

Inside

- Comics ..... 7
- Editorial/Opinion ... 2
- Features ..... 8
- Sports ..... 6

Connect

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

**FEATURES** Page 8



Balloon Festival creates great memories for 50,000

**SPORTS** Page 6



Men's soccer wins against Bard College and Keene State

**EDITORIAL** Page 2

Serge Piskun Constructive criticism for the next career fair

---

Peter Begonja Climate change impacts this hurricane season

**RENSELAER UNION**

# Director of the Union hiring process detailed



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

**MEMOS RELEASED by the GM, PU, and members of the administration express the importance of student involvement in the director of the Union appointment. (file photo)**

**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Senior Reporter

SINCE THE RELEASE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR Human Resources Curtis Powell's memorandum on September 12, discussion around the director of the Union hiring process has continued. On the same day, his memo was met with a joint response from Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 and President of the Union Matthew Rand '19 that emphasized the authority of the Union Executive Board to approve a candidate for the position before an appointment can be made.

Etzine and Rand wrote that, by approving the Rensselaer Union Constitution, the Board of Trustees has "delegated the authority to 'approve the hiring and continuance of all administrative personnel of the Union' to the Rensselaer Union Executive Board." The word "approval" is significant; it implied that the voice of the E-Board is not simply "input," but rather a crucial step in the process. A candidate for the director of the Union

that is not approved by the E-Board cannot be appointed to the position.

On September 20, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Travis Apgar sent a letter to Etzine and Rand expressing that "there is no conflict between the authority of the Institute and that of the Union in this matter." He detailed his perspective of the hiring process, stating that student involvement is required, especially through the "input" of the E-Board that is "formalized by a vote." He added that "it is inconceivable that a decision would be made in opposition to the voice of the students."

However, some people are concerned that this doesn't fully capture the issue at hand. The appointment of former Director of the Union Joe Cassidy was made without a vote of approval from the Executive Board, and while this was not explicitly "in opposition to the voice of the students," it was still not in accordance with the Union Constitution.

See MEMO, **Page 4**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

# Light shed on Outing Club's trip cancellation

**Sidney Kochman**  
Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, THE RENSELAER Union Executive Board voted to close their meeting and discuss the Rensselaer Outing Club. While the minutes from the meeting are not public, memos from President of the Union Matthew Rand '19 and the Outing Club leadership have been made available and shed some light on what led up to the cancellation of the Outing Club's all Lake George trip.

In the closed meeting, the E-Board discussed the Outing Club's alleged violations of Executive Board, Union, and Institute policies. The E-Board then passed two motions: one was to "suspend operations of the Outing Club immediately if any alcohol is found on the Fall Lake George trip or unsafe activity is happening, as determined by certified Union staff members," and the other placed the Outing Club on probation status.

Probation status is defined in the E-Board's Club Sunsetting Policy as "a semester long period in which the club is under review by the Union Executive Board and Policies Committee to determine its continuance as a club." Ultimately, the Outing Club must fulfill requirements set by the E-Board within one semester or it will no longer be recognized as a club.

No members of Outing Club were informed of the discussion or motions until the next day. The Outing Club expressed to *The Poly* their disappointment that they weren't given a chance to speak for themselves in front of the E-Board. After the club was informed of the motions, they made the decision to cancel the Fall Lake George trip.

Rand wrote that "an issue regarding the Outing Club's lack of cooperation in compliance to risk management policies was brought before the Board by both members of the administrative staff and Executive Board."

See VIOLATION, **Page 4**

**STUDENT SENATE**

# Handbook changes presented to Senate

**Jonathan Caicedo**  
Senior Reporter

THE 48TH STUDENT SENATE OPENED their eighth meeting on Monday, September 25 with Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, and Director for Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno discussing recent revisions to the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*. These policies were designed to update outdated policies, clarify existing ones, keep the *Handbook* in accordance with mandates from state and federal governments, and ensure consistency

with the procedures and practices that various departments enact throughout campus. Some of the notable changes include changes in the Grounds for Disciplinary Action, the Record of Disciplinary Action, and the Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity sections. Apgar and Arno's presentation slides that outline the *Handbook* changes are available at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/j46ql>.

After the presentation, the Senate considered the motion to endorse the *Handbook* revisions. Senate Vice Chair Ellie Mees '18 proposed to postpone the endorsement motion until the Senate's next meeting, express-

ing concerns over not seeing the full text of the revised *Handbook* in its entirety first. The motion to postpone the endorsement to next week's meeting passed with a vote of 19-0-1.

The Senate then proceeded to approve two new Executive Board representatives: Andrew Waltzer '21 and Christopher Maria '21. Both discovered the positions through an email sent out by President of the Union Matthew Rand '19. According to Rand, both have prior experience managing finances, qualifying them both for the positions. Waltzer was appointed as a Class of 2021 representative with a vote

of 20-0-0, and Maria as a member at large with a vote of 18-0-1.

The final motion on the agenda was the appointment of Michael Cuzzo '17 as the Interim Human Resources Interview Committee Chair, a committee the Senate formed at their last meeting, which will be tasked with organizing student involvement in future interviews that the Division of Human Resources will conduct. Cuzzo was appointment with a vote of 20-0-0.

The Senate will meet on Monday, October 2 at 8 pm in the Shelnut Gallery. ♦

# Editorial

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

### Increasing awareness of climate change effects

SO FAR, THE 2017 SEASON HAS FEATURED AT LEAST TWO CATEGORY five hurricanes, which have only occurred a few times since records have been kept. It seems that new hurricanes are forming within a few days of each other and there may be even more to come. The 2017 hurricane season is turning out to be one of the most destructive ones in history. It is estimated that there will be billions of dollars in damage, and some areas could take many weeks to rebuild everything that was destroyed. Hurricane seasons fluctuate in intensity, but what made this season to be one of the worst?

In order for hurricanes to form, they need two main things: heat and water. This year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the waters in the mid-Atlantic Ocean have been between 0.5 and 1 degree Celsius warmer than average this summer. Once the warm air rises above the ocean's surface, it takes in heat and



**Peter Begonja**  
Business Manager

moisture. As the hot air rises, it leaves a lower pressure region below it. This repeats until air from higher pressure areas moves into the lower pressure area. This process heats up the air, allowing it to rise and produce swirls in the air. The air continues to rise until it gets high enough in the atmosphere to condense into clouds. These clouds become unstable and a vortex forms which is the start of the storm. The storm begins to build in the Mid-Atlantic and gains strength as it moves west. Sometimes, the storms are disrupted by the presence of the wind shear. The wind shears are winds that change in speed and direction in different levels of the atmosphere. The wind shear can disrupt storms by weakening them. Once the storm reaches the Caribbean, it can be influenced by steering patterns. These steering patterns can push the storm in either a northerly or southerly direction.

One of the reasons that caused the hurricanes of the 2017 season to be so strong was the lack of wind shears. Along with the warmer ocean temperatures, this caused the hurricanes to continue to intensify as they moved west towards land. Hurricane Irma, which made landfall on Florida, was one of the largest and most powerful storms ever recorded in history. At its peak, Irma measured hundreds of miles across and reached sustained winds of 180 miles per hour. Many believe that climate change has to do with the recent severity of the hurricane season. While it is not entirely because of this, some seasons are worse than others, and the effects of climate change have an impact on the already present natural risks. Already rising sea levels cause the storm surge to be more catastrophic. Similarly, loss of wetlands and natural barriers cause more damage to infrastructure, which can be attributed to climate change. Even though it was not the main cause of the severity of the hurricanes this year, we must still be conscientious of the effects that climate change poses to us. ♦

### Benefits, drawbacks of NSBE/SHPE Career Fair

ON FRIDAY, I WENT TO THE RPI CAREER FAIR. AFTER navigating the long line, getting vetted for the dress code, and figuring out where I wanted to go, I stepped into the Armory and was immediately overwhelmed. As a freshman, I didn't really pay attention to the career fair, because my summer was already booked, so I didn't fully grasp its magnitude or general claustrophobia. So many people, so many tables, so many displays trying to be unique and special, and on top of all that, so many recruiters that have too much on their plates who are tasked with vetting applicants in insignificant blocks of time. I think something needs to change.

Don't get me wrong, I think the career fair is a good resource for people looking to further their careers and improve their futures. It provides valuable lessons to college students: how to dress up, how to pitch yourselves, and how to create resumes that won't get trashed immediately. It sets up connections between companies and RPI in ways that no other event could. It also allows for more personal networking to take place—I have the emails of several recruiters that I plan on talking to that I wouldn't have if I hadn't attended. I also have a lot of goodies that, among other things, allow me to not have to go shirt shopping in the foreseeable

future (thank you DraftKings!). Jokes aside, let me highlight some changes I would like to see.

First, the smaller things. I feel like the area was too crowded. I did not like how the floor was laid out, with narrow hallways and large empty areas behind company tables. It was counterproductive, and maybe a bit discouraging; students were packed in like sardines while waiting for recruiters to open up. Meanwhile, recruiters themselves would try not to be crushed into their interviewees. This



**Serge Piskun**  
Features Editor

all happened while the area behind tables was sparsely populated, with a good portion of empty space holding nothing but daisy chained power cords. Also, a sore point amongst my upperclassmen friends was the choice not to distribute bags. I felt that carrying stuff under resume holders ended up being a hassle, which led to students crowding companies that gave out bags.

See NOTEBOOK, Page 3

the polytechnic

Editor in Chief  
**Sidney Kochman**  
poly@rpi.edu

Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor	<b>Tyler Carney</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Managing Editor	<b>Rex Hu</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Managing Editor	<b>Nathan Dorer</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	<b>Jonathan Caicedo</b>	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	<b>Brookelyn Parslow</b>	poly@rpi.edu
de facto News Editor	<b>Nathan Dorer</b>	news@poly.rpi.edu
Business Manager	<b>Peter Begonja</b>	business@poly.rpi.edu
Features Editor	<b>Serge Piskun</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
Sports Editor	<b>Joseph Lyon</b>	sports@poly.rpi.edu
Editorial/Opinion Editor	<b>Crystal Vejar</b>	edop@poly.rpi.edu
Composing Editor	<b>Ana Wishnoff</b>	composing@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Editor	<b>Nicholas Luczak</b>	copy@poly.rpi.edu
Photography Editor	<b>Elena Perez</b>	photo@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Web Editor	<b>Joseph Lyon</b>	web@poly.rpi.edu
Associate News Editor	<b>Darby Burns</b>	news@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Features Editor	<b>Anahit Hovhannisyan</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Features Editor	<b>Anna Koenig</b>	features@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Ed/Op Editor	<b>Annie Yu</b>	edop@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Photography Editor	<b>Stephanie Tan</b>	photo@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Photography Editor	<b>Nicole Chen</b>	photo@poly.rpi.edu

Coordinators

Advertising Director	<b>Brookelyn Parslow</b>	ads@poly.rpi.edu
Graphics Director	<b>Ana Wishnoff</b>	graphics@poly.rpi.edu
Web and Systems Director	<b>Sidney Kochman</b>	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Systems Coordinator	<b>Jonathan Caicedo</b>	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Coordinator	<b>Maria Kozdroy</b>	copy@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Coordinator	<b>Evan Barr</b>	copy@poly.rpi.edu

Production Staff: David Raab, Nicholas Sanchez

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 fewer 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.

# Chapel + Cultural Center

## Speaker Series Event

### Defense Against the Dark Arts: Wizardry & Theology in Harry Potter

Father William Reiser, SJ  
College of the Holy Cross  
Wed 9/27/17 at 7:00 pm

## TOP HAT

# Director of the Union discussion

## Concerns and clarifications on director of the Union hiring process

HELLO, EVERYONE!

Last Thursday, President of the Union Matthew Rand '19 and I met with Vice President for Human Resources Curtis Powell, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, and other representatives from the Division of Human Resources to discuss the Director of the Union hiring process.

The meeting was productive. We shared the student body's concerns about the process and clarified the importance of the Executive Board's approval of the next director of the Union, as outlined in the Union Constitution. During the meeting, Matt and I clarified the student body's position on the matter, which we felt a recent article in the *Troy Record* had mischaracterized.

We are working with Powell, Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong, Apgar, and Strategic Communications and External Relations to produce a joint letter to the RPI community. This letter outlines the steps that have been taken, as well as the steps that will be taken through the completion of the hiring process.

This morning, we had the opportunity to

meet with the President of the Institute Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson to further discuss this topic. We are excited to find a collaborative solution that both celebrates the Union's rich history and restores the student body's faith in the hiring process. Once we have updates, we will be sure to share them with you all!



**Justin Etzine**  
Grand Marshal

On a different note, on Monday, the Senate heard two presentations. The first was from Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig Eastin, who shared some of the events that will be taking place during Reunion & Homecoming Weekend this year. Then, we heard from Mr. Apgar and Director of Student

Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno on planned changes to the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Once the Senate has been able to review the draft as it currently reads, we will be voting on the Senate's stance on the changes. We also confirmed the appointment of two new representatives on the Executive Board, completing the E-Board's membership and providing representation for the Class of 2021. In the coming weeks, Mr. Strong will be presenting

revisions to the Student Life Performance Plans to the Senate, resuming a welcomed and longstanding tradition.

Finally, for those of you who celebrate the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, shana tova and g'mar chatima tova—happy new year, and wishing you an easy fast! These holidays, which equate to the New Year and the Day of Repentance, respectively, mark a fresh start as we begin the Jewish year of 5778.

As we have shared before, we serve in our roles as grand marshal and president of the Union because of our love for our alma mater and our Union. The passion we see from the student body and the memories we hear from alumni motivates us. Most importantly, we are excited for the opportunities that our discussions on the hiring process will yield. Students and administrators will be working together for the benefit of our beloved home. As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas, please feel welcome to email me at gm@rpi.edu.

**Justin Etzine**  
152nd Grand Marshal

# Notebook

from **Page 3**

This would not have been a problem if they were given out in the first place. Besides, wouldn't it have been great advertising for next year's career fair?

My biggest concern with the career fair, however, was the number of times I was told to apply online instead of giving people my resume. It seemed like, for some companies at least, the recruiters were only there to filter out people and gauge their interest; every stand I went to told me to apply online and submit a PDF form of my resume to an online database. Some companies went as far as not taking resumes, instead giving out information as to how to apply through their websites. Obviously, that might have just been a nice way for them to turn me down, but if not, then something has to change.

Maybe turn the career fair into an informal, even casual, recruiting session. Maybe have it be like a speed dating event, where recruiters are given a minute to get to know you. Maybe even have companies sponsor events, similar to Greek rush. Obviously some of those \*coughlastonecough\* are unrealistic, but I think we should get the ball rolling on possible career fair revamp discussions. ♦

## DERBY

# Recap of first month at Rensselaer Union

## Off to a strong start with all club, sports team, and organization operations at Rensselaer

HELLO EVERYBODY, I HOPE THAT YOU'RE ALL DOING WELL. By the time you read this, it will be officially one month since the start of the academic year. How exciting! Time really is flying by. I'd like to think, for a moment, about all of the things that we have already seen this semester.

In the past month, we have met our new freshman class and helped to introduce them to campus life here at RPI. Clubs and organizations have started up, kicked off by the Activities Fair where all of our organizations, club sports teams, student government branches, and more, all came together to ensure the greater campus community continues to get involved. All of these clubs have already started their operations, by recruiting new freshman members, as well as involving older students looking to try something new. It was an amazing experience and our clubs have already reaped the benefits. For example, the Dance Team has already qualified for nationals in their first competition of the year! Needless to say, we are off to a strong start with all of our club operations here at the Rensselaer Union.

Last semester, the Executive Board voted to approve the creation of a Student Veterans Lounge on the third

floor of the Union. That project is finally coming to an end; by the end of the month the lounge will be open and available for our student population, specifically our veterans. We, at the Union, are eternally grateful for the men and women of our armed services, and are proud to be able to support them here at RPI. It is an honor to be able to give back to such an integral part of our community and continue to support their efforts to integrate back into student life.

As many of you have seen, and I know Justin spoke about it last week in his "Top Hat" article, the search for the next director of the Union is moving along. A representative group of students who have been able to sit in on the interviews of the candidates proposed by the administration, and continuously provide feedback in the process. Justin and I have been able to work very closely with the Division of Human Resources and the Division of Student Life to represent that interview committee and continuously ensure that student voice is

heard. I would like to thank those individuals who have been involved in the process, and to reiterate our thanks and excitement to the administration for their continued support of our involvement in the process.

Lastly, I would like to welcome five students to our Executive Board who will be able to represent the Class of 2021. On Monday evening, Andrew Waltzer '21 and Christopher Maria '21 were both confirmed as voting members of the Executive Board by the Senate. Cohen Davis '21, Ryan Delaney, and Deepika Senthilnathan '21 are also joining the Board as non-voting club officers. I would like to welcome them to the Executive Board family, and I look forward to their impact on the Board and our Union.

That's it for me, and this brief recap of September at the Rensselaer Union. I wish you all the best of luck as test season starts back up, and, as always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached at pu@rpi.edu, or during my office hours from 10 am to noon in my office in the Student Government Suite on the third floor of the Union.

**Matthew Rand**  
128th President of the Union



**Matthew Rand**  
President of the Union

# ASK BROOKELYN

**I'm an engineer graduating soon, but it feels like it might have been better for me to pursue computer science. It's too late for me to change my major, so what do I do?**

Your major in college doesn't have to define what you do for the rest of your life. Luckily for you, computer science is probably one of the best subjects to learn outside of the traditional setting. There are plenty of resources online; you just need to dedicate the time and work on projects that will force you to learn. Once you start to make some progress, your interest in computer science can be something you mention when looking for jobs. I know plenty of graduates who didn't learn how to program until they were well into their careers. If it's really something you care about, you'll figure out something that works for you.

**What if I find my professor attractive? Would it be appropriate to talk to them if they're sending signals?**

While these scenarios are often joked about, I think this is a huge decision that should not be taken lightly. It's easy to romanticize a situation like this. Being wanted

and pursued by a professor can be exhilarating. It feels good to know when anyone feels that way about you, let alone someone in a position of authority. However, I think that's exactly the problem.

You have to think about why this person is choosing you. If this person is as good as they seem, why are they deciding to pursue a relationship that is strictly prohibited by the *Rensselaer Handbook*? Why are they willing to endanger their career for you? Do they not have any other options? Do they like to be in a position of power, and could this preference be an indicator of other unhealthy behaviors? Your relationship would have to be a secret; if they become abusive or if you feel unsafe cutting ties, you would have to think about the social and professional repercussions of getting the help if you need it. Those consequences could be enough to convince you that it's easier to deal with everything alone, which is never something you should have to do.

Ultimately, this is your decision. If it's something you decide to go through with, please be as safe as possible. Tell a group of people you trust. If you can, share your location with your friends whenever you meet with your professor. Constantly reflect on your relationship, and do your best to never make excuses for abusive, manipulative behavior.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

# Ad-hoc Interview Committee approved by E-Board

Darby Burns  
Staff Reporter

THE MOST RECENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE on Thursday, September 21 opened with a discussion on the Black Students' Alliance proposal requesting \$1,158 to fund their 50th anniversary celebration. This money would go toward a bus ride to the event in Durham as well as a DJ. There was some discussion as to whether the money should come from the Black Cultural Center reserve account or the club contingencies fund. The anniversary celebration was eventually deemed to be a special event and it was decided that the money should come from club contingencies. The motion passed 12-1-2. A second motion was brought forward to reallocate \$175 from club contingencies to the reception fund in response to the discovery of a bookkeeping error that had resulted in the zeroing of the account. The club should have received the customary \$5 per member within that reception fund. The motion passed 15-0-0.

The next order of business was in regards to establishing an ad-hoc Human Resources Interview Committee, with a presentation by President of the Union Matthew Rand '19. He stated that the goal is for it to be a standing joint committee between the Student Senate and the E-Board, comprised of

students from a wide range of groups. They would be trained to interview candidates for various jobs related to student life and the Union. The committee is based on a group that was put together to interview for the director of the Union position and will initially be comprised of the original members of that committee, since they have already received the necessary training. The plan, however, is to open it back up to the student body. The Division of Human Resources has already agreed to train upwards of 80 students. The motion passed 13-1-3.

Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, accompanied by Director of Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, arrived next and presented on changes that are in the process of being made to the *Rensselaer Student Handbook*. The changes largely addressed formatting and wording issues, and insert a policy that addresses threatening behavior. In addition, changes are to be put in that allow for the notification of parents for things such as disciplinary action—suspensions and expulsions—and group policies are to be extended to apply both on and off campus. At the end of the presentation, Rand stated that E-Board won't be providing its feedback until the Senate has heard the presentation and provided their own feedback, because it's under their jurisdiction. He also requested that individuals on the E-Board hold their feedback until after the Senate hears the presentation.

The final important point of business was the discussion of the former *Budgeting Guidelines and Procedures*, which has been in the works since last September. It is essentially one large document containing everything the E-Board feels that clubs need to know. It will go into effect immediately for the fiscal year of 2018. Through the discussion on the wording of the social media policy, members of the E-Board claimed that the document encompasses "guidelines" instead of policies, and that they will be enforced at the discretion of the E-Board. However, in the last meeting of the Executive Board, Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 said that the Senate's Rules and Elections committee and the Judicial Board are the only bodies that can rule on policies. The motion to approve the newly named *Union Club and Organization Policies and Guidelines* passed 16-0-1.

In the president's report, Rand expressed his plan to have the hiring discussion regarding the director of the Union next week. He reminded the E-Board members about the upcoming Title IX training, and mentioned the letter he received from Apgar and Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong, saying that E-Board will likely be approving the candidate for the director of the Union this week. ♦

## Memo: Recommendation expected in next weeks

From **Page 1**

On September 25, Etzine and Rand sent an email to club officers about a meeting that took place on September 21 with Powell, Apgar, and representatives from the Division of Human Resources. During that meeting, the GM and PU expressed student concerns about the hiring process and emphasized the role of the E-Board in the appointment of the next director of the Union. As a result, they plan to release a joint letter to the Rensselaer community that will "[outline] the steps that have been taken, as well as the steps that will be taken through the completion of the hiring process." Etzine and Rand also shared their plans to meet with President Shirley Ann Jackson on Wednesday, September 27. They hope to find a "collaborative solution" to the issue at hand.

When asked for comment, Etzine expressed, "Progress is being made by Matt's and my efforts to make our position clearly

known with administrators." He then elaborated on the E-Board approval process, saying that, "the meaning of approval in this context is 'to ratify' or 'to give formal sanction to;' though, of course, this is not the sole approval." When the interview process is over, the Human Resources Interview Committee will propose a motion concerning the approval of a candidate to the E-Board, which will then be discussed and voted upon in a closed meeting. According to the E-Board's bylaws, the motion and vote count will be released after the end of the closed meeting. Etzine hopes that the decision of the E-Board will be respected, and that if it fails to approve a candidate, the Division of Human Resources will find others to consider.

The Human Resources Interview Committee was only presented with two of the approximately 50 candidates that RPI received from William Spelman Executive

Search, according to Interim Chairperson Michael Cuozzo '17. Apgar and Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong helped narrow the pool down to the two candidates that were invited for on-campus interviews. According to Cuozzo, "members of the committee did not feel that a one-hour interview provided sufficient time to fully learn about the candidates." They wished to extend the interview through a video conference, but this was met with reluctance by Powell. However, Etzine has submitted additional questions on behalf of the committee in an attempt to remedy the situation.

In the interviews that have already taken place, members of the committee had the opportunity to review resumes, recommendation letters, and example materials, as well as ask questions that they personally developed. Former Grand Marshal Paul

Ilori '17 and former President of the Union Chip Kirchner '17 were able to write the job posting and create the student-generated list of desired qualities that was used as a pre-screening rubric, but Rand "would have loved to have more student involvement in narrowing the candidate field." If he were to change anything, Rand would have asked for himself and Etzine to be more involved in the pre-screening, and "potentially to have sat in on the interviews for the second to last interview stage." Regardless, he believes that the E-Board will be able to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve candidates for the next director of the Union position.

The Human Resources Interview Committee is expected to bring forward a recommendation in the coming weeks, at which point the E-Board will potentially vote to approve the next director of the Union. ♦



Elena Perez/The Polytechnic

THE E-BOARD RECENTLY MOTIONED to place the Outing Club on probation after the club was found to be in violation of proper risk management procedures. (file photo)

## Violation: Outing Club found noncompliant

From **Page 1**

He went on to say that the Outing Club's leadership has "provided constant pushback" and "unwillingness to comply with risk management and liability mitigation procedures." This has led to a "rift between the Union and the club's leadership," he added.

In a memo issued in response to Rand, the Outing Club expressed that they took great care to keep the event alcohol-free, saying that they "told every single student, as they signed up, that alcohol on the island would not be tolerated this year." Despite their efforts to ensure that the event is dry, they canceled the trip, as they were unable to guarantee that everyone in attendance will adhere to their rules.

The motion to suspend operations of the Outing Club if alcohol is found raises the question of whether the E-Board has the authority to issue judgments of policy violations.

Representative Jared Segal '19 spoke about this in the E-Board's September 14 meeting, saying that the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* does not say that the E-Board can punish a club, but does say that it is the Judicial Board's job.

According to the *Union Constitution*, "the Executive Board shall act as the primary budgeting body of the Union." The Judicial Board, however, "shall be the primary court of judgment for cases in which the concept of student rights, responsibilities, or conduct is in question."

Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 also spoke on the issue during the September 14 E-Board meeting, saying that only the Judicial Board and the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee can issue rulings on policies.

The Outing Club concluded by saying that their pushback against risk management and liability procedures is productive, because it leads to a more practical and safer approach in the future while allowing members to grow their leadership skills. Rand wrote that "the Outing Club is in good hands and has a strong core of officers to help lead the club to a stronger future on campus." ♦

Like our lights on the side of the  
Union? Feel free to change them at  
[poly.rpi.edu/lights!](http://poly.rpi.edu/lights!)

## OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

## Flea market in Troy enjoyable, noteworthy



**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Senior Reviewer

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, THE TROY FLEA ended their season with around 30 vendors in Riverfront Park, a performance by Will Kempe's Players, and a streak of beautiful weather.

I only had an hour to spend at the flea market when I went, and I'm now regretting not prioritizing it more. It always seemed to fall on the weekends when I was especially busy, and I had a hard time justifying going. I'm glad I went though, because the Troy Flea seems to capture everything that defines a good flea market experience for me.

It's on the smaller side, so I didn't feel overwhelmed by the number of vendors. It still manages to have variety; I didn't find myself longing for more after I left. There was plenty of food, including Merv's Meatless and Muddaddy Flats, and a seating area placed near live music. People

were selling everything you could expect from a flea market: antiques, upcycled furniture, vintage clothes, handmade jewelry, artwork, and much more. Since flea markets are typically associated with steep prices, I was pleasantly surprised by how reasonable many of the vendors were. In many instances, I was offered lower prices than the already-competitive ones that were advertised. In addition, when I mentioned that I was looking for certain items, some vendors even offered to take down my email and contact me if they found what I was looking for.

The Troy Flea ticked off all the important boxes for me. It's a nice size, it's an enjoyable experience even if you don't buy anything, and the vendors care about everything they're selling. While this season has come to an end, I will definitely make an effort to go when they start back up next summer, and I would highly recommend that you do the same. ◇



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

TROY FLEA EXPOSED visitors to music, products, and crafts in an outdoor environment.

## BOOK REVIEW

## Seeking motivation?

**Anahit Hovhannisyan**  
Senior Reviewer

LOOKING FOR MILD ENTERTAINMENT AT THE END OF MY SUMMER, I PICKED UP *SMARTER FASTER BETTER* by Charles Duhigg. Little did I know, I wouldn't be able to put it down.

This book motivates not by brute force and empty words, but by research and real life examples. As an engineer at RPI, Duhigg earns a gold star from me. *Smarter Faster Better* highlights topics such as focus and goal setting. Duhigg applies ordinary ideas to fields such as aviation and engineering.

**Focus.** This chapter describes Air France Flight 447 and its reason for crashing into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009. A description of the events that took place in the cockpit gives reason for the tragic incident. Four hours into the flight, a warning alarm sounded. The plane had been in autopilot for hours and each professional in the cockpit had their guard down, completely depending on the autopilot. The sudden alarm surprised the pilot and he reacted by pulling back on the command stick, causing the nose of the plane to point up. In this case, every pilot is trained to prepare for an aerodynamic stall and level the plane. However, because of something called "cognitive tunneling," the pilot lost the ability to focus on the task at hand and carry out what he knew to do. The warning alarm forced the pilot to point his attention at the first thing he saw and practice "reactive thinking." The lesson learned here is to make mental models. The way to prevent falling into cognitive tunneling is to imagine the event internally and know what to expect rather than experiencing it in the moment.

**Goal setting.** This chapter hones in on the chief executive officer of General Electric seeking inspiration for preventing falling profits. A partial solution, responsible for more than tripling the company's profits, was integrating SMART goals. This stands for specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timeline. I won't go into specifics of this system, but even after many efforts, Jack Welch (the CEO at the time) sought a different answer—in Japan. The chapter continues to describe an effective goal-setting method responsible for the development of bullet trains in Japan. With efforts to rebuild Japan after the World War II, the head of the railway system called for a faster train to improve commuting between Tokyo and Osaka. By faster, he meant 120 mph. Engineers were baffled by this impossible request and could only make a prototype for 65 mph. However, the head of the railway system was not satisfied and kept pushing for 120 mph. The next prototype could travel 75 mph, and in 1964, the first bullet train traveled 120 mph. Welch returned to GE in the United States and requested that defects in engines be reduced by 70 percent—impossible. After continuous pushing, the company decreased defects by 75 percent. By setting ambitious goals and pairing them with SMART goals to break them down, even the impossible is attainable.

There is far more covered in *Smarter Faster Better* that deserves mentioning, but I will leave that up to you to explore. The structure of this book allows the reader to read one chapter at a time in no particular order, which enables even overbooked college students to find the time. Duhigg's writing style is clear and easy to read—unlike the plethora of overly complicated math and science books we read in our everyday. ◇

Interested in photography,  
writing, or InDesign?  
Join *The Polytechnic!*  
Meetings are held on Tuesdays  
at 7 pm in RU 3418.

 Rensselaer | LALLY SCHOOL  
OF MANAGEMENT

## Are you interested in co-term or the Lally MBA?

Join us as the Rensselaer Lally School of Management hosts a co-term program information session for current Rensselaer students. At this event, you can learn more about the Lally MBA and the five M.S. graduate business programs, and how you can earn your business graduate degree in your fifth year!

### Eng/Sci+MBA Info Sessions:

9/19, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library  
9/20, 10-11, Union 3511  
10/17, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library  
10/18, 10-11, Union 3511

### Co-Term Info Sessions:

9/19, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library  
9/20, 11-12 Union 3511  
10/17, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library  
10/18, 11-12, Union 3511

If you're interested in attending, please RSVP:  
Email [lallyms@rpi.edu](mailto:lallyms@rpi.edu).

Contact: Shari W. Quinn 518-276-6947

# Sports

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Men's soccer claims weekend



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

**THE RENNELAER ENGINEERS BEAT Bard College and Keene State this weekend.**

**Jacob Kaplan**  
Senior Reporter

RENNELAER WON 3-2 AGAINST BARD College away on Saturday and 2-0 against Keene State College at home on Sunday. The two wins boost the Engineers to 6-2 overall for the season.

Austin Betterly '20 began the excitement early, scoring a goal in the 12th minute of Saturday's game after a long pass from Danny Corridan '19, giving him his fourth goal of the season. Bard tied the game minutes later after scoring a rebounded penalty shot. The Engineers pulled ahead in the second

half with a swift low pass from Dylan Confair '20 to Brandon Pirog '20, who scored his first goal of the season. Rensselaer maintained their lead until the last minute, when Bard tied the game with a shot that bounced off the wall, over goalie Matt LaBranche '20, and into Rensselaer's goal. The game went into overtime but ended after two minutes with another goal from Pirog, after a pass from Confair, giving Rensselaer the win. The Engineers ended with a 20-7 shot lead and two saves made by LaBranche.

Trevor Bisson '21 scored the opening goal in the 20th minute of Sunday's game at Rensselaer's East Campus Stadium from a pass from captain Steven Collins '18. Confair scored another goal for Rensselaer in the second half with a left-footed shot into the right post after a pass from Betterly in the middle of the penalty area. All of Keene State's attempts to close the score gap failed. They had two opportunities late in the game but missed their shots, allowing Rensselaer a 2-0 victory. Goalkeeper Ryan Nealon '18 did not have to make any saves for the Engineers but actively intercepted Keene State's passes. The Engineers ended with a 16-4 shot lead.

Rensselaer will be away this weekend to face off against Skidmore College and again next Wednesday against St. Lawrence University. ♦

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Defeats for tennis team

**Joseph Lyon**  
Senior Reporter

THE RENNELAER WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM competed in the Northeast Division III Regional Women's Championship in Saratoga Springs this past weekend. The tournament saw many of the top Division III tennis players come together to compete. The Engineers fought hard but failed to pull out of the first round.

Mailani Neal '19 had a strong show, defeating Nastashia DeNuzio of the University of Scranton and winning her first round match. However, she was unable to complete her second match due to an injury, and was forced to retire against Alyssa Baldi. Neal also participated in a doubles match with Tess Lubin '20. The two played against Skidmore players, however, Lubin and Neal were unable to claim a victory.

Nisha Rajamohan '19, Makenzi Herbst '19, and Lubin were defeated in their respective single rounds. Herbst was also defeated in her first-round doubles match with Andrea Valencia '19 against two players from the College of New Jersey.

The Engineers put on a stronger performance in the consolation rounds, where Lubin and Herbst beat Sarra Yekta of Vassar and Lauren Salzano of SUNY Geneseo by default in their respective singles matches.

Herbst continued to the quarterfinals in the consolation rounds, only to be defeated on the second day of the tournament. RPI will be in Saratoga next weekend playing against Skidmore College. ♦

## CLASSICAL ARTS SERIES FALL 2017



**SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 7:30 PM**  
**HARMONIOUS BLACKSMITH**  
**EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL**

Harmonious Blacksmith combines the best of creative conceptual programming with the fire of virtuoso performing and improvising. Focusing on the connection between composition and improvisation in Renaissance and Baroque music, this group provides a new spin on age-old genres.

**OCTOBER 6, 2017, 7 PM**  
**TESSA LARK**  
**TROY MUSIC HALL**

Tessa Lark is one of the most captivating artistic voices of her time. She is praised consistently by critics and audiences alike for her astounding range of sounds, technical agility, captivating interpretations, and multi-genre programming and performance.

**OCTOBER 14, 2017, 7 PM**  
**STAR WARS & MORE**  
**PALACE THEATRE**

Featuring David Alan Miller, conductor and Simone Porter, violin.

**NOVEMBER 11, 2017, 7:30 PM**  
**EMILE NAUMOFF**  
**TROY MUSIC HALL**

A performance by Bulgarian-born commanding virtuoso pianist who is equally renowned as a prolific composer and arranger. Program features works by Faure, Ravel, N. Boulanger, L. Boulanger, Bach and Tchaikovsky that he has arranged in addition to one of his own compositions.

**NOVEMBER 26, 2017, 3 PM**  
**WALDEN CHAMBER PLAYERS**  
**EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL**

Critics have hailed its performances of everything from Bach to Schoenberg, and Chamber Music America Magazine raves, "A season spent with the Walden Chamber Players is a time for discovery." Offering a new concept of a classical concert both in content and presentation, and drawing from a rich palette of sources and styles, the ensemble mixes and matches the works of both classical and contemporary composers with an eye to new understandings and discoveries

**DECEMBER 9, 2017, 7:30 PM**  
**1786 MOZART'S MIRACULOUS YEAR**  
**TROY MUSIC HALL**

Featuring David Alan Miller, Conductor and Marriage of Figaro, Overture and Selections.

TICKET PRIORITY  
RESERVED FOR RPI  
STUDENTS FIRST



FUNDING  
GENEROUSLY  
PROVIDED BY:  
Hassan Concert Series

Kodosky Fund

Eleanor & Jerome Fischbach

Classical Concert Series

**CONTACT**  
Rensselaer Union  
Administration  
Union 3072  
518-276-6505  
rpiunion@gmail.com

TICKETS BECOME  
AVAILABLE 10-14  
DAYS PRIOR TO THE  
PERFORMANCE DATE



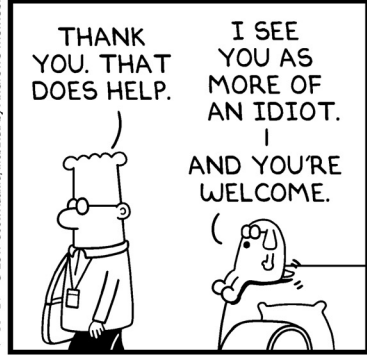
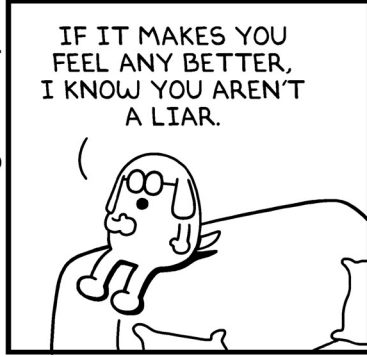
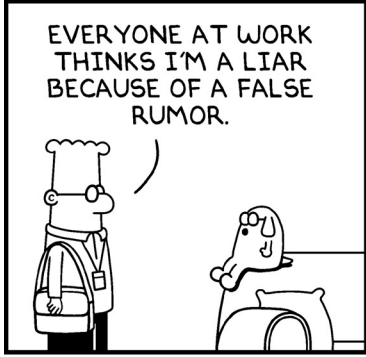
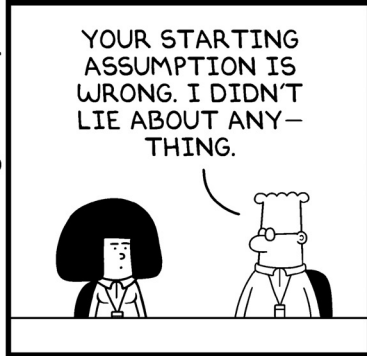
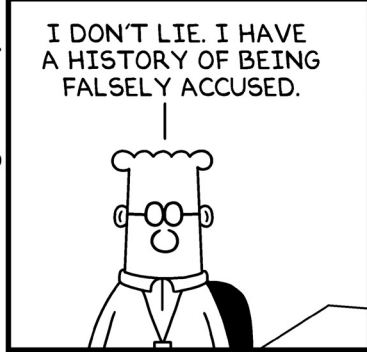
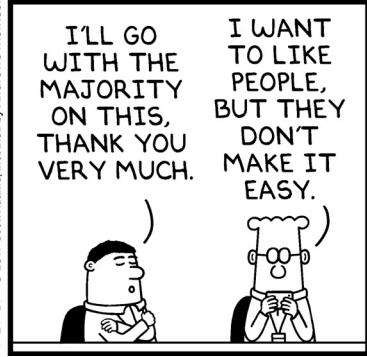
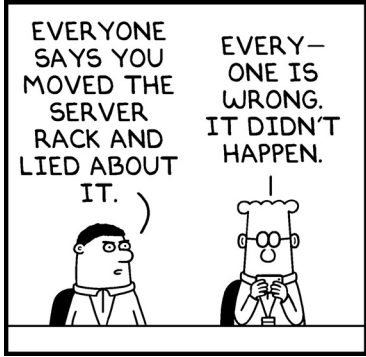
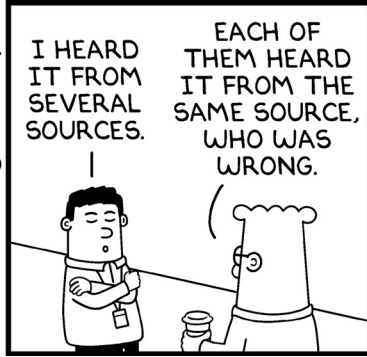
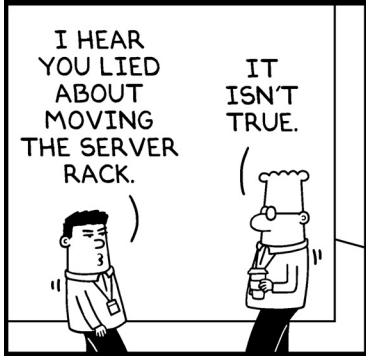
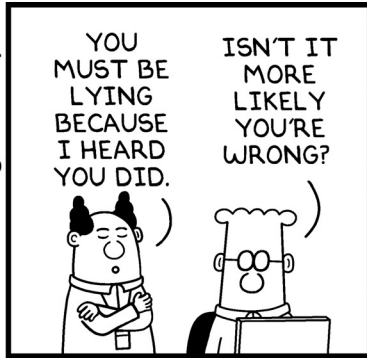
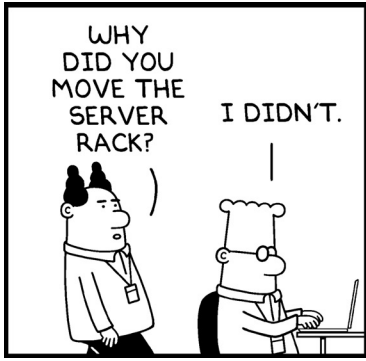
DILBERT

by Scott Adams

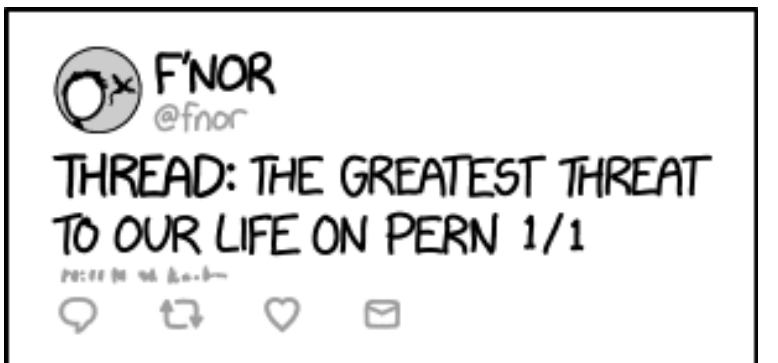
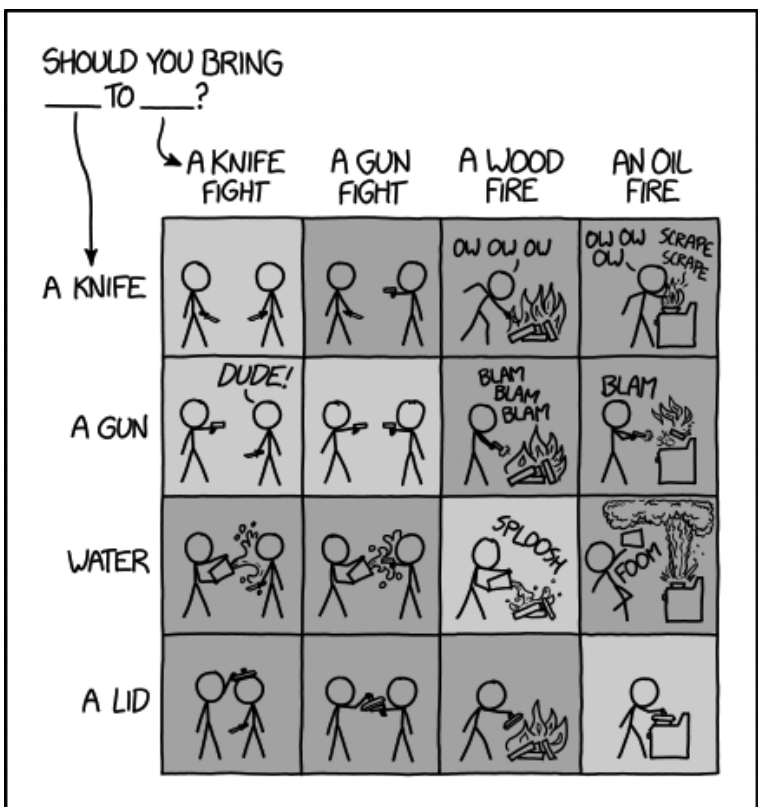
TOP TEN LIST

# Things to Replace at RPI

10. Phi Tau
9. BBB bond rating
8. Everything that says "Redhawks"
7. *The Poly*
6. Asbestos
5. The creepy SIS computer clipart
4. shuttles.rpi.edu
3. Joe Cassidy
2. Sodexo
1. Imujraf



XKCD by Randall Munroe



SUDOKU

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

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.

Last Week's Answers

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

- CARRY POWER BUT NOT DATA
- CARRIES DATA BUT NOT POWER
- TOO SHORT
- CHARGES PHONE SLOWLY
- WON'T AUTO-ACTIVATE PORTABLE CHARGER
- HAS ANNOYING FERRITE LUMPS
- HEAVY AND NOT VERY FLEXIBLE
- FRAYED
- PLUG DOESN'T FIT THROUGH CASE
- NEEDS TO BE TWISTED TO KEEP WORKING
- WEIRD SHAPE
- THE GOOD ONE

THE LAW OF USB CABLES:  
NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU GET,  
YOU ONLY EVER HAVE ONE GOOD ONE.

# Features

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

## Festival celebrates 45 years, treats locals



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

**ADIRONDACK BALLOON FESTIVAL** TOOK people to new heights to fundraise for aviation education and celebrate 45 years of hot air fanfare at Warren County Airport.

**Crystal Vejar**  
Senior Reviewer

THE ADIRONDACK BALLOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATED ITS 45TH anniversary from September 21 to 24, 2017, bringing upwards of 50,000 people over four days to the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury, New York. The festival is a not-for-profit event run strictly by volunteers, that rely on sponsors and the local community for support and advertisement.

Throughout the years, the event has attracted pilots from all over the world, including cities like Saga, Japan,

and Quebec, Canada. The event has received media coverage from Food Network, The Weather Channel, Associated Press, and *The New York Times*. The festival was initially held at Adirondack Community College, now known as SUNY Adirondack. As the event grew, a larger venue was needed, which led to the current location, the Warren County Airport.

The festival was founded by Walter Grishkot, who brought the idea the Warren County's tourism and publicity office in the early 1970's after balloonist John Marsden from Manchester, Vermont shared photos of his balloon. The office of tourism and publicity was looking for an event idea that would bring

tourism to the region after Labor Day. At the time, there were relatively few hot air balloons in the nation, but the idea took off and the Adirondack Balloon Festival was born shortly after.

The festival has strived to keep the event free of charge, which is very rare for an event of its size. Funding would not be possible without the continued support of enthusiasts, the community, and volunteers.

Apart from bringing a unique event and great memories to thousands, a memorial foundation was created after the death of Grishkot in 2011. The foundation raises funds to promote interest in education in aviation and aerospace sciences. You can visit <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/7q56z> to support the scholarship fund. ♦