

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

## Inside

- Comics ..... 5
- Editorial/Opinion .... 3
- Events Calendar ..... 8
- Features ..... 10
- Sports ..... 7

## Connect

Visit us online at our new website: [poly.news](http://poly.news)  
 Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thepolytechnic](https://www.facebook.com/thepolytechnic)  
 Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @RPIPoly




Scan the QR code on the left with your phone to go to our website!

**SPORTS** Page 7



RPI Quidditch Team excites freshmen with unique sport

**FEATURES** Page 10



The Players demonstrate theater to prospective members

**EDITORIAL** Page 3

Jack Wellhofer *Technology is not as scary as some think*

Stephanie Kern-Allely *An editor's opinion on the new Google logo*

---

Staff Editorial *NRB: The Positives and Areas for Improvement*

## STUDENT LIFE

# Fayette talks freshman experience

Kay Sun  
Staff Reporter

THE FIRST YEAR CAN BE A VULNERABLE TIME FOR STUDENTS. SINCE FRESHMEN are encountering a new environment, new people, difficult academics, and a large and confusing campus, there can be countless problems. Janelle Fayette, Dean of the First-Year Experience, is here to help out.

When asked what advice she wanted to share with first-year students, Fayette said that freshmen need to realize that college is totally different from high school. There is more freedom and more work; there are more dilemmas, and more people here to help. It is important to understand that freshmen are dealing with a hard transition. Additionally, freshmen are brilliant and should not be underestimated simply because they are unaware of their resources. Fayette offered other pieces of practical advice for the first year students.

Fayette advises freshmen to take advantage of the first week and get to know more people. This can be especially useful if you miss something in a class. If you are struggling academically and you need further assistance, utilize office hours and ask for help from faculty. Ask the professor for clarification; “suggested” homework might actually be required. What’s more, time management is crucial. Schedule your days to ensure that you are highly efficient, leaving time to enjoy college life and get plenty of sleep.

In addition to professors, learning assistants are amazing. Ask them for studying advice; you can get really helpful ideas and opinions. Finally, balance your clubs and make sure to study. These should not be seen as conflicting factors.

We then asked Fayette to explain her role as the Dean of the FYE. Fayette described herself as “a hub between freshmen and school resources such as Advising and Learning Assistance Center, residence halls, and other various departments.” Though it is widely known that FYE handles Student Orientation and Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond, FYE deals with a variety of other things. FYE will do everything to ensure that students have a smooth transition from high school to college life.



Courtesy of the Division of Student Life

**JANELLE FAYETTE CURRENTLY SERVES as the Dean of the First Year Experience.**

Fayette said that she could never get bored with her job. “It is never repetitive. I love the feeling of meeting new people, doing something to help them in one of their hardest periods, and trying to make things better. I like to work with new students.” FYE offers engaging orientation activities. To some extent, it provides assistance to the whole student body. “Sometimes, students may just need more time or just a push, not only freshmen but also juniors or seniors. I have been at RPI for ten years. I know students need passion and interest to work well. You have to find what you believe in, and what you are missing as a community, and then you can fulfill your dream.”

We are all obliged to make the world better. So gain something in this amazing and rich community. Why not change the world? Visit the FYE website at <http://studentlife.rpi.edu/fye>.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

# PU discusses role, plans for upcoming semester

David Raab  
Staff Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION IS ONE OF THE many unique aspects of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Union is entirely student run by the Executive Board, which is led by President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16. The 15 student E-Board is responsible for managing a student activities budget of around \$8.4 million; that budget funds Union recognized clubs and all sports with the exception of the

Division I hockey team. In January, while most students are still away on winter break, the E-Board meets and allocates the budget to fund all of the Union recognized clubs. In addition, the E-Board is responsible for day to day business operations and maintain Union facilities.

In addition to being the elected chairman of the E-Board, Dvorak’s responsibilities include representing student concerns to Rensselaer’s administration, including Vice President of Student Life Frank E. Ross, General

Counsel for the Institute Charles Carletta, and President Shirley Ann Jackson. In fact, one of his goals for this year is to set up recurring “one-to-one reconnects” with key members of administration. One-to-one reconnects are an interpersonal communication technique that Dvorak used during his internship this summer at Procter and Gamble which he defined as “having a one to one conversation with someone on a regular basis.” He also meets with students in order to understand what their concerns are

so he can effectively represent them to administration. Dvorak expresses those concerns in ways that the administration will be responsive to, and reports back to the student body on a regular basis.

Dvorak has also personally committed himself to making the process for finding jobs on campus jobs more efficient. He is going to work with the Union and other RPI departments in order to have student job openings posted on JobLink—the resource

See PU, **Page 2**

## Weather

## 8-Day Forecast

Day	High/Low	Precip.	Hum.	Wind
Wednesday	89° / 65°	0%	50%	5 mph
Thursday	87° / 60°	15%	55%	6 mph
Friday	81° / 55°	1%	51%	4 mph
Saturday	84° / 57°	0%	46%	4 mph
Sunday	88° / 60°	0%	39%	4 mph
Monday	89° / 63°	0%	43%	5 mph
Tuesday	90° / 62°	0%	44%	6 mph
Wednesday	82° / 55°	4%	47%	9 mph

## SENATE

# Senate confirms GM, PU appointments

Jack Wellhofer  
Senior Reporter

GRAND MARSHAL MARCUS FLOWERS '16 OPENED the first Senate meeting of the semester by welcoming back members both old and new.

The first order of business was appointing a new Web Tech Group chair. Flowers nominated Justin Etzine '18 to the position. Etzine explained that he has been on the committee since coming to RPI. He feels that the output of WTG has waned, and that there are many things that can be done to improve the output. One such proposal was to change meetings to hackathon style meetings, which would allow members to get more work done on projects in a “relaxed and fun environment.”

Etzine also hoped that since the Rensselaer Center for Open Source Software is being restructured to take on fewer and larger

projects, the WTG could pick up the slack. Their projects would focus on those that would benefit the community internally. The motion passed 10-0-5.

Next, committee reports reviewed meeting times and upcoming projects for the year. One issue that arose was the inability of the Rules & Elections to pass a handbook for freshmen elections due to a lack of members. Paul Ilori '17 urged the Senate to resolve the issue quickly.

President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16 spoke in front of the Senate on behalf of Ines Roman '16, who was appointed as a new Executive Board representative. Dvorak said he has confidence in her abilities, and that her role in UPAC Sound as Rentals Chair would provide valuable experience for the E-Board. The motion passed 15-0-1.

See SENATE, **Page 2**

## PU: Dvorak looking for new E-Board reps

From **Page 1**

the Center for Career & Professional Development uses to post off-campus jobs, co-ops, and internships. He specifically mentioned that the Rensselaer Collegiate Store, now being managed by Follett, needs help but is having a hard time getting the word out to students. He hopes that student employment through CCPD's JobLink will help streamline the process and provide students easier access to jobs.

Although the E-Board has been working diligently throughout the summer, freshmen still have the opportunity to join. Dvorak is specifically looking to appoint three freshmen to E-Board and also has a few spots open for upperclassmen as well. Any fresh-

men appointed to E-Board would be voting members but would be given less clubs to represent so they can learn the ropes of being an E-Board Representative. Dvorak believes that "getting involved is the best advice anyone can give you;" and that sentiment especially applies for the incoming freshmen. Dvorak compared the student government experience to the academic experience by saying "if RPI gives you a toolbox this is a workshop" to learn interpersonal skills in order to work with people post-undergraduate. Applications will be coming out in the next couple of weeks and he encourages anyone interested in serving to apply. For more information, visit <http://stugov.union.rpi.edu/eboard>.

## Senate: WTG chairman, new E-Board rep confirmed



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

**PARLIAMENTARIAN JOSHUA ROSENFELD REVIEWS Senate rules of order procedures.**

From **Page 1**

In new business, graduate student Timothy Krentz was appointed as the senate representative R&E. His previous experience from the Judicial Board was noted by Ilori, who supported the appointment of Krentz. This motion was passed 14-0-2.

Flowers concluded the meeting by reminding the Senate that two petitions, Locked Tuition and Preferred Names, had reached the required 250 signatures and would be presented in the coming weeks. With that, the first Senate meeting of the semester concluded.

### PRESS PASS

## Formula Hybrid recruits new freshmen members through NRB

**David Raab**  
Staff Reporter

THE RPI FORMULA HYBRID CLUB hosted an event on August 26, to show the incoming freshmen how they build their model race cars. They spent time in the morning in the Ricketts Building shop working on the car. Later in the day, they went on a tour of the shop facilities available in Jonsson Engineering Center.

The freshmen taking part in this experience were excited about the fact that they had the opportunity to actually get their hands dirty and build the cars. One incoming freshman said that he was excited about the fact that he could "build a whole vehicle" as opposed to the many times students just "stand there and watch them talk about something."

According to Ben Peacock '16, one of the Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond event organizers, emphasized that what makes the Formula Hybrid Club unique from the other model building clubs is that the cars they build are powered by both electric motors and gasoline engines working

in parallel to power the rear wheels. There is an emphasis on sustainable design because the gasoline engine size is limited to 250 cubic centimeters. The Formula SAE Club has a limit of 650cc for the gas engine of their cars, but gasoline is the only permissible source of power for that competition. This allows for the Formula Hybrid club to have a more powerful car than the Formula SAE club since there are no limits on the size of their electric motors.

During the shop tours, the upperclassmen members of the Formula Hybrid Club emphasized how everyone will have the opportunity to have a hands-on building experience. All the major parts of the car are fabricated in machine shops across campus. Peacock, said that the Formula Hybrid Club uses advanced fabrication techniques, such as water jet cutting, on a regular basis. All parts of the car are also student designed by using the 3-D computer-assisted drafting software Solidworks. It allows members to flesh out the rough prototyping without wasting valuable time and money working on the physical car.



David Raab/The Polytechnic

**FORMULA HYBRID VOLUNTEER LEADS tour for freshmen partaking in their Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond day trip, Formula Hybrid Go-Kart Build.**

Another point about the Formula Hybrid Club is completely student run. Peacock said that while the club has a formal faculty advisor in the School of Engineering, all of the work is done by students. In fact, Peacock

emphasized that fact when he said, "if we weren't here, we wouldn't be going to competition." The upperclassmen are the ones leading the team, and they need new members in order to keep the team. There is an opportunity

for freshmen to get involved and make a real impact on the construction of the model car this year.

For more information about the club, visit <https://formulahybrid.rpi.edu>.

## INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION  
PROVIDED BY  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
INVESTIGATOR  
TERRANCE BURNS

**Saturday, July 4**

### Stacwyck

Fire alarm: A fire alarm was activated by the first floor of the Williams building in Stacwyck. The source was believed to be cooking smoke. Rensselaer County was notified, and a fire report was completed.

**Thursday, July 16**

### Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies

Illness: An individual reported having chest pains and requested emergency medical services. Troy Fire Department evaluated the person on site and then transported the patient to Samaritan Hospital.

**Tuesday, July 21**

### Folsom Library

Injury: An employee was walking on the side of the library and fell. The employee went to Samaritan Hospital, and was later transferred to St. Peter's Hospital. The employee stated in a report to the Department of Public Safety that wrist injuries were sustained.

**Monday, August 17**

### Off-Campus

Larceny: Troy Police Department responded to an off-campus house with regards to the theft of copper roofing and assorted building materials. TPD completed a theft report, and a DPS officer completed an informational theft report.

### Rensselaer Union

Fire Alarm: DPS and TFD were dispatched to a fire alarm activation caused by bookstore renovations. The alarm was reset by TFD.

**Monday, August 31**

### Barton Hall

Fire alarm: Barton Hall experienced a fire alarm activation. TFD responded, but was not able to determine the cause of the alarm. The panel was reset, but continued beeping and showing a trouble condition. Fire Life Safety was notified.

*The Polytechnic welcomes the  
Class of 2019 to RPI!*

# Editorial

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Staff Editorials are the weekly opinion of the editorial staff. For this Poly Press Pass issue, we decided to let the Press Pass members put their thoughts together into a special piece on Student Orientation and Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond.

## The Freshman Start

Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond was quite the experience for the incoming freshmen class this year. We found parts of the experience enjoyable, and other parts that could use some work. Many enjoyed the opportunity to get out and experience the Rensselaer campus without the pressure that classes bring. Many student clubs and sports teams had programs throughout the week and many of them were really accepting of the new freshmen. Many club events assumed the freshmen had the maturity and the drive to participate just like the upperclassmen. It was truly nice to see such a welcoming campus environment.

NRB was also a great time to meet fellow freshmen and make some friends before the stress of classes begins. Many people throughout the residence halls had their doors open whenever they were home. Everyone was open to making friends, which is important considering that most of the freshmen left home behind in order to join RPI. The resident assistants and other Residence Life staff really tried to make the dorms be the most welcoming environment possible. Members of Greek Life were helpful moving everybody's stuff into the residence halls, and made a great first impression to many of the freshmen. It is always great to see people from many different parts of the country coming together and becoming friends. Also, learning to live with a roommate, or multiple ones, is something that will take a lot of getting used to.

There were also a few suggestions for improvement to the NRB experience from many of the freshmen. There were some miscommunications that were probably the inevitable result of trying to corral 1,400 people into doing something. For instance, at points Commons Dining Hall was slammed to capacity with people. Since the other dining facilities weren't open yet, it made for some very interesting times. However, this week, with the rest of the campus dining facilities in operation, it should be more of a controlled crowd. Additionally, many people thought the number of floor meetings was excessive and that we did not need to be herded everywhere we went. By the end of NRB, the RAs were getting tired of parading us around like children when we were more than capable of going places by ourselves. There is a fine line between giving us enough support to avoid failure in our first week and letting us being adults finding our own way around RPI. For the most part, NRB was able to meet those two goals and at the worst we can all agree that it was the most fun that we'll never get to have to again.

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

# Let's get technically savvy

## Editor suggests to get with the program

FIRST NOTEBOOK OF THE YEAR: time to bring out the "List of Things That Bother Me More Than They Should." For this notebook, I'm going to ramble about people who are, willfully or not, technologically illiterate in the modern world.

It's not fair. Twenty years ago, no problem. Ten years ago, you're probably still okay. But people, it's 2015. It's time to learn how to do some basic stuff on the computer. I'm not talking running a server, or installing Linux, or reading error logs after a crash. I'm talking fundamentals: Computer 101. At this point, I really expect you to know how to find various important folders on your computer, follow the steps in an installation wizard, and understand that, yes, a flash drive will work for both Windows and Mac.

I helped people install some new files for a program as part of my summer job. I would send out a folder with the necessary files

and a text document with instructions called "readme.txt." If you see a file called "readme.txt," please at least open it. I received a call saying that I had "broken" someone's computer after helping them install a few things. I freaked out for a few hours because it could've ended with me in a lot of trouble. But apparently "broken" and "I didn't even try following the instructions you gave me," mean the same thing.

The other annoyance that I'm sure nearly every RPI student has experienced is being the go-to tech support of the family. I honestly don't know much about computers, but I do know how to effectively Google a problem. Control + T, type in the issue; open a bunch of tabs with possible solutions. Scour those tabs for the issue, try the solution, and if that doesn't work, modify search, then rinse and repeat. If I was a doctor, my patients would be horrified to see me plugging

their symptoms into Google and opening multiple tabs of WebMD. "So... runny nose, sore throat, fever. Are those all your symptoms?" "Yeah, I think it's just a cold. All I need is a doctor's note..."

"Well Jimmy, it looks like you have a rare viral infection with no known cure. Don't try to argue with me, nobody lies on the Internet. Try not to infect anyone before or after you die, okay?"

But since most of my "clients" don't know any better, help from cooldude0118999 on some forum that hasn't been active since 2007 might as well be the World Health Organization.

So if you're a technologically illiterate person, make an effort to not be a technologically illiterate person. Watch YouTube videos, Google your problems (technical, not medical), and maybe even learn some super secret shortcuts, like Ctrl + C and Ctrl + V. Unless the apocalypse happens, technology is going to continue to be a part of our world. Learn to be a functional person and save the rest of us the frustration.



**Jack Wellhofer**  
Managing Editor

# Has Google gone too far?

## New logo draws outcry from Google user

I HATE IT. I'M SORRY; BUT I DO. AND IF YOU LIKE it, then I hate you too. See, usually I'm okay with change, I really am. I'm always open to new ideas and trying new things. I love seeing bigger and better things become a reality. But the new Google logo has gone too far.

There is good change and then there is axemurdering a familiar and loved face in the middle of the night. The new Google logo took what was possibly the most recognizable logo of all time and doused it in gasoline, set it on fire, and then crushed the ashes with the bottom of its shoe.

The new Google logo looks childish, written in a font that seems more appropriate for a kindergarten than a multi-billion dollar business' header. The older logo was more sophisticated, while still maintaining a friendly air with multiple colors and a quirky looking lowercase "g" that was probably my favorite of the bunch. It seems as though Google has been moving in the more infantile direction for several months now. The Google internet browser, Google Chrome, had a bubbly, hued logo as well.

To be honest, I'm looking to pin this on the recent restructuring of Google higher-ups. Co-founder Larry Page has instated Sundar Pichai as the CEO of the tech giant and moved himself to CEO of Alphabet, a Google-owned holding company. Pichai seems to have taken it upon himself to change the face of the company. In Page's announcement he wrote, "In the technology industry

[...] you need to be a bit uncomfortable to stay relevant." Well, let me tell you Mr. Page, I am thoroughly uncomfortable.

Now I completely understand that businesses need to evolve and grow; they need to change and develop as they take on new problems and expand their brand. And let's be honest, Google is one of the big brands on the planet, if not the biggest. When you want to search for something online, you don't say "go look it up on the Internet;" you say "Google it." The company is the frontrunner in many sectors of the technology field and the default search engine on millions, maybe billions, of computers. There is no reason it should look like someone accidentally hit the wrong font name when they updated the website.

This may seem a complete overreaction on my part. But don't come crying to me in a few months when you become fed-up with the utterly boring logo that will become the staple of your days as you refuse to switch to Bing, since why would anyone torture themselves like that? But in all seriousness, I don't like the new logo and I would prefer just Google Doodles until the end of time rather than this mess. I won't ask for the old logo back as that's pretty ridiculous to ask for, but I would ask for an option to toggle Google logos for those with Google accounts. That way, for others like me who can't really stand the new, not-so-superior logo, we can still keep the old logo on the homepage and actually be happy when we pull up google.com.



**Stephanie Kern-Allely**  
Features Editor

## the polytechnic

Acting Editor in Chief

**Chris Leong**  
poly@rpi.edu

### Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor	<b>Nathan Greene</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Managing Editor	<b>Jack Wellhofer</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	<b>Chris Leong</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	<b>Justin Etzine</b>	poly@rpi.edu
de facto News Editor	<b>Justin Etzine</b>	news@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Business Manager	<b>Geoffrey Rosenthal</b>	business@poly.rpi.edu
Features Editor	<b>Stephanie Kern-Allely</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Sports Editor	<b>Nathan Greene</b>	sports@poly.rpi.edu
Editorial/Opinion Editor	<b>Maria Kozdroj</b>	edop@poly.rpi.edu
Composing Editor	<b>Shane O'Brien</b>	composing@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Copy Editor	<b>Chris Leong</b>	copy@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Photography Editor	<b>Jack Wellhofer</b>	photo@poly.rpi.edu
Assoc Features Editor	<b>Geoffrey Rosenthal</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
Assoc. Composing Editor	<b>Tyler Carney</b>	composing@poly.rpi.edu

### Coordinators

Advertising Director	<b>Olivia Fiscaletti</b>	ads@poly.rpi.edu
Graphics Director	<b>Geoffrey Rosenthal</b>	graphics@poly.rpi.edu
Administrative Director	<b>Olivia Fiscaletti</b>	business@poly.rpi.edu
Features Coordinator	<b>Saishravan Shyamsundar</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Systems Director	<b>Dan Bruce</b>	systems@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Web Director	<b>Dan Bruce</b>	www@poly.rpi.edu
Administrative Coordinator	<b>Evan Barr</b>	business@poly.rpi.edu
Social Media Coordinator	<b>Dan Bruce</b>	social@poly.rpi.edu

**Production Staff:** Thomas Wainwright, Sean Beacham

The Rensselaer Polytechnic is published weekly, except during holiday and examination periods, by the students of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as authorized by the Rensselaer Union. Opinion pieces in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or the Rensselaer Union. All submitted material becomes the property of The Rensselaer Polytechnic. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for reasons of space, clarity, libel, or style and to compose headlines for all articles printed. "Letters to the Editor" must be typed, signed, and less than 500 words in length. "My Views" must be typed, signed, and between 500 and 700 words in length. The telephone number of the author is required for letter verification. All letters are due by 5 pm on the Friday prior to publication, and can be sent in a Word document attachment via email to edop@poly.rpi.edu.

Views expressed in opinion columns provide differing viewpoints to help balance the newspaper and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board. These opinion columns, other than those granted to certain student government organizations, are granted on a semesterly or yearly basis by the Editorial Board. Those interested in starting a column should email edop@poly.rpi.edu for details.

Editorial and Business offices are located in Room 3418 of the Rensselaer Union, Troy, New York, 12180-3590. Subscription and advertising rates can be forwarded upon request. Subscriptions are sent via first class mail. Address correction requested.

**We want you for The Poly. Join today!**

## TOP HAT

# GM gives advice to all

*Flowers encourages active involvement of students*

HELLO READERS OF OUR NEWSPAPER! I am Marcus Flowers, your 150th Grand Marshal, writing to you through our 130-year-old (and counting!) newspaper! For those of you that are new, this is where you'll be able to get updates on what's new on campus, and what's going on in our student government. I highly encourage you to continue reading *The Polytechnic*, and use it as a resource throughout your time here.

This week has been the big start to your time inside the classroom, so while I risk being redundant, I'll give you a few of my favorite tips for academic success. First, do not be afraid to ask for help! This is a community where we work together to better ourselves, so it's normal to go to tutoring services (offered by the Advising & Learning Assistance Center), or ask an upperclassman for assistance. Further, talk to your professors, who can help guide you not only through their course, but also your academic and career goals.

Second, use your study partners not only for the classes you share, but also to encourage

one another to stick to doing homework for that extra hour before enjoying our vivid extracurricular life.

Speaking of which, with the beginning of every semester comes the opportunity to explore the Greek organizations on our campus, starting with a Meet the Greeks event happening on September 2. You'll have plenty of further opportunities to interact with the sisters and brothers of the organizations that provide a

huge service to the students on the Rensselaer campus as well as the city of Troy. I welcome any questions and inquiries to what our Greek community can offer you.

Similarly, check out the Student Activities Fair, where every other organization will be putting on their best to convince you why they are a good fit for you. These include our intramural sports teams, club sports, hobby clubs, cultural and professional organizations. Examples of such groups include intramural soccer, Quidditch, *League of Legends*, Black Student Alliance, and many more. Further, be sure to look into

events such as Hockey Line, which is going on right now!

In the coming weeks, look out for information on how to get involved with the Student Senate, the organization which I am responsible for leading throughout the year. With our many committees, we address the issues facing students on campus, including, but not limited to, acquiring the necessary academic resources for students, advocacy for students' rights to express themselves, and determining what the current needs of the student body are.

A great chance to sample what the Senate does is to attend one of our general body meetings, where we give a recount of all of our recent work, and hear out student ideas so that we may empower them to accomplish their goals. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8, in the Shellnut Gallery RU 3602, and I highly recommend you come by. Our meetings are open to all students.

Stay tuned to both the Senate, as well as *The Polytechnic*, to get more information on how you can invest yourself into the Rensselaer campus.



**Marcus Flowers**  
Grand Marshal

## DERBY

# Get involved today

Activities exist for everyone who seeks

'SUP RPI?

First of all, I would like to apologize for my lack of a Derby this summer. I was in an unfortunate accident that left me hospitalized and unable to make the deadline. I'm happy to say that I am back on my feet and running full speed, and don't plan on missing any Derbies anytime soon. The Greeks say "perastika" which means "may you put it behind you," and it's the attitude I have taken toward the situation. If for any reason you had tried to contact me and I was unresponsive, please feel free to reach out to me again.

I hope that you all had excellent summers, and have come back to the new semester with fresh minds. Within this week, you'll start with classes, homework, and all that comes with it. And with that, it is also an incredibly busy time for the Rensselaer Union! Be sure to check out Meet the Greeks in the McNeil Room on Wednesday from 6 pm–9 pm, and the Activities Fair from 6:30 pm–8:30 pm on Thursday in the Armory. Both are excellent ways to learn more about campus and to try something new, no matter what your class year may be! With over 200 clubs attending, and more starting up all the time there is surely something for everyone.

I would like to take a moment to welcome out new Vice President of Student Life, Dr. Frank Ross. I've had the pleasure of meeting Ross quite a few times thus far, and can say with confidence, he is looking forward to working with us to improve the student experience. I would also like to

welcome Ines Roman '16 as the newest addition to the Executive Board. Roman will be serving as the Class of 2016 representative as well as the chair of the Union Programming Board. There are still up to four seats that can be filled on the Executive Board, with one being a Class of 2019 representative, so freshmen should keep their eyes open for the fast approaching elections. I will be sure to send out more information as the time approaches, but in the meantime, get involved! I'm sure you've heard this phrase more times than you can count, but it is



**Nicholas Dvorak**  
President of the Union

advice that can truly change your college career for the better.

E-Board meetings will be every Thursday at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery RU 3602, and are open to everyone. If you're interested in seeing how the E-Board operates, or would like to bring an issue to our attention, feel free to stop by! We're also looking to make the first meeting of every month an E-Board potluck, so if you'd like to come, bring your favorite dish or snack food to share.

For this semester, I plan to have office hours Tuesdays and Fridays from 10-11 am (I'll try to have snacks). I'll also be starting up Pub Chats once again Mondays at 8 pm and Wednesdays at 9 pm. Come celebrate the Clubhouse Pub, turning 25 this year, and have some friendly conversation (21+ only). If for any reason you can't make these hours, or would like to personally speak with me, please email me at pu@rpi.edu and I'll be sure to set something up.

## ALUM101

## Seek teachers that continue to be taught

**Paul Steven Frio**  
*Special to The Poly*

IN 2002, I SIGNED UP TO COMPETE IN AN Ironman Triathlon. I had been participating recreationally in triathlons for a few years and had just completed my first Half Ironman. After watching a friend complete her first Ironman, I figured I should give it a shot. So, in November, I reserved my spot and started planning my year of training. An Ironman is a pretty significant undertaking. The race consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride, and a traditional 26.2 mile marathon, executed in sequence all in one day. I wanted to ensure I was prepared for what would no doubt be the biggest physical challenge of my life.

A key component of my training was working with coaches who could teach me how to train for such an extreme endurance event. I considered several factors when looking for a coach: training expertise, triathlon experience, and—most importantly—philosophy on learning. I wanted coaches who were not only strong teachers, but who also valued continued training and education for themselves—a swim coach who participated in masters swim classes, a cycling coach who rode several times a week with a team, and a running coach who trained with a local club. I wanted coaches or teachers who were students too.

Right now, you're probably thinking to yourself, "What does this have to do with me? I'm never going to participate in a triathlon." While you may not physically participate in a triathlon (though I do encourage you to give it a shot!), there will be many other "triathlons" in your life—your career being one of them. As you undertake those life events, you will need many teachers, mentors, and coaches to help you along the way.

At your first internship or job, or even as an entrepreneur, you will look for mentors. Just as I did with my coaches, you too will choose individuals with experience and expertise. Just as I did, you should consider individuals who continue to work on their own skills through practice—a technology manager who still writes software, or an architect who still builds models. These individuals will come with a unique perspective on your challenge—not just from their professional accomplishments—but from their own experiences as learners.

As you grow in your career, never stop being the student you are today—make time to continue honing the skills you've developed, and keep challenging yourself to learn new ones. Every great mentor began as a student, but the greatest mentors are the ones who remain students throughout their lives.

*Paul Steven Frio '92 is a Vice President and Senior Engineer at Goldman, Sachs & Co., as well as a Vice President of the Rensselaer Alumni Association Board of Trustees. He has worked at Goldman Sachs for over 23 years, playing a number of roles in software development, technology management, and technology risk. He received his BS in Industrial Engineering from Rensselaer. You may reach him via Linked In at: [www.linkedin.com/pub/paul-frio/0/a73/692](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/paul-frio/0/a73/692).*

*Founded in 1869, The RAA is one of the oldest alumni associations in the country, and made of over 100,000 alumni worldwide; represented by an alumni board of trustees who work to empower and engage current and future alumni in meaningful and strategic partnerships with Rensselaer. If you have questions about the Rensselaer Alumni Association and its programs and services, contact the Alumni Office at 276-6205, or [raa@rpi.edu](mailto:raa@rpi.edu).*

*The Polytechnic will be holding elections on Sunday, September 13 at noon in The Poly Office, RU 3418.*

**SUDOKU**

				3			8
3		5		9	7		4
	6			1			
9				7	4	5	
2	5					7	3
	7	3	1				9
			5				8
8		4	9		5		2
5			3				

Previous Issue's Answers

8	6	4	1	3	7	5	2	9
7	5	2	9	8	4	6	3	1
1	3	9	6	5	2	8	4	7
9	8	5	3	4	6	7	1	2
6	7	3	5	2	1	4	9	8
4	2	1	7	9	8	3	6	5
5	4	8	2	1	3	9	7	6
3	1	7	8	6	9	2	5	4
2	9	6	4	7	5	1	8	3

Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 sub-square contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

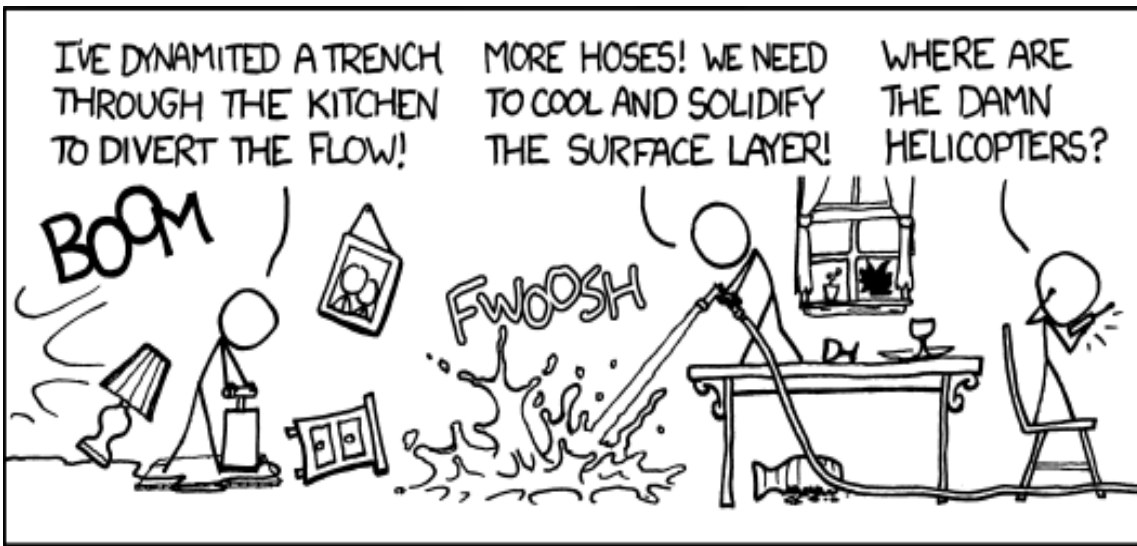
**TOP TEN LIST**

**Top Ten NRB Activities**

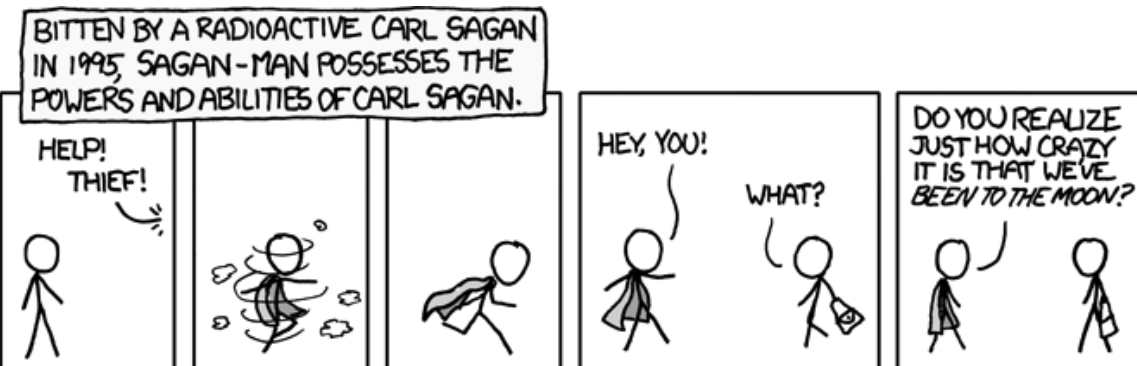
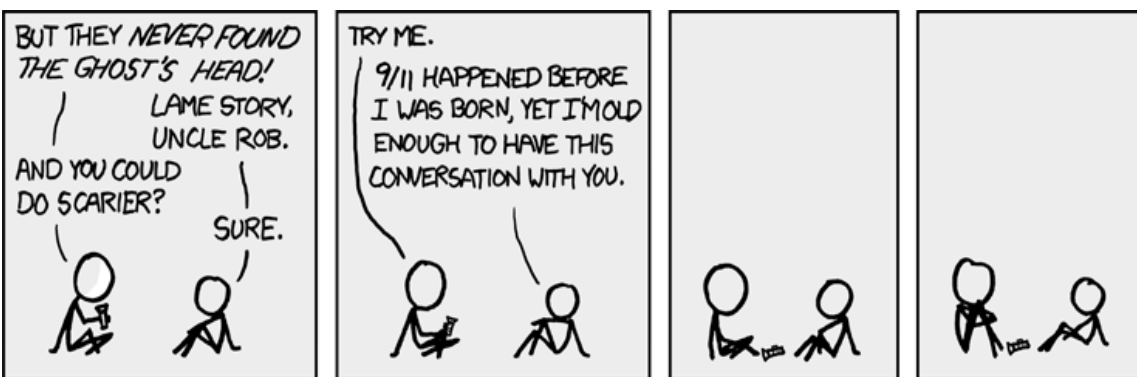
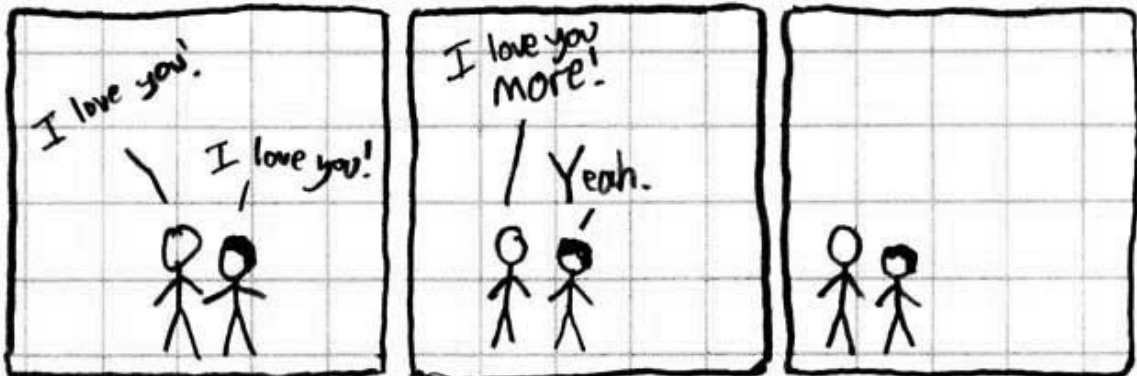
10. Poly Press Pass
9. Walking down up The Approach
8. Laundry
7. Shaking SAJ's hand
6. Floor meetings
5. Skipping Union After Dark
4. Waiting in line at Commons
3. Ice breakers
2. Authentic Happiness
1. Alcohol EDU

**XKCD**

by Randall Munroe



LIKE MANY KIDS, WE SOMETIMES PRETENDED THE FLOOR WAS LAVA.



**WORD FIND**

by Shane O'Brien

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals.

**RPI Campus Buildings**

H	U	Q	O	L	L	V	Q	D	F	V	C	A	P	M
G	D	D	B	U	Q	F	I	N	V	E	O	V	F	G
R	W	U	U	J	G	B	F	I	N	M	T	W	V	Z
U	D	I	K	L	I	A	M	G	Q	B	O	G	R	J
B	Y	A	N	M	X	P	M	A	C	P	J	F	P	M
S	A	T	K	S	P	B	G	O	S	T	D	S	E	I
T	G	J	V	G	L	J	C	A	S	Q	W	L	Q	Y
T	J	H	T	K	Y	O	R	E	X	E	E	X	L	E
I	L	P	D	G	G	N	W	O	K	Y	A	L	X	I
P	Y	G	N	S	Q	S	Y	H	W	F	A	T	C	G
C	Z	R	W	L	M	S	R	U	O	L	C	T	O	E
Z	H	E	Y	H	E	O	Y	M	G	C	I	M	J	N
E	L	E	F	W	D	N	C	C	X	X	P	H	S	R
L	V	N	P	K	W	U	K	R	Z	I	J	F	V	A
Y	N	E	J	Z	G	C	E	Y	J	X	K	D	C	C
S	O	V	O	W	N	G	O	N	W	F	Q	H	C	Y
X	A	W	O	X	A	R	U	C	E	Z	Y	R	Y	T
Q	D	Q	F	S	T	T	E	K	C	I	R	T	H	D
I	I	C	B	C	M	B	Q	X	P	T	M	J	Y	B

AmosEaton  
Carnegie  
CII  
Cogswell  
DCC  
EMPAC

Greene  
Jonsson  
Jrowl  
Lally  
Pittsburgh  
Ricketts

Sage  
Troy  
VCC  
West  
Winslow

**ANSWERS**

Here are the answers to last issue's cryptoquote and mondaypunday.

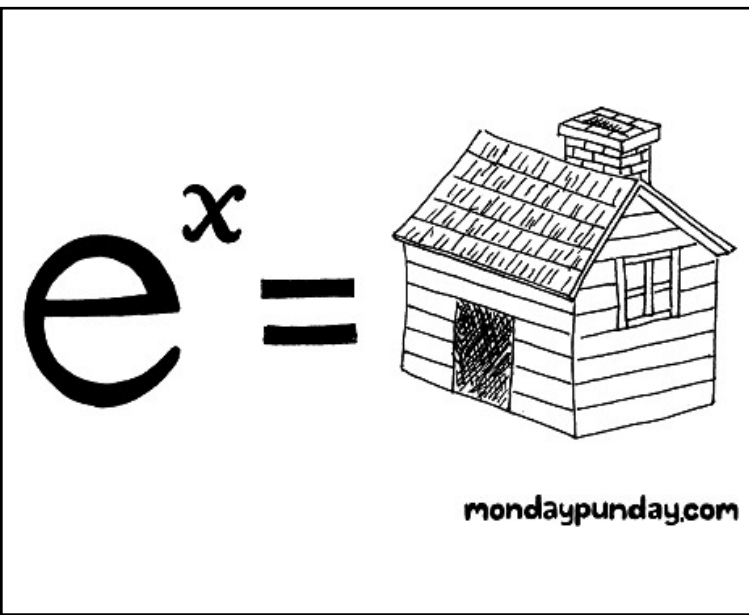
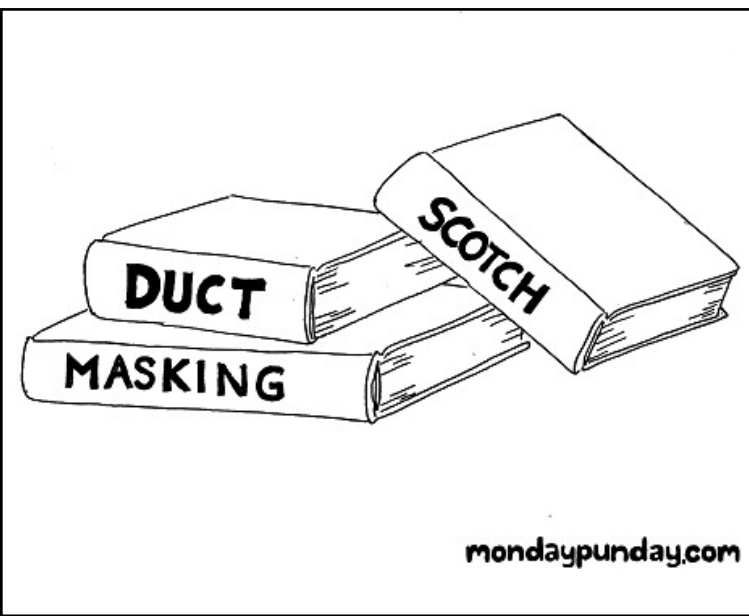
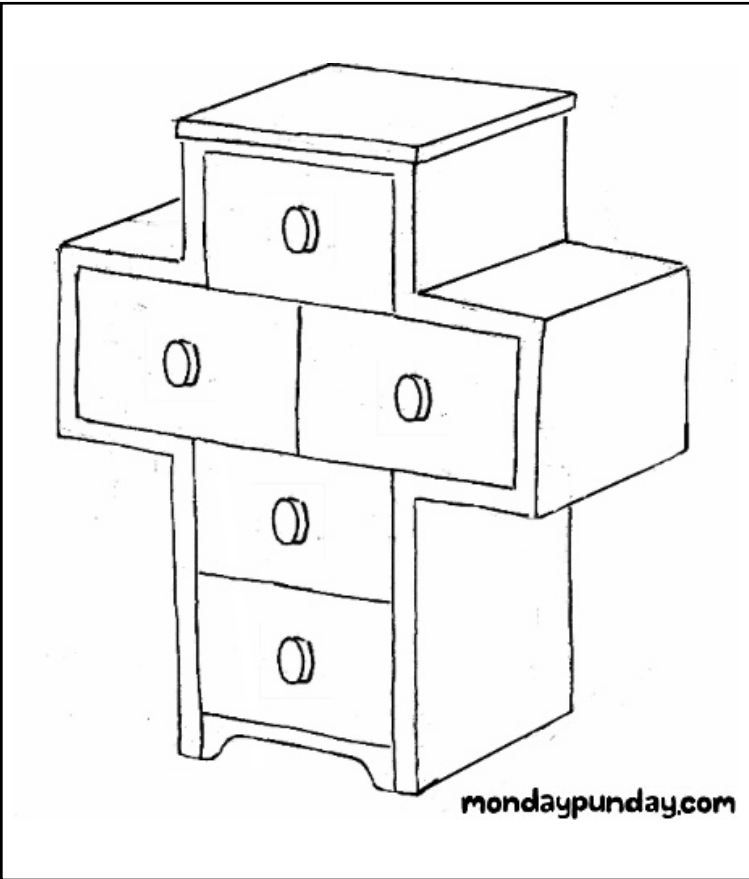
Nothing in Jurassic World is natural, we have always filled gaps in the genome with the DNA of other animals. And if the genetic code was pure, many of them would look quite different. But you didn't ask for reality, you asked for more teeth.  
— Henry Wu  
*Jurassic World*

mondaypunday answer: porcupine

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard

HARK! A VAGRANT

by Kate Beaton



CRYPTOQUOTE

A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated. For example: AMXBMAAYQ = ENGINEERS

“T olva pjnp ajbl pjb  
 vpjw mvfy yntx ‘Vj,’ pjbi  
 abwb lvp jnrri pv ybb qb.  
 Pjb pws pj ty, nqvlk mvvf,  
 T xvl’p utp tl. T utp vsp.”

-Vj

Jvqb

**CANADIAN STEREOTYPE COMICS**

HONEY I'M BACK! FROM CUTTING TREES OR LIKE WHATEVER  
 DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?

AMERICANS!  
 THE MILD OBSERVER  
 AMERICANS BEING JERKS AGAIN

THEY MADE FUN OF US! AND IT'S STANLEY CUP SEASON!  
 THE PERFECT STORM

AND SO IN AMERICA  
 MR. PRESIDENT! WE TOOK IT TOO FAR

THE CANADIANS HEARD US MAKING FUN OF THEM, AND GOT ALL FUCKED UP ON HOCKEY  
 NOW THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY! WE SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED THEM BORING  
 WELL THEY ARE!

DON'T WORRY. I KNOW THEIR WEAKNESSES. THEY CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES.

WHY HELLO! IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU ALL!  
 IT'S... SO NICE TO BE HERE  
 ...THANK YOU

**BIRTHDAY**

SON, NOW THAT YOU'RE 16, YOUR MOTHER AND I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME  
 MY OWN CANOE!  
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY SON

HEY STACEY YEAH WHAT'S UP GIRL

**SOH - RY**

YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH MY WIFE!  
 I'M SORRY  
 I'M SORRY  
 I'M SORRY

NO I'M SORRY  
 I'M SORRY  
 I'M SORRY  
 SORRY  
 SORRY

**FINALLY THE RIGHT LEADER**

DON'T TELL ME WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT, I KNOW WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT  
 GET BRYAN ADAMS ON THE PHONE  
 YES MISTER PRIME MINISTER

SNIFF

# Sports

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

## PRESS PASS

# Head hockey coach addresses new players



Joseph Shen/The Polytechnic

RPI'S ICE HOCKEY HISTORY STARTED in 1901 as an independent Division I team in the NCAA, then joined the Tristate League in 1950, and eventually ECAC in 1961.

**Sagar Shankar**  
Staff Reporter

GET READY FOR OCTOBER 3: HOCKEY SEASON IS around the corner. The Engineers will first face off against St. Thomas University as they start their quest to win the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship. Men's hockey head coach Seth Appert talked about the upcoming season and the current state of the team.

As of right now, the hockey team has a completely new look. During the offseason, the Engineers recently lost their two best offensive players to the National Hockey League. The Engineers were also bogged down by several injuries to players last season. "We had a disappointing year last year. The guys have worked really hard last summer."

The roster for the 2015-2016 season features many new players, including eight freshmen. Five are forwards, two are defense men, and one is a goaltender.

For Appert, the most important skill for a hockey player is the ability to compete at a high level. Another key skill is to maintain and to take back the puck from an opponent. About fifty percent of practice is devoted to the players practicing skill development, while the remaining amount of the time is put into game tactics.

With so many freshmen on this year's team, Appert has made it clear that the freshmen players need to build a trust with all their teammates. The freshmen have a close relationship

to Appert since the coaching staff recruited them. Building connections with the teammates will develop better chemistry among all the players, taking the team to extraordinary heights. According to Appert, the best way for players to build trust is to show up ready on time for everything that has to be done.

Senior Jason Kasdorf is the best player and an unquestionable leader of the hockey team. Appert explained how he has a great work ethic and is a mature young man. Kasdorf also became a potential draft pick for the NHL, but decided to stay back with the team.

Just as the hockey team has its own objectives, Appert has goals for the team too. Everyone needs to play with fervor and competitiveness. Most importantly, all the players should take great pride in playing for RPI.

Without the fans that pack the Houston Field House, the team would not be the same. The energetic fans provide the players with the energy and enthusiasm to put forth their best effort in the game.

Throughout the season, a team will win and lose a bunch of games. For Appert, the most important thing for the players is to learn how to respond for the next game coming off a win or a loss. If the team comes off a win, the players need to maintain their skills. If the team suffers a loss, it is essential that no one lose their fighting spirit. The worst thing that could happen is for a hockey player to become overconfident after a win or lose focus after a loss. During the hockey

season, there is a structured practice schedule. On Monday, the players practice skills. On Tuesday, more physical gameplay occurs. Finally, on Wednesday and Thursday, everyone is involved in game strategies.

Appert is excited for the upcoming season. The team has great speed, goaltending, and a stellar transition game from the defense; the problem is the offense. The lead goal scorer is currently undetermined.

Another huge aspect for the team is mental preparation this year. The team has a sports psychologist that helps players become mentally stable. However, Appert believes that preparation is the key to being mentally healthy. When players eat the right foods, get the right amount of sleep, and practice hockey skills, then they have the confidence to go out and compete at a high level every game.

Hockey is one of many sports that involves a lot of contact and physical gameplay. Physical play and contact may lead to intense fights. Whenever Appert deals with a player who is involved in a quarrel, he reminds the player to play with emotion, but also to be in control of those emotions. "Play with emotion, but do not be emotional." Getting too emotional may serve as an impediment to the team.

Hockey features role players and superstars. Appert treats all players fairly, not equally. Players who have Appert's respect have more leeway. For Appert, the most important game is the next one. The RPI men's hockey team

is a winning team. Each game must be approached with the same level of urgency, and physical and mental intensity.

When Appert is recruiting for players, he is not only looking for a certain skill set, but is searching for players that can deliver the win when the game is on the line. Appert believes that great athletes put in a lot of work, which allows some to rise above others.

Off the ice, many RPI players are taking on harder majors. Some are part of the School of Engineering, which requires a lot of time commitment. It seems that majoring in engineering and playing for the hockey team is too much, but Appert believes that it is positive for the students and the school. Engineers on the team represent the student body of RPI well. The players can be successful in keeping both academics and hockey as top priorities.

If there are any freshmen who do not know anything about hockey, but would like to learn, buy season tickets. Come to the student night season ticket party on September 9. There are great games early in the season. Some of them are home games against Union College, Boston College, and Michigan State.

The hockey team is headed in the right direction for the 2015-2016 season. It will be interesting to see how they perform this year. Go Engineers!

## PRESS PASS

# Quidditch sweeps freshmen off their feet

**Amy Lam**  
Staff Reporter

DURING NAVIGATING RENSSELAER & BEYOND, A GROUP OF first-year students got to experience what it's like to play a game of Quidditch. The event, Catch the Snitch! An RPI Quidditch Experience, was put on by RPI's own Quidditch Club. The club was formed by people who were interested in playing Quidditch. Since then, the club has evolved into a highly competitive team.

The team practices five times a week, conditioning, running, and stretching, regardless of the weather. As competitive as the team is, it is very open to newcomers. Senior Patrick Martin, president of the Quidditch Club, said there are pickup Quidditch games behind Commons Dining Hall at times. The game is fast-paced, fun, and open to anyone who is curious.

For NRB, the first-year students received first-hand experience on just how fast the game can be. The team explained some important rules set by the International Quidditch Association, and followed up by showing which moves and plays did and

didn't work. Then, there was a short demonstration of the game by the RPI Remembralls. After seeing the team play, the first-years got eager to start playing. Freshman Erik Bergland said, "I'm ridiculously excited." Many of them have never played Quidditch before; they don't know whether they will join after playing Quidditch. Freshman Brandon Weller said he's not good at one particular sport; however, "Quidditch seems to combine techniques. So hopefully [he] could be a good player."

While watching the Quidditch team show how the game is played, some freshmen commented about how high contact the sport is. "I think I'm going to take off my sunglasses," said Weller. Martin stated, "It's a very high and full contact sport." Team members can tackle each other between the neck and the knees. If two Chasers from opposite teams are fighting for the Quaffle, the ball that is thrown through the goal hoops, a Beater from one team will quickly try to throw a Bludger at the other team's chaser, like throwing dodgeballs at the opposite team to get them out.

After understanding more about Quidditch from the RPI Remembralls' short demonstration, the freshmen

split into groups to practice for each position: Chasers, Keepers, Beaters, and Seekers. After playing for a bit, Bergland came back to say that Quidditch felt "dare I say magical." Freshman Cammi De La Cruz said that after the game she was a bit tired, but nonetheless had fun. Freshman Joanna Ewen thought the game was fun, but felt weird with a broom between her legs. "You have to keep your legs together," she said.

A majority of freshmen chose Quidditch as their NRB event because of the *Harry Potter* books. They love the series. Martin said that Quidditch was his NRB event too, but not because of *Harry Potter*. In fact, he hasn't read the books yet, even after being part of the team. He became interested after joining one of the pickup Quidditch games. He was the Seeker of his team when the Golden Snitch climbed up a nearby tree. A cool fact about the RPI Remembralls is that they are both a competitive team and a school club. Students can join for competitiveness all-around the world or just join for a day of fun. For more information, visit <http://quidd.union.rpi.edu>.

# Events

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

## Wednesday September 2

**The Materials Science & Engineering Seminar Series presents** guest speaker Dr. Darrell G. Schlom, from Cornell University. His presentation is titled, "Thin-Film Alchemy: Using Strain and Dimensionality to Unleash the Hidden Properties of Oxides." It will be held in the Low Center for Industrial Innovation 3051 from 11 am–noon.

**The Off-Campus Student Fair** will be held at the Rensselaer Union patio from 11 am–1 pm. The fair will be where campus departments and local businesses will be meeting and greeting off-campus students.

**The Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy presents** Dr. Heidi Newberg. Her lecture is titled "How Big is the Milky Way?" It will be held in Darrin Communications Center 337 from 4–5 pm.

**The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center presents** "Programming EMPAC: The First 4,158 Days," presents a vivid mosaic of all the events, projects, and works developed and presented at EMPAC from 2014 back to inception. It will be held from 5:30–6:30 pm, and is free to enter. Arrive before 6 pm and get a free copy of the book.

**StartUp Tech Valley is being held** at Revolution Hall in downtown Troy, and is a monthly meetup for first-time entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, employees of startups, service providers to startups, and anyone else who wants to be involved. It will be held from 5:30–7:30 pm.

**Meet** the Greeks in the McNeil Room from 6–9 pm. Join all of RPI's Greek organizations and see what Greek life at RPI has to offer. Learn about both Panhellenic and Fraternity Recruitment and also register for Panhellenic recruitment.

**EMPAC will show** the first screening of the new series On Screen/Sound which focuses on experiments by US-based artists who pioneered new approaches to the correlation of a film's sound and image tracks. It will be held in the Concert Hall from 7–9 pm, and is free to enter.

## THURSDAY September 3

**Student Activities Workshop for International Students will be held** from 1–2 pm in Union Room 3202. Both incoming and current international students are invited to meet members of the Rensselaer Union Student Activities staff and learn about how to get involved in campus activities and clubs!

**The 125th Annual RPI Activities Fair will be held** from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Armory. This annual event helps to introduce current and new RPI students to the many events and activities available on campus.

**The Office of International Programs will hold** an information session for students who wish to learn more about available international programs and opportunities. Students who want to study abroad in the spring 2016 semester are strongly encouraged to attend. It will be held in Academy Hall 3627 from noon–1 pm.

## FRIDAY September 4

**Union Programs & Activities Committee Cinema presents** *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. When Tony Stark and Bruce Banner try to jump-start a dormant peacekeeping program called Ultron, things go horribly wrong, and it's up to Earth's Mightiest Heroes to stop the villainous Ultron from enacting his terrible plans. Screenings are at 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight in DCC 308. Cost is \$2.50.

**RPI-Sage Hillel would like to welcome** everybody to Shabbat services and dinners that are open to the entire RPI and Russell Sage College student and faculty bodies. Services will start at 5:30 pm and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm in the Union.

## SATURDAY September 5

**RPI's first football game!** RPI vs. Norwich University at the East Campus Athletic Village from noon–3 pm.

**UPAC Cinema presents** *Kingsman: The Secret Service*. A spy organization recruits an unrefined, but promising street kid into the agency's ultra-competitive training program, just as a global threat emerges from a twisted tech genius. Screenings are at 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight in DCC 308. Cost is \$2.50.

## MONDAY September 7

**No classes will be held** due to Labor Day. Enjoy your day off!

## Tuesday September 8

**HockeyLine presents** *The Mighty Ducks* on the north and west sides of the Union from 8:30–10:30 pm. Come hang with #RPIHockeyLine and watch the original Mighty Ducks movie.

**Graduate Admissions invite** students to a graduate school informational session. Register at <https://apply.rpi.edu/register/Sept82015>.

***The Polytechnic* will be holding special elections for the Fall 2015 semester in *The Polytechnic* office on September 13 at 4 pm.**

# Players: Show leaves reviewer ready for more

From **Page 10**

The last act, *Ten Ways to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse*, was quite an appropriate closing act if I do say so myself. As with *The Nine Worst Break-ups Ever*, it was based on a list of amusing scenarios. Both the audience and cast had fun with this act, which didn't take itself seriously at all—it started out with the narrators describing the characters' journey before degrading into tongue-in-cheek banter between the narrators and the characters. I looked up the script, and was delighted to find that the *Players* had suitably adjusted it for a special touch. Somewhere along the line, the male narrator suggested the nonexistence of zombies and several other fantastical ideas, including a 4.0 GPA at Rensselaer. The *Players* sent the audience into the night with one last laugh when the female narrator asked if there's a real way to survive the zombie apocalypse:

**Narrator 1:** There is a way. Love! In the name of love, anything is possible. As long as you believe. *Steps closer to her.* What if I was the last guy on earth?

**Narrator 2:** I hate zombies. *Walks away.*

In the end, it was an amazing program considering that it was prepared in a handful of hours during NRB. The crew even had to deal with technical difficulties, which were handled so well, audience members were likely unaware of them. The *a cappella* acts between sets were a wonderful compliment; having varied performances made it acceptably comfortable to sit in place for an hour.

I certainly can't wait to see what kind of performances the dedicated team of RPI *Players* puts on—going to one of their shows is now on my college bucket list. If anyone plans to go as well, let me know so that I can have friends the next time around! Visit <http://www.players.rpi.edu> for more information.

# Ambulance: NRB teaches life lessons

Event shows off dedication of EMTs

From **Page 10**

after an injury. I probably couldn't take someone's blood pressure quite yet; the EMTs said that takes a lot of practice to get used to.

One of the stations taught how to put a neck brace, called a cervical collar, on an injured person and then put them on a long backboard—used to splint the spine to prevent further damage. After placing the victim on the board, the trainees needed to give the victim further support for his or her neck by placing blocks on either side of the already braced neck, and strapping the victim in place. This way, the neck would not move while the victim was transported around, preventing further injury to the neck or spine.

One of the less exciting, but nonetheless more important stations, was the hands-only CPR station. Students were told some of the facts about CPR and survival rate: a person going into cardiac arrest who isn't given CPR only has a 3–8% chance of survival, but hands-only CPR, from even a bystander, can help to increase those chances to around 30%. Though CPR may be very tiring, it is definitely worth doing if it can increase a person's chance

of living by a significant amount.

RPI Ambulance has been serving this campus for 32 years, and they serve 24 hours a day. They have roughly 40 members, including 20 or so dedicated members. All of them have at least some minor medical training, several are EMTs, and one is training to be a paramedic. Former members have also gone to school to be critical-care technicians, a New York state certification higher than an EMT and similar to a paramedic. Not only are these men and women going to classes every day like the rest of us, but they are ready outside the classroom to respond in case of an emergency.

A Day in the Life of an EMT seemed to be one of the more promising NRB trips this year. They had dedicated EMTs and other personnel helping to teach already knowledgeable students to perhaps become EMTs later in their life. Many participants have already signed up for an upcoming EMT course offered through a Rensselaer County program. More EMTs is never a bad thing; the more people trained in the profession, the more people there are that can save lives in case of an emergency. Witnessing this event gave me a great respect for the students of RPI Ambulance.

Special thanks to the following freshmen that participated in this year's Press Pass: Michael Balasuriyar, Rex Hu, Amy Lam, Chris Lipscomb, David Raab, Sagar Shankar, Haotong Shen, Kay Sun.

## PRESS PASS

# Students spar things up

Chris Lipscomb  
Staff Reporter

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS done Tang Soo Do karate for the past 13 years of his life, I'm not certain what I expected to see when I walked into RPI's martial arts clubs in the Armory. The first thing I saw, and should have expected to see, was the freshmen going through a warmup.

From 9 am until 5 pm, these students were shown demonstrations from each of the martial arts clubs at RPI, including the Taekwondo Club, the Kung Fu Club, and the Kendo Club. These demonstrations were strategically planned at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 3 pm in order to give the new students time to rest, as martial arts can be physically taxing, especially since the event lasted almost eight hours.

The demonstrations also served two other purposes: to showcase each style and to describe how sparring with these different styles works. For example, Liam Wingert '15, president of the Taekwondo Club, explained the rules and point system of Taekwondo fighting. Points are earned for hits to the body and



Cameron Czerpak/The Polytechnic

**THE TAEKWONDO CLUB DEMONSTRATED some of the martial art by sparring at the NRB event.**

head. A clean blow to the body, with your hands or feet, earns you a single point. A combination of techniques or a spinning kick to the body earns you two points. Three points are earned for a standard kick to the head, while a spinning kick to the head earns you four points. The goal is to get more points than your opponent.

There are, however, some things you can't do. You cannot kick below the belt, punch to the face, or leave the designated ring area. Each of these will earn you a reduction in points, generally losing you half of your points. After explaining all of this, Wingert acted as the center

judge for a sparring match between two of the black belts from the club. They did not seem to keep points, or perhaps the judges were keeping them mentally.

The students seemed eager to begin sparring themselves. In fact, the first thing Adrian Collado '19 asked me was when they were going to get the chance to spar themselves, not knowing I wasn't actually there for the event. When I asked him why he chose this event, Collado stated that "martial arts are really good for keeping you in shape and keeping you mentally disciplined." I completely agree with both of those statements, after 13 years of martial

arts myself. Collado mentioned that he had been doing Sho Do Kan for several years, which encouraged him to see the RPI martial arts clubs for himself, and he seems eager to join one of them.

Each martial arts club has a different emphasis, with Taekwondo displaying the sport-like aspect, Kendo displaying the weapons aspect, and Kung Fu displaying the physical fitness and mental training aspect. There's something for anybody who is interested in the martial arts, whether experienced or not. Each of these groups strives to teach the ways of its martial art, and help to keep the students in top physical shape. Martial arts is for almost anybody, whether you want to stay in shape, become mentally disciplined, or just want to learn some way to defend yourself from danger.

If you're looking for something new, try giving either the Taekwondo, Kendo, Kung Fu, or even all of these clubs a try! Visit their respective websites: Taekwondo: <http://tkd.union.rpi.edu>, Kendo: <http://kendon.union.rpi.edu>, and Kung Fu: <http://kungfu.union.rpi.edu>.

## STUDENT LIFE

# Hunting Ground packs EMPAC

Geoff Rosenthal  
Senior Reporter

ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, Residence Life, Greek Life Commons, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Student Health Center, Athletics, and Human Resources sponsored the screening of the new documentary film, *The Hunting Ground*, to a packed audience at the Experimental Media and Performance Arts Center. This movie focuses on the rampant cases of sexual violence on college campuses, and the lack of response or support from colleges due to factors such as student recruitment, alumni funds, and athletic pride. The film also emphasized what the lack of response leads to: repeated rapes and the ability of members of that community to continually get away with it, with examples of fraternity and sports culture allowing this to occur.

The film explores this hopeless pursuit with the story of two victims from the University of North Carolina who began an activist campaign to find and record poorly handled rape cases across college campuses as well as to support the victims. The main method of activism they are pushing is Title IX, a portion of the United States Education Amendments of 1972 which prevents discrimination based on gender in institutions of education, with the penalty of losing federal funding if not followed. Because sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment, and sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination according to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, colleges are to be held accountable for mishandling of sexual violence cases on their campuses.

Overall, I think the film was informative, giving clear and specific examples of cases where colleges

failed to see to the needs of their students and denied them the support, justice, and respect that is necessary for helping a victim of any crime, and especially one of sexual violence.

My only criticism comes from a *Slate* article which refutes the story of one of the victims shown, since there seems to be a lot of inconsistencies in her story, including illicit drug use and other untold factors like a failed DNA test of a condom at the scene. However, this should not detract from the multitude of other stories in the movie.

A panel discussion followed the film. It was led by Vice President of Student Life Dr. Frank Ross, Director of Employee Relations and Diversity Larry Hardy, and other faculty. The discussion panel was meant to clarify and explain anything about sexual violence or reporting it at RPI that students may not understand. One question came from a student inquiring about President Shirley Ann Jackson's absence from this important event. Another student mentioned her previous roommate's experience regarding her rape and the unhelpful support process behind it, leading her to drop out of school.

As a whole, the panel was good at providing information to the large audience in regards to sexual violence, and I would recommend the film to those who want more information on this behavior by colleges across the nation.



Courtesy of *The Hunting Ground* Film

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SHOWED *The Hunting Ground* to educate students about sexual abuse on campus.**

# Features

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

## PRESS PASS

# Show must go on for first time RPI Players

Rex Hu  
Staff Reporter

LAST WEDNESDAY DURING NAVIGATING RENSSELAER & BEYOND, I dropped by the RPI Playhouse to see what the college's only on-campus theater group, the RPI Players, was up to. There were several freshmen on the stage painting, preparing decorations, and making gels. Being the layman that I am, I had to ask them what gels are. It turns out gels are colored sheets of cellophane, cut to size and secured over the stage lights to adjust the lighting for each scene. They were very passionate and knowledgeable in the subject; Samm Katcher '19 read a book about it, and Nick Karalexis '19 had prior experience with some really good designers. In contrast, Jasper Boland '19 said that the NRB event wasn't his first choice—but out of several hundred freshmen, it is to be expected that several will not receive their top choices. Boland said he was enjoying the technical work nonetheless, since he likes making things work.

On Thursday night, I attended the show to witness the product of their hard work. They had three acts lined up for the night: *The Nine Worst Break-ups Ever*; *Man, Woman, Flower*; and *Ten Ways to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse*.

In *The Nine Worst Break-ups Ever*, Katie is devastated that her boyfriend has secretly been dating another girl. He wants to go to prom with that girl instead of her, so she breaks up with him. When she proclaims that this is the worst break-up ever, a woman named Eve, who works for a magical business, pops up to show her the nine worst break-ups ever and prove her wrong.

The play was thoroughly engaging—Eve made a grand entrance from the back of the room, and small details such as Eve and Katie making eye rolls and comments on the break-ups kept the audience's attention moving. The scenarios were balanced between being emotional and relatable



Amy Lam/The Polytechnic

**FRESHMEN AT THE RPI PLAYERS EVENT WORK** with current Players to put on three one-act plays. The freshmen worked on costumes, lights, sound, and acting among other things to prepare for the night of the show.

(I've totally been dumped through courier service). As it turns out, the worst break-up of all time was when Eve was dumped through a musical theater performance with backup singers, so she took up this job to ensure that others don't wallow in misery the way she did. I thought this was a nice touch, because she encourages Katie to talk to a boy named Charlie, who says *his* break-up was the worst. Of course, Eve pops out again, but the viewer is left to decide whether Eve selflessly puts her past behind her and becomes

a matchmaker for individuals like Katie and Charlie, or has become jaded and enjoys daisy chaining love interests.

The second act was *Man, Woman, Flower*. Unfortunately, I couldn't hear the actors well enough to fully understand it. I discerned enough from watching and from snippets of dialogue to know that it was comedy, but it was not enough to perceive any further depth that may have been written into the script. It's a shame, because the show otherwise went on without a hitch.

See PLAYERS, **Page 9**

## PRESS PASS

# Students have a ball at NRB

## Ballroom Club take the floor; teaches freshmen to dance

Kay Sun  
Staff Reporter

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, the Academy Hall basement was full of music and laughter as the Ballroom Club hosted their Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond event. As I stepped in the ballroom classroom, I saw a female dance teacher standing in the middle of the room. It felt like everyone was relaxed, even

though I thought the silence would be awkward.

One member said that he was interested in dance. Although it was his first time dancing, he was willing to break out of his comfort zone and was enjoying his time learning ballroom dancing. He admitted that it could be a bit awkward at first to dance with strangers, and would rather dance with friends. However, as time went by, he found it easier to enjoy dancing and making new friends.

Another student shared her story about ballroom with us. After a stressful first semester at RPI, she joined the Ballroom Club after recommendations from her friends. Much to her surprise, she found dance a fabulous way to relieve stress and gain confidence, especially when she was successful in competition.

Two freshmen danced together for a piece. They explained that their dancing partners rotated so that everyone had a chance to dance with each other. One of the freshmen explained that he had some prior dancing experience, but it could still be quite awkward during the first few seconds. However, once the music started, his nervousness disappeared. While another freshman had her first taste of dance during this event, she talked about how wonderful ballroom was with a shining smile on her face.

The students were somewhat clumsy—sometimes unable to catch up with the pace or failing to remember exactly what to do—but dancing's charm drove them to continue to explore. If you are also seeking a place where you can relax, enjoy music, and make new friends, then I strongly recommend checking out the Ballroom Club where you can appreciate the beauty of dance all across your body. Visit their website at <http://ballroom.union.rpi.edu>.



Kay Sun/The Polytechnic

**PARTICIPANTS AT THE BALLROOM CLUB NRB EVENT DANCE** along with other couples in the basement of Academy Hall.

## PRESS PASS

# RPI Ambulance brings life to NRB

Chris Lipscomb  
Staff Reporter

WALKING INTO NORTH LOT, THE FIRST THING I SAW WERE TWO EMERGENCY medical technicians seeming to put someone on a stretcher and into an ambulance. Not something you would typically want to see on the second day of college, but this wasn't because of an emergency. RPI Ambulance was in the large lot putting on an event for Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond to teach incoming freshmen about the daily life of an EMT and some of the procedures they need to carry out. The agency also put on a mock call for the incoming students, if only to get their hearts pumping a little.

After an introduction by some of the RPIA officers in the Rensselaer Union, a dispatch was sent out: "RPI Ambulance with Troy Fire for a delta determinant motor vehicle accident, car vs. pedestrian, in RPI's North Lot." As the group began walking over to the incident location, RPIA's flycar sped by, lights blazing and siren blaring. This was quickly followed by RPIA's ambulance traveling in the same manner. On scene, two sophomore agency members—whom the NRB participants had not yet met—played driver and victim, with the latter bleeding severely from a detached leg. The ambulance crew wasted no time in stabilizing and transporting from the gruesome scene, despite Troy Fire Department being reported by the dispatcher to be "unavailable." Freshman were finally informed that the accident was a mock call, and actors and assistants came from behind the scenes to begin the interactive portion of the day.

After necessary introductions—the ones from earlier were cut short—freshmen were split into groups for a few fun activities, including a backboard water balloon race and water balloon toss, as well as touring the ambulance and flycar. The students were then split into five groups and rotated around five stations: stretcher training, bleeding and fracture procedures, spinal injury protocol, hands-only CPR, and vital signs. At each of these groups, trained EMTs from RPI Ambulance explained how to perform several different life-saving procedures.

Each of the EMTs was knowledgeable and was clear and concise in his or her explanation. After spending only a few minutes listening in at the different stations, I'm fairly confident I could get someone safely on a stretcher and into an ambulance or properly brace a person's neck

See AMBULANCE, **Page 9**