Rensselaer welcomes 1700 to Troy

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.
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 unani-
mously 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 com-
mittee. Of those six students, three will be actually 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 ’14, Tahbit Demoz ’19, Zining Liang ’19, Charisse Stakakis ’18, Harrison Lein-
weber ’18, and Aedeel 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 mo-
tioned 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 ap-
points a member-at-large who can be any Union Activity Fee payer 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 recruit-
ment 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 Panhel-
lenic 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 Shelnut Gallery.

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

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

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 Colleges: 3–1
- Women’s Soccer vs. Farmingdale State: 1–0
**TOP TEN LIST**

**Upcoming Facebook Reactions**

1. **Weakness**
2. **Lonely**
3. **Confused**
4. **Angery**
5. **Hungery**
6. **Same**
7. **Sleepy**
8. **Disappointed**
9. **Nervous**
10. **Dead**

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**NDABA MANDELA**

9/19

7:30 PM

**HOCKEY LINE CELEBRATION**

WED. 9/13 6 PM–8 PM

HOUSTON FIELD HOUSE

**SPEAKERS FORUM**

**EMPAC THEATER**

**Reserve tickets via link on @RPIUnion FB Page Event!**

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

**Sponsored by Athletics & The Rensselaer Union**

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**Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885**
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 weekends, 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 why 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 “Skirt 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 during the day, they go on a tour of the Rensselaer community since 1885

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.
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 out of my comfort zone and just start running, and I discovered how amazing it can be. I’ve run 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.

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 to compare myself to not mess with my close-up vision.

I got set up with contacts and just below the cutoff for not being sensitive to light, but it doesn’t affect me. It has been two months since the surgery and I’ve developed a bit of a dry eye, which I combat by putting in drops about three times a day. Additionally, my eyes are more sensitive to light, but it doesn’t affect me much. All in all, I’m 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.

While I’m running, I feel fulfilled. Humans evolved to run; it is automatically pretty good at. People don’t have to be as good as they do to bicycle, swim, or ski. Everyone is fortunate enough to have the physical ability to run and can pick it up and start doing it in a way that fits into their life. I’ve 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 that goal is fine. I don’t take running terribly seriously. I never thought of running as something that I just could pick up and I have proven myself wrong this summer. This is not great at all, but my pace is a 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. She pointed it out to her 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.

New students reflect on NRB

While I’m running, I feel fulfilled. Humans evolved to run; it is automatically pretty good at. People don’t have to be as good as they do to bicycle, swim, or ski. Everyone is fortunate enough to have the physical ability to run and can pick it up and start doing it in a way that fits into their life. I’ve 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 that goal is fine. I don’t take running terribly seriously. I never thought of running as something that I just could pick up and I have proven myself wrong this summer. This is not great at all, but my pace is a 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.

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

I’m starting an LASKI 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 at the first 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.

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

Have lunch with us!

Terra Café

WED, SEPTEMBER 13, 11 AM - 3 PM

5TH FLOOR EMPAC, EVELYN’S CAFE

Follow us on FB and Instagram: @TerraCafeRPI

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885
MashUp! at EMPAC gets rave review

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

The culmination of MashUp!, a Newyorker Rensselear & 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 soars with Flying Club

Freshmen saunter with Flying Club

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.

RPI BALLROOM TEACHES incoming students elegant ways of dancing.