the workforce is the pursuit of a Master's and/or Doctoral degree.

Graduate school and applied disciplines are often considered at odds, but increasingly, an M.S. is required for high-level positions in both engineering and the sciences. The possession of an advanced degree signifies a depth of knowledge not provided by an undergraduate curriculum, as well as a dedication to serious study and research in one's field. Many companies now demand this level of professional development in their top employees.

The pursuit of advanced degrees has value beyond an increase in starting salary or a wider range of job opportunities.

If you are interested in attending graduate school, it is important to be proactive. Dan Moore, Associate Dean of Faculty at Rose-Hulman and head of graduate studies, stresses the importance of applying early. "The [grad-

uate] process is different from undergraduate admissions. Often, financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. When it runs out, it runs out."

He went on to state that many graduate schools begin evaluating applications in late winter (Rose makes its graduate aid decisions in mid-February), and several federal grant programs select recipients even earlier in the school year.

Moore also suggested that graduate admissions decisions were more influenced by personal ties. Whereas undergraduate admissions decisions are generally made by the admissions office, graduate decisions are the responsibility of the specific department a student applies to. Faculty review

the applications, looking for students who are interested in the fields of research the school specializes in and who have outstanding undergraduate credentials, especially research experience. Because of this, it is worth giving careful consideration to whom you ask to write your recommendation letters; a

letter from someone the faculty reviewer knows, either personally or by reputation, will carry far more weight.

Of course, even if you are determined to go on into academia, you will want to keep your options open. Moore's advice: "If you want to go to graduate school, still interview with a few companies. If you want to go into the workforce, apply to a couple of grad schools."

"Often, financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. When it runs out, it runs out."

— Dan Moore,  
Associate Dean of  
Faculty

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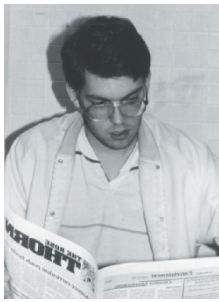
**Campus & Community Luncheon Series**

Campus & Community Luncheon Series at United Campus Ministries, 321 N 7th St., Terre Haute, continues Wednesday, October 20, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. This semester's theme is "Spirituality & Health". Wednesday's topic is "Physician's Perspective," to be presented by the Union Hospital Family Practice Center. This is a brown bag lunch and discussion series.

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**The Rose Thorn**

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## NYU adjunct wins Nobel prize in chemistry for protein discovery

Ripa Ajmera

Washington Square News (New York U.)

The 2004 Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded last week to New York University School of Medicine adjunct professor Dr. Avram Hershko.

Hershko and two collaborators were honored for their discovery of the process by which cells break down proteins that have become damaged or are no longer useful. Hershko is an adjunct professor of pathology at NYU and a distinguished professor at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

The researchers found a protein called ubiquitin that serves as a catalyst for cell division, DNA repair, new protein quality inspection and immune defense.

When damaged or extra proteins linger in cells, people can develop diseases such as cervical cancer, cystic fibrosis and Alzheimer's disease. Additional research in the area could possibly lead to new drugs to treat these diseases.

Hershko has also been awarded several other prizes for his work including the prestigious Lasker Basic Medical Research Award and the Gairdner Award. In 2003 and 2004, he was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

"On behalf of the entire Medical Center community, I wish to congratulate Dr. Hershko on this extraordinary honor," Robert Glickman, dean of the medical school, said in a statement. "We are proud to have him as one of our colleagues."

## Career fair, from Page 1

Aside from attending the Career Fair, the Career Services office encourages students to stop by and ask questions about their resumes, potential employment opportunities, the correct way to dress for an interview, or how to follow up an interview with a thank you card or letter. Career Services also offers mock interviews, business etiquette dinners, and planning tips.

This year's Rose-Hulman Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More details and background information on the companies attending the fair can be found on the career services website, at <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/careerservices/student.htm>.

## Career Fair tips

In preparation for the Career Fair:

- Update your resume. Career Services offers several workshops if you need advice. Before the Fair, print enough copies on quality paper and get a portfolio to carry them in.
- Use your time wisely. Make an "A list" of the companies you want to talk to the most and a "B list" of the companies to talk to if you have time. Do some research on these companies, "A list" first.
- Dress in business casual attire on the day of the Fair.
- Tell them your strengths. Decide on two to three things you think the representative should know about you when you are done talking to them.
- Be confident. When meeting the representative offer a firm handshake and introduce yourself with a short summary of who you are.
- Let them talk. Give the representative time to introduce themselves and to ask you questions.
- Get contact information. Make sure you get business cards from everyone you speak with.
- Take notes. Jot down some information about positions available and the representatives that you spoke with.
- Follow up. Send an email after the Fair to make sure representatives know that you are an assertive and conscientious applicant.

## Soft skills essential for hard market

Bob Schulein

Co-Editor-in-Chief

With increased competition in today's job market, more emphasis has been placed on "soft skills" than ever before. According to Career Opportunities News, soft skills are defined as the personality traits, social graces, use of language, friendliness, and optimism of a person. Though hard skills (technical skills) are important, soft skills make a larger impression in an interview.

So, at the Career Fair, mind your P's and Q's and don't forget to say thank you. With a professional attitude and appearance, you will make a lasting impression on a company. Recruiters prefer outgoing, well-adjusted candidates over individuals with great technical qualifications but less than average soft skills. Soft skills come naturally easy to some people, but may be difficult for some. These skills can be improved upon, but it can take a lot of hard work.

Ideally, a candidate should have strong soft and hard skills. One employer put it this way in a recent report, Hard Work and Soft Skills, "Don't worry so much about the technical skills. We need you to teach them how to show up on time, how to work in teams, and how to take supervision."

No one knows what the future will bring.

Except those creating it.

Visit our Career Fair Booth on Wednesday, October 20.

Opportunities are available in the following areas:

Computer Science  
Computer Engineering  
Electrical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering  
Math  
Physics

Systems Engineering  
Aeronautical Engineering  
Optics

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# FLIPSIDE

Volume 40, Issue 6

Done on short notice to serve your needs.

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

### Herbig's Pun of the Week

Radioactive cats have eighteen half-lives.

#### ERRATUM:

The ink on the Flipside last week was right-side up. However, the rest of the paper was upside-down. We regret the inconvenience.

### Wacky Prof Quotes

"I thought you were talking about your mom."

--Prof. Burchett, on heavy machinery

"It's depressing; I'd get suicidal – you wouldn't want me to shoot my brains out after the final, would you?"

--Prof. Hoover, who probably would dislike the answer

"So, our battery undergoes a sex change in France."

--Prof. House, on girl power overseas

"If you get stuck on a problem, by definition it will take eternity."

--Prof. Coronell, on time management

"Don't you want the whole world to be a scalar? 'How are you doing today?' '23!'"

--Prof. Livesay,

"As you keep wearing the rings, you keep losing power."

--Prof. McKinney, on transmissions... and women

"I want this country to be rich...so I can retire happy on social security."

--Prof. Mason, offering motivation for success

"Poor people would die. So far so good."

--Prof. Christ, on flu epidemics

"Someday I'm going to learn to write on the board without erasing with my fingers. Twenty years from now, it's going to be discovered to be a carcinogen or something."

--Prof. Livesay, on dangers in the workplace

"The Midwest doesn't have enough stimulation."

--Prof. Mason, who is correct

"Put that in your pipe and smoke it."

--Prof. Burchett, on drug use

**Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)**

### Flipside Contest!

*Design a Shaft Passer*

You have a spoked gear. You have a rotating shaft. They need to occupy the same space. Make a rough design of a device to attach to the shaft so that both parts can pass through each other and still transfer power. The only constraints on the design are the laws of physics. The top three designs, as decided by our panel of non-experts, will be printed on the Flipside on October 28th. Send all submissions to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu).

This is not a joke.

### Top Ten Reasons to Go to the Career Fair

10. Enter to have a chance to win a free job!
9. Dr. Evil and Number Two will personally man the Virtucom booth.
8. It will reinforce your thoughts that grad school is looking better all the time.
7. You could really use some more pens.
6. Witness the rioting as jobs are given away on a "first come, first served" basis.
5. Hertz will be running the usual car rental booth.
4. There are free Vicodin samples for all Bio-Med applicants!
3. Finally realize that your dream of being employed as an "undercover ninja" will never become a reality.
2. The main qualification for aerospace jobs is being able to convert feet to meters.
1. Be the first to tell the Amtrak booth that they are looking for the wrong kind of engineers.

### Mother Nature: Her or Us

*Alexander J. Clerc*

Another homecoming has come and gone, and though it is over, we will always have the memories: the friends, the free t-shirts, the bloody vendetta against Rhodes College, and a newly acquired fear of growing up and turning into old people.

But to Rose, the image that represents homecoming more than any other is the bonfire. Surely, such a spectacular scene shall remain burned in our memories (and the backs of our retinas) for decades to come.

But there are always nay-sayers. At first I, too, was against burning that much wood and fuel at once because "it's bad for the environment." How naïve of me...

Take a moment to remember your history. When our ancestors, the first homo-sapiens, emerged somewhere on the African plains, they were naked, frightened, and hungry. We humans were in desperate need of a little ecological TLC. And what did Mother Nature give us? She served up storms, a scorching sun, and freezing snow. She loosed on us all manner of perils, from giant, man-eating beasts to microscopic, man-eating bacteria. And just for fun, she either gave our food legs, thorns, or made it grow in really tall trees. Mankind knew from the start that Mother Nature is one mean bitch.

If you still aren't convinced that nature is the bane of humanity, think of how much you hate camping (I don't care how long you've been in the scouts. When you look deep into your heart, you know you'd rather be relaxing in a Motel 6 hot tub than sleeping in the woods where bears can eat you). Think of how freakin' cold it gets in the winter. Think of the staggering number of people who die each year from "natural" causes. When it comes to nature, we need to get her before she gets us.

This is why we have the bonfire: partly because it looks cool, but mostly because we loathe nature and her clean, sweet air, and we long to choke away her smug superiority with our noxious inferno. Let's have two bonfires next year...

### This Day in History

Columbus becomes the first person to find the New World, except for the Native Americans. But they died soon enough, so they don't really matter.

### In Addition

The Absolute Sum of All Evil will return after the upcoming break, on October 22nd. Be very afraid.

### BETWEEN TOAST and BURNT

