

CONFLUENCE



THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
AT ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY



RMU.EDU/SCIS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



DAVID L. JAMISON, J.D.
Provost and Interim Dean
School of Communications
and Information Systems

At the Robert Morris University School of Communications and Information Systems, students learn to deliver information effectively, through the confluence of modern technology and traditional methods of presenting ideas and images.

Our student body is extraordinarily diverse, ranging from busy executives building their professional credentials through our low-residency doctoral program to IT workers, visual artists, and future directors. All benefit from the school's strong focus on practical learning and communications skills, faculty who value personal relationships and mentoring students, and internships for career preparation.

Undergraduate degrees in computer information systems are ABET-accredited, and new programs in cyber forensics, information security, and data analytics are preparing RMU students for careers in those high-demand fields. Many students take advantage of our integrated 5-year B.S./M.S. degree programs.

Undergraduate and graduate students with an eye toward professional advancement learn strategies for success in our organizational leadership programs. In media arts, students build their skills in the TV and audio studios and control room and fully equipped graphic design and photography suites. Communication and English majors craft the messages we consume and the stories we enjoy. Visiting artists-in-residence share their experiences and help to broaden perspectives and understanding.

Take a look at some of the stories in this magazine that demonstrate the success our graduates have enjoyed in a variety of professional fields. I am proud of their achievements and eager to see what our students do next.



- Fully equipped studios for video and audio productions and photography plus artist-in-residence programs
- RMU Center for Cyber Research and Training offers customized workforce training and also shares best practices for mobile forensics and security
- Nationally ranked in *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges and Best Online Bachelor's Program

“RMU’s communications skills program sets them apart. That was one of the things that gave me an immediate leg up when I got out into the workforce.”

ERIN STOUGHTON used her education at RMU to rise from serving tables at an Eat’n Park restaurant to shaping the public face of the beloved Pittsburgh company. Working as a server while earning her bachelor’s degree in communication, she landed an internship in the company’s marketing department shortly before graduating in 2004. The company extended her internship until they could find a permanent place on their team.

Once inside, Erin found that RMU’s holistic approach to teaching a broad range of communications skills began to pay off. She credits her training in putting together

strong presentations, as well as the public speaking experience she gained, for setting her apart from her contemporaries when looking for career options. In the years that followed, her portfolio of projects grew from developing the company’s emerging brand ambassador program to her current role as director of guest engagement and insight for Eat’n Park Hospitality Group.

Teaching people to be effective communicators is a hallmark of RMU’s approach to its students. And it’s a specialty of the School of Communications and Information Systems.



STUART ALLEN, PH.D.
Assc. Prof. of Org. Leadership
Leadership, teaching with technology, diversity and inclusion



ANDREW Y. AMES, M.F.A.
Assc. Prof. of Media Arts
Interactive art and design, game design, new media



JEANNE M. BAUGH, ED.D.
Univ. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Programming languages and database management



NATALYA BROMALL, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Info. Sys.
Cloud services, application development, cyber security



DIANE M. TODD BUCCI, PH.D.
Prof. of English
Contemporary American literature, multiethnic and women’s literature



BARBARA BURGESS-LEFEBVRE, M.F.A.
Assc. Prof. of English
Directing, Acting, Shakespeare performance



DONNA L. CELLANTE, ED.D.
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Research proposal writing, systems analysis and design, decision support systems



FERRIS CRANE, M.F.A.
Assc. Prof. of Media Arts
Graphic design, exhibit design, packaging



GARY ALAN DAVIS, D.SC.
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Computer, digital, and mobile forensics; data and business analytics; data science



PETER DRAUS, ED.D.
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Interface design, quantitative decision making, machine instructions



MICHELE REES EDWARDS, PH.D.
Prof. of Communication
Organizational communication, strategic communication



“I came to RMU for data analytics because it’s a field that can transform every industry.”

The world of big data is quickly growing into a universe, and **ALANA HINER** has already helped it along. First attracted to the field because of the seemingly limitless possibilities it offered, Alana has used what she learned as a data analytics major to help change how her school operates.

Alana collected data on freshman orientation to help RMU administrators better match the events they plan to the students they serve, tracking participation rates and correlating them with students’ other interests. Her work was so informative that the provost asked Alana to present her findings at the quarterly meeting of the university’s

Board of Trustees. Now working as a data analyst at the drug company Mylan, Alana prepared for her career with three internships — enterprise analytics at UPMC, sales analysis at Black Box, and business intelligence at ServiceLink. Each position brought Hiner into contact with a different aspect of the collection, analysis, and use of vast amounts of data.

The talent of computer science and information technology faculty, as well as students like Alana, enables RMU to push its data analytics expertise outside the classroom walls. The benefits go beyond the School of Communications and Information Systems to the entire university.

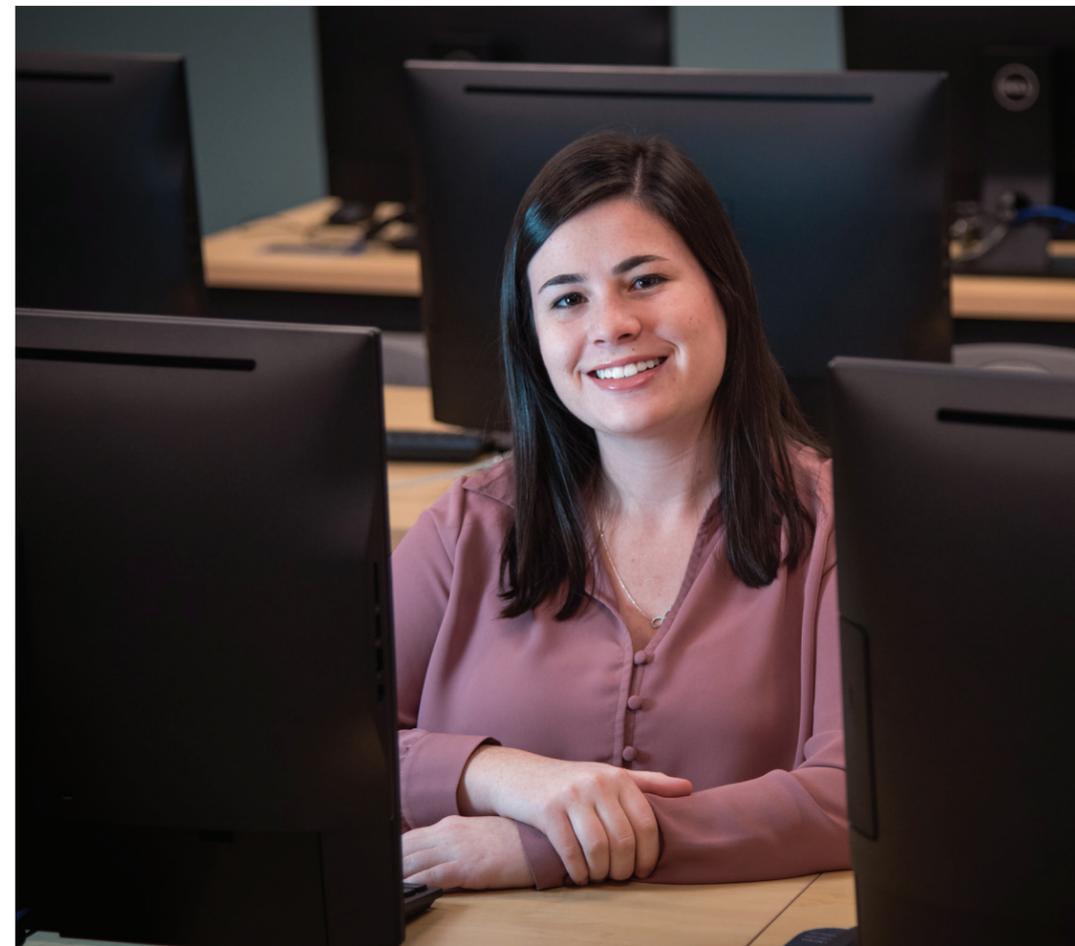
“The professors gave us guidance, but they let us run. They’re smart. They’ve worked in the industry, so they know how to help us get to where we are going.”

If you’re going into broadcast journalism, it helps to have an Emmy under your belt before you even get your degree. **EDDIE SHEEHY** won one right before he graduated, one of two taken home his senior year by RMU students at the regional TV awards competition that pitted them against production and broadcast crews from the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State, and others.

Eddie, who earned a bachelor’s degree in media arts, began his RMU education before he even started classes. He attended a media retreat two weeks before the term started, getting acquainted with the school’s substantial student media operations. During his senior year, he worked at WPXI-TV, beginning as

a teleprompter operator and moving up to part-time assignment editor. He beat out 145 other applicants to land a job reporting for WITN-TV in North Carolina, something he credits to both what he learned at RMU and the deep connections of the professors who taught him. Several of them had their own successful reporting careers before joining RMU and gave him insights into the business of news.

Meanwhile, Eddie’s former classmates won another student Emmy last year, competing against the state’s largest universities. It’s just more evidence that RMU is a center of excellence in preparing students for video and film production and media arts.



KEN GARGARO, PH.D.
Prof. of English
Music, theater, entrepreneurship and strategic planning

ANTENEH GIRMA, PH.D.
Assc. Prof. of Cybersecurity and Forensics
Cybersecurity, cloud computing, digital forensics and cryptography

A.J. GRANT, PH.D.
Univ. Prof. of Org. Leadership
Communication, ethics, humanities

TIMOTHY HADFIELD, M.F.A.
Prof. of Media Arts
Painting and drawing, color theory, exhibition curatorial work

CHRISTINE HOLTZ, M.F.A.
Prof. of Media Arts
Photography

DIANE ANOYI IGOCHÉ, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Data analytics, diffusion of information technology, e-learning

ANN JABRO, PH.D.
Univ. Prof. of Communication
Social media and PR, risk and crisis communication, environmental communication

DAVID L. JAMISON, J.D.
Prof. of Communication
Journalism law and ethics, communications law

EDWARD KARSHNER, PH.D.
Assc. Prof. of English
Appalachian studies, Navajo studies, rhetoric of literature

MARY CATHERINE KILIANY
Sr. Lecturer of English
Writing, American literature, intercultural communications

FREDERICK G. KOHUN, PH.D.
Univ. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Cultural influence on decision making, social media analytics, technological disruption

LESLIE KOREN, M.F.A.
Asst. Prof. of Media Arts
Directing and producing for film and TV

PAUL KOVACS, PH.D.
Univ. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Online education, cloud computing, big data analytics

J. PACKY LAVERTY, PH.D.
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IBM z System mainframes, database management, Windows and Linux

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Prof. of English
Rhetoric, drama, writing

ANNMARIE LEBLANC, M.F.A.
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CAROLINA LOYOLA-GARCIA, M.F.A.
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Filmmaking, performance, multidisciplinary and digital arts

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Leadership-follower theory, intercultural leadership

JULIANNE MICHALENKO
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Business communication, intercultural communication

SUSHMA MISHRA, PH.D.
Assc. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Information systems security, IT gender gap, health informatics

ANTHONY MORETTI, PH.D.
Assc. Prof. of Communication
Journalism, sports reporting, politics in media

JULIA NEWCOME
Sr. Lecturer of English
Writing and research, public speaking, children’s literature

SYLVIA A. PAMBOUKIAN, PH.D.
Prof. of English
19th Century British literature, literature and medicine



“My dissertation literally paid off. I hadn’t even finished writing it when I was called and they asked if I wanted the job.”

From the more than 270 U.S. diplomatic outposts around the world, information and data about water, gas, electricity, and other energy uses is collected and whisked back to Washington on a minute-by-minute basis. When the State Department was looking for a senior IT project manager to manage this new and expanding system, three-time RMU graduate **CHRIS MORSEY** jumped to the top of their list.

Chris, a Navy veteran, earned two master’s degrees in information systems management and information security and assurance at RMU, then came back to get his doctoral degree in information systems and communications. State Department leaders saw his

dissertation, titled “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Systems and Cyber Security: Best Practices to Secure Critical Infrastructure,” and handed him the job without an interview. Chris’s portfolio also includes a partnership with Microsoft to shift vast amounts of data out of a central location and into the cloud while keeping that information safe.

RMU is a leader in cyber security education, with the Center for Cyber Research and Training helping corporations secure their computer systems. Virginia cyber security firm Paraben Corp. named RMU “Cyber School of the Future” and picked the university to host its 2017 Innovation Symposium.

“Completing my master’s was something I had always wanted to do.”

Winning two Super Bowl rings, co-founding a tech start-up, making regular appearances as an on-air sports analyst for television and radio programs, and starting a foundation to help kids in his hometown apparently wasn’t enough for **CHARLIE BATCH**. So he went back to school.

The former Steelers quarterback finished RMU’s 10-month online master’s in organizational leadership recently, fulfilling his longtime goal of adding a graduate degree to what was already a long list of accomplishments. The program’s flexibility allowed him to mold it into a schedule that sometimes included

postgame radio shows that didn’t finish until well after 2 a.m. Its focus on adults allowed him to incorporate his real-world experience into the first classes he had attended since earning his undergraduate degree almost 20 years earlier. Though those months definitely forced him to push himself, in the end he was able to realize yet another dream.

RMU’s online graduate degree programs help mid-career professionals make the leap to the next job, the next promotion, or the next level in life — and you don’t have to be an NFL quarterback to do it.



LAZARINA TOPUZOVA, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Org. Lead.
Grassroots leadership, conflict resolution



JOHN C. TURCHEK
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
IT project management, enterprise systems



HELENA VANHALA, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Media Arts
Media history, theory and production; media industries; media and terrorism



PING WANG, PH.D.
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Cybersecurity, information assurance, networking



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Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
IS management and design, cybersecurity and intelligence



CHAD WERTLEY, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Communication
Social identity, video games, prejudice



HYLA WILLIS, M.F.A.
Prof. of Media Arts
Graphic design, graphic print production, cyberfeminism and feminist art



DAVID WOOD, PH.D.
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Economics of information systems; programming in C++, MUMPS, and R



PETER Y. WU, PH.D.
Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Software engineering, database management, spatial data science



CHEN YANG, PH.D.
Asst. Prof. of Comm.
Social media, marketing, public opinion



JOHN A. ZEANCHOCK, ED.D.
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COBOL, IT project management, systems analysis and design



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Public relations, health communication, crisis communication



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Mobile app development, information security, web development



HEATHER PINSON, PH.D.
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Jazz, aesthetics and interdisciplinary arts, race theory



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Asst. Prof. of Org. Lead.
Educational equity, culturally competent leadership, nonprofit leadership



JON RADERMACHER, M.F.A.
Asst. Prof. of Media Arts
3D design, 3D computer modeling, digital and traditional fabrication



CONNIE RUZICH, PH.D.
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World War I history and literature, linguistics and grammar



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Univ. Prof. of Comp. and Info. Sys.
Social construction of knowledge, ethnography of information systems, knowledge management theory



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Data analytics, spreadsheet modeling, machine learning



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Women in leadership, social movements, decision making

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Advertising
Communication
Computer Information Systems
Corporate Communication
Cyber Forensics and Information Security
Data Analytics
Digital Cinema and TV
English
Graphic Design
Information Sciences
Interaction Design
Journalism
Media Arts
Organizational Leadership
Photography
Public Relations

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Cyber Forensics and Information Assurance
Data Analytics
IT Project Management
Information Systems Management
Internet Information Systems
Organizational Leadership
Organizational Leadership – Nonprofit
Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in Information Systems
and Communications



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