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community
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Rensselaer welcomes 1700 to Troy



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

DURING WELCOME FEST ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, MEMBERS OF THE INCOMING CLASS OF 2021 MADE their way down the Approach and through Downtown Troy to kick off their first year at Rensselaer. Along the way, they were greeted by President Shirley Ann Jackson, who handed out metal water bottles emblazoned with the Rensselaer seal and "Class of 2021." Students high-fived and bumped fists with Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18, President of the Union Matthew Rand '19, and members of the president's cabinet. Troy Mayor Patrick Madden also spoke to greet the incoming class before dinner was served in Riverfront Park along the Hudson River.

STUDENT SENATE

Rules and Elections kicks off freshman campaigns



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE STUDENT SENATE VOTED to approve the freshman elections handbook and nominated students to serve on a campus safety advisory committee. (file photo)

David Raab
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION 48TH STUDENT SENATE HELD ITS FIRST meeting of the semester on Saturday, September 2. The meeting was held in the Bruggeman Conference Center of the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies at the conclusion of training for the members of the Senate.

The main item on the agenda was approval of the *Class of 2021 Freshmen Elections Handbook*. Freshman elections occur in the Fall semester during September and early October in order to elect freshman members to both the Student Senate and the Undergraduate Council. Rules and Elections Committee chairperson Caleb Caraway '19 explained to the Senate that the Handbook contained no major changes in comparison to the rules of prior elections and only some minor language tweaks. Prospective candidates are required to attend one candidate info session before declaring their candidacy. These will occur on weekdays in the Student Government Suite at 5 pm starting on Tuesday, September 5 and ending on Friday, September 22. Elections will be held on Tuesday, October 5, and all forms related to the elections will need to be turned into the Union Admin Office by Friday, September 29.

A few senators noticed there were some errors within the document. Political parties, which were removed from the *Grand Marshal Week 2017 Election Handbook*, were still referenced. Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 pointed out that the Rules and Elections Committee can unanimously vote to make small edits that don't change the overall fairness of the elections without going back before the Senate. The vote of the Senate to pass the handbook passed 16-0-0. The full elections handbook can be found at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/5hgan>.

The next order of business for the meeting was for the Senate to consider Etzine's appointment of a slate of six students to a newly-created campus safety advisory committee. Of those six students, three will be actually be invited to sit on the committee. This new committee will be led by Director of Public Safety Jerry Matthews, and it will be tasked with reviewing current campus safety protocols and making suggestions for their improvement. Etzine appointed Ciera Williams '18, Tnbit Demoz '19, Zining Liang '19, Charisse Stakutis '18, Harrison Leinweber '18, and Adeel Minhas '18 to potentially serve on this committee. The formation of this committee is required in order to comply with New York State law, and needs to be made up of at least two students, two members of the faculty, and two other members of the

RPI community appointed by the president. According to Etzine, RPI has made a commitment to having three students sit on this group. The motion passed 16-0-0.

Greek Senator and Parliamentarian Jennie Miller '19 motioned to change the Senate bylaws regarding the appointment of R&E members. Currently, R&E members are appointed by various bodies of student government, and the chairperson appoints a member-at-large who can be any Union Activity Fee paying member of the Union. If one of those bodies does not appoint someone to R&E within three weeks after the start of the Fall semester, their seat reverts to a member-at-large who is appointed by the R&E chairperson. Miller proposed changing that rule to having the Grand Marshal appoint someone from the body that would have been represented by that seat.

Miller explained to the Senate that the RPI Panhellenic Council is extremely busy preparing for their formal recruitment process and they have not had time to appoint someone to R&E. According to Miller, they feel it is unfair that they lose their representation if they do not appoint someone on time. The only currently vacant seat on R&E is the Panhellenic seat, while the rest of the group was formed at the end of last semester. Ultimately, the Senate voted 16-0-0 to postpone consideration of this motion until the next Senate meeting, which will be taking place on Monday, September 11 at 8 pm in the Union's Shelnutt Gallery. ♦

INTERVIEW

GECAS CEO talks aerospace industry with RPI

Carter Muller
A Special to The Poly

I HAD THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY to interview Alec Burger, the President and CEO of General Electric Capital Aviation Services, the largest commercial aircraft financing and leasing company in the world. GECAS has approximately 1,700 airplanes in operation or on order, and is part of GE Capital.

MULLER: At the Paris Air Show, GECAS ordered 20 737 MAX 10s, stating that the order enhances the fleet with the newest technology. How is this technology changing and enhancing how GECAS operates?

BURGER: The latest technology enhancements of aircraft drive fuel efficiencies, offer greater range, and optimize capacity are all benefits to airline operators. While lessors such as GECAS look to offer these technology enhancements to customers, they do not in themselves change how we operate, or what financing solutions we can make available to our clients. However, embracing these advances by adding newer aircraft to

our fleet allows us to have a more attractive offering to commercial airlines around the world. A recent development by GECAS that is using technology to enhance how we operate is our new mobile app that has the GECAS portfolio. The app allows customers to view aircraft and engines available for sale or lease. Planned enhancements will include listings for the tens of thousands of parts that we have. If a customer needs a spare engine, we can get it to them in as little as 24 hours. While guest users of the app can see a selection of planes and engines we have available, registered GECAS customers can see a larger available inventory as well as check their account on the app. The app is just the beginning and there is more to come.

MULLER: Keith Sherin said that you are a terrific leader and known for developing talented teams. How do you help people reach the next level?

BURGER: As a leader, I expect great results, but I don't micromanage. People will rise to the occasion, but if there are obstacles, I help as needed. The art of being

a good leader is knowing when to help. One needs to be careful as there is a difference between delegation and abdication.

MULLER: What is one piece of advice you would give to RPI students?

BURGER: Take a degree of personal risk; inertia is a killer. Also change is uncomfortable, so be uncomfortable. Coming from GE Capital Real Estate to GECAS and knowing nothing about aircraft leasing was uncomfortable. There are more than 575 employees here, quite a number with twenty plus years of experience. Another piece of advice is that one of the worst things your parents tell you is: do a good job and everything will be taken care of. I was having a career talk and my boss said to me: "Alec, you've been hitting home runs, but no one's noticed." It's like in the book, "Who Moved My Cheese?" I realized that performance is not everything; it is really only about 10%, image is 20%, and exposure is 70%.

MULLER: You experienced many different types of leadership. What are some of the core attributes of an effective leader?

BURGER: There are a few types of leaders. One direction is to be a good manager, people who delegate well. Some leaders are people who build loyalty with their team, another direction is to build great relationships with people. One of the core traits that a leader should have is listening. Listening is huge, people need to be able to trust a leader; the leader needs to be willing to make tough decisions. Being true to yourself and engaging on a human level is crucial as a leader needs to be understanding and compassionate. On a side note, you have to have reach within an organization, not to just trust what your subordinates give you. Reach down, but don't create the feeling like you are going behind your subordinates' backs. There needs to be a psychological contract. Finally, EQ over IQ.

MULLER: Last year, GECAS completed its first 737-800 passenger to freighter conversion on a 17 year old aircraft. How is sustainability incorporated into GECAS' business model?

BURGER: We are currently plan-

ning to convert 35 of our 737-800 passenger jets at the end of their leases to freighters which will largely be replacing the older 737 Classics with these newer, more fuel efficient models. Climate change is real. It is great that our chairman, Jeff, came out and said climate change is real. We have a degree of responsibility to reduce CO2 emissions. One of GE's initiatives is to minimize environmental impacts in our business model. Jeff emphasizes it's not enough to be a great company, we also have to be a good company. With that, comes investing in the next generation.

MULLER: At RPI, there is a focus on ethical decision-making. How does one ensure that ethical decision-making takes places in a corporate culture?

BURGER: One of the best things about GE is its corporate culture and integrity has always been at the core of that culture. In the 27 years I have been at GE, I never felt like I had to think about integrity.

The full transcript of this interview can be found online at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/gecas>.

SOCCER

Men's soccer beats New Paltz, Sage Colleges

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

THE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM HAD A STRONG START to the year this past weekend as a part of the Union Classic tournament, with two high-energy games that both resulted in victory. Friday's game against New Paltz saw a final score of 2-1, and the Engineers took Saturday's game versus The Sage Colleges 3-1.

Friday's game saw a strong performance by the Engineers, with a goal early in the game scored by Steven Collins '17, bringing the score to 1-0. No further goals were scored by either side until over an hour later, but the Engineers kept the pressure on, with most of the action happening near the New Paltz goal. This high-energy play continued through until the 69th minute of play, where freshman Trevor Bisson scored the first goal of his career, assisted by Trevor McCaughey '18, solidifying the Engineers' lead. New Paltz tried to come back with a goal six minutes later, followed by an opening in the Engineers' defense in the 86th minute of the game, however, goalie Matt LaBranche '20 came off the line to prevent a shot on goal by New Paltz.

Saturday's game began with a shot on goal by Sage, blocked by LaBranche, however Sage followed this up with three back to back shots on goal, with the third attempt scoring, bringing the score to 0-1. The rest of the first half saw no goals by



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

RENSSELAER MEN'S SOCCER WON both games they played this past weekend against New Paltz and The Sage Colleges.

either team, however, the Engineers played an extremely strong second half, beginning with a goal by Danny Corridan '17 to tie the game, and five minutes later, a goal by Dylan Confair '19 to secure a lead for the

Engineers. Corridan then scored his second goal of the game, further increasing the Engineers' lead to 3-1. The Engineers outshot the Raptors 18-15, while Rensselaer goalie LaBranche made seven saves throughout

the game, including two within the first five minutes of the game.

The Engineers will be playing again this Friday in Oneonta, New York, against Rhode Island College. ♦



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

RENSSELAER FOOTBALL BEAT William Patterson University this past weekend. (file photo)

FOOTBALL

Football dominates

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER FOOTBALL BEGAN THE SEASON WITH a dominating victory over William Paterson University, winning 45-0. The game saw extremely strong play by RPI, who only allowed William Patterson to gain a total of 51 yards, while gaining 493 yards themselves.

A strong defense was the backbone of the victory, with RPI's defense letting through only 1.1 yards on average per play. This, combined with an interception in the first quarter and several turnovers, resulted in a score of 21-0 through the first quarter. Rensselaer began its lead on its first possession, and the momentum continued from there with three more touchdowns and connecting field goals that quarter, with touchdowns scored

by Mike Tivinis '18, Rob Law '19, and Ethan Wells '18, and field goals by Christian Kapp '18. The second quarter saw RPI scoring only three additional points, with a 23-yard field goal at the end of the quarter, once again kicked by Kapp.

The second half of the game followed in the high energy play style of the first, with touchdowns by Pat Etter '19, Tom Avery '20, and Wells. The Engineers allowed the Pioneers' quarterbacks to complete just one of eight passes during the game.

There was a lot of enthusiasm on the field, including a solid interaction between the RPI Pep Band and the team, featuring an energetic rendition of the closing song "Hey Baby" and the school fight song "Hail." Spirits were high near the end of the game, and it clearly showed. ♦

Like to get up close and personal with sports? Want to meet players? Interested in sports photography? Contact us at sports@poly.rpi.edu!

Scores from the Week

Friday, September 1

Field Hockey vs. Hartwick College	2-3
Men's Soccer vs. New Paltz	2-1
Women's Soccer vs. Western Connecticut State	0-2

Saturday, September 2

Football vs. William Patterson	45-0
Men's Soccer vs. Sage College	3-1
Women's Soccer vs. Farmingdale State	1-0

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

XKCD

Randall Munroe

DO YOU WORRY THAT A ROBOT WILL SOMEDAY TAKE YOUR JOB?

NAH. NO ONE WILL BUILD A ROBOT THAT DOES NOTHING BUT DRINK COFFEE.

IT DOES NOTHING BUT DRINK COFFEE. IT CAN REPLACE 20% OF YOUR WORKFORCE.

I LIKE IT.

OUR ROBOT WAS A GOOD WORKER UNTIL WE GAVE IT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

AS SOON AS IT REALIZED IT HAD IMMENSE STRENGTH AND NO SOUL, IT STARTED DELEGATING.

HEY, TED. HOW ABOUT YOU DO MY WORK AND I WON'T CRUSH YOUR HEAD?

OOKKAY.

OUR NEW ROBOT IS *TOO* SMART.

IT KEEPS THREATENING HUMANS INTO DOING ITS JOB WHILE IT DOES NOTHING BUT DRINK COFFEE.

ISN'T THAT ALL *YOU* DO?

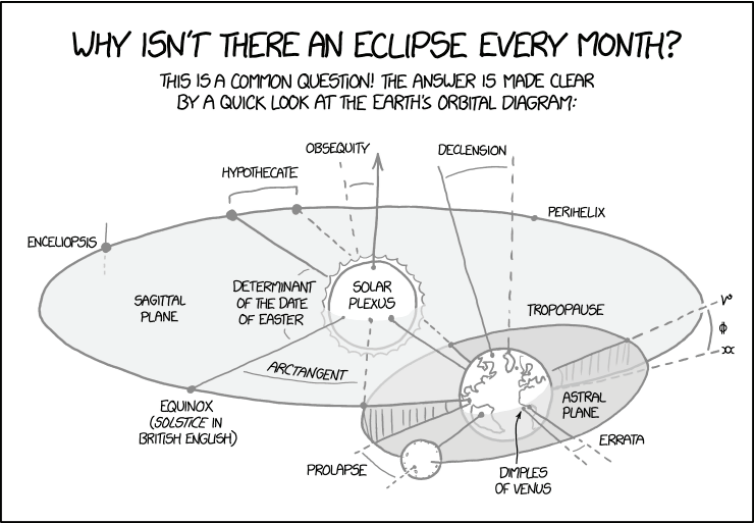
I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS HEADING.

THANKS TO ADVANCES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, I AM BOTH A ROBOT AND YOUR NEW BOSS.

WORK HARD WHILE I DO NOTHING OR I WILL CRUSH EACH OF YOUR SKULLS WITH MY MECHANICAL ARMS.

HE'S TOUGH, BUT HE'S FAIR.

AND NO MICRO-MANAGING. I FIND IT REFRESHING.



TOP TEN LIST

Upcoming Facebook Reactions

- 10. Weakness
- 9. Lonely
- 8. Confused
- 7. Angry
- 6. Hungry
- 5. Same
- 4. Sleepy
- 3. Disappointed
- 2. Nervous
- 1. Dead



NDABA MANDELA
9/19
7:30 PM
SPEAKERS FORUM
EMPAC THEATER

Rensselaer

Reserve tickets via link on @RPIUnion FB Page Event!

WED. 9/13 6 PM-8 PM
HOUSTON FIELD HOUSE

HOCKEY LINE CELEBRATION

BUY SEASON TICKETS | TEAM MEET & GREET
ICE CREAM | PIZZA | CARICATURES | FREE SKATE

Sponsored by Athletics & The Rensselaer Union

NRB EVENT

Sly students snatch snitches



Simon Chen/The Polytechnic

FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE the joys of physical activity while playing Quidditch, soccer, and ultimate frisbee.

Nicholas Sanchez
Mariam Tharwat
Specials to The Poly

MANY FRESHMEN KICKED OFF Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond at the East Campus Athletic Village by participating in a variety of sports including Quidditch, ultimate frisbee, and soccer.

Quidditch, a modified sport heavily inspired by J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter*, is played by two teams of seven; positions include three chasers, two beaters, and more, with multiple balls

on the field at once. One student, Stephen Zenack ’21, signed up for the sport to “try something new.”

Other students decided to participate in a more mainstream sport: soccer. For Joseph Borello ’21, the sport is “fun and relaxing.” Club soccer organized stretching and multiple drills, including “chaos,” where the field is set up into four goals on each corner and the players are required to score in any of the goals before the students competed in a 5v5 soccer tournament.

On a nearby field, roughly 50 freshmen split up to learn the basic maneuvers of ultimate frisbee through drills and games. Listed as “The Ultimate Game” for registration, the name was enough to draw the attention of Alexei Hazell ’21 and many others. However, Hazell thought the sport to be “far more complex than it seems.”

Quidditch, ultimate frisbee, and soccer are some of the many clubs available to students throughout the year. If these clubs interest you, visit <https://union.rpi.edu/clubs>. ♦

NRB EVENT

WRPI shows CD, vinyl collection, entertains

Anthony Deliz
A Special to The Poly

WRPI HOSTED AN EVENT ON AUGUST 27, to show the incoming freshmen how to run a radio show. They spent the morning recording music and learning about the technical side of running a radio show. Later in the day, they went on a tour of the studio. The freshmen taking part in this experience were excited about the fact that they had the opportunity to actually express their talents and record music.

WRPI Business Manager LC Hines ’20 emphasized the importance of the radio show. Hines stated that the most important part of hosting a radio show is “that feeling that you’re connecting with your listeners.” Hines also provided examples of when he felt that connection. One of those was with an English teacher at Troy High School, who listens to the radio show during their classes. Hines also passionately described the importance of music, stating that

“music is one of the most powerful creative mediums we have today.”

During the tour, students learned about the history of WRPI. The radio show started as a club in the 20s, where participants would tinker with ham radios in the RPI Playhouse. The club later moved into the basement of the Darrin Communications Center in 70s, where the modern WRPI radio show was started.

Students also got to see the extensive collection of vinyl records and CDs. The collection is entirely made up of donations from WRPI members, alumni, and music distributors. New records and discs are being added all the time, and the club is working on ways to maintain the ever-growing collection.

The members of WRPI are excited for the incoming freshman class. Their talent for show hosting and music will bring new visions and ideas to the radio show. There is an opportunity for everyone, freshmen or not, to get involved and make an impact on the radio show.

For more information about the club, visit <http://www.wrpi.org>. ♦

Do you like writing, photography, or graphic design? Join *The Poly!* We meet Sundays at 3 pm and Tuesdays at 7 pm in our office.

ALBUM REVIEW

Calvin Harris showcases summer vibe masterpieces

Serge Piskun
Senior Reporter

THIS SUMMER WAS A ROLLERCOASTER OF EVENTS FOR ME. FROM ATTENDING COMMUNITY college and experiencing life away from RPI, to working as a martial arts instructor on weeknights, to traveling around Europe on a frantic sightseeing tour, my days were busy. Summer was a hectic adventure, but one with a unified and enthusiastic attitude. That’s the way it should be, that’s the way it always will be, and that’s the way Calvin Harris describes it to be in his latest summer hit album, *Funk Wav Bounces Vol.1*.

The album is a very well done wrap-up of everything summer should be: funky, light, and always fresh. Each song is similar in its oldie aesthetic, but each one is separated by a different flavor. Some are more mellow, like “Slide,” featuring Frank Ocean’s mellow voice asking his female friends about their relationships. Others are frantic and needy, like “Skrt On Me,” featuring Nicki Minaj telling her man to either shape up and be better or move on with his life. The change in pacing is important, as it makes each song feel independent and single worthy. It also highlights the various moods of summer, when people go from lounging at a pool to frantically getting to work.

Funk Wav Bounces Vol.1 features a diverse cast of artist features, representing the latest figures on the forefront of the music industry. On one hand, listeners are greeted with the familiar flows and ad libs of rap personalities like Travis Scott and Migos, while on the other, they get the smooth vocals of Ariana Grande and Frank Ocean. The album also does a good job of exposing its audience to artists they may not necessarily have heard of. Newcomer Jessie Reyez gets her own solo feature on the album, in contrast to music industry veteran Pharrell Williams being one of the three features on a different song.

Instrument-wise, all songs have similar elements, but different final compositions. As I have already touched upon, there is an omnipresent oldie vibe throughout the entire album. Calvin Harris named it “Funk Wav Bounce” for a reason—everything heralds back to the funk and disco era that is making a slow return into mainstream music. In addition to that, most tracks are tied together by the appearance of a slower, melodic piano. With the exception of one or two fast songs, each tune starts off with a few piano notes, or distorted notes that transition into piano later. This serves to bring the individual songs together into a coherent album—one where everything is at least somewhat related.

Overall, I enjoyed *Funk Wav Bounces Vol.1*. I liked how it provided a soundtrack to my summer, and how it wasn’t aggressively pushing something new into my face. I had come to expect an album of party bangers from Calvin Harris, and this one was a welcome surprise. If the inevitable *Funk Wav Bounces Vol.2* is going to create a similar vibe for next summer, then I can hardly wait for school to end. ♦

SAVE THE DATE

BRAVE SPACE

Fall 2017 Dates
9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 12/5
Multicultural Lounge 2124

As groups who are marginalized and oppressed continue to face injustices, violence, and tragedy, the Rensselaer Union and RPI Student Life want to provide a continued space of support, healing, and processing. This space is open for all students and staff who are affected by the events of today’s world, and encourages vulnerability in the spirit of being brave.
If you have any questions, please contact Rafael Gonzalez at gonzar4@rpi.edu.

RENSSELAER UNION

Rensselaer

Editorial

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

EDITOR’S CORNER

Editor in chief shares revelations of running

Running offers new life lessons: pacing yourself, seeing things from another perspective

I STARTED RUNNING THIS SUMMER.

I didn’t think that running was for me; I’ve always preferred racking up miles while riding a bike. But I decided to push myself outside of my comfort zone and just start running, and I discovered how amazing it can be.

I’ve run by myself. I’ve run with old friends and new friends. I’ve run with people who pull away as we discover our paces are different. No matter who I’m with, I always find myself motivated to power through and do better. We encourage each other to work through each hill, and we can just talk about whatever’s on our minds.

Running by myself is great—I push myself to do better than I did last run, and I have time to think and sort out my thoughts. I have the space to just think about whatever comes to the front of my mind, which is a rare opportunity for me these days.



Sidney Kochman
Editor in Chief

I’ve run on trails. I’ve run on roads. I’ve run through places I’d otherwise never find myself. Every time I run, I see something new. Sometimes the way the light filters through the trees is slightly different. Other times I see a storefront that I’ve driven past dozens of times but never consciously made a note of. Running causes me to see the world through a different lens. As sweaty as it makes me, running is relaxing. Being outside, tuning everything beyond my immediate space out for an hour, and focusing only on moving forward gives me direction. It’s a simple and welcome break from the stress of my responsibilities. I unplug and it’s impossible for anyone to contact me for that amount of time, and that distance makes me feel liberated.

While I’m running, I feel fulfilled. Humans evolved to be well-adapted for running—I’m using my body to do

something it is automatically pretty good at. People don’t have to be taught how to run like they do to bicycle, swim, or ski. Everyone who is fortunate enough to have the physical ability to run can pick it up and start doing it in a way that fits into her life. I’m privileged to have easy access to good places to run and enough time to make use of them.

One rule I’ve set for myself while running is that I don’t compare myself to others. The only stats I track are my own. The next time I run, I aim for slightly above the pace I managed last time, and whether or not I meet my target is only up to me.

I don’t take running terribly seriously. I never thought of running as something that I could just pick up, but I have proven myself wrong this summer. I’m not great at it, and my pace is garbage-tier. But that’s not what matters to me. Running is a fantastic way to clear my mind, calm myself down, and stay focused on what lies ahead. ♦

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Looking forward to living without glasses

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I THOUGHT I needed glasses. I was a senior in high school in my chemistry class and I had to move up to the front of the class to see the board. I told my parents about it but they thought I was joking with them at first, because I had never complained about it before. I reiterated I was serious and then I got an appointment with an optometrist.

On the way to the appointment, my mom was testing my vision to gauge it herself. The story she always

tells is that we were looking for the building where my appointment was and my sister was the first one to see the sign on the building. She pointed to it and my mom looked and saw it, but all I saw was a blur of red where the sign was. Well, it turns out I was just below the cutoff for not being able to legally drive.

I got set up with contacts and glasses that I was to wear over the contacts, as a counteractive measure to not mess with my close-up vision. I wore these for three years. It was

definitely nice to be able to see, but having to take care of the contacts and glasses was slightly annoying.

My mom then asked if I wanted LASIK eye surgery so I didn’t have to deal with that anymore. I thought it was a good idea and I had it performed this past summer. The surgery was easy—getting my wisdom teeth taken out was worse—and I could tell it had worked about an hour after the surgery had finished. During my post-op checkup I told my doctor that I thought I could see

better now than even with glasses. We did the eye test and I have almost 20/10 vision now.

It has been two months since the surgery and I’ve developed a bit of a dry eye, which I combat by putting in eye drops about three to four times a day. Additionally, my eyes are more sensitive to light, but it doesn’t affect me much. All in all, I am happy with my decision to have the surgery, and I am not looking forward to when I hit my 40s and have to go back to using glasses. ♦



Tyler Carney
Senior Managing Editor

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

New students reflect on NRB

Thousands of acronyms drive newbies off the walls

SOS! RPI’s FYE HAS GOT US FEELING DONE AF. FIRST, we arrived for SO. We talked to our RAs, RDs, and LAs about YACS, as well as SIS. Our RAs, RDs, and LAs gave us the DL on SO/NRB, so we knew to use YACS and SIS for schedules. The SOA (student orientation advisors not to be confused with Sons of Anarchy) were extremely helpful with campus geography and learning the difference between DCC, VCC, JEC, CII, UPAC, EMPAC, and ECAV. But if you’re coming from BARH you may have a more difficult time getting to these buildings (more like FAR-H AMIRITE??). But in all seriousness, what these acronyms represent have helped create a community, in which we feel comfortable enough to both critique and value our school.

One seemingly universal critique was during the move in process. We had a very short amount of time to get settled into our halls before being thrown into “jam-packed” NRB activities. Looking like a herd of sheep, we were directed into mandatory “fun” (the greatest oxymoron, closely followed by jumbo

shrimp and cool RPI student). Let me paint you a picture. Search “extreme sheep herding” and you’ll find pictures of freshmen being moved from activity to activity. It makes sense for the community to put us in this position, but we would’ve hoped for a more natural experience to walk around campus and meet new people. Through the frustration of being rushed into new undertakings, we appreciate the opportunities that we’ve been given, the experiences we’ve had, and the people we’ve met. If you’re ever in a pickle and the information that was thrust upon you at SO is escaping you, ask yourself...WWSAJD?

Let’s take a step back—why are we here at RPI? Asking around, we found a common theme emerged: RPI has passionate, quality people. As a fellow student stated best, “I have yet to meet someone who is truly an asshole.” Multiple students shared the same sentiment: everyone here is genuine, kind, and helpful. They are proactive in the ways they change the world. ♦

the polytechnic

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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.

The Polytechnic will hold elections at 3 pm on Sunday, September 17 in our office, RU 3418. Come to our next meeting on Sunday, September 10 to learn more and get involved!

TOP HAT

Fully trained senators prepared for your issues

WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE! I HOPE YOU ALL MOVED IN EASILY AND are enjoying your classes thus far.

For those of you who are just starting your first semester, good luck! If you're interested in participating in student government, the Rules and Elections Committee began their informational sessions yesterday, and there will be sessions held every weekday at 5 pm in the Student Government Suite on the third floor of the Union until September 22. Remember that you must attend a session before you can declare your candidacy and start campaigning!

Student government has already started off the Fall semester strong, and I would like to share updates on both progress made and plans moving forward. The Senate's committee chairs and I have been meeting with administrators and members of the President's cabinet to discuss important priorities for our student body. We are working to schedule regular standing meetings with these administrators to normalize the Senate's ability to provide honest feedback to the many departments and divisions at RPI. Finally, President of the Union Matt Rand and I have been working closely with the Division of Human Resources on the hiring process for a new Director of the Union. We hope to be sharing updates with the campus on the process in the near future!

This past Saturday, the Senate went through training, which was aimed to provide senators with the tools they'll need to represent you all. Immediately after, we held our first meeting of the semester. We enacted the Class of 2021 Freshman Elections Handbook, which can be found at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/5hgan>, and we appointed students to sit on an advisory committee on campus safety.

Starting on September 11, the Senate will be holding general meetings each Monday at 8 pm in the Union's Shelnutt Gallery. These meetings are open to the public; bring a guest! Get a bird's eye view of the current status of Senate projects presented by committees, participate in debates on legislation on the floor, or share your thoughts and feedback during the "invitation to speak" portion.

Finally, as you might have seen, Parking and Transportation Services have introduced a brand-new late night shuttle! The route runs every Friday and Saturday night from 8 pm until 4 am, and the route includes parts of the existing east and west routes, along with some downtown locations. I think this addition will be very helpful for students looking to explore downtown and get back home safely. It has been exciting watching this project progress from just an idea a year ago. Thank you to Alex da Silva, Les Arras, and all of Auxiliary Services for their efforts to establish this new service for students.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns, please always feel free to reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu! ♦



Justin Etzine
Grand Marshal

DERBY

Advice worthy of you and PU's little brother

HELLO EVERYONE, AND WELCOME BACK TO campus! It has been an exciting first week, full of all of the joys of college: the chance to see and catch up with old friends, the opportunities to make new ones, and the joys of welcoming the newest members of our RPI community, the Class of 2021!

I have to say, I am partial to our newest classmates. My little brother recently started college himself, and being able to talk to him, as well as all of the new faces that I meet on Freshman Hill, has helped to give me a renewed appreciation for the freshman experience, as well as remember all of the trials and tribulations that comes with it. For many, this is your first time moving away from home, potentially coming to a place where you know no one. It is a time to build a new life for yourself, rediscover who you are, and set yourself up for a future full of success. To anyone who is taking the time to read this, I would like to say thank you.

Transitioning to college is difficult. It was difficult for me, and—chances are—most other students here at RPI. But, in that same breath, I want to reiterate that you are not alone. There is an entire campus of students who are ready and willing to help you. All you need to do is ask. Now, I know that approaching a seemingly random upperclassman might seem daunting, but it might seem less so if you take the time to get involved in all of the activities RPI has to offer outside of the classroom. With over 200 clubs and organizations, dozens of intramural leagues, club sports, research opportunities, and thousands of hours of programming to attend in your next four years, chances are you will find a place you belong faster than you think. You too will find your home.

All of the advice above is the same that I gave to my little brother before he left—find a place on campus, a group of people, that you belong to. Find a group to support you or a place that you feel relaxed and at home; a place that will help you to grow and develop into the person that you know you can be. And remember that it takes time, and that's okay. But let me assure you, no one leaves RPI without making a mark on campus. No one leaves without RPI having left a mark on you.

To the rest of campus, I would like to wish you a warm welcome back. Rensselaer has been waiting patiently for our return, and soon will be back into full swing. Remember to study hard, take time to relax and think about your health, and please, if you see a freshman who looks a little lost, say "hi" and lend a helping hand. You never know just how far an outstretched arm can reach.

Best of luck starting your new classes, and feel free to contact me at pu@rpi.edu or stop by my office in the Student Government Suite on the third floor of the Union. Thanks, and I look forward to working with you all! ♦



Matthew Rand
President of the Union

Have lunch with us!



WED, SEPTEMBER 13, 11AM - 3PM

5TH FLOOR EMPAC,
EVELYN'S CAFE

Follow us on FB and Instagram: @TerraCafeRPI

Features

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

NRB EVENT

MashUp! at EMPAC gets rave review



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

NRB MENTORS WORKED tirelessly with freshmen to create a one of a kind experience, featuring a unique pre-show and a main party with flashing lights, visual effects, and music.

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

THE CULMINATION OF MASHUP!, A NAVIGATING Rensselaer & Beyond event focused around remixing music, controlling light and stage technology, and creating visual components, filled the lobby of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center on Monday, August 28.

Participants were split into three groups and paired with mentors from PULSE, a student group on campus that explores electronic music and art. Freshmen mash-up artists then worked together in groups based on their taste in music, such that a similarly-minded mentor guided them through selecting music and navigating mixing software like Ableton Live. “I didn’t actually know what this was until I got here

this morning, but I actually really like it. I’m a little shocked at how I’m really into this,” commented one student working on a mash-up inspired by and including music from artists Zara Larsson, Flume, Oh Wonder, Halsey, Odesza, and more.

The performance began with a pre-show in the dimly-lit Studio Beta, where attendees were encouraged to dance and enjoy student work. For the main event, everyone

was ushered to the lobby where a setup featuring a stage, a variety of lights, and two monitors displaying a corresponding visual element were set up. If you’re interested in performances like MashUp! or any aspect of digital sound technology, be sure to check out PULSE at their regular meetings on Wednesdays at 4 pm in Studio Beta. ♦

NRB EVENT

NRB soars with Flying Club



Anahit Hovhannisyanyan/The Polytechnic

FRESHMEN TAKE to the skies with members of RPI's Flying Club in planes and realistic simulators.

Anahit Hovhannisyanyan
Staff Reporter

TO WELCOME INCOMING FRESHMEN, THE RPI FLYING CLUB hosted a day at the Schenectady County Airport encompassing all that defines aviation. The Flying Club event featured a tour of the Empire State Aerospace Museum in Glenville, New York and Schenectady County Airport control tower in Scotia, New York as well as flight simulations and flights around the airport.

The museum tour showcased dozens of fighter jets, allowed visitors to board various aircraft, and featured a simulated reality vehicle. Freshmen were given the chance to board a Bell UH-1 Iroquois previously used for both medical evacuation and the United States military and Mikoyan-Gurveich MiG-15 jet fighter aircraft created in the Soviet Union. The simulated reality vehicle was modeled on a Grumman F-14 Tomcat, which gave visitors a virtual experience of flying a variable-sweep wing fighter aircraft. The airport control tower included a tour led by two employees stationed on the top of the tower who communicated with pilots taxiing on the runway and aircraft preparing for landing.

This Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond experience did not fall short of providing insight into both the virtual and real aspects of flight. The real action featured flight simulations and rides on aircraft. Flight simulations, currently used in flight education and testing, allow a student pilot to fly a plane without leaving a moving, confined space on the ground. The simulation at Schenectady County Airport was provided by Richmor Aviation—both a flight school and fixed base operator responsible for fueling and aircraft maintenance. The Federal Aviation Administration-approved Redbird Full Motion Simulator allowed freshmen to experience grave weather conditions and engine failures while attempting to land a plane safely. To end the day, each student had the opportunity to fly in a Cessna 172 with the Flying Club safety officer and catch a view of the Schenectady airport and surrounding area.

With such a comprehensive experience, students were left speechless. Freshmen with varying previous exposure to aviation walked away more knowledgeable from this NRB event. If you are interested in aviation, consider joining the RPI Flying Club. They welcome all students, especially as the fall semester takes off (pun intended). ♦

NRB EVENT

Freshmen saunter

Anna Koenig
A Special to The Poly

ON AUGUST 27, 2017, IN THE ACADEMY HALL DANCE STUDIO, INCOMING freshmen were immediately thrown into the world of ballroom dance.

Ranging from beginner to advanced, students learned from passionate instructors. The class began with club members demonstrating the steps of different styles while everyone sat around them. The instructors would then go through the steps individually, while participants would emulate in the wings. After practicing individually, people were split into partners, practicing the steps they were just taught. Over the course of the Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond session, students learned a wide variety of ballroom styles, including foxtrot and rumba. Overlooking all the missteps and awkwardness, students stated that they were very pleased with their choice in day trip.

The club offers lessons to anyone interested in developing their ballroom dance skills. For more information, visit <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/e85>. ♦



Jiawen Lin/The Polytechnic

RPI BALLROOM TEACHES incoming students elegant ways of dancing.