Student News
After two years of intensive learning I am ready to apply the things I have learned with the Munsell Color Science Laboratory to real world applications. I am in the final stages of finishing my Master's thesis on printing with more than just process colors. Soon I will begin working for Canon Information Systems in Palo Alto, California.

One of the most important things I have learned at RIT has been the importance of investigating things outside my field. This seems to be a necessary requirement for an interdisciplinary field like color science. At RIT I have found that delving into other departments on campus has given me a wider understanding of the world of color and the problems people have with it.

Last year I helped to start a student chapter of the Inter-Society Color Council at RIT. This group is made up of students from color science, printing, photography, and design. When I talk with students from other disciplines I feel that I get a broader understanding of how color is used. I like to think that they, in turn, get a better understanding of color from me as well.

It is my hope that the RIT-ISCC student chapter prospers in the future and that it's goals of making it's members more interdisciplinary are reached. It is also my hope that the students will help to bring together the faculty, here and at other institutions, to provide everyone with a better educational base for the teaching of color and color science.

-Timothy Kohler

Conservation Imaging Consortium
In May, a day and a half meeting was held at the Munsell Color Science Laboratory sponsored by the Conservation Imaging Consortium (CIC), formally CRESSIDA. This group is largely underwritten by the Getty Conservation Institute. The goal of CIC is to help leverage research and development of the use of electronic imaging in art conservation. The meeting was held here in order to increase CIC's awareness about the conservation-related activities at RIT and to identify funding opportunities.

Participants represented the Getty Conservation Institute, Harvard University Art Museums (Fogg), Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, M.H de Young Museum, National Museum of Art (Washington), National Archives and Records Administration, and RIT. The National Gallery (London) is also very active in CIC; unfortunately, a representative was not able to attend.

The first half day was devoted to a business meeting where projected supported by or of interest to CIC were reviewed. These are of two types, applications of existing imaging hardware and software and fundamental research. Projects underway at the Fogg and the Art Institute of Chicago are examples of the former. The Fogg is involved in using infrared responsivity digital and video cameras for direct imaging of paintings and drawings in order to analyze under drawings. A second project is the use of confocal microscopy coupled with a CCD NTSC color camera, frame grabber, and Macintosh computer. At the Art Institute of Chicago, there are similar projects to those underway at the Fogg and additional projects using a flat-bed scanner, Macintosh computer, and Adobe Photoshop to simulate possible conservation treatments of paintings and polychrome sculptures. Input to the system are large format photographic positives and negatives. Projects at the National Gallery exemplify fundamental research. They are involved in developing software and hardware for colorimetrically and spatially accurate image capture of paintings, image access, and hardcopy output using thermal transfer dye diffusion printers or screen separations for offset lithography. These projects are multinational and part of the European consortia of VASARI (Visual Arts System for the Archiving and Retrieval of Images), NARCISSE (Network of Art Research Computer Image Systems in Europe), and MARC (Methodology for Art Reproductions in Colour).

The second day was devoted to formal presentations and tours. Talks included: "Image Analytical Methods for Condition Documentation of Daguerreotypes," Dr. Jonathan Arney, Associate Professor, Center for Imaging Science; "Image Analysis of Dead Sea Scrolls," Dr. Robert Johnston, Interim Director, Center for Imaging Science; "Color Space Selection for JPEG Image Compression," Mr. Nathan Moroney, M.S. candidate in Color Science; "A Method Of Reducing Metamerism and Increasing Gamut of Halftone Printing Through the Use of Five or More
Colored Inks,” Mr. Timothy Kohler, M.S. candidate in Color Science; “Overview, Color Encoding Structures, and Future Products of Kodak Photo CD,” Mr. Mike Axman, Eastman Kodak Company. Tours included the Munsell Color Science Laboratory, Electronic Photography Laboratory hosted by Professor Douglas Rea, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, Image Permanence Institute, Professor James Reilly, and a tour of the School of Printing Management and Science. Interspersed throughout the day were discussions chaired by Roy Berns.

Several of the projects under the direction of Roy Berns such as multispectral image capture, multi-ink printing, colorimetric device characterization, and Kubelka-Munk analyses can be applied to art conservation given proper funding and interaction with appropriate museums. At the time of writing this article, August, nothing concrete has been established through CIC or directly from GCI. However, Professor Arney has received funding from GCI to support research on developing analytical methods of characterizing paper topography using digital image processing. The potential for art conservation color research at the Munsell Color Science Laboratory is still great.

- Roy S. Berns

Meet Colleen

My responsibilities have grown considerably since first coming to RIT during 1989. At the Munsell Color Science Laboratory I wear many hats besides just “the secretary.” Some days I am a mother, a student, a color apprentice, a caterer; the list goes on. As you can see, I am involved in a variety of areas but most important, I enjoy my work because I am given the opportunity to learn new things, better myself, be a team player, and sometimes even the team leader.

Speaking of learning new things, I am always learning about color science. I have many opportunities to learn general theories about color as an observer for the student experiments, listening to conversations, attending presentations by Roy, Mark and the students, and especially from asking questions. A while back Roy decided to put my curiosity to use; now, whenever I can be of assistance with a project, Roy tries to incorporate a learning experience for me. Some of my experiences thus far include: analyzing the Milton Roy ColorScan to determine its warm-up time and precision characteristics, making measurements of paint samples on the portable X-Rite spectrophotometer, and assisting Lisa, our color scientist, with ongoing calibration projects in our standards laboratory. When it comes to my role here, I like to think of myself as a Dorothy Nickerson, because of how she began as a secretary and developed into one of the founders of modern color science. Of course my interest may not be so intense.

In addition to working full time, I am enrolled in the Business Administration degree program through RIT’s College of Continuing Education. I have been attending evening classes - one class per quarter since 1989. The business courses have enhanced my office techniques, knowledge, and confidence. After I receive my degree, I am planning to continue on in the area of desktop publishing.

I think of the Munsell Color Science Laboratory staff as a team that plays together very well (and can disagree effectively, too). On a weekly basis during the academic school year, Roy, Mark, Lisa, and I get together to discuss daily, ongoing, and future projects. These meetings help us keep a perspective of our goals for the program, our students, ourselves, as well as keep us on track since sometimes, one of us may get sidetracked with small projects. Our meetings are somewhat structured but we are very open-minded and speak whatever may be on our minds. Here is where each of us can feel free to discuss any problems we may have, new situations occurring, and in general, keeping one another abreast of what’s going on. I feel this is a very productive work atmosphere where each of us is given the opportunity to take charge of particular areas we feel confident or be a team member of a project for a learning experience. I have been working for Roy, Mark and the color science group for four years and I look forward to many more to come.

- Colleen M. Desimone