STATISTICS

Sexual misconduct statistics available

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

Many of the statistics associated with sexual misconduct at Rensselaer are considered public information, but they are currently only available upon request or through presentations given by Title IX coordinators.

The Poly was provided with information from the time period between February 1, 2015 and October 31, 2017. In this time, there have been 86 cases opened. Broken down by semester, there were 10 cases opened in Spring 2015, eight in Fall 2015, 11 in Spring 2016, 14 in Fall 2016, 23 in Spring 2017, and 20 in Fall 2017.

The cases were categorized, with 41 being considered sex assault, 21 considered sexual assault, 13 considered intimate partner violence, and 11 considered stalking.

62 of the 86 cases have been closed, and 48.39 percent of these resulted in policy violations. The sanctions for the policy violations included two “termination(s) [employee],” six “expulsions/permanent separation[s],” six “suspensions/delayed degree confinement[s],” and seven “disciplinary probation[s].” Eight of the sanctions were “other (written warning, educational program, persona non grata, etc.),” and not specified further.

Of the 86 complainants that opened cases, four were considered to not be members of the Rensselaer community, either because they were “non-Rensselaer” or “unknown.” Of the respondents, 64 were “members of the Rensselaer community,” a phrase that encompasses people who were students, faculty, or staff at the time of the complaint.

STUDENT RIGHTS

Specific updates to Handbook endorsed

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

At the end of September, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, along with Director for Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, presented changes to the Rensselaer Handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities before both the Rensselaer Union Executive Board and the Student Senate.

They presented the changes largely as updates to outdated policies and clarifications of existing policies. Some were deemed necessary in order to keep the Handbook in accordance with mandates from the state and federal governments.

The Senate voted to postpone the handbook’s endorsement until the next week’s meeting on both September 25 and October 2.

On October 18, the Student Life Committee met and discussed the proposed revisions. Students suggested changes, one of which was adding a provision to the “Sign Policy” that states “Any signs that do not violate the sign policy or have not passed the take-down date may not be removed by any part (sic), including the Institute.” Other suggestions included adding the term “neurodiversity” to the “Freedom of Access to Higher Education at Rensselaer” section and, in instances where Rensselaer-recognized organizations have been found to have served alcohol to underage individuals, replacing their subjection to a minimum “mandatory two-semester suspension” with “review by the Judicial Board that oversees that organization.”

During a Senate meeting on November 13, Student Life Committee Chairperson Hannah Morrow ‘18 brought a motion regarding the proposed changes to the floor. She made clear that “there are specific differences” between the edits endorsed in the motion and the edits proposed to the Senate.

See JUDICIAL Page 2
**Handbook: Codification of student voice passed**

From Page 1

She stated, "Most of them are just a change of wording, or taken out entirely, because the committee did not agree that those should be included." She felt that "there was a lot of discussion on the floor" and that the committee "did not feel comfortable moving forward, putting them in, without an increased student voice in the process."

Specifically, one edit that included a change to the "Rules for Maintenance of Public Order" subsection "Procedures" was not included in the endorsement motion. It added the following sentence regarding demonstrations: "Only persons who are members of the Institute community (students, faculty, and staff) will be permitted to engage in such activities on Rensselaer property, and may only do so by complying with these procedures."

One of the presented changes that was included in the removal all dates from the Student Handbook, and added a section in the introduction that states that review of the document will occur at least annually. It also added that Rensselaer may make changes to procedures. Such changes will be approved by the Student Senate by a two-thirds majority vote.

On that subject, Grand Marshal Justin Etrine ’18 stated that "There's definitely been opportunities for us to participate, and we've been promised involvements in the future, but I think what we should do is have some kind of codification of that so that stays past the people who are here right now."

The Senate endorsed most of the other proposed edits, along with some "necessary changes," with a vote of 28-0-2. The full motion can be viewed at poly.rpi.edu/vote.

Merrow provided the following comment to The Poly: "In regards to the whole situation, I see this as another step in silencing student voice on campus. When the administration originally met to discuss the changes at the beginning of August, no student input was involved. When the edits were brought to the Senate, without specific wording, they wanted blanket support of all of them, and when I brought the changes the committee had come up with to [Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Life] Peter Leinweber, he only took a few of the many edits I had given to him, with a promise for further discussion on some others. All in all, Apgar hasn't been receptive to student feedback and has forgone further meetings on the topic of the Handbook since our meeting."

**Executive Board**

**For its 10th meeting of the semester, the Executive Board had a busy agenda that included a presentation from Sodexo, four clubs seeking some sort of status within the Union, and a proposal from RPI Ambulance. The meeting opened with a presentation from Rensselaer Hospitality Services General Manager Matt Mueller and Retail Director Lloyd Herman.**

Their presentation focused on Sodexo's recent changes and plans to improve dining options in the future. Mueller emphasized the importance of including students in every major decision they make. He shared ideas, like introducing smaller food committees focused on each dining hall, which would be available to quickly act on suggestions and concerns.

Mueller then highlighted some of the changes Sodexo has been making recently—including "station breaks" at dining halls if partnering with local restaurants provide their offerings to RPI similar to the setup with Dinosaur BBQ earlier this semester. The two concluded their presentation by stressing their mission to best serve students and changing offerings to fit changing times.

For the final club that came before the Board was the African Student Association with a proposal to become Union recognized. The club originally began from a presentation from RPI Ambulance. The meeting opened with a presentation from Sodexo, four clubs seeking some sort of status within the Union, and a proposal from RPI Ambulance. The meeting opened with a presentation from Rensselaer Hospitality Services General Manager Matt Mueller and Retail Director Lloyd Herman. Their presentation focused on Sodexo's recent changes and plans to improve dining options in the future. Mueller emphasized the importance of including students in every major decision they make. He shared ideas, like introducing smaller food committees focused on each dining hall, which would be available to quickly act on suggestions and concerns.

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Performances impacted by visa difficulties

Nicholas Luczak
Staff Reporter

Due to visa restrictions, Ali Moini was unable to join the Rensselaer community to exhibit his signature performance, My Paradoxical Knife, in the Experimental Media and Performance Arts Center. Moini, a choreographer and performer, was hosted on Thursday via Skype call, and fans of his could have a dialogue about his artistic process.

Moini’s performance takes inspiration from his experience with Persian culture and everyday rituals. Moini performs in a costume with knives strapped to him so that, due to the revolving nature of his dance, they are kept in perpetual motion around his body.

EMPAC decided not to apply for a visa since Executive Order 13769 (poly.rpi.edu/s/tz1cc) signed by President Donald Trump on January 27, 2017 would make it impossible for Iranian citizens to enter the country even with a visa. Reports of border difficulties even for those who were granted the appropriate visa at the time gave further cause for doubts. EMPAC did not want to inconvenience the performers, and it became clear that the best course of action would be to simply cancel the visa request.

The travel ban will likely affect Iranian hand drummer Mohammad Reza Mortazavi, who is scheduled to perform in March 2018. This semester, EMPAC—after consulting with various legal counsel—decided to try again and apply for an O-1B visa for Moini to perform this November. Moini’s visa application was approved on August 15, and he had his interview on September 1, during which he provided all necessary documentation. EMPAC has not heard anything on the status of his application and has not been updated since his interview. Moini was suppose to fly to the United States on November 7, but instead remains in his residency in Paris. EMPAC attempted to understand why the visa processing was delayed—as they have successfully acquired visas for other artists within this length of time—so they reached out to Congressman Paul Tonko’s office to try to get the Paris consulate to move forward. Even after this additional effort, no definitive answer has been given. They then went on to file a six-month extension on the application so that, if the original visa application is approved, Moini could stay in the US for his performance some time within this six month period. As of right now, both drummer Mohammad Reza Mortazavi and Ali Moini are unlikely to perform during their planned performances.

STUDENT SENATE

Motion responding to judicial inquiries tabled

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

The Student Senate had four major motions brought before it on November 13: two motions to approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Rensselaer Union Student Senate, a motion to endorse revisions to the Student Handbook, and a motion responding to judicial inquiries.

Three motions passed: to approve amendments to the Senate bylaws and to endorse Handbook revisions. The final motion, introduced by Merrow, was to denounce the actions that have taken place against students with regard to the protest on October 13, 2017, and to recognize those actions as violations of the Student Bill of Rights. Merrow said, “Many students have brought these egregious actions to my attention. Rights guaranteed first by the United States Constitution and again by the Student Bill of Rights should not be sacrificed for a petty witch hunt to prove a point.” Graduate Senator Anthony Bishop brought up that within the judicial system, there is a panel of students that can sit down with all the facts and render judgment on the issue. He believes that it would reflect better on the Senate if it lets the Judicial Board make its own judgement. He went on to say, “I implore you to just let things run their course.”

When it was brought up that cases must be brought before the J-Board in order for them to vote on it, Bishop responded that students would have to appeal, something they can do if they feel that the accusations are unfair. Further discussion revealed that many senators believe that, because there has been no actual punishment issued, and only notices of judicial action, the situation has not become severe enough for the Senate to take action. A motion was made to postpone the motion indefinitely, which passed 19-1-2.
Editorial
Wednesday, November 15, 2017

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Responsibilities, role of director of the Union

It was not until recently that I fully understood the weight that a director of the Union can hold, and how this position has the potential to make the Union no longer student-run.

A student-run Union lies largely in the fact that students have the ultimate say in all Union-related decisions. They are more than just “involved” in the Union on a day-to-day basis. I have never had the opportunity to experience having a director of the Union, but there have been many instances where I wished the position were filled. Regardless, I remain apprehensive. As a member of the Executive Board, I know that the Union is capable of its operations with the staff that we have, even if it is not ideal. I am worried that a director will overstep her bounds, especially since the job description used to recruit the current candidates specified the role as “directing” student government bodies, instead of “advising.”

In trying to fully understand this topic, I have spoken with a variety of people. In an email, former Grand Marshal Brookelyn Parslow expressed that, since there has been her place in the Union, she should never even come close to that. I hope that, whenever the position is filled, the director of the Union will understand and respect the boundaries that exist on other campuses. It is when a director of the Union oversteps their bounds, that the Union can no longer be considered student-run. It is when the director attempts to “direct” or “manage” student government bodies, rather than advise them, that the Union can no longer be considered student-run. Yet, if the person hired into that position truly understands their role as “directing” student government bodies, they would be “jumping the gun.”

The motion was ultimately postponed indefinitely, with a vote of 19-1-2.

The judicial inquiries referenced in the meeting include allegations of “trespassing,” “failure to comply,” and “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation.” Additionally, nine students have been contacted in order to “discuss their experience at the demonstration,” even though they are not currently the subjects of a judicial inquiry. To The Poly’s knowledge, during the protest, RPI did not instruct demonstrators to leave or indicate that they were violating any regulations set forth in the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Senators, faced with a situation in which their fellow classmates are victims of the Institute’s active efforts to incriminate student demonstrators, decided that they could not take a stance at this time. However, The Poly believes that the Senate must take action now. Whether or not students end up charged with any of these allegations, the effect of RPI’s actions is the same—chilling speech that, in the Poly’s opinion, is the same—chilling speech that is critical of the administration. The Poly supports unconditional freedom of expression. We urge the Student Senate to not only affirm existing student rights, but also work to actively defend and extend freedom of speech, demonstration, and expression at Rensselaer.

Getting in tune with emotions

I had a pretty rough October, mostly for personal reasons that I won’t quite get to in this article. However, if anything good came from it, it’s that, overall, it was a fairly insightful month for me. I learned to get more in touch with my feelings, to become attuned to the diverse range of emotions I felt, and to handle things optimistically with dignity and self-respect...

Look, I’m probably the last person who should be giving advice about life—I’ve never thought that I was particularly good at it—but I feel it’s important to express the things that were running through my head during a time when I believed things wouldn’t get any better.

I tend to dwell on my problems, so much that there’s no way it can be healthy. I let them consume me—they flood my thoughts and dictate my actions. I knew I couldn’t let that happen. I started one day by telling myself that pretending nothing was wrong, and to continue my life as normally as I could. That isn’t to say I completely ignored the issue affecting my life altogether, but it definitely helped me define the boundaries in which it would influence the rest of my life. At first, I felt out of my element—I’m always the type of person who tries to tackle problems head on, before they get any worse, but this “kind of distancing” myself from my problem really helped me come to terms with it—it showed that I the one was in control of the situation, and not the problem.

My temperament has never been the best. I’ve always tended to lash out at sources of stress in my life, whether they be things or people. I’ve never seriously put much thought into how that one minute of anger in the heat of the moment could seriously impact myself or others. This past month, I really learned how to wrangle that, and realized that getting angry ultimately only makes things worse. In my situation, by not getting mad, I had everything to gain, and absolutely nothing to lose. It really made me conscientious of how my emotions impact those around me—and I realized that I don’t want it to be a negative way anymore. The people around me, and my relationships with them, are way too important to sacrifice because of one minute of anger and frustration.

I’ve never been hesitant to talk about my problems with people I care about; in fact, it’s what keeps me from losing my sanity most of the time. Now, there’s a time and place for everything, and talking about problems is no exception—don’t make it the crux of every conversation you have, but realize that opening up in a way that you feel comfortable with can help magnitudes. If the root of your problem stems from another person, this advice still applies. Constructive conversations can easily come from a willingness to sit down and talk about differences in a productive manner—it’s a non-confrontational way to solve so many issues.

If there’s one thing I want you to learn from this notebook, it’s that you control your emotions... not the other way around. You choose how to best handle what life decides to throw at you, and make do with the cards you’re dealt. It worked out for me, so maybe it won’t work for you, but I’d say I’m in a much better place right now than I was at this time one month ago. Take grasp of the negative things in your life, and use them to push yourself forward, learn about yourself, and become a better individual.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Addressing recent judicial actions regarding demonstration, threats to free speech at RPI

CLASSMATES,
Several students have informed us that they were contacted by the Dean of Students Office, either by email from a staff member or through a formal judicial inquiry notice, as they have been identified as allegedly participating in a peaceful demonstration that occurred on October 13, 2017.

We—alongside innumerable students, faculty, staff, and even administrators—are both shocked and appalled by the recent revelations as well as the actions taken against these students.

Yesterday, Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 reached out to Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Appgar to express his concerns regarding these communications and to notify him that he would be remiss if we failed to communicate to you important information about student rights, in addition to his addressing the issue as grand marshal—the chief spokesperson of the student body—given the serious circumstances.

Disappointingly, Appgar denied the information we had received first-hand from students impacted, though the documents we reviewed clearly indicated otherwise, and he stated that sharing this information with the student body would be irresponsible because the facts are “incorrect.” He insisted, with regards to the October 13 demonstration, that “there has been no harassment or coercion of students, nor has the Institute denied students access for the purposes of censorship or to suppress an activity,” and that “we have a responsibility to address alleged violations of Institute policy or regulations.”

As the dean of students, Appgar has the unique responsibility of advocating for students, upholding the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities in a fair and consistent manner, and being truthful in his dealings with the student body. As such, his office’s aggressive approach of moving to sanction students for invoking their rights is irresponsible. Given the already fragile state of student rights on campus, brandsihing the Handbook and misconstruing the facts of a peaceful demonstration only serve to further weaken students’ perception of the administration while making the expression of free speech on this campus seem more perilous than ever.

As attendees of the capital campaign launch event, we had the opportunity to see firsthand that the students participating in the demonstration were some of the most respectful demonstrators we have ever observed. They appeared calm, and their behavior on a whole was commendable. At one point during the protest, demonstrators even paused their speeches to join former Vice President for Student Life Eddie Ade Knowles and his students in song at Knowles’ invitation. We have nothing but admiration for the students who had joined campus police and Administration to protect the rights of this peaceful demonstration. We were proud to be bystanders of the demonstration and proud to see the administration support the peaceful protest.

Additionally, many alumni have expressed interest and offered help for affected students through various means. Please feel free to reach out to us with your specific concerns, including any related to the judicial process here at RPI, and we will do everything in our power to aid you.

Sincerely,

Justin Etzine ’18
152nd Grand Marshal

Matthew Rand ’19
128th President of the Union

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Apgar’s actions lack honesty, repressive
Demonstration not tense; projection of anxiety

I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO ASSISTANT VICE President and Dean of Students Travis T. Apgar briefly:

I was the one who the assistant chief of the Troy Police talked to about the boundaries, and what he said exactly was, “You’ve won this battle; just stay on the grass and off the sidewalk and you’ll be fine.” At no point was it tense, and the only other time anyone gave us instructions was when former Vice President for Student Life Eddie Ade Knowles asked us to come closer so we could better enjoy the performance he was leading.

At no point did Apgar make any effort to have a dialogue with the demonstration. His lack of understanding of the intentions is his own fault due to his inability to govern without authoritarianism, and that inability alone. This kind of bold-faced lie solely serves to further illustrate the lack of honesty and integrity that the administration has demonstrated over the last two years. Perhaps, rather than project his own anxiety onto the events of October 13, Apgar should respect the primacy of student rights and work to serve the students rather than repress the students.

Dan Seel ’18

The Polytechnic will not be printing on November 22 due to Thanksgiving Break.
The Poly wishes you all a pleasant time away from school. Our next issue will be on November 29.
Features

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Minar introduces flavorful, spicy cuisine

A NEW INDIAN RESTAURANT OPENS downtown with delicious food, free delivery, and a student discount.

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

This week, CRYSTAL VERDE ’20 and I decided to check out Troy’s newest Indian restaurant: Minar. Nested on 5th Avenue, near Bliffin Residence Commons, it strives to be the go-to hotspot for students craving curry and other traditional Indian foods. The grand opening was in September, and the place was decorated in banners and streamers. They also have lots of coupons and deals on their menu available at the restaurant.

To make this a fair review we decided to get two of the most popular dishes, as these are statistical favorites that students would likely get when their cravings for Indian food hit. We decided on one order of chicken tikka masala, one order of chicken korma, and an order of garlic naan. A few days after, we ordered delivery to try some of the appetizers. We ordered chicken ceylon and malai kahob as our entrees. We ordered the malai kahob as a special, which included basmati rice, naan bread, cucumber raita, and mango chutney.

Starting off with the tikka masala, we both agreed that it was pretty good. It is a different style of tikka masala from the one I get at home in Massachusetts, as this one was a bit spicier and the sauce was not as creamy. However, when mixed with the rice the dish became pristine. The chicken korma, on the other hand, was even better. It was rich and creamy, with a much sweeter tasting sauce than the tikka masala. Also, I liked how the rice was cooked—which may seem like a small thing—but it made all the difference. The side of garlic naan was a welcome addition to my meal. One order of naan consisted of four pieces, which is enough for two people. To end our meal, we were given a complimentary small cup of rice pudding, which was very well made and delicious.

For the delivery order, the also tikyas were thick and flavorful, making a great appetizer. The order came with two of the potato cakes. The samosas came with two as well, and were also dense and delicious. They were the perfect amount of spicy and crispy without feeling oily. The chicken ceylon was super spicy. When we first opened the dish, it smelled sweet and coconutty, but one spoonful was enough to make both of us need a quick drink of water. However, the dish itself was extremely flavorful, just not made for those with a mild sense of taste. The chicken malai kabob was also great, with hints of lemon and cilantro. It was served as just chicken over some caramelized onions, with some cilantro on top and a wedge of lemon. This was easily the number one dish we tried at Minar—a perfect meal for those not looking for lots of spice.

During our second round with Minar, we were able to try out their delivery service, as well as some of their appetizers and a dessert. A huge plus about ordering delivery from Minar is that they don’t charge a delivery fee, which makes it just as easy to take out. We were able to order and get about 45 minutes of homework in before the food arrived, which is a little on the longer side for a wait time but is completely understandable considering it’s not fast food. Regrettably, as we ordered takeout and delivery, we weren’t able to experience the restaurant’s sit-down form. The interior seemed small but cozy, with about eight or so tables that were decently spaced apart. For any RPI student that wishes to go there, bring your student ID! They are currently giving a discount for students with an ID, which makes the place even more affordable. Overall, we really enjoyed this culinary adventure.

ALBUM REVIEW

Taylor Swift matures through new sound

Keegan Fitzgerald
A Special to the Poly

ON THE OUTSIDE, TAYLOR SWIFT’S NEW ALBUM Reputation is composed of celebrity feuds, ex-boyfriends, and her new image. (Nothing worthy of taking time out of my day to write an article for The Poly.) If you want it to be, the album is predictable. As a deeper level, the album is found to be a cohesive piece that combines deep bass and tight snare beats to synthesize tropical-house choruses that Taylor uses to emphasize the message that she has expressed through the creativity of each one of her albums: music is an art that is always changing.

With a synth that provides a bright yet somber tone, the songs each take on a feel of their own when paired with a dynamic baseline, giving the album a foundation upon which each song can flow into the next. The opening track, “...Ready For It?” provides the general structure for the majority of the songs, with an opening verse that dives deep into the baseline with a muted hi-hat and exciting snare that open surprisingly into the aforementioned synth chord progressions. These give the listener a breath of fresh air before again diving into the bass. The contrast is most notable in the first song, making it aptly named for an introductory piece, playing at the possibility that the rest of the album may be more than we bargain for.

Swift repeatedly mixes bass drums that are, quite honestly, unexpected for Taylor Swift, a deeper step into the pop genre that may be newer for her, but definitely not unfamiliar. The cut time in “Dancing With Our Hands Tied,” the syncopation in “King of My Heart,” or the major key change during the bridge of “Getaway Car,” all demonstrate a masterful familiarity with the ins and outs of pop composition that characterize the powerful genre. Notable are tracks such as “Delicate,” “Dress,” and “Call It What You Want.” They place less emphasis on a beat drop and more on the vocals and synth, allowing for the lyrics to shine through. In the beginning of “Delicate,” absent of a baseline, Taylor proclaims the namesake of the album with the line “You’re the namesake of the album, my self." If the driving bass allows Taylor to show off her new tricks with pop, then the lack of it is a nod to the lyrical prowess she has retained from her singer-songwriter days.

The final nod to her development as a musician is the final song on the album, “New Year’s Day.” Taylor ends with pure vocals backed by a piano and guitar accompaniment. Immediately, we are taken back to the very beginning of her career, where heavy electronic instrumentation was not part of the stylings of Taylor Swift. It’s as if we are led back down the path that we have traveled through each album—back to the artist she was ten years ago.

But the message behind this album, the most vividly depicted by “New Years Day,” is that though Taylor has changed, she is the same. She has grown. Her music has grown. What we are left with is not a different Taylor, but a matured Taylor who has written an album that is recognizable not through its similarities to her old work, but through its novelty. What we are left with is tight harmonies, a mess of a party on New Year’s Day, and a request to “hold onto the memories.”

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
STUDENT EVENT

Hackathon harbors software creativity

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reviewer

On Saturday in the Darrin Communications Center, HackRPI kicked off its hackathon as part of the 18th Major League Hacking season. The annual hackathon is a 24-hour competition where participants are encouraged to work on any project they can create within the allotted time, with a focus on software and hardware hacks. The event was sponsored by several companies, including Trip Advisor and Bloomberg. Teams competed in several different categories, which included the use of Amazon AWS, the best hardware hack, and some specific competition areas like best use of the new Qualcomm DragonBoard 410c.

Although I was not able to find the time to compete, I did get a chance to walk around the venue, talk to sponsors, and interact with participants. Walking in for the first time, I was greeted by the friendly volunteers running the competition; I was invited to register and receive my t-shirt. I then talked to a few of the participants, who came from all over the northeast to compete. I spoke to a graduate student from Northwestern University who was competing in his first hackathon.

All in all, hackathons are a good place to get your computer science creative juices flowing. Everyone is working on similar projects and resources are provided to you to work, including AWS credits and domain names. This year hackathon saw the development of some interesting projects; personally, I found Village, by Kayla Cinnamon ’18 and graduate student Candice Poon, located at poly.rpi.edu/hd/bK3, to be interesting.

As someone who very thoroughly enjoys hackathons, I have to highly recommend attending one, especially to anyone who is looking for a way to flex their development ability.

Darby Burns
Staff Reviewer

Arcadia production memorable, clever

Arcadia consists of two distinctly separate, but intrinsically intertwined storylines, that span the year of 1809 and the present day. The first tells the tale of young Thomasina Coverly, played by graduate student Hannah De Los Santos, and her tutor Septimus Hodge, played by Matt Fields ’18. The second revolves around Hannah Jarvis, played by Sam Primin ’21; Bernard Nightingale, played by Sam O’Connor ’21; and Valentine Coverly, played by graduate student Marcus J. Barbret, who are working to uncover the mysteries of what happened in the manor almost a century ago.

I won’t spoil it for those who haven’t gone yet, but I will say that the play is full of intrigue, witty banter, snappy dialogue, and just enough math to keep things interesting. The actors fully embodied their characters and played their roles with lively, whole-hearted enthusiasm that really made the story come alive. It was clear from the way the actors played their parts that they really connected with the characters they were portraying.

When I spoke with Fields after the show, he expressed that when choosing the play, “We just weighed [Arcadia] against all the other options and we decided that we loved the writing here, we loved the symbolism, and that’s what came through.” He went on to say, in reference to his own performance, “This has been one of my favorite roles. I’ve just been able to really dig deep into the character, get some comedic moments out there as well, and just create this persona that I hope came across on stage.”

Beyond just the fantastic acting, the set for the show is gorgeous. It is the product of 60–70 collective hours of work, divided over the course of five different work parties. (Work parties are when people come in on a Friday night work on the set, props, costumes, and anything that needs to be done to prepare for the upcoming show, with usually five to seven people working at a time.) The set is made up of a long, wooden table strewn with books and surrounded on three sides by chairs. There are two doorways, one on each side of the stage, and in the background there are tall bookshelves alternating with large windowpanes and a set of double doors in the middle. Beyond the windows, you can see a hint of foliage that gives the feeling of the garden outside that is frequently discussed throughout the play. The set overall is artfully crafted but not overdone, and is simple enough to keep the attention of the audience focused on the actors.

Arcadia is definitely worth taking the time to go see if you have the chance. Tickets are six dollars at the door with your student ID, and the play will be showing again on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18, both at 8 pm.

Are you interested in placing an advertisement with The Poly? Email ads@poly.rpi.edu for more information.
NROTC midshipmen practice leadership

Zachary Christian
A Special to the Poly

RECENTLY, RPI NROTC UNDERWENT leadership labs run by the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development in order to increase unit cohesion and enhance skills that will be utilized by midshipmen in their future naval careers. The Archer Center personnel organized several fun stations that emphasized teamwork and communication in order to complete a task.

They were very helpful with each task, leading debriefs that further informed the midshipmen following the completion of the task. One of these stations featured a challenge to get across a “toxic river” in order to retrieve a care package. The catch was that all midshipmen participating must be on top of a sheet of plywood. The midshipmen were supplied with several tennis balls, as well as two crutches to push the sheet forward. The midshipmen were not allowed to touch the ground in any way, alluding to the toxicity of the metaphorical river.

The task, however difficult, taught the midshipmen that the planning phase of a task is sometimes just as important as its execution. The “toxic river” challenge also emphasized effective communication, since moving the board was difficult without properly shifting momentum in unison.

Another interesting task further emphasized the importance of communication. The assignment given to the midshipmen was to build a figure made out of Legos in order to perfectly match the example figure, hidden in another room. Certain midshipmen were given different roles such as “writer,” “builder,” or “talker.” The “writers” could not talk about the figure they saw, but had the ability to write down their observations. On the other hand, the “talkers” could not write anything down, but could talk to the builders in order to help match the figures. Neither the “talkers” nor the “writers” could build any part of the figure. This task drove the midshipmen to specifically designate responsibility as well as effectively communicate what they saw. Based on how the assignment was designed, poor communication would lead to failure in accomplishing the task.

Overall, the leadership labs were both fun and informative, allowing the midshipmen to take a break from their typical training. The Archer Center personnel are to be commended for helping shape the midshipmen to be better prepared for their future careers.

MIDSHIPMAN JASON BROOKS ’18 (LEFT) ALONG WITH OTHER NROTC MIDSHIPMEN ENGAGE in hands-on activities hosted by the Archer Center.
## WEDNESDAY  
**November 15**

**Bio-Art initiatives: Art_X, HASS and CBIS Research Roundtable**  
**SAGE 4711; noon–1:30 pm**  
Prof. Kathy High will lead a discussion on new initiatives in Bio-Art between CBIS and HASS, and synergies with Art_X and other programs. High will report on her research and the work of grads and undergrads. A light lunch will be available.

**Civil & Env. Eng. Fall Seminar Series**  
**JEC 3117; 1–2 pm**  
Dr. Thomas Zimmie presents a lecture titled “ELECTRO-OSMOSIS-THE BEGINNINGS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, including U-BOAT PENS and SPIES.” This presentation is a historical talk about the early applications of electro-osmosis in the practice of Civil Engineering.

**MANE “Innovators in Engineering” Lecture**  
**CBIS Auditorium; 2–3 pm**  
Mukesh Chatter, an RPI alum, will discuss innovation as a key factor in finding optimized engineering solutions. While linear extrapolation often provides reasonable improvement from the prevailing answers, it may be sub-optimum.

**ECSE Seminar**  
**DCC 324; 3:30 pm**  
Professor M. Ehsan Hoque, Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester. “Can a Computer Improve Your Social Skills?” This seminar will offer insights gained from exploration of several questions: How are humans able to improve important social and cognitive skills with a computer? What aspect of the feedback helps the most? How to design experiments to ensure that the skills generalize?

**Lally Center for Supply Networks and Analytics Seminar**  
**CBIS Auditorium; 4:30–6:30 pm**  
The Lally School of Management Center for Supply Networks and Analytics will host a seminar, “Operational Disruptions and the Value of Credible Control,” with William Schmidt.

**African Students Association**  
**Union 3202; 6–7 pm**  
The African Students Association will be holding a general body meeting.

**Religion and the Arts**  
**C+CC; 7–8 pm**  
Four women artists from the Capital Region will discuss their creative and spiritual paths and present samples of their work.

## SATURDAY  
**November 18**

**EMPAC Tour**  
**EMPAC; 2–3 pm**  
As curator of time-based visual arts, Victoria Brooks approaches the EMPAC infrastructure with an eye toward its capabilities in the production and presentation of film and video. With past projects utilizing green-screen staging, 360-degree VR technology, and robotically rigged “flying” cameras, as well as integrated “film performances,” Brooks will discuss her perspective on the EMPAC spaces.

## FRIDAY  
**November 17**

**Laura Luna**  
**EMPAC Studio 2; 7:30–8:30 pm**  
Mexican multimedia artist and composer Laura Luna creates a concert performance inside EMPAC’s 360-degree panoramic screen. Using field recordings, voice, a modded Atari computer, a Gameboy and various synths, she constructs sounds to describe fantastical scenes and narratives, creating soundtracks for sublimely fogged-in science fiction worlds.

**Star Wars All Age Trivia**  
**Mother’s; 7:30–9:30 pm**  
A fun all-age trivia night with a Star Wars theme to benefit Clothe-A-Child. Teams of four test their Star Wars knowledge. The top three teams will be awarded prizes. Pizza and soda will be provided. $20 registration fee per team will benefit Clothe-A-Child. To register, stop into the Union Administration Office, Room 3702.

## TUESDAY  
**November 21**

**Thanksgiving Recess Begins**  
Enjoy your break!

**Last day for undergraduates to add Pass/No Credit designation**

**Thanksgiving Travel Gateways Shuttle Service**  
**EMPAC Studio 2; 7:30–8:30 pm**  
RPI Thanksgiving shuttles & CDTA bus service to air, rail, and bus are available Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Transportation back to campus is available Sunday, November 26, 4 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm.

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3. Merci
2. Gracias
1. Thanks

MONDAY PUNDAY

DILBERT by Scott Adams

SUDOKU

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

Last Week’s Answers

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

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
“Zpjj, W suwpt sb ysfus f upibjcswhbl, dcs twtl’s hwils plbcev hfgvhjpsy yb vfutjr flrbp sculpt ch. Pamphs xbu gr gcg flt vpu dbxuwplt, zvb W vfsp. Fy hclwvgyplps, W zfy xbumpt sb dp wI vpup flt dpmbgp f ejftwfsbu. Dws bx f hubgbswbfjl twyfpsy svfs blp, dcs W’ g fmscfjjr bueflqwle flbsvpu upibjcswhbl. W tbl’s klbz wx rbc’t dp wlsypuspt wI ybgpswle jwpk svfs? Tb rbc upmkbl rbc’t dp wlsypuspt?”

-Kbue,

Svbu: Ufelfubk
THE RENSSELAER ENGINEERS DEFEATED the Dutchmen in a game this past weekend, scoring them a spot in the NCAA playoffs, and bringing their record to 4-1. (file photo)

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER ENGINEERS DEFEATED the Dutchmen in a game this past weekend, scoring them a spot in the NCAA playoffs, and bringing their record to 4-1. (file photo)

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

Rensselaer won 20-14 against Union College away on Saturday in the Dutchmen Shoes Trophy Game. The victory puts the Engineers at 8-2 overall for the season and 4-1 in the league, guaranteeing them a spot in the NCAA playoffs. This is the fifth year in a row that the Engineers have won the Dutchman Shoes.

The Engineers took the lead early with a 24-yard field goal from kicker Christian Kapp ’18 during the first drive of the game. Defensive lineman Amaechi Konkwo ’21 recovered a fumble on the Dutchmen’s next possession, forcing a turnover 16 yards out. Quarterback George Marinospolous ’21 found running back Rob Law ’19 two yards out for the first touchdown of the game, followed by a kick by Kapp, ending the first quarter at 10-0.

The Dutchmen narrowed the score gap in the second quarter, making a touchdown after gaining 62 yards on seven plays. The Engineers maintained their lead with another field goal by Kapp, but the Dutchmen pulled ahead in the last minutes of the quarter with a 63-yard pass to the end zone. The game went into half-time at 13-14.

Both teams tried gaining the upper hand, but no drives were successful in the third quarter. Finally, Rensselaer made 62 yards on eight plays with Marinospolous making a pass to wide receiver Keaton Ackermann ’19 for their second touchdown, followed by a kick, putting the score at 20-14.

In the last five minutes, Union was not able to make up the lost ground, giving Rensselaer the win. Rensselaer will be making its fifth total appearance in the NCAA’s playoffs and their first in ten years. The game will be played away against Wesley College this Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Eight season victory claimed from Dutchmen

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS HAD A VICTORIOUS WEEKEND, WITH BOTH swimming and diving teams winning against Vassar College and Hartwick College.

The women’s teams for Vassar and Rensselaer went into the meet undefeated, but only RPI improved their perfect record to 5-0 as they beat the Brewers 185-70. The men’s team improved to 3-1, with a meet score of 184-92.

Notably, RPI won all four relays and all four diving events. RPI saw especially impressive victories in the 400-yard freestyle relays, with the men’s and women’s teams touching in 17 and 10 seconds ahead of Vassar, respectively.

On Sunday against Hartwick, the women’s team maintained their undefeated streak with a record of 6-0, while the men also improved to 4-1. The women won 14 of their 16 races, with eight different women winning in individual events.

Diving saw strong performances, with Jessica Kugelman ’20 winning from both diving boards in both meets. For the men’s team, Alex Chused ’19 won from the one-meter, and Jesse Rotering ’21 won from the three-meter against Vassar. The following day, the two divers flipped positions, with Chused winning from the three-meter and Rotering winning from the one-meter. Weston Brousseau ’21 and Rotering also achieved personal bests.

The Liberty League announced its performers for the week of November 7, in which Timothy Ho ’21 was named “Rookie of the Week,” and Danielle Savé ’18 was named “Swimmer of the Week.” For the third time in her career.

Roll” after he won the 200 freestyle by almost six seconds, of the Week” for the third time in her career.

Kugelman ’20 winning from both diving boards in the Dutchmen Shoes Trophy Game. The victory puts the Engineers at 8-2 overall for the season and 4-1 in the league, guaranteeing them a spot in the NCAA playoffs. This is the fifth year in a row that the Engineers have won the Dutchman Shoes.

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WOMEN’S SWIMMING KEEPS undefeated season.

Brookelyn Parslow/ The Polytechnic

MEN’S HOCKEY

Hockey claims first ECAC league victory

Maria Kozdroy
Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reporters

A crowd of over three thousand watched RPI hockey compete against the 2017 ECAC semi-finalists, the Quinnipiac Bobcats. The Engineers came out on top 5-3, improving their record to 1-3-1 in the ECAC league after Friday night’s game.

The Bobcats scored twice in the first five minutes, with defensemen Will Reilly ’20 managing a shot on the glove side of Quinnipiac’s goalie Keith Petruzzielli with a pass from forward Patrick Polino ’20 inside the blue line at 12 minutes in. Reilly had another opportunity one minute later, with a powerful shot on Rensselaer’s first power play of the game. Quinnipiac scored their third goal six minutes later at 18:38 off a shot which had RPI goaltender Chase Perry ’19 down before the high shot on the Bobcats’ fourth power play. RPI finished the first with five shots on goal.

RPI’s second goal came from forward Jacob Hayhurst ’20 pok- ing at the puck right outside the crease to finally get Petruzzielli down scoring on his blocker side. Two minutes later, RPI tied the game, giving credit for the goal to captain forward Viktor Liljegren ’18 after a wrap-around shot rebounded from a Bobcat into the net. With a little over a minute left into the second, cap- tain defensemen Jared Wilson ’18 had a stunning play, blocking a shot on his stomach with his stick.

With a tie game for the majority of the third, RPI exploded in the last two minutes of play. Liljegren had a breakaway, giving RPI the lead. Petruzzielli hustled to the bench with the last minute and thirty seconds of play, with Liljegren getting an empty net goal, ending the game 5-3. RPI had 19 shots on goal, to Quinnipiac’s 39. Polino earned three points this game, all from assists, and forward Troy York ’21 had two assists for himself that night.

After a hard-fought game against the Bobcats, the Engineers went on to play a game the next day against Princeton University, where they lost 2-6.