

# RIT news & event

Current Issue | Issue Dates & Deadlines | University News | Archives

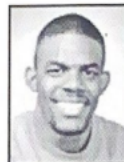
Top News More News Newsmakers Photos

September

Sept 1996

## Accomplished NTID student now leads BACC

Tim Albert, a 24-year-old New Orleans native studying imaging technology at NTID, is a student of many accomplishments, most of them benefiting the RIT community.



Tim Albert

He has long been active in NTID's Ebony Club, which serves all black and Hispanic deaf students on campus in encouraging them to understand their culture and know their identity. He also has written three plays, all of them performed during RIT's Black History Month (February): "The Frederick Douglass Story: Black Deafian's Version," "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: A Man for All Seasons" and "Harriet Tubman: A Mother of a Revolution."

In his new role as the first deaf president of the Black Awareness Coordinating Committee (BACC) as well as the first deaf brother of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Albert remains in a position to serve as a role model for young children, an assignment near and dear to his heart.

"I want to help children, deaf and hearing," he says. "I want them to look at us as role models, and I want them to be successful like us. I want young children to understand that crime and drugs are bad choices in life. I also want to help prevent teen pregnancy and encourage young people to consider education, family and marriage so that they can have good lives."

During his six years at RIT, Albert has heightened the RIT community's awareness of black role models and minority deaf students. As athletic director of the Ebony Club, he increased the number of Ebony Club participants in intramural sports, bringing together deaf men and women to play volleyball and basketball with their hearing peers. As president of the Ebony Club in 1993 and 1995, he worked closely with an active executive board, instituting close adherence to the group's constitution and encouraging his peers to develop leadership skills.

His favorite assignment in the Ebony Club was cultural director in 1994, when he offered educational programs for the NTID community. One such program, Kaleidoscope, gave NTID students the opportunity to talk each month with featured

AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) students. Average attendance at these rap sessions was about 44. Albert also staged a Diversity Day that featured various cultures of the world. Students shared Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Taiwanese and Vietnamese cultures as well as African American and Hispanic history.

Albert was recognized for his commitment to promoting pluralism at RIT with the NTID Pluralism Award last year. After receiving the award, he was nominated to run for president of the BACC, which he did on a platform advocating recruitment of more minority students to RIT, bringing together deaf and hearing students, and ensuring that all groups under the BACC umbrella were properly supported and run.

In addition to being involved with BACC this year, Albert will be active in Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Joining the fraternity fulfilled a long-held dream. The fraternity, in his estimation, has an excellent reputation and has provided support to black children and adults at the secondary and post-secondary level for many years.

"I wanted to be involved in APA because I love the challenge of being a black deaf man approaching black hearing men in America," says Albert. "I can do anything I want to do except I can't speak and hear so well, but my brothers have worked hard to communicate with me. We are of the same culture, but we use different communication methods. We all will be learning many things about one another in this organization."

Albert's three years as a residence advisor, long involvement with the Ebony Club and ground-breaking relationships with his brothers in Alpha Kappa Alpha have prepared him well for his term as president of the BACC.

"I want to see all BACC members feel satisfied with RIT," he says.

University News Services. 132 Lomb Memorial Dr., Bldg. 86 Rochester, NY 14623  
© 2004 Rochester Institute of Technology. All Rights Reserved.  
Issue Credits | Questions/Comments? | Terms of Use  
Phone: 585-475-5064, Fax: 585-475-5097