PLANTS ARE GROWN under varied lighting conditions, changing physiology (file photo).

**RESEARCH**

**GLASE center to improve greenhouse industry**

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON JUNE 1, NEW YORK GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO joined Washington Governor Jay Inslee and California Governor Jerry Brown in creating the United States Climate Alliance—a group of states that are committed to upholding the Paris Agreement following President Donald Trump’s pledged departure from the deal. The goals of the accords include reducing emissions by 26 to 28 percent from 2005 levels and limiting the average increase of global temperatures to two degrees Celsius by 2040.

The deal was negotiated during the presidency of Barack Obama, under the leadership of Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. Moniz led the United States Department of Energy from May 2013 to January 2017 and was an honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker for Rensselaer’s Class of 2017.

During his commencement address, Moniz noted President Shirley Ann Jackson’s influential nature on both the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the Secretary of Energy’s Advisory Board in creating and implementing integrated energy policy, which included a report on the applications of high-performance computing to clean energy problems. Many of the suggestions included in the report are currently being pursued at Rensselaer, which Moniz lauded as “groundbreaking work” and “a preview of what is an incredibly broad and deep problem in energy-related technologies.”

“My basic message is that schools like Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and my home institution, MIT, provide our graduates with the skillset to perform all of these functions, including managing change, if they also continuously stick to the underlying innovation and entrepreneurship framework which is inherent in our core business model of technologically grounded excellence,” he said.

One of the many aspects of Rensselaer’s environmentally-conscious research enterprise revolves around sustainable and clean food, water, and energy supplies under President Jackson’s research paradigm known as “The New Polytechnic.” A new public-private research consortium called GLASE, or the Greenhouse Lighting and Systems Engineering Consortium, was announced at a press conference in the Darrin Communications Center at Rensselaer.

The consortium will be led by researchers at Cornell University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with the goal of transforming the way greenhouses operate in order to reduce electricity usage by up to seventy percent. The seven-year, $5 million project is currently being funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority in order to advance Governor Cuomo’s Clean Energy Standard that aims to have 50 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2030, satisfying requirements held by the Paris Climate Accords and the federal Clean Power Plan.

Plant physiology expert Dr. Tessa Pockock, senior research scientist at the Center for Lighting Enabled Systems and Applications, will lead Rensselaer’s portion of the investigation focusing primarily on systems engineering applications.

“The engineered LED lighting and sensing systems with advanced feedback control are being pioneered at LEISA. Integrated with Cornell’s advanced greenhouse management technologies, GLASE has the potential to create a more sustainable and profitable greenhouse industry. The systems engineering expertise at LEISA and the agricultural expertise at Cornell are an ideal partnership,” said NYSERDA.

Dr. Neil Mattson, an associate professor in horticulture at Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will be the principal investigator at Cornell, determining precise LED light conditions needed for tomatoes and strawberries, both commonly grown in commercial greenhouses. Mattson, who directs the Controlled Environmental Agriculture Group at Cornell CALS, said investment in energy-efficient greenhouse lighting will ensure New York’s leadership in local food production and that reactive LED lighting, much of which is currently being developed at Rensselaer, will enable optimal lighting conditions in greenhouses.
Python: utilitarian language for everyday life

Programming languages like Python are powerful, yet simple for side projects, professional work

Hey guys, I hope your summers are going well! It’s always great to write a notebook for *The Poly*, but I have to say that this one is particularly special. First because I’ve had two best friends leave and second because I’ve really learned a lot this summer.

The greatest thing I would like to share is that I wish I knew earlier is that Python is really fricking awesome. Hands down, it’s made my life so much easier in my current internship and allowed me to do some great work. Rather than using PHP for developing not-well-run websites, I used Django. Need to make a new database management client for client information? If design doesn’t really matter, EasyGUI or Tkinter are pretty good, leaving more wiggle room to work on more complex tools with greater value.

I find that Python is one of my favorite languages. It isn’t always the language of choice, but for simple, light-weight solutions and web-based projects, Python does a great job of combining ease of use with readability, portability, and powerful libraries made and maintained by a massive open-source driven community.

Many tools available in Python are surprisingly powerful if used correctly. A great example is Pygame. It is one of the most contributed to Python modules and a great library for developing traditional 2D games. In a pretty short period of time, you could probably even make simple-clones of popular releases like Starbound and Tenno Legacy.

If you’re interested in 2D game development and haven’t already looked at it, I’d recommend checking it out. I’ve had a great time working on personal projects this summer in Pygame, and it’s really helped me better understand render buffers, interpolation, and other topics which I previously only had half understood.

Django, which I mentioned above, is also really amazing. I learned about it originally from an output from my fraternity who came back to visit. He spoke very fondly of Django’s ability to replace many of PHP’s uses and how it’s already being adopted in industry. Django, just like Python, is very easy to use, has great documentation online, and has a pretty easy learning curve.

One of my favorite features of all Python— you don’t have to configure libraries! This is probably what I love the most and what has kept me the most interested. Using Visual Studio and C++, especially with projects that require many libraries like games, it’s always a hassle to configure every individual dependency you need. In Python, no matter what computer you’re using or what you’re doing, you can go to the computer terminal and type “pip install” followed by the name of the package to access virtually any Python module.

Arguing for refreshing worn-out, overloaded news cycle

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“The news—fake or real news—it’s always around us. I’ve tried reading up on more articles, but it’s become too difficult.

For inspiration of this editorial, I decided to search the New York Times’ editorial pieces. I noticed in the last month of the opinion section, the four most talked about subjects are Trump, Democrats, gender equality, and climate change.

Currently, on my phone, I only receive NHL news notifications, while my mom receives CNN notifications and WTNH updates are daunting and predictable—car accidents, country interactions—as per usual.

WTNH updates are daunting and predictable—car accidents, while my mom receives CNN notifications and the opinion section, the four most talked about subjects are Trump, Democrats, gender equality, and climate change.

Many of us here at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) share tips from our personal experiences. The Poly shares tips from our personal experiences. The Poly shares tips from our personal experiences. The Poly shares tips from our personal experiences.

Many of us here at RPI remember how overwhelming it felt to be a freshman, and after reflecting on our experiences, we have gathered a few bits of advice we wish we knew before we came to Rensselaer.

First of all, it’s okay to be overwhelmed. There’s a lot going on here, and it may be difficult to juggle all of the things you want to do; learn what’s important to you and how to prioritize accordingly. While doing that, remember to enjoy your independence and take more risks. If someone asks you to do something, even if it’s out of your comfort zone, do it. It might just be worth the perceived risk. You might find a new activity that you enjoy or make new friends, and those are the kind of things you’ll remember when you look back at your time in college.

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PU provides insight into his freshman experience

**Rensselaer Union, clubs play major role in making the most of your time at Rensselaer**

I'm an only child who's never had to share a room, and I'm living in Barton Hall with two roommates. Do you have any advice for sharing a room with people?

Having a good experience with your roommates will require all of you to communicate and be considerate toward one another. Since you've never shared a room with anyone else, some of your habits might piss off your roommates. Go through your daily routine at home and try to identify these, since I'll just be covering the basics.

Be conscious of the noise you make, especially if either of your roommates are studying. If it's late at night, or if they seem generally bothered. Talk about your test schedules and just give them a heads up earlier in the week. If you plan on staying up until 3 am studying in your room with the lights on while your roommate is trying to get some sleep, be respectful of their need for rest.

Don't assume your roommates will be okay with your having people stay over. Ask first. Also, don't have sex while your roommates are in the room, even if you think they're sleeping. They will be awake and they will definitely be able to hear you. If you think you're interested, you just want to learn more, or you want to share comments, questions, concerns, or ideas, please always feel free to reach out to each other. Elections for the incoming Class of 2021 will be taking place shortly after the start of the Fall semester, so be sure to speak up if you're interested in participating.

Though we have been spread out for the summer, your Student Senate has still been hard at work making great progress on projects and efforts for you all. The summertime is a unique opportunity for the Senate to pursue meetings and projects with campus partners that are busier during the Spring semesters. The Student Life Committee has met with the Health Center and the Counseling Center to continue efforts to revise and complete the report outlining student opinion and recommendations for improvement. The Web Technologies Group has been working on behind-the-scenes updates to the Shuttle Tracker system to ensure improved stability, with a new, improved user interface to follow soon. The Facilities and Services Committee is continuing its efforts to pursue a campus-wide sustainability definition, and they have also begun discussions with the Administration Division to resume project efforts related to facilities, parking, transportation, and public safety. These are just a few examples of the work being pursued, and the Senate committees are open to all students. I highly recommend you get involved, especially if you have an interest or idea for making your mark on RPI.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong to RPI! Mr. Strong comes to the Institute with several years of experience of working with students, especially within the framework of a student-run union. I, President of the Union Matt Rand '19, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Ellie Mees '18, and Student Life Chairwoman Hannah Merrow '18 have already had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Strong, and I am looking forward to the many opportunities we'll have as student leaders to work with Mr. Strong in the coming year.

For returning students, I hope you have an enjoyable remainder of your summers, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in just over a month! For incoming students, I hope you have an exciting time at Student Orientation and Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond! As always, if you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu!
OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

People of Pride

MEMBERS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY MARCHED to celebrate gay pride in the New York City Pride March. The march was televised for the first time since it started in 1969.

Activities Fair

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
6:30 - 8:30 PM
ARMORY/MUELLER CENTER
CLUB REGISTRATION OPEN @ UNION.RPI.EDU
RPI Student Government Wants YOU!

Interested in joining the Freshman Class Council? Here’s what you need to do:

- Attend an Information Session from 5-6 PM in the Student Government Suite, on any weekday from September 5th to September 22nd
- Start thinking about what position you would like to run for. Senator, Officer, or Representative?
- Start making plans for what you hope to achieve in the position you hope to obtain. It’ll make for good material to talk about once Campaigning officially starts!

If you have any additional questions, send them to rne@rpi.edu!

“The Village Idiom: Empowering Youth through Education, Interconnectivity and Employment,”

NDABA MANDELA
September 19
7:30 PM
EMPAC Theater
HOCKEY

Changes coming for women’s, men’s hockey

Joseph Lyon
Staff Reporter

The Rensselaer men’s and women’s hockey teams will be facing major changes in the upcoming season. Both teams will be entering the season with new coaches: the men’s team with head coach Dave Smith, and the women’s team with interim head coach Bryan Vines. The men’s team is also facing a large change in its roster in the upcoming season, with nine new players joining the team.

The hiring of interim coach Vines for the women’s team should make for an interesting season. The search for a women’s head coach was expedited, with Vines being hired just days after it was announced that the previous hockey coach, John Burke, would not be staying with the team for this season. Vines should bring an interesting and new perspective to the women’s team. He has extensive hockey experience, as a four-year letter winner at the University of Denver, a video coach for the Colorado Avalanche of the National Hockey League, as well as an assistant coach for the Rensselaer men’s team for the past eight years. Vines has experience coaching hockey and a passion for the sport, though it remains to be seen whether the fact that this is a one-year interim position will have an impact on Vines’ efficacy as a coach. The women’s team ended last season with a 10–24–2 record, leaving room for improvement.

The men’s team is also seeing drastic changes. It has a new head coach, Dave Smith, nine new players, and dismissed four players, Cam Hackett ’21, Alex Rodriguez ’21, Sam Rappaport ’20, and Liam McBain ’21. The new freshmen players include Matthew Harris ’21, Billy Jerry ’21, Gavin Payne ’21, Jon Richards ’21, and Troy York ’21 from the United States, Jaren Burke ’21, Owen Stout ’21, and Linden Marshall ’21 from Canada, and Emil Ohrvall ’21 from Sweden. It remains to be seen whether or not these changes will have a positive outcome for the Engineers. In a statement released on June 26, Smith commented on the diverse skillset and leadership abilities of the new players. “They will join our returning group and add to our program’s on-ice strengths of skating, skill and character." The men’s team ended its previous season with a 8–28–1 record.

This year’s hockey season is shaping up to be interesting, with large roster changes on the men’s team and new coaches leading both teams. Sports fans should look out for different playing styles and new plays from the coaches, along with a new range of players.

Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE RENSSLEAER ENGINEERS had an 8–28–1 record last season, resulting in the dismissal of head coach Seth Appert (file photo).
**MOVIE REVIEW**

Ambiguity, confusion result in psychological horrors

Serge Piskun  
Senior Reviewer

**MOVIE REVIEW**

Renewed hope for DC Comics

**Serge Piskun**  
Senior Reviewer

As a budding horror movie fan, I tend to judge movies by their covers. I look at movie posters, and if the poster entices me, or if I've heard good things about the movie, I usually sit down and watch it. *It Comes At Night* was a different story for me, as I had never heard of it and had pretty much zero knowledge as to what it was about. All I knew was the title, and from that I inferred that somewhere, at some time, something would appear, probably in the evening or at night. Surprisingly, I was wrong.

Full disclosure: something did come at night, and that thing did affect the characters in the movie, but it only happened once. Needless to say, this article contains major spoilers, which I implore you not to read if you haven't seen the movie.

*It Comes At Night* is set in post-apocalyptic America, with survivors of an unknown great plague isolating themselves from others in an effort to avoid contamination and death. Not much is known about the disease, except that it shows no symptoms at first but then quickly and unavoidably kills its host while remaining lethally contagious. The movie follows a man, Paul, living with his wife Sarah, son Travis, and father-in-law Bud, in the secluded countryside trying to survive on his own and protect his family. In the very first scene of the movie, Bud is shown to have contracted the disease and is killed and buried by Paul. Travis becomes haunted by nightmares of his grandfather’s death, as the family now knows what the virus does to people and must carefully interact with others around them. After his death, a stranger, Will, breaks into the family's house and, after some time, ends up living within and bringing his family over. The movie picks up pace when it is revealed that one of the people in the family is infected, and they must figure out a way to all survive.

The premise of the movie is simple enough, but in my opinion, the execution with which it is done is amazing. The movie only ever knows the absolute minimum in order to understand the field; nothing more, nothing less. They are forced to form their own opinions and come to their own conclusions as to what really happened, and who and in fact is or is not infected. We, as viewers, never know what the started the disease, or if it is curable. We don't even know where the movie truly is set; it can be inferred that it is America but the specific location is intentionally left out. The ending itself is also left in ambiguity. I won't go into detail on it, but there is no correct interpretation of what happened to the family, only what the future holds for them.

If you're looking for an atypical horror movie, one that looks to unsettle the viewer rather than one reliant on cheap jump scares for thrills, I'd highly recommend *It Comes At Night*. It blends psychological horror with suspense and a feeling of being in the dark, all of which leads to a great movie.

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

Renewed hope for DC Comics

**Serge Piskun**  
Senior Reviewer

*It Comes At Night* is the latest film from the director of the critically acclaimed *The Witch*, which also took place in a pastiche of the American southwest. Director Dan Tatum uses a familiar tale to create a unique and engaging movie. The story follows the family, the Whitlocks, as they move to a small town in America and encounter a group of strangers who have been living in the woods for years.

The movie is set in a world where the government has declared a biological warfare attack. The survivors of the attack are forced to live in the woods and try to protect themselves. The movie is a mix of action, drama, and horror, and it succeeds in all three genres.

The performances of the actors are excellent, with particularly strong performances by the lead actors. The cinematography is also top-notch, with beautiful shots of the woods and the surrounding landscape.

Overall, *It Comes At Night* is a great movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is a must-watch for anyone who enjoys the genre.

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**Serge Piskun**  
Senior Reviewer

*Wonder Woman* is a live-action film adaptation of the DC Comics character of the same name. It is the first film to feature a female superhero as the lead character and is directed by Patty Jenkins. The film was released on May 25, 2017, and was a commercial success, grossing over $800 million worldwide.

The story follows Diana Prince, an Amazonian princess, as she leaves her home in Themyscira to protect the people of the outside world. She is guided by her mentor, the Greek god Ares, who she believes is the cause of the First World War, but it also proves to be a journey of self-discovery and growth for Diana.

The movie is a visual spectacle, with beautiful and well-designed sets and costumes. The action scenes are well-choreographed and executed, and the一场战争的气氛紧张而刺激。

The performances of the actors are strong, with Gal Gadot delivering a powerful and nuanced portrayal of Diana. Chris Pine, who plays Steve Trevor, is also excellent as Diana's love interest and ally. The supporting cast is also strong, with Robin Wright, Robin Wright, and Danny Huston all delivering solid performances.

Overall, *Wonder Woman* is a great movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is a must-watch for anyone who enjoys superhero movies and is a great addition to the DC Comics film canon.

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**Serge Piskun**  
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*It Comes At Night* is a post-apocalyptic thriller set in a world where the government has declared a biological warfare attack. The survivors of the attack are forced to live in the woods and try to protect themselves. The movie is a mix of action, drama, and horror, and it succeeds in all three genres.

The performances of the actors are excellent, with particularly strong performances by the lead actors. The cinematography is also top-notch, with beautiful shots of the woods and the surrounding landscape.

Overall, *It Comes At Night* is a great movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is a must-watch for anyone who enjoys the genre.
**Hit summer song brings unexpected benefits**

**SONG REVIEW**

Crystal Vejar
Senior Reviewer

If you have yet to hear the song “Despacito,” just tune the radio to a station playing today’s top hits and you’ll hear it within 15 minutes, I promise. “Despacito” by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee has been blowing up around the world, with their music video hitting a remarkable 2.6 billion views in just six months. In comparison, the “Gangnam Style” video has around 2.9 billion views since its release over four years ago. While the song had steadily been burning up the charts in the U.S. and abroad, it was catapulted into the mainstream and even history after a remix was made featuring Justin Bieber. Since then, the song has managed to score a spot on Billboard’s Hot 100 list for nine weeks straight, a feat made even more notable because it’s the first Spanish language song to do so since the “Macarena” in 1996.

Since the sensual song became a global smash, it has aroused a positive interest in Puerto Rican culture and an interest in foreign tourists knowing the place where the superstars were born. Just two months ago, Puerto Rican Governor Ricardo Rosselló declared the commonwealth bankrupt, needing to restructure a $70 billion debt. However, it seems the song, along with the video which is full of provocative visuals and beautiful shots of the island, has managed to spike interest in tourism. According to daily Un Nuevo Día and CNN, tourist interest in travel to the island has increased 45 percent since the song’s debut. Some tour operators in Puerto Rico have even included some of the areas that were used in the production of the music video, such as Club La Factoria in Old San Juan and La Perla. When Fonsi wrote “Despacito” two years ago, it didn’t make the cut on his album, but he still believed the song was special. The song showcases Fonsi’s baldad pop style with a bit of reggaeton from Yankee and it’s all accepted by Justin Bieber, leaving us with the biggest song of the summer, and possibly the biggest Spanish song in the United States for a while.

While I was pretty amazed the first time I heard Justin Bieber singing the Spanish chorus—very well I might add—I was even more shocked when I saw videos of him mocking the language and lyrics, making a borderline racist move for Bieber, and it seems he’s being strategic in transforming his brand away from that of a child star. However, collaborating on the song was more of a business than pleasured with the effects it has had. After learning the news, Luis Fonsi reacted on Instagram, writing, “What a joy it is to read this in international media. Puerto Rico is the true protagonist of this song and this video.” When filming the music video, Fonsi wanted to show a more realistic side of the island rather than all the touristic areas that are often seen in the media. His choices pleased the locals and brought some much needed attention to some of the areas. However, collaborating on the song was more of a business move for Bieber, and it seems he’s being strategic in transforming his brand away from that of a child star.

While Fonsi and Yankee weren’t specifically aiming to help Puerto Rico with their song, they are more than pleased with the effects it has had. After learning the news, Luis Fonsi reacted on Instagram, writing, “What a joy it is to read this in international media. Puerto Rico is the true protagonist of this song and this video.” When filming the music video, Fonsi wanted to show a more realistic side of the island rather than all the touristic areas that are often seen in the media. His choices pleased the locals and brought some much needed attention to some of the areas. However, collaborating on the song was more of a business move for Bieber, and it seems he’s being strategic in transforming his brand away from that of a child star. While I was pretty amazed the first time I heard Justin Bieber singing the Spanish chorus—very well I might add—I was even more shocked when I saw videos of him mocking the language and lyrics, making a borderline racist move for Bieber, and it seems he’s being strategic in transforming his brand away from that of a child star.

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