

Students compete in Iron Chef event

KAMALPREET UPPAL
Staff Reporter

The Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond activity week was an indelible experience for the freshmen at Rensselaer. Students explored an array of activities and interacted with peers, simply to acclimate to the campus that they will call home for the next four years. Somewhat reserved initially, the incoming students gradually transformed into boisterous and confident adults when the activities concluded. The freshmen transformation was never more evident than in the NRB activity, Sustainable Iron Chef, where students explored their knowledge of cooking and prepared meals that charmed many of the judges and connoisseurs of food.

Sustainable Iron Chef is a confluence of both the Food Network's "Iron Chef" and Bravo's "Top Chef" competitions, with two separate challenges called Quick Fire and the Dinner Challenge. The Quick Fire determined the ingredients used by the groups to prepare the main course for the Dinner Challenge, while the Dinner Challenge was designed to gauge each groups' cooking skill.

Initially, the group was divided into five teams of six students, through a random process where the freshmen were assigned animal



Andrew Villanueva and Daniel Brown/The Polytechnic

FRESHMEN VIGOROUSLY PEEL in a potato peeling competition during their event hosted by Terra Cafe and Executive Chef of the Student Body Jackie Baldwin.

names as their team names (Teams Cow, Pig, Sheep, Horse, and Duck) while blindfolded and grouped accordingly. Each team then competed in the Quick Fire, a potato peeling competition, where the dominating teams were given their preference of a harvest item (sweet onions, multi-colored bell peppers, tomatoes, swiss chard, or rose gold potatoes) before visiting Denison Farms to gather them. Each team

could also opt for pantry items from the Russell Sage Dining Hall as well as co-op items from a local store, which would be purchased on a 15 dollar budget. Later, the groups returned to Rensselaer and vigorously prepared courses in Russell Sage Dining Hall for an hour and forty-five minutes, with a serving target of 50 people (each guest served a minimum portion of 3 oz). Subsequently, Terra Café members

and Executive Chef of the Student Body Jackie Baldwin analyzed the courses based on the criteria of taste, texture, appearance, creativity, and technical difficulty.

After the appearance of the dishes was fine-tuned and the side dishes perfected, the judging commenced for one hour. At the very least, the dishes were exceptionally devised and tastes well-coordinated. Team Cow, whose main ingredient was

swiss chard, constructed a vegan dish consisting of sautéed swiss chard with asini salad, cranberries, and couscous with a Portobello mushroom. Team Pig, with rose gold potatoes as their main ingredient, cooked roasted potatoes, sautéed vegetables and cauliflower for a vegetable medley. Team Sheep, whose main ingredient was multi-colored bell peppers, created a miniature roasted pepper and onion quiche paired with a hot roasted pepper and potato cream soup. Team Horse, with onions as their main ingredient, prepared a caramelized onion quiche garnished with fresh basil, balsamic vinegar, and made with homemade pie dough. Finally, Team Duck, the group that trumped the Quick Fire competition and eventually the Dinner Challenge, prepared a tomato soup with a panini (with tomatoes and mozzarella cheese), gouda cheese, toasted bread, and goat cheese.

After the dominating victory, Team Duck, consisting of Head Chef Tom Vaccaro and Sous Chef Lauren Famulari, later commented that they were pleased, but believed that "learning the kitchens, the menus, and the dining system, as well as working together as a team," was also vital. As it appeared from these students, understanding the Rensselaer community while engaging with peers in a concentrated, amiable environment was the highlight of their NRB experience.

Freshman finds EMT NRB event unexciting

DINGYUAN ZHANG
Staff Reporter

"A day in the life of an EMT" was a good chance to get to know about a lifesaver's life. I never had a chance to see one in my past 17 years, the closest chance I had was when I smashed into a window with my face in fourth grade. But the blood was all over my face and blocked my sight, so I would like to say that this event was the first time I actually saw an EMT.

The day was interesting. It was fun to learn how to stop bleeding with a bandage or a t-shirt, and how to stabilize limbs with various items when someone has a broken bone or a spinal injury. We were also introduced to several items EMTs use in different situations, such as backboards, collars, and my favorite item, the stair chair. It is really a cool idea to combine a wheelchair and tracks; I mean, the only other thing I know that has both tracks and wheels is a tank. The most delightful part was in the afternoon, when we got a chance to try out all the items we were taught to use in the morning—some nice seniors "donated" their bodies for education: two acted as if they had fallen from a tree and two posed as victims in a car accident. We saved all these unfortunate victims with the provided tools—not professionally, but at least their lives were secured, I guess.

Though the activity was fun, there was a big problem: it wasn't an "exciting activity," to quote the day trip description, and most parts of the activity were quite slow paced. The part where my heart rate went to peak—about 90 per minute—was when I was dodging water balloons in the



Jennifer Chu/The Polytechnic

FRESHMEN PARTICIPANTS OF THE NAVIGATING RENSSELAER AND BEYOND PROGRAM ASSIST EMT's as they help a "victim" onto a stretcher during their day-long event on Wednesday.

icebreaker. Even in one scenario where the EMTs showed us how experts handle a car accident, they were not doing it excitingly. The EMTs walked the ambulance, got the stretcher and backboard out of it, and then walked over to the victims. Dear EMTs, I know you are not actors or actresses and you want to save energy for emergencies,

but try harder and act more urgent next time, do some running; at least.

All in all, "a day in the life of an EMT" was a pretty nice activity; it was especially a good chance to learn more about the life of an EMT, as the title suggests. If you are interested in getting to know more about these lifesavers, or you want to be part of

RPI Ambulance and save lives professionally, without possibly paralyzing car accident victims like what I may have done, join this one-day trip and you will benefit from it. But if you are searching for some excitement, and want to do something that makes your heart race, this is not your cup of tea; try other activities.

People to know at RPI



Luke Travis/*The Polytechnic*

President of the Union Jon Stack '13 presides over the Union Executive Board, which helps maintain the Rensselaer Union and manages the Union budget.

PU talks Board, Union

ALEXA ARANJO
Staff Reporter

A myriad of items necessary to RPI student life reside at the Rensselaer Union: textbooks, ping-pong tables, ice cream, and much more. The 123rd President of the Union Jon Stack '13 ensures the ongoing and smooth operation of the Union.

"Essentially, I serve as CFO of students and run all activities and organizations conglomered under the Union," said Stack, who is dual majoring in Aeronautical Engineering and Economics.

Stack chairs the Union Executive Board. This board is comprised of a group of students who work with the various student organizations at RPI to make sure that they continue on and use their Union funding to promote themselves and get students more involved on campus.

This year, the Union's budget runs at about \$8.1 million. However, this figure includes the bookstore's expenses as well, so the actual budget resides at about \$4 million.

The Board approaches clubs and organizations to use a motion process to apply for a budget. Each member of the board acts as a liaison for eight to 10 clubs.

"They meet with club officers to get a feel of what the club does, what kind of events they hold, how many members there are, and help them put together a budget for next year," Stack explained.

Then, the Board goes through each budget to determine what is really important to clubs and how to help them move forward in promoting more events and activities.

"[We try to] keep to the fact that this is student funded, and we don't want to burden students with unnecessary expense," commented Stack.

Religious and political organizations and clubs are free to hold events, but they receive no funding.

"We are a non-profit organization, and that's why we don't fund political or religious organizations. We don't want to jeopardize that status," said Stack. "But, also, we don't want to promote or force different beliefs on campus. We want students to decide for themselves."

Additionally, the Union is not run by the RPI administration at all. RPI pays for the utilities bill, nothing else.

"We're an auxiliary service of Student Life. We operate pretty much independently," said Stack. "We actually own the building. We are currently paying a mortgage on the last time the building was renovated."

The board hires the staff, and space is rented out to other businesses.

"Everyone who works at the [Rensselaer] Union is actually paid by the students," mentioned Stack.

GM explains duties, discusses freshman class

About Poly Press Pass

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work on a newspaper but never had the chance to do so?

The staff of *The Polytechnic* gave first-year students a chance to find out just what happens during the production of an issue of *The Poly* in a Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond event called Poly Press Pass, held the week before classes began.

It gave freshmen the chance to find out what it's like to work on a college newspaper by working with regular staff members to create this special section.

The students who participated in Press Pass came from a variety of different backgrounds and interests, and a number of them did not have any prior experience working on a newspaper.

After learning about the basics of creating a newspaper, the freshmen were allowed to participate in the full cycle of newspaper production, including event coverage, writing, editing, and photography. They were also given an introduction to the process of laying out a newspaper.

Based on their interest choices, the Press Pass participants were assigned story leads to cover. They then paired up with staff members and were sent off to take photos and gather information for stories at the other NRB activities. After they returned from their outings, those participating in Press Pass only needed to send in their stories and photographs, but many decided to lend extra support to the section.

Because freshmen reporters and photographers covered the stories, this section focuses on the first-year experiences from a first-year student perspective.

Especially given the short amount of time that they had to prepare for newspaper reporting, the Press Pass participants did an excellent job of covering their stories. The students also gained the valuable experience of working together as a team to create a section that will be read by the rest of the campus.

—The staff of *The Polytechnic*

Press Pass Staff

SARAH ALMEHAIRI	SAMUEL NATHANSON
ALEXA ARANJO	MARSHAL SHEMTOB
DANIEL BROWN	JOSEPH SHEN
JENNIFER CHU	YUHAN SHI
MICHAEL CINTRON	LUKE TRAVIS
MATTHEW CONTRERAS	KAMALPREET UPPAL
CHRISTIAN DENSMORE	ANDREW VILLANUEVA
DAVID DUNALEWICZ	DINGYUAN ZHANG
WILLIAM GIBBS	YIWEN ZHANG
CHRISTOPHER KLINE	ZIXIN ZHANG

ALEXA ARANJO
Staff Reporter

Wearing the ubiquitous silk top hat at the RPI Welcome Fest, the 147th Grand Marshal, Kevin Dai '14, welcomed the incoming freshmen in downtown Troy.

The Grand Marshal acts as the official student body president for RPI students.

"[The GM] is a tradition that started more than a hundred years ago," said Dai. "I'm very proud to carry on this tradition."

Dai manages the entire Student Senate, but additionally acts as the chief representative for the student body. Dai strives to be accessible to all of the students of RPI.

"[The freshmen] have seen me around during their [Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond] trips and the Welcome Fest on Friday," said Dai.

The Student Senate has two branches: the committee division and the general division. The committee faction includes five groups that work on separate projects: the Academic Affairs Committee; the Finance, Facilities, and Administration Committee; the Rules and Elections Committee;

the Senate Communications Group; and the Web Technologies Group.

The general body is composed of elected senators that work on policies and vote on issues that come up in motions.

Four elected senators from each class constitute the general faction. Additionally, one Independent Council representative, six graduate members, and two greek senators serve on general group. However, only one greek senator has the ability to vote.

The Student Senate is currently working on a mentorship program for freshmen as well as organizing March's Grand Marshal Week and the RPI Hockey Line events.

At the Welcome Fest, Dai offered freshmen two pieces of advice: To meet and become friends with as many people as you can, and to explore downtown Troy.

"There are about 1,300 [incoming freshmen]. That's pretty much one of the biggest classes we've had in the recent past," said Dai. "And I encourage all of you to make friends with everyone you can. Even though it's pretty much impossible to meet everyone, do your best to do so because everyone comes from diverse backgrounds and each one of you has unique experiences."



Courtesy of Szymon Morawski

Grand Marshal Kevin Dai '14 leads the Student Senate and represents the student body for communication with Rensselaer's administration.

Hockey coach hopeful about season, team

SAM NATHANSON
Staff Reporter

After leading RPI's "premier hockey program" to the national tournament and the top of the national rankings over his six years as head coach, Seth Appert looks forward to another successful season with RPI's Division I men's ice hockey team. According to Appert, the members of the team have been hard at work all summer in order to prepare for the season ahead of them because "it never ends really for Division I student athletes."

"When the season ended last year, they took two weeks off and then we're right into the weight room five days a week; a lot of them six days a week, and that goes throughout the summer, so a majority of our players stayed here throughout the summer and trained with our strength coach Kyle Surtung, and we had a great summer. They did their testing last week, and their testing numbers were very strong, higher than they have been in other years," Appert said. "The main emphasis of the team from mid-April through the end of August is strength and conditioning. Lifting, sprinting, plyometrics and etc., and now once school starts on Monday, we'll still continue with our lifting program, but we will scale back on that a little bit and we will spend more time on the ice within NCAA rules, as in we're still a little bit limited on the amount of time we can spend on the ice with our guys in the first month of school."

This season, nine incoming freshmen will be joining the team, and according to Appert, the process of recruiting these players to RPI's hockey program is very long at the Division I level.

"A lot of times we have recruiting relationships with these young men and their families for upwards

of one, two, or three years before they step on campus, and we have nine in this incoming class. A lot of them we have been either recruiting or tracking for multiple years. We have five forwards, we have three defensemen, and a goaltender. Four players are from the United States, four players are from Canada, and one is from Slovakia," Appert said. "The one from Slovakia obviously is a long way from home, Milos Bubela. He played for the Slovakian World Junior Team, and it's the top team in Slovakia under the age of 20 in the world championships, so we are excited that he was willing to kind of take a big leap of faith and leave his home country and come over here to get a great education and play college hockey."

Although RPI's hockey team has been star-driven in past seasons, Appert hopes that the strength of the team this season will lie in the depth of the team instead of on the shoulders of a few select players.

"Two years ago when we were a top ten team in the country and went to the national tournament we were a little more star driven. We had a great team that year and we won as a team. But certainly players like Allen York '12 who is now playing in the National Hockey League and Chase Polacek '11 who was a Hobey Baker finalist, those two especially got a lot of accolades and a lot of individual attention. Nick Bailen '13, a senior defenseman for us this year has been an all American in the past, and he probably is the highest profile player returning to our team, but I think that the strength of this team needs to be, and is, the depth of our team," Appert said. "We have a lot of talent throughout our lineup. I think we are competitive, strong, and deep throughout our lineup and all three positions, but I think the key will be not that we are

going to rely on one, two, or three players to carry us, we need to be a team. It's something we struggled with the first half of last year. We did better the second half of last year as we started winning a lot more, so the key of these first two months here is to really establish and build on the second half of last year. The team mentality, the team identity into making sure that we are doing everything together, and we're trying to be a team, not a group of 27 individuals."

The team will be hosting Arcadia University on October 6 for an expedition game, and the first two home games of the season are against Ferris State University on October 12 and 13. According to Appert, the team will have a tough first month of the schedule that will hold some exciting games.

"I think there are a few games [that] all of our fans seem to get excited about. I'm a believer as a coach that every game is of equal importance, but I'm not naive. I know that for the players and the fans that there are certain games that people get a little more amped up for. One is Black Friday. For the students who haven't been here before, Black Friday is a traditional game here. It's the first league home game. This year, it's against Union, so it's also an arch rival game, and the students who wear black to that game get in for free. It's just a great event. We wear all black uniforms one time only," Appert said. "Another game in February is the Big Red Freakout!, which has been going on for over three decades, and that is in February against Dartmouth, and we wear all red and again the place is nuts, and people have their faces painted and it's a lot of fun. We have a season student ticket line, I believe that is September 11th, and that is when season student tickets go on sale."

Although the members of RPI's hockey program invest a lot of their



The Polytechnic

HOCKEY COACH SETH APPERT GIVES advice and moral support to the men's ice hockey team during a 2011 game.

time into playing hockey, both the players and Appert pride themselves on the strong academic standing of the team throughout the academic year.

"Well I think the only other thing that sometimes gets overlooked and not mentioned is last year our team GPA was a 3.35, and our guys take great pride in the classroom. We have engineers that are well over a 3.0 as well, so our guys not only put 20 to 30 hours a week into their hockey, training, playing, and traveling, but they do a great job in the classroom, and that means a lot to us and we try to represent our university and student body in a first-class manner," Appert said.

According to Appert, another aspect of the team that most of the student body doesn't typically realize is "the fact that we are a Division I hockey program, we've won two national championships and we've been to the national tournament just a year ago, so we're a premier hockey

program in the country while being at an elite academic university."

"I think the best part about it is that our 27 guys in that locker room are very similar to the rest of the campus. We have guys that are in the room that are engineering students. We have guys in that room that are math majors, economics, the humanities, and business that come from all parts of North America and one that comes from Europe, so I think that we're just a very diverse blend, which is very similar to the student body," Appert said. "I think that [is] what freshmen [who] come to campus need to know is that the hockey games are probably the biggest social scene during the winter months on this campus, and it's where you can get 1,000 to 1,500 students together rallying for the same cause, which doesn't happen very often that everyone is unified and on the same page and we certainly value that and we greatly appreciate the support."



Ethan Spitz/The Polytechnic

FRESHMEN PRACTICE a skit in which two students act out a scene while the other two replace their arms and perform the actions.

Freshmen try Improv

ALEXA ARANJO
Staff Reporter

Walk into an improv show at any given moment, and one will hear hysterical laughter, booming claps, and ridiculous scenes. RPI's improvisation troupe, Sheer Idiocy, hosted freshmen students for a Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond event.

"This was such a great group of freshman compared to last year. Everybody was really full of energy and excited to be here," said Director of Sheer Idiocy Bryan McMahon '13. "We blew through things really quickly. People paid attention, which is nice. They really wanted to do well."

The group of RPI freshmen practiced several improv games on the first day of NRB activities. The same evening, the group performed the games to a full audience in the Rensselaer Union. "Everyone tried their hardest, and the day's training definitely paid off," said Fiona Kine '16.

The Sheer Idiocy troupe further showed their humorous spirit when several members of the group posed as freshmen and revealed themselves mid-way through the day.

Improv typifies the idea of "Yes, and." Each actor accepts the ideas of the others and adds something to the scene.

"I like the concept of going off of one person's idea and trying to build it yourself without losing the original concept," said Isabel Johnson '16. "It's just trying to think on the fly and keep it going."

Initially, students began with an introductory game "Beep Circle" to prepare the students with reaction skills necessary for Improv. A "beep" is passed around the circle and the actors change its path by introducing modifiers.

Normally, before each game began, the players asked the audience for a topic suggestion: a profession, an object, a place, or any other idea.

The freshmen enjoyed playing the game "Objection." Audience members provide a neutral topic. Then, one actor begins talking about the topic. Other actors yell "objection" and provide another course of thought. The judge ultimately sustains or overrules the new declaration. As the game progresses, the statements become increasingly absurd.

Another well-received game was "Half-life." Three actors receive a suggestion from the audience. They act out a standard minute-long scene. Then, the scene is performed in 30 seconds, 15 seconds, 7 seconds, 3 seconds, and finally 1 second.

Freshmen's miming skills were tested as each attempted to maneuver around an invisible house. Each person defined the structures and objects, such as cabinets, sinks, and treadmills, in the open area by interacting with the invisible object.

At the end of the day, McMahon ultimately offered some tips for new improvisers: "Work with your teammates, follow your gut, and think outside the box. I think with those three things, you'll probably become a good improviser."



Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond 2012

Mix-and-match audio, visuals rule Mash Up!



Andrew Villanueva and Daniel Brown/*The Polytechnic*

ASPIRING DJS CHANNEL Korean pop star Psy at the EMPAC Mash Up!, bringing “Gangnam Style” to the music event held in Studio One. The students blended video, music, and special effects to create an exciting performance.

CHRISTOPHER KLINE
Staff Reporter

In the depths of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center’s studios, nearly 20 freshmen joined together to create a new musical and visual experience to be used in the EMPAC Mash Up! Thursday, August 23. The event began Wednesday, when the students gathered under the tutelage of EMPAC’s leading technical crew members and advisors for the sole purpose of rocking Studio One with a wash

of light, sound, and video which would stupefy the attendees, alleged to number nearly 300, the following night.

After a brief tour of the premises, the participants were left to their own devices on various platforms (typically Macbooks of a bygone era) to mix and mash whatever sounds or visual effects they would need to create their masterpieces. Only a handful of the newly dubbed DJs and technicians had experience in this field, leaving the task at hand daunting, but the possibilities nearly limitless.

Working for hours on end in Ableton Live, one audio group aspired to mix together a new tune involving saxophones, keyboards, and a lot of disc scratching. Another took a slow and repetitive dance track and overlaid it with various new instruments and beats, the least of which were some nostalgia-inspiring chiptunes. Despite their various musical backgrounds, they were able to bring forward an experience both lively and unique.

The remaining students worked with lighting boards and video software that would accompany

the music throughout the show. They spent the day poring over the placement, movement, and color of each light in the studio. The video crews worked out what wicked displays to overlay each song with, ranging from spacey and expansive to pixelated, flailing men.

With a nearly endless arsenal at their disposal, the first-year students worked to make the setting more like the wild rave that the Mash Up! is supposed to be, and has been in the past. The entire adventure of setting up the show made the idea of a dance party

actually seem possible for these inexperienced students. However, the reality of the show was more than these aspiring artists could have asked for.

The following evening shone with success in the rafters and trumpeted victory in its speakers as the sick dance party, fueled by its many disc, video, and light jockeys, ran late into the night with the bass booming and the lights beaming. Despite all the work that went into the show’s preparation, the Mash Up!’s participants ultimately decided the fate of the gig in real time, up on stage, as they threw video, audio, and light together in one live event.

Mixing was done on the fly, and one group even played new music from a keyboard on stage. The show’s themes ranged from heavy beats laden with dinosaur imagery to Carl Sagan’s speeches on existence mixed with a spiraling portrait of Capcom’s Mega Man set to crazy retro sounds. The floor was shaking (quite literally, as Studio One’s floorboards rest upon springs) when students bounced to the rhythm of each artist’s labors, and the speakers blared loudly enough to fan the room with gusts of air.

Overall, the Mash Up! was what everyone expected; a bunch of aspiring artists made techno, most of which was dubstep, all of which had trippy videos and lights to accompany them. Despite the predictability of the events, it was a thrill to be surrounded by the artists and their avid fans on the dance floor. With any luck, next year’s Mash Up! will feature newer, fresher music, crazier video clips, and the much anticipated fog machines.

History comes alive on NRB Traditions tour

CHRISTIAN DENSMORE
Staff Reporter

This past Wednesday, while most of the campus was busy participating in various Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond activities, a select group of freshmen was able to gain the advantage of attaining more knowledge than some of their other classmates about the history of RPI while also exploring areas of the campus many students may never have seen before.

Beginning with a history lesson by a few RPI alumni on the Approach (the large staircase leading from downtown Troy to the campus), the group moved to the basement of Davison Hall, where the entire substructure of the building was converted to a massive model railroad formed to resemble such areas as Troy and Lake George. Students were then taught about the history of Troy, spanning from the 19th up to the 21st century, and how much of the nation has been impacted by technological and cultural innovations originating from Troy and the surrounding area.

Following this, while playing icebreakers along the way, the group headed for the archive room in the Folsom Library, where the students would learn about various traditions such as Pushball and Capture the Flag while taking time to enjoy articles from *The Polytechnic* dating back to the mid-19th century.

After the students finished roaming around the archive room and library, they were shuttled up to the Houston Field House, where the history of that building was described to them. Other aspects of touring this amazing structure included



Crystal Zhang/*The Polytechnic*

THE MODEL RAILROAD ZOOMS along its track in the basement of Davison Hall. The model features accurate replicas of Troy and neighboring towns in the 1950s, and was one stop of many on the Traditions tour.

stepping inside the men’s hockey team’s locker room, shooting a few pucks from center ice toward one of the goals, learning about the Pep Band, and how the seats are divided up between fans and rivals. They even learned how many famous people have performed there such as Bob Hope, Bruce Springsteen, Matchbox Twenty, and Jimi Hendrix.

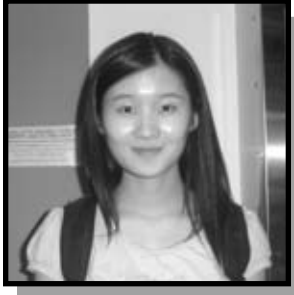
This busy day concluded with a two-hour “Amazing Race”-type challenge where teams of students went around campus learning about different areas along the way while participating in challenges designed to combine critical thinking with quick actions, so that every team would be enticed to push hard to win first. Of course, as with every competition, the challenge included

prizes for the winners, which were combinations of gift cards, hockey tickets, and school dance tickets for the first-, second-, and third-place teams. Once all teams were finished with the assigned activities, they met at the Clubhouse Pub in the Rensselaer Union to participate in trivia, sing the Alma Mater, and meet new friends to finish off a successful and rewarding day.

Poly Snapshots

The Question:

What NRB event did you participate in, and what did you like about it?



Shu Ting
BIOL '16
Ballroom Blitz
"I loved the tango lessons."



Craig Carlson
GSAS & CSCI '16
Outing Club Day Hike
"It was fun!"



Shannon Collins
CHME '16
Horse Rescue Trip
"I learned a lot about rescuing horses, the process involved, and that you have to be proactive."



Raymond Douglas
AERO '16
Quidditch
"It was different than I had expected, but it was a lot of fun."



Patrick Padgett
PHYS '16
Fanfare
"I liked learning new music with a new group of people."



Alissa Hong
ENGR '16
Tae Kwon Do
"I like the section on self defense; the coolest part was defending against a knife."



Calvin Fortson
MATH '16
Chimney Corners
"I liked the low ropes."



Michael Tanner
ENGR '16
Camp Chingachgook
"I liked the archery and BB shooting."

Freshmen take center stage in theater event

SAM NATHANSON
Staff Reporter

After auditioning for roles, designing and building a set, organizing a light show, and learning their lines in less than 48 hours, the freshman attendees of the RPI Players Experience had the opportunity to experience true college theater while preparing for two one-act plays directed by the current members of the RPI Players.

Brigid Angelini '15, who was tasked with producing "Like it or Not," by George Freck and "Check Please," by Jonathan Rand, explained that the goal of the RPI Players Experience was to recruit interested freshmen to the RPI Players for future productions. "We wanted to give [the freshmen] an introduction to how shows get put on here in the Playhouse and a really fast run of things," Angelini said.

According to Joshua Rosenfeld '16, the members of the RPI Players entrusted the freshman attendees with a lot of work that directly pertained to the production, which made them feel welcomed and accepted into the Playhouse community.

"I think my favorite part was actually getting to interact with all of the upperclassmen, hearing about their stories from RPI, their stories from the Playhouse, and really getting to know about what really goes on here around campus," Rosenfeld said. "We get a lot of information during orientation and at [Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond], but really getting to interact with upperclassmen working and the things that they do here on campus is really great."

Although the one-acts highlighted the freshman actors who participated in the RPI Players Experience, Rosenfeld and many others had the opportunity to work behind the scenes of the performance.

"I am working with the set team, so most of my day today was spent painting sets," Rosenfeld said. "My specialty is lights, so that was my first choice, but I love working with sets. It's a lot of fun working with power tools and paint to make the stage look as good as it does."

One thing that Angelini and the other current members of the RPI Players made sure to stress during the RPI Players Experience was that there is a spot for everyone who is interested in theater at the RPI Playhouse.

"There are tons of ways to get involved with the RPI Players, and we are very welcoming to new people," she



Crystal Zhang/The Polytechnic

THE RPI PLAYERS REHEARSE their one-act plays with members of the incoming class of 2016. The freshman actors were given leading roles in these performances.

said, "If you ever wanted to audition for theater, you should definitely just give it a shot because you have nothing to lose. And, you can try anything in the technical department—you're more than welcome to and maybe you will find something that you like."

The two one-acts that were performed by the RPI Players Experience got a lot of laughs and were considered to be a success by the audience, and for students who are interested in joining the RPI Players this year, Angelini feels that "the easiest way [to get involved] is to go to work parties, which are typically on Friday nights."

"At work parties, we do things like build the set. We'll paint the marquees that get put outside in the playhouse. We'll paint the set eventually, people will find props, they'll do sound things, they'll do lighting things, and there's pizza at them and that's the easiest way to get involved," Angelini said. "You can also audition for shows, and when open calls go out, there's an e-mail list that you can join, the RPI Players e-mail list, and if you e-mail the executive committee of the Players, you can be put on that list and you'll receive information about auditions and open calls for designing roles and assistant roles and things like that."

Upstate Underground welcomes freshmen

First-year students, now radio DJs, broadcast shows within 75-mile radius

DAVID DUNALEWICZ
Staff Reporter

As incoming freshmen eagerly explored the campus of RPI, they no doubt noticed the occasional black and red sticker placed surreptitiously on a trash can or a lamp post. These stickers read: WRPI Troy 91.5, but this doesn't say much. The slogan of RPI's very own radio station—the Upstate Underground—tells a bit more of the story. I kept this slogan in mind as I descended into the depths of the Darrin Communication Center, to the offices of WRPI. This was where a group of about 20 Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond students were split into five groups and given the task of creating a 30 minute radio show to be broadcast the following morning.

The beginning of the event involved a comprehensive tour of the WRPI facilities, from the live recording room, with thousands of dollars' worth of professional audio equipment, to the massive CD and vinyl libraries, stocked with more music than any 50 people would ever have time to listen to. If it exists, chances are it's on a CD or a record in the WRPI music library. To sweeten the deal, the station holds an unlimited license to play whatever music it wants, which came in handy when it was time for the students to make their own 30-minute playlists.

Before any groups started planning, they also learned some of the more behind the scenes aspects of running a radio station. Anyone can host a radio show on WRPI, but not without first taking a series of classes which educates them on radio station policies, equipment use, and of course, what you can and can't say on the air. After passing a test on these materials, you become "cleared" for your show. The entire process takes at least a month.

When it came time for the five groups of students to make their own show, careful consideration was given to each track, as this was their opportunity to share their individual and diverse musical tastes with the world (or at least with everyone within WRPI's 75 mile broadcast radius). After picking which songs they would play, it



Yuhan Shi/The Polytechnic

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS LEARN about the inner workings of radio shows with WRPI. After learning about broadcast guidelines, students were given the opportunity to be radio DJs and broadcast their own show on the air.

was time to comb through the CD and vinyl rooms to see if what they had picked out was already in the WRPI music library. In case it wasn't, students could plug in an auxiliary device such as an iPod, laptop, or phone, and broadcast songs from their personal devices.

That evening, some students took a trip up to WRPI's transmitting site, which is slightly north of campus. Their broadcast is sent live from the studio in DCC to the transmitting site via the internet, with a 15

second delay. The delay is built in just in case anyone hosting a show forgets the crucially important Federal Communications Commission rules dictating what can and can't be said on the radio.

The next morning, the five student groups met again at the studio, and one by one, went into what's known as the "Control Room" to broadcast their shows. Some groups even had listeners from Troy call in to comment on the various songs that were played.

By the end of the two-day event, much of the mystery surrounding the world of radio broadcasting had been explained. Anyone can become a member of WRPI simply by giving two hours of his or her time doing work for the station, and attending two meetings. After that, the process of becoming cleared to host a show begins. Anyone looking for more information about WRPI can go to <http://wrpi.org/>, or pay a visit to their studio.

Elaborate Capoeira martial art unites students

Participating club members and freshmen experience international culture, learn skills



Yiwen Zhang/The Polytechnic

MASTERS AND STUDENTS OF THE BRAZILIAN ART OF CAPOEIRA WEAVE their way through elaborate exercises on the '86 Field.

MARSHALL SHEMTOB
Staff Reporter

If you were walking along the '86 Field during Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond week, you would assume karate lessons were going on; however, it was actually RPI's ABADA-Capoeira club. The club was founded in 2004, and uses martial arts mixed with music to create a learning environment, not only to benefit the individual but also his or her community.

The freshmen began class by starting with simple stretches and learning basic movements from their instructors, and they quickly progressed to practicing both self-defense and acrobatics among each other, even though they had never met one another before. As a participant in this adventurous form of martial arts, the question I had to ask myself was, can I trust others before myself? With a circle full of people extending their legs and acrobatically doing kicks within the first teachings of the Brazilian art form, I was quickly catching on. With participants of the NRB event all at different skill levels,

it gave students the opportunity to fully see the fast and elaborate teachings of capoeira.

As the day progressed, the instructors incorporated both music and experience into their teachings, bringing us, the students, and themselves united after only three hours of hard work into an elaborate dance masterpiece. While first gathering in a Roda, where every participant regardless of rank joins the circle and claps their hands, the instructors gradually added the beat of the instruments, the *berimbaus*, a simply made Brazilian and Portuguese percussion instrument made by tying a musical bow to a steel string, and an *atabaque*, a tall wooden hard drum made from calfskin. Gathering brought us together as we were able to feel and see another culture from around the world.

Once the whole day was over, I realized ABADA-Capoeira gave me more self-confidence and allowed me to excel physically in areas that I never knew I was even capable of. You can find out more about how to join at <http://capoeira.union.rpi.edu/>.