ADMINISTRATION

Inclement weather leads to communications mistake

SUNNY WINTER WEATHER LED TO COMMUNICATIONS MISTAKE

After committee and constituent reports. Those began with Facilities & Services Committee Chairperson Austin Miller ‘17 who followed up with information on suggestions to replace plastic bags in Sodexo locations with reusable bags. Miller is currently working with Hospitality Services in order to make this a reality as well as work out the logistics of distributing reusable bags to all students on campus at a cost equal to or lower than the current cost of purchasing plastic bags.

Following Miller, Student Life Chairperson Justin Etzine ‘18 continued by stating that the Student Life Committee took a tour of Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center and stated that it’s director seemed very excited about working with students and brainstorming potential projects of interest to the student body. The committee also made progress on counseling center surveys and communicating with Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds regarding inclement weather policy. Etzine also met with administrators regarding putting study space areas in the great hall of the DCC, as well as areas across different campus buildings. The committee is also currently working to restore multi-door access with Public Safety in which students will be able to yet again access residence halls through side entrances.

Following Etzine, Web Technologies Chairperson Sidney Kochman ‘19 delivered his report. Kochman is currently updating student senate profiles and pictures in order to reflect the current Senate roster. After committee and constituent reports, the UAR Committee held a presentation regarding the Union Activity Fee. The Executive Board requested that the Senate consider increasing activity fees from $350.50 to $373.50 for undergraduates and $317 to $324 for graduates. Senate & Executive Board liaison Thomas Alapatt ‘17 explained that the increase is to cover changes to federal labor regulations through the Fair Labor Standards Act, an increase of student salaries under federal labor regulations through the Fair Labor Standards Act, an increase of student salaries from $9.70 to $10.40, and UPAC technician rates being raised from $10.00 to $10.50.

The presentation also noted that class and athletics fees will remain the same for the 2017-2018 school year for both undergraduates and graduates, and that the Union activity fee increased at one of the lowest rates in the past few years. Following the presentation and discussion, the Senate voted 21-0 to approve the changes to the Union Activity Fee. The Senate then voted 21-0 to amend an error in the document to change “total fees” to “Union activity fee,” which then passed 21-0.

The Polytechnic

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

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Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

StudEngel responds to weather petition

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, AS HEAVY SNOW FELL across most of the Northeast, notifications in the form of email, robocall, and text message went out to the Rensselaer community instating the Liberal Leave policy, allowing all non-essential staff to stay an additional two hours to arrive at work to account for conditions on the following Monday.

Later that evening, a second email was sent to the Rensselaer community, stating that both the Troy and Hartford campuses would be open for business. Toward the end, the email stated that 8 am and 10 am classes would be canceled for the Troy campus, and later classes would remain on schedule. This has been typical opening procedure for Rensselaer in regards to snow days. On February 9, Rensselaer first instated Liberal Leave, then, as conditions remained hazardous, they canceled morning classes, and students were woken up by frantic phone calls from campus.

Instead, as Ranger Beguelin ‘18 put it, “I off, made plans around the canceled classes. Students, assuming that they had the morning time off, made plans around the canceled classes. Instead, as Ranger Beguelin ‘18 put it, “I was woken up by frantic phone calls from my classmates... our 10 am exam had been reinstated sometime in the early morning.”

At 10 am on Monday, another email went out to the Rensselaer community explaining the situation. The email stated that, “In cases of emergency and inclement weather, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute uses multiple communications methods to reach the entire Rensselaer community as quickly as possible under changing circumstances. During this inclement weather event, one communication did include an error, and we apologize for any confusion this may have created.”

Part of this frustration culminated in a petition that appeared on the RPI Petitions website. Formal Snow Day Policy reached the required 250 signatures in just a few short hours after posting, thanks to mass sharing on social media. The purpose of the petition was simple: “Once classes are cancelled, do not un-cancel them.”

As of Tuesday, February 14, Formal Snow Day Policy has more signatures than Preserve the Student Union, the petition that sparked the Spring Town Meeting protests surrounding the proposed hiring of an executive director of student activities.

In an interview with Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds, The Poly gained insight into how decisions regarding inclement weather are made. Rounds said that they were worried about the snow continuing through the night, and were planning to wait until 5 am to make a decision.

When making a decision about inclement weather, one communication
Over the past several years, Rensselaer County, in conjunction with RPI's campus, has seen an unprecedented decline in crime according to new data obtained by The Poly.

According to crime logs obtained from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the County’s crime index rate (per 100,000 residents) has fallen 16 percent from 3029 in 2008 to 2629 in 2015.

As of 2015, the crime index rate of Rensselaer County at 2629 is comparatively lower than the same figure for New York State at 2872 and Albany at 2711.

RPI's Troy campus also saw a considerable drop in crime, with off-campus burglaries falling by 50 from 2013 at eight offenses to only four offenses in 2015. In addition, there were zero reported accounts of on-campus motor vehicle theft, robbery, liquor-law arrests, or aggravated assault in 2015.

The amount of liquor law referrals, however, has increased substantially since 2013 from 50 to 188 in 2015, an increase of 276 percent. During this same period, drug law referrals also increased from 10 to 23 by 130 percent— signaling an increased level of enforcement by the Department of Public Safety. Safety Director of Public Safety Jerry Matthews responded to this data by saying, "on my watch, I make it a point that when we have those things we report them [drug or alcohol related offenses]." In response to the uptick in offenses compared to prior years, Matthews also commented "I don't know how much they were reported before I got here and I pay particular attention to it. I can't say for sure. When we see it, we don't overlook it."

During the Fall Town Meeting, in response to a question, President Shirley Ann Jackson cited "hiring more local contractors, more safety enhancements, and students out in the city," as reasons for declining crime figures in the City of Troy. Jackson also attributed increased enrollment as a source of economic development.

Regardless of recent changes, however, in an interview with The Poly Matthews suggested that students should still exercise regular safety precautions before traveling in Troy, saying that "There's a very simplistic way on how not to become a victim, and it's called a crime triangle. It's called the target (victim) and the desire (the offender) and you have the opportunity to commit the crime, you can eliminate any side of the triangle there is no crime."

Matthews also noted that "the most common crime is theft of unattended property," specifically technology such as cellular devices, gaming consoles, and laptops. "See the laptop as money on the table. It’s that easy to pick up." Matthews also suggested that students lock their doors, even when they are at home, because "students frequently ask where are the crime infested areas of Troy? It's about being aware of your surroundings and trusting your instincts. Travel with a group of people, practicing good safety sense."

In terms of advancing public safety to respond to new threats, Matthews stated that he wants to step up patrols in busy areas and is continually pursuing new partnerships with peer institutions, local law enforcements, as well as state and federal officials.

Public Safety also currently offers the ability for students, at no cost, to have a personal security plan made. There is also a mobile phone application called RPI Guardian designed to ensure the safety of student when walking late at night. Matthews stressed the need to "see [crime] before it’s coming," and the need for feedback from students and faculty. "That’s what helps me more than anything else and I try to get it from every direction I can." Matthews recently met with Grand Marshal Paul Ilirri '17 and Facilities and Services Chairperson Austin Miller '17 in order to discuss the potential for public forums in which students can meet with Public Safety and express their concerns as well as suggest new ideas on how to keep the campus community safe.

Snow: Class cancellation protocol discussed

From Page 2

weather, sources such as the National Weather Service, the Weather Channel, and AccuWeather are used to gauge the situation as it unfolds.

Rounds explained that he speaks with the Department of Public Safety regarding the conditions on campus and in its immediate proximity for safety. Environmental & Site Services is consulted about the snow removal process, which is their jurisdiction. Parking and Transportation is contacted to determine shuttle practicality and the status of campus parking lots.

Rounds also said that the academic schedule is taken into consideration. A day like Monday, which he called an "academically heavy day," is a factor considered.

During the call, Rounds maintained the position that there was "no decision to cancel," and that it "would not be appropriate to allow the mistake." He also said that the provost has asked the faculty to work with students who have missed important parts of class, and that students can go to the provost for assistance if needed.

In response to Formal Snow Day Policy, the Student Senate convened at their regular meeting time on Monday night to discuss the petition. The Senate’s discussion of Formal Snow Day Policy can be found at https://poly.rpi.edu/sodydp, and the full text of the Senate’s motion can be found at https://poly.rpi.edu/s44a9. Notably, the motion advocates for timely class cancellations, a policy against inclement weather decision reversal within 24 hours, intentional or not, and urges professors to show leniency to students who missed classes on Monday.

NEW LEADER INITIATIVE

PRESENTED BY:

LEAP: LEADERSHIP EDUCATORS

ADVISING PEERS

Associated with the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development

A series of officer development workshops sponsored by the Rensselaer Union Executive Board’s Student Officer Summit program. All workshops held in the Union

Plaza will be served at each

Registration required. Go to: https://goo.gl/forms/TqJvusscEbGbGwwNh1

Or scan:

WWW.UNION.RPI.EDU

2/18 4-5:30 pm RU 3202 "Succession Made Simple" Help working on your organization’s leadership transition processes. Make transitions as smooth and painless as possible!

By: Brian Casiel & Andrew Rainville

2/21 4-5:30 pm RU 3510 "Targeting Trust" Assess the importance of trust in collaborative settings and how to optimize your own capacity to trust others.

By: Olivia Dernkowicz

2/28 4-5:30 pm RU 3510 "Change, Communication and Confidence" Experience how different kinds of communication can change how people perceive you and your ideas.

By: Denner Overend

3/7 4-5:30 pm RU 3510 "The Communication Tree" Explore how constructive communication influences the dynamics of the leadership tree seen with in groups of all shapes and sizes.

By: Justin Balvanz

3/28 4-5:30 pm RU "Leading from Within" Learn to be an impactful leader within your organization, no title needed.

By: Rachael Putnick

4/11 4-5:30 pm Shelnutt Gallery "Managing Meeting Missteps: The Sequel" Pinpoint factors that reduce meeting efficiency and discover ways to resolve these issues, motivate members, and promote productivity.

By: Joseph Venuto and Raska Eshkivala

activities@rpi.edu

take down: 4/12/17
### Events

**WEDNESDAY**  
**February 15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>Mueller Center; 11:30 am–5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi Omega and Habitat for Humanity are recruiting donors. If you weigh at least 110 pounds and have a donor card, or driver’s license, or two other forms of ID, you can donate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physics Colloquium</strong></td>
<td>DCC 337; 4–5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy hosts Sandra Schujman. The lecture is titled “Metrology for (Thin Film) Photovoltaics.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty Spotlight</strong></td>
<td>Cary Hall Classroom; 5–6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tamar Gordon, professor of communications, will be talking in a relaxed environment. Free pizza will be served.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SME Technical Seminar</strong></td>
<td>JEC 3117; 6–7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Society of Mechanical Engineers hosts a technical seminar on the Third Wave. It is a FEA package designed for material removal processes. A representative from the company will be available to demonstrate the software.</td>
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**THURSDAY**  
**February 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences</strong></td>
<td>J-Rawl 3W13; 2–3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Johannesson from Tulane University will present a lecture titled “—ate vs. —ite: How chemical speciation controls trace element cycling in the environment.”</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Science Colloquium</strong></td>
<td>CBIS Bruggeman Room; 4–5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The speaker is Dr. Jianxi Gao from Northeastern University, and the title of his talk is “Structures and Dynamics of Complex Systems—Network Resilience, Robustness, and Control.”</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>There’s Something About Mary</strong></td>
<td>DCC 308; 6:30–11:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>There will be a Q&amp;A session with the film’s director, Bobby Farrelly ‘81. There is no charge to attend, but you should obtain a ticket from the Union Administration Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Wave Field Synthesis</strong></td>
<td>EMPAC Studio 2; 7–9 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The system produces a virtual audio environment by localizing the source of individual sounds in space with an extreme level of precision.</td>
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**FRIDAY**  
**February 17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RPI Spirit Day</strong></td>
<td>Everywhere; All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share your pride by wearing your RPI gear to work, class, or wherever you may find yourself on Spirit Day, then share it with the world by posting to social media with #RPISpiritDay.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lally Center Seminar Series</strong></td>
<td>Rensselaer Union; 7–11 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketa Wolfe, Ph.D., Department of Economics, Skidmore College, presents a seminar titled “Volatility Forecasting: The Role of Internet Search Activity and Implied Volatility.” This study examines the role of Internet search activity in the context of volatility forecasting in these markets.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SME Technical Seminar</strong></td>
<td>JEC 3117; 6–7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Tamar Gordon, professor of communications, will be talking in a relaxed environment. Free pizza will be served.</strong></td>
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**SATURDAY**  
**February 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exploring Engineering Day</strong></td>
<td>DCC; All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in grades 3 to 6 from the Capital Region who enjoy solving puzzles will participate in hands-on activities that introduce them to engineering and computer science and will take away additional STEM activities to do at home. All sessions are led by Rensselaer students in Engineering and Computer Science. Parents accompany their children to two of four hands-on activities and will hear RPI faculty speak about exciting global challenges they and their students are addressing through research.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A Place for All People</strong></td>
<td>McNeel Room; 10:30 am–12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Shirley Jackson, Vice Chair of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, will share her reflections on the establishment of the museum. The program will include student readings and reflections inspired by the poster exhibit “A Place for All People,” and a musical performance by Dr. Ade Knowles and “Roots of Africa.” A reception inspired by the museum’s “Sweet Home Café” and meet and greet with Dr. Jackson will follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Big Red Freakout</strong></td>
<td>Heffner Alumni House; 5 pm–midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join other RPI men’s hockey fans for a traditional buffet dinner and pep rally at the Heffner Alumni House. After the pre-game dinner, take a convenient shuttle to the Houston Field House for the RPI vs. Quinnipiac University game. Return to the Heffner Alumni House post-game for a reception with the team and coaching staff.</td>
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**WEDNESDAY**  
**February 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemical and Biological Engineering Seminar</strong></td>
<td>Ricketts 211; 9:15–10:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samanvaya Srivastava will present “Complexation Driven Self-Assembly of Block Copolyelectrolytes.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Materials Science and Engineering Seminar</strong></td>
<td>LOW 3051; 11 am–noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naresh N. Thadhani will present a talk titled “Probing the Shock Initiation of Ni+ Al Intermetallic Reactions Using Meso-Scale Computational Simulations and Time-Resolved Experiments Employing Stress Gauges and Quantum Dot.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lally Center Seminar Series</strong></td>
<td>Pittsburgh 4206; 9–10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Yang presents a seminar titled “Interest Rate Swap Market Complexity and Its Volatility Implication.”</td>
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Editorial Board

As I CONTINUE TO TRUDGE THROUGH THE MID-SEMESTER full of RPI, right before exams start, on the brink of stressed heart and panic attacks, I’ve come to the conclusion that my experience at RPI is really starting to feel like the phrase “fake it ‘til you make it”.

In high school, there used to be a tangible eff- ort I could feel myself putting into essays and calculus homework. I would get an assignment, think about it, go to my teachers for help, write the paper over, proof read, look over them, watch videos if I didn’t understand the material, go to my teachers for help or critiques again, and so on. I could feel myself learning, and applying my knowledge to assignments. Even though I took 5-6 classes per semester, there always seemed to be ample time to put full effort into everything.

Obviously, that’s just not the case at a school like RPI. You can’t put 100 percent effort into all of your classes sometimes; there are simply not enough hours in the day. Even though I still go to office hours, edit my work, and learn/study on my own, there’s always too much stuff going on in my studies to actually sit and feel like I learned something. Even if I go to office hours and finally understand a concept, or finally find a huge bug in my studies to actually sit and feel like I learned something, I go on to the next thing on my list, and keep going and going until the weekend when I at least get a small break. However, on that small break, my list just shifts from school work to home and social work. Clearly, being social is more fun than doing homework, but there’s still not a moment to sit and relax.

This is why I constantly feel like I’m faking it until I make it. I study, and study, and do homework, and study more, and I take a test and, hopefully, the grade turns out okay and then I move on to the next topic or the next class. How I got from the first study session to, hopefully, doing well on an exam is pretty blurry, and that’s why it feels fake. It doesn’t seem like I’m actually absorbing anything, but rather just taking in knowledge temporarily, spititng it out onto a test paper or essay, and then slowly drifting out of my brain.

This definitely is not a good thing, and of course I do retain some knowledge. But as that knowledge gets pushed fur- ther back into my brain to make room for new topics, I feel like I’m faking it ‘til I make it when I complete a course and wonder how I did all that and how I passed all those exams. I wish I could end this with some hopeful con- clusion and practical advice, like take an hour out of your day after every class day and go over your notes, but honestly, who has the time? All the scheduling in the world can’t create more hours in the day. If anyone has figured out how to feel like they actually know things, please enlighten me with your wisdom.

Learning in college ends up different from high school

Frequent transitions from topic to topic discourses retention of material, diminishes feeling of achievement

As VALENTINE’S DAY APPROACHES each year, I always witness two prevailing attitudes: one of full- ness and one of emptiness. For those who feel as though empti- ness has taken their heart hostage this year, know that there is one source of love that has existed since you entered this world that will exist indefinitely. This love is the love that comes from family, and it promises to fill what may at times feel like an incur- ably deep void inside. Whether or not you have a loved one to shower with gifts and affection this year, there are people in your life who wish to do those things for you, and those people come from your family.

The thought of the nearing Valentine’s Day, although it has now passed, tends to instigate a quest for love among the weary hearted, leaving them unfulfilled until they achieve their roman- tic vision. However, as fate would have it, many of these quests fail. As much as we tell ourselves to believe that every love story has a fairy tale ending, that simply isn’t the case, and the outcome is anything but happy. Suddenly, a day that was once about love becomes a day of loss and sadness. Yet even through heartache, pain, and the threat of failure shines a light of hope that reminds us all is not lost. I vouch to claim that a family’s love endures through everything. Even when it seems like there is no chance of finding compan- ship, family love conquers all doubts. It distinguishes itself in the form of phone calls, greeting cards, occasional care packages, and the like. These are important reminders that you are not alone. If you haven’t already done so, take a moment to remind your family that you love them. Drop them a line. Surprise them with a belated Valentine’s Day gift; food and other mar- chandise is likely to be discounted now. Show them that you care, just as they have cared, and will continue to care for you.

PLP Application for 2017-18 is open to all undergraduate sophomore or first-semester junior students. Please submit the following materials in person at the Archer Center located in Academy Hall or scan and email to archercenter@rpi.edu by March 10, 2017:

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Completed facility/professional reference form
- List of campus involvement activities

For more information, contact Christine Allard at bonde@rpi.edu

PLP Info Night: February 22nd 5:30-6:30 RU 3202

As VALENTINE’S DAY APPROACHES each year, I always witness two prevailing attitudes: one of full- ness and one of emptiness. For those who feel as though empti- ness has taken their heart hostage this year, know that there is one source of love that has existed since you entered this world that will exist indefinitely. This love is the love that comes from family, and it promises to fill what may at times feel like an incur- ably deep void inside. Whether or not you have a loved one to shower with gifts and affection this year, there are people in your life who wish to do those things for you, and those people come from your family.

The thought of the nearing Valentine’s Day, although it has now passed, tends to instigate a quest for love among the weary

Familial love is a permanent, enduring love

Valentine’s Day may not always have a fairy tale ending, but love is about more than romance
DERBY
Union facilities reorganized, student Activity Fee approved

Yearty Executive Board agenda transition proves difficult

Hello again RPI! It's good to be writing to all of you this week, especially since this past Monday the Senate approved the Activity Fee recommendation for next fiscal year (that would be the year starting next fall). We're all off of our shoulders. Now that the Executive Board has finished budgeting and the Student Senate has approved the recommendation, next year's Activity Fee goes to the Institute for final approval. Since working with club offi- cers, staff members, and students to make the budget every year is one of the main functions of the Executive Board, the only thing we have left this year is the end of the school year. We are going to spend our last two months finishing projects we began this year and leaving our plan for what's next to our successors.

The pace of committee work looking into renova-
tions, refurbishments, alterations, and additions to the Rensselaer Union's facilities. Each of these projects is coming to a wonderful close, but what we learned in the process is that there is far more work to be done to keep what we have running and to expand for an increasing student population. The focus of all of these projects was to improve the spaces students use, and to foster inclusive communi-
ties in the Union. By improving performance space in Mother’s Wine Emporium and expanding the kitchen area to be used as a true dining space, we can grant students an opportunity that they have found difficult to make for themselves. By reorganizing our Student Government Suite and replacing the entire meeting space in one fell swoop. By shuffling cur-
rent club offices, we can help a group of people who have been over-
onlooked on our campus. Our team has worked very hard to review what we have, what we need to have, and how to reach our goal when it comes to better Union facilities.

Our investigative work this year will be the base of much more work to come and will help us drag our Union 20 years out of the past. One of the trickiest things in the Union and in Student Government at RPI is planning. I don't mean planning for our event next month, or planning the timeline for the budgeting process; I mean planning for the future, planning for what we want students to have that we couldn't have ourselves. Each year, a new President of the Union and a new Executive Board take their seats in the Shelnutt Gallery and make their own decisions with minimal thought to actions taken one year earlier. Anything we cannot accomplish in one year's time will be dropped in transition and passed along until that group of people takes up responsibility. This is by no means a failure of our system of governance. It's merely a recognition of the multiplicity of perspectives and a real desire to find a great new Executive Board is given to govern, decide, and ef-
fect change. It's a negative side of the coin, but I guess being GM is spending a year trying to learn the ropes of the organization of this year, the need to support them and, more than that, we require a fully staffed team of people who are supporting us and guiding us along the way. The same is true for every club and organization in this great union and we all deserve no less.

As the Director of the Union search continues, the Executive Board and Student Senate will be reaching out to all students in the Union with information about how they can be involved. I'm happy to say that much progress has been made, and if all goes well, the next Executive Board will have a new Director of the Union to work with.

Science & The New Polytechnic
CURT M. BRENNEMAN, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Science

First of all, the title of my column is not to suggest that we are creating a new version of “The Poly”—in fact, I feel honored that you all think of my thoughts with you here. The title actu-
ally reflects on how the School of Science, which is committed to realizing President Jackson's vision of “The New Polytechnic” as articulated in the Rensselaer Plan 2024—as an intellectual construct that embod-
ies new ways of thinking and new ways of tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our time. More on that later…first, here's a little background about me. When I arrived at Rensselaer during the summer of 1989 as an Assistant Professor of Chemis-
try—the Department didn’t have “Chemical Biology” as part of its name—there was a feeling in the Department of Chemistry that I should be doing research that was a little more “applied” and was more along the lines of work that we do in the Chemistry Department at Rensselaer. So I spent a good amount of time talking to the Chairs of different Chemistry Departments about what I was interested in and what I could offer to the department. I think I should be able to help with, I feel like I should always be able to do something to help, which isn’t always possible, and can be hard to accept.

And my favorite thing? As Eliza says in the song “Non-Stop” from Hamilton, “Look where you are, look at where you started!” I’ve seen a lot of things and have come a long way since I began teaching at Rensselaer. One of the things that I have seen is that the School of Science continues to grow and thrive, provide the best instruction and a great student experience, and grow our international research reputation to new levels.

This brings me back to the “New Polytechnic,” and what the School of Science has been doing in collaboration with the other four Schools to provide you with a broad education with a Rensselaer distinction. This means that we intend to equip you with a col-
laborative mindset, a willingness to take on problems that require a multiplicity of perspectives, and a set of creative “out of box” thinking skills that will prepare you to be leaders in the digital economy. The question that we have been asked is how do we introduce students to the multiplicity of perspectives and a set of creative thinking skills that will prepare them to be leaders in the digital economy. The question that we have been asked is how do we introduce students to the multiplicity of perspectives and a set of creative thinking skills that will prepare them to be leaders in the digital economy. The answer is that we need to foster a mind-set that is open to new ideas and that is willing to be challenged by new ideas. I’ve been working to introduce new ideas into the new GroupB’s and sending out whodunits. So I guess being GM is spending a year trying to learn to keep the big picture in mind while also staying focused on detailed and important aspects of things.

I genuinely really don’t like wearing the hat. My friends steal it, it’s a hassle getting into cars, and it won’t break easily. It’s also very revealing for people who get lost in places three times my age. I’ve gotten to see random kids so very well know friends, and individuals who when I’ve needed to write recommendation let-
ted me for awards or hỏi societies on their behalves, they really mean a lot. And I’ve managed to grow up a bit while I’m at it. It’s been a great time and I’m looking forward to the past few years as they comment on how much I’ve changed and grown into being at least somewhat ready for the role I have. So overall, what I like the most is just being involved in things—getting to be a part of something new.
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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: SIVOISSWC = ENGINEERS

“Oezyevmio, i bakivm egyevem Geb Opvs bayd i wize. I wize hqtt ph fixawit wveiyqvez. Igm qghpvyyqgiyeto, zpfe dije ezwinem.”
–Npnegyagi Xptmzyeag Higyizyaw Ceizyz Igm Bdeve Yp Hagm Ydef

SUDOKU

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

Solutions from Feb. 1 Issue

LaLa Land
Friday • February 17, 2017
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • $2.50

TOP GUN
Saturday • February 18, 2017
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • $2.50
TOP TEN

Best ways to spend Valentine’s Day

10. Scrolling through Reddit
9. With an empty quart of ice cream
8. Netflix and chill (alone)
7. Spend all night at The Poly
6. Sad
5. Drowning in chocolate
4. In uncanceled classes
3. With a bottle of wine
2. By yourself
1. Alone

Do you like drawing comics? Draw comics for The Poly! Email us at comics@poly.rpi.edu
Features

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

ALBUM REVIEW

Post-Grammy look at gilded Coloring Book

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

FOLLOWING THE 2017 GRAMMY AWARDS, THE relevance of which is a different matter altogether, I decided to revisit, and rewrite, a review for one of my favorite albums of last year. The album was produced by none other than this year’s Best New Artist, Chance the Rapper. Although the award is thematically incorrect—Chance released his first mixtape 10 Day in early 2012—it serves as a great way to honor a man who managed to become a breakthrough success without signing to any major labels.

With his third mixtape, Coloring Book, winning Best Rap Album, Chance seems only to go further and further on his path towards musical stardom. Coloring Book is an experience from start to finish, one where gospel, hip-hop, and jazz blend into a unique cocktail of sound only Chance could deliver.

The first track off the mixtape, “All We Got,” starts off with a distinctive saxophone melody that evolves as the song progresses. Combining fast-paced lyrics with church-choir-esque humming, and later twisting that mix to include Kanye West’s layered autotune, Chance created a song that is a very good introduction to the journey the listener is about to take. With lines such as “Man, my daughter could not have a better mother / If she ever find another, he better love her,” and “Man, I swear my life is perfect…” If I die, I’ll prolly cry at my own service,” Chance evokes pleasant thoughts of forgiveness and the joy of being alive. In sharp contrast to other rappers who talk about flaulting money, Chance is more interested in becoming a better person, so he can have a positive effect on his surroundings.

The very next track is Coloring Book’s offering to mainstream radio, and it satisfies at all levels. “No Problem” is a smooth, overflowing river of euphoria. Set against a background of gospel chants and minimalist instruments, “No Problem” features Chance, Lil Wayne, and 2 Chainz each explaining that they don’t need anyone’s help to be successful—whether that would be a label’s support, or judgmental fans critiquing their every move. With just over 124 million streams on Spotify alone, “No Problem” is a song everyone has heard, and yet, continues to be played due to its addictive nature.

Skipping down a bit, we come across “Angels.” With its signature opener, “I got my city doing frontflips,” this song immediately captivates the listeners as the lyrics pick up in speed and more instruments are added to the background. Towards the middle, trumpets and composing choir elements are added in, causing the song to be very reminiscent of Chance’s Surf days. Biblical themes galore and a sunny attitude make “Angels” a generally fun song to listen to. I could play this song on repeat for a while, constantly vibing out to the island-esque vibes.

Another song worth mentioning in this review is “All Night.” Immediately after the opening of the tune, it’s clear that this is a new direction for Chance. The influence of producer KAYTRANADA is manifested in the form of a catchy hook, electronic backgrounds, and a chorus to die for. This would be an amazing song for a house party, as it’s guaranteed to get people dancing. The one downfall of this song is its length, which at just over 2 minutes, is substantially shorter than the rest of the album. However, this is only a minor setback, as I appreciate this new, albeit temporary, shift in direction from Chance.

I could go on and on describing this album, as all songs have an intimate story to them. I feel like this album really deserved Best Rap Album, and that Chance as a person deserves more recognition. Following him since his Acid Rap days has made this a long and fulfilling journey. I eagerly wait for the next installment in his musical career.

CAMPUS EVENT

Recylemania promotes collegiate competition

Kiani Conley-Wilson, Amelia Grimm Blauw
A Special to The Poly

DOES YOUR DORM HAVE A CONVENIENT RECYCLING SYSTEM? MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT RPI’S SINGLE STREAM system of recycling, but sometimes it’s faster to just throw things in the trash. In an effort to make recycling simple for students, members of the Student Activities Office and Ecoloogic handed out free recycle bins to students living on campus. These bins, provided by Environment and Site Services, were given out in anticipation of a large, nationwide recycling competition called Recyclemania. This competition spans the United States and Canada, and pits college campuses against each other to see which campus has the most recycling per person. RPI will face some tough competition from the other schools, which include our rival Union College! Recyclemania officially starts Monday, February 6 and goes until Friday, April 1. During each week of the competition, County Waste, RPI’s waste hauler, will measure how much we have recycled as a campus. If you care about the environment, want to see RPI win, or just want to beat Union, then recycle as much as you can during the next few months! We hope that you will join in on the competition and recycle as many recyclable materials as possible!

LIST OF RECYCLABLES:

Paper:
- Paper egg cartons
- Junk mail
- Telephone & paperback books

Cans & Bottles:
- Glass bottles
- Tin & bimetallic containers
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic containers

Cardboard & Cartons:
- Juice & milk cartons
- Broken down bottles

 Courtesy of Chance the Rapper

CHANCE THE RAPPER is at the forefront of the hip-hop industry, with Grammys for Best New Artist and Best Rap Album under his belt. Where he goes from here is anyone’s guess.
When opposites collide, cool stuff tends to happen. Brady and Grey don’t bring in outside guests to discuss issues or shake things up, instead create an atmosphere of casual, yet thorough conversation. Brady, with his former BBC experience, is skillful at opening new doors and provoking ideas not previously considered, while Grey discusses, and sometimes argues, from well thought, logical standpoints. For many of the topics discussed on the show, I would have given a shrug and a “meh” to them on any given day. Hello Internet can easily get me invested in a topic I would have otherwise passed on. Through time, the show has developed a personality of its own. We think of cult movies like Office Space and The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and I think it’s safe to call this a “cult podcast.” I implore you to give the first episode a try, especially if you follow Brady or Grey on YouTube already. Put it on when you have a good chunk of time to listen, and if you enjoy the personalities, the show only goes up from there.

PODCAST REVIEW
Hello Internet piques interest
Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

Hello Internet, along with CGP Gray, produce a podcast of their trains of thought. While listening to this podcast, I feel like an observer of the conversation—and I mean that in a good way. Grey and Brady don’t bring in outside guests to discuss issues or shake things up, instead create an atmosphere of casual, yet thorough conversation. Brady, with his former BBC experience, is skillful at opening new doors and provoking ideas not previously considered, while Grey discusses, and sometimes argues, from well thought, logical standpoints. For many of the topics discussed on the show, I would have given a shrug and a “meh” to them on any given day. Hello Internet can easily get me invested in a topic I would have otherwise passed on. Through time, the show has developed a personality of its own. We think of cult movies like Office Space and The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and I think it’s safe to call this a “cult podcast.” I implore you to give the first episode a try, especially if you follow Brady or Grey on YouTube already. Put it on when you have a good chunk of time to listen, and if you enjoy the personalities, the show only goes up from there.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT
Unofficial hug group brightens Fridays for all
Nicolette Schluter
A Special to The Poly

On most Fridays, you can hear us chanting “Happy Friday!” and “Have an awesome day!” outside of Russell Sage Dining Hall. Maybe you’ve even seen us dancing to some music. As one of the campus “Free Hug Friday” huggers, I’d like to tell you from my perspective what our little group is all about.

We’re an unofficial campus group dedicated to bringing some well-deserved happiness to RPI on all weather-permitting Fridays. I’ve noticed that this campus has a bit of an unhappy side. Classes get tough, politics are crazy, and it can all be really stressful. To get through these tough times, I strive to be optimistic and always remind myself that there is something to be happy about. And on Fridays, I try to share that with the rest of the campus. The weekend is something everyone can look forward to.

Some people think it’s odd to hug a stranger, and I can definitely understand that. I try not to be too intrusive or pressure anyone too much. The goal for me, whether you want a hug, a high five, or just to get to class, is simply to brighten your day. I see a lot of smiles at my dancing and encouraging chanting, and that’s all I hope for.

I get asked a lot, ‘Why do you do this?’ The truth is, it’s not just for everyone else; it’s also for me. Making other people happy is something that truly makes me happy. It’s what keeps me out in the sometimes below-freezing weather. And obviously as a hugger I’m someone who loves hugs! Really do love it; I’ve met some awesome people and always look forward to seeing the regulars. We also get a lot of great feedback from people telling us that we really do make a difference in their Fridays. It’s very rewarding.

So I hope that this has given you an understanding of what we do and why we do it. Anyone is welcome to join us; I’m typically out there from 12-2 and carry an extra sign. As a graduating member, I just hope the group continues when I’m gone. All it takes is a positive attitude and a sign.

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BASKETBALL

Highs, lows during weekend’s games

Women victorious over William Smith College, men stumble to Hobart College at home

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

The women’s basketball game against the William Smith College Herons was an exciting one, with the Engineers defeating their opponents 66–52 in the East Campus Athletic Arena. The crowd burst into cheers continually throughout the game, as sophomore guards Sam Krumbhaar and Elizabeth Eckhardt each scored 22 points.

For most of the first two quarters, the Engineers led against the Herons scoring 33 points over the Heron’s 22 points by halftime. In the first twenty minutes of the game, the Engineers scored five three-point shots while the Herons only made one out of eight attempted shots during the first quarter. In the third quarter, however, William Smith made a comeback with 17 points added to the score by six different scorers.

This left the Herons with a 39–38 lead towards the end of the third quarter. With only two minutes remaining in the period, Eckhardt scored a three-point shot. Krumbhaar followed with a layup moments later, leaving the crowd cheering and the Engineers with a 43–39 lead over the Herons.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Engineers were left with an advantage of 55–54 over the Herons with only a little over five minutes left. Junior Shaina Iton, during this same time, caught 11 rebounds which allowed for two three-point shots as well as five blocks and a steal from the Herons. The women’s basketball team will be playing Vassar College away on Thursday and Bard College on Sunday at 2 pm in the East Campus Athletic Village.

Directly following the women’s basketball game, the men’s basketball team went up against Hobart College losing 60–77 at home. Freshman guard Tucker Lescoe scored 30 points throughout the game in 11 of 16 attempted shots. The Engineers, who were originally on a winning streak, fell to 12–11 and 6–8 in conference.

Lescoe began the game scoring five shots out eight which tallied up to 14 points within the first two periods of the game including three rebounds, three assists, and a steal. Halfway through the first half, the Engineers led 20–13 but by midway through the 2nd the Engineers slipped to 45–60. The game ended with Hobart successful in nearly 59 percent of attempted shots on the Engineers and the Engineers less than 40 percent successful on all attempted shots. The men’s basketball team will be returning to play away against Vassar College on Friday and Bard College on Sunday at 4 pm in the East Campus Athletic Village.

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Women’s Hockey

Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

WOMEN’S HOCKEY REJOICING after their first of four goals that led the team to a win against Harvard University. This goal, along with the second, was scored by junior Whitney Renn with an assist from junior Shayna Tomlinson.

Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

FOR THIS FILE PHOTO, SOPHOMORE CENTER MARCUS GIESE PROTECTS the ball from Skidmore’s Jack Morrow.

IN THIS FILE PHOTO, SOPHOMORE CENTER MARCUS GIESE PROTECTS the ball from Skidmore’s Jack Morrow.

In this file photo, sophomore center Marcus Giese protects the ball from Skidmore’s Jack Morrow.

Junior Point Guard Kate Goddell defends the net from Skidmore as her teammates cheer from the bench (file photo).
Last weekend, the RPI Curling Club attended the Utica Curling Club bonspiel. RPI 1 swept the A event, taking down Colgate University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University to win the event. RPI 2 also saw success, going 2–2 over the weekend and defeating Yale 2 in the F event.

National invitations will be sent out today, Wednesday, February 15, and RPI expects to receive an invitation. The team is currently ranked number one in the country. The national event will be held in Utica, NY from March 10–12.

In reflecting on the season and seasons past, senior Joseph Skulski, who plays vice for RPI 1, had this to say: “This past year has been one of the most successful in the history of the club. We have won three college bonspiels and have played in five A event finals this year. Every single bonspiel, the expectation has been to compete for the win. Last year, RPI was able to make it to three A event finals, winning two of them. Since its true conception in the 2013–2014 season, RPI has qualified for every college curling nationals. We have been very happy with our team’s success at nationals and are very excited to see our team compete this year.”

When asked about why she chose curling, junior lead for RPI 1 Kaitlin Fermano told The Poly, “Why not curling? It is a sport that I never would have thought to try if I had not gone to a school with an already established club. I previously watched curling on the Olympics and was intrigued by it. When I learned RPI had a curling club, I knew I had to try it, and I fell in love. The sport is a lot of fun, and the team itself is full of a lot of great people. On and off the ice, they are a great group of people to spend time with, and I am proud to call them my friends.”

With so much success this season, the thought of the Winter Olympics comes to mind. Many members think of it as a far-fetched dream, but Mullaney, who has been playing for many years prior to attending RPI, called the Olympics a long-term goal, yet an uphill battle. Skulski explained that “curling is a sport that supports longevity. Many curlers don’t hit their prime until their late 30s, even 40s. If you stick with it long enough and continue to work at it, who knows where any of our members could end up. It would truly be an honor to have an alumnus of the RPI curling club one day represent our country in the sport of curling, and I hope one day that will happen.”

We wish the team luck in future events and hope to call them champions in the weeks to come!