Editorial

Summer has arrived

Ah, May; the weather is forecasted to have temperatures in the 80s and plentiful sunshine for the next five days. Lawns everywhere are dotted with people reading a book, tossing a frisbee, or just enjoying the weather. Daylight hours stretch from 5:30 am to 8:30 pm, granting more time to enjoy being outside. As for what to do with this time, here are The Poly’s recommendations.

Within reach with just your own two feet are a few nice places to relax. Grab some local water from the Troy Waterfront Farmers’ Market and eat it at the Riverfront Park along the shores of the Hudson River. Prospect Park is a great place to take a walk, picnic, and enjoy the stunning views of the valley. For that, all you need is some water, some sunscreen, and a light blanket to lay on.

If you’re looking to get away from home or have a car or know a friend with a car, there are numerous options for day-trips. This weekend, May 9 and 10, Albany will host the annual Tulip Festival in Washington Park. Thacher State Park’s Indian Ladder Trail passes along the top of a 1,300 foot tall cliff face, then plunges down a staircase to the base of a handful of waterfalls. Peebles’ Island State Park and Crofton Lakes State Park are great places to bring a group of friends and spend the day either hiking and picnicking (Peeble’s and Grafton) or swimming and spending time at the beach (Grafton).

A little farther out are Mt. Greylock State Reservation, Green Mountain National Forest, Lake George, and the Adirondacks in general; all of which boast speckled mountain terrain and are great places to just get away to for a day. For the less outdoorsy type, there’s also options in a day trip to Saratoga Springs or Bennington, or for a weekend stay in New York City and Boston. If you’re just looking for a little something to do here on campus in a spare hour, there’s the hill next to the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, the Quad, or the Arena. There’s also the Sage Building Quad, the ‘86 Field, the area around the Voorhees Computing Center, the Quad, the Union Patio, Freshman Hill, Anderson Field, and all of ECAV. Pick up a frisbee, a tennis ball, running shoes, blanket to eat on, or even nothing to do.

Media and Performing Arts Center (there’s two sides to it!), the campus in a spare hour, there’s the hill next to the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, the Quad, the Union Patio, Freshman Hill, Anderson Field, and all of ECAV. Pick up a frisbee, a tennis ball, running shoes, blanket to eat on, or even nothing to do.

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In this last semester, we’ve made quite a few changes to our website, both visually and in terms of content. We pioneered some really interesting uses of our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, and have started working with our current website to provide multimedia content and PDFs of issues online. With the end of the academic year, of course, comes the inevitable exodus of graduates to their respective jobs and future endeavors. I’d like to take a moment to recognize some of our future alumni. Ethan Spitz ’15, one of our current contributing editors, has been on The Poly since Navigating Rensseelaer and Beyond of his freshman year, in the fall of 2011. Since then, he has served as photography editor, copy editor, and web systems director. Another of our future alumni is Vicki Lam ’15, who joined The Poly in the fall of 2014, and has served as copy editor and business manager. Kirk Smith ’15, who also joined in fall of 2011, served as news editor for multiple semesters. All of them have contributed a great deal to make The Polytechnic into what it is today.

With the leaving of a number of our editors comes vacancies which we would very much like filled, so if any of you are interested in working on business, taking photos, writing news stories or sports articles (you can get free access to games!), or doing graphic design and layout, don’t hesitate to drop in or shoot us an email! We’re also looking for help—hands and it’s also a great resume booster.

Looking toward the future, plans are on releasing a summer issue mid-July, before we welcome new freshmen in the fall of 2015 with our NRB event, Poly Press Pass. I hope you’ll stay with us on our journey forward, for many issues to come.

Shane O’Brien
Computing Editor

Have an opinion? Send a column request and samples to edop@poly.rpi.edu
GM relays personal experience with ALAC

ALAC and CCP prove useful for core courses and communication

Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

CLASSES ARE REACHING THEIR FINAL STRETCH, AND STUDENTS ARE using every tool in their arsenal to tackle their final projects, presentations, and examinations. I’d like to take this chance to talk about some of my favorite resources, the first of which is the Advising & Learning Assistance Center, or ALAC for short.

ALAC offers a variety of tutoring opportunities for students who have difficulties in their courses, or simply want to stay one step ahead of the curve. There are free drop-in tutoring opportunities for many of the classes here, including that pesky IEA class so many of us fight through. Students can also find private tutors through ALAC, as the Center will only recommend students who have shown proficiency in the course they are recommended for. ALAC tutoring was how I survived being a first semester freshman in a Differential Equations class taught by a professor who had only taught graduate students before. It’s how I managed to get through Organic Chemistry I & II without five all-nighters a week, and learned Physics II without reading the textbook a hundred times. Check it out at http://alac.rpi.edu, or ask at their office in Academy Hall.

Another resource I make use of is the Center for Communication Practices, or the CCP to cut down on letters. The CCP is an advising service for students to use for their reports and presentations, helping to ensure that technical reports are detailed yet concise, that presentations are engaging and informative, and improve the overall writing ability of students. Sign up for appointments online at http://www.ccp.rpi.edu, or try for a walk-in. They’re located on the first floor of the Folsom Library (so you’ll go down one flight of stairs from the main desk).

DERBY

Executive Board applications due; weekly events

Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

WHAT’S UP RPI? I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN enjoying the weather lately. It took a few long nights, but I think I finally have the weather machine in working order again. First order of business is, well, business. In this week’s Executive Board meeting, we heard proposals from the Jazz Ensemble for their summer concerts program, UPAC for some budgetary adjustments, and the RPI Bowling Club seeking Rensselaer Union recognition. Unfortunately, due to scheduling, I don’t have the results of these presentations as my Derby is due before the meeting. I’ll be working to fix this for next semester by moving some things around. However, if you check out the RPI Subredd.it (https://www.reddit.com/r/RPI/), you’ll be able to see an E-Board “Week in Review” post of what’s been going on after this week’s meeting. I’ve had a number of clubs and organizations reach out to me as the semester winds down seeking to come before the board. Time is short, so I encourage any group interested in presenting to speak with their outgoing representative or point of contact to see what the best steps to take are as the new board is selected. I promise we will do our absolute best to ensure all groups are given every chance possible to be heard.

With that said, Wednesday, May 6 is the last day to apply to be on the incoming executive board! In case you lost your application, physical copies are still present on the Union bulletin boards, there is a PDF here: http://poly.rpi.edu/s/x0m1c/ and a Google Form here: http://poly.rpi.edu/s/1odcx/. I have only been in office for a week and change, but I can honestly say that serving in this position has given me a radically different perspective of student government. Serving on the E-Board is a truly invaluable experience, and one that I encourage any student to seek out. By its definition, 12 representatives are chosen by the President of the Union, and three positions are dedicated. Of the delegated positions, one will represent each of the following areas: the Student Senate, the Graduate Council, and the Undergraduate Council; all of which are appointed by their respective bodies. Among the 12 representatives selected by the President of the Union, there shall be at least one member each from the freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate classes. There must also be five representatives who have been members of a club or varsity sport team, and two at-large members representing any membership within the Rensselaer Union. With this diverse structure, students of all experiences are encouraged to apply. This year, we will be taking on many projects that will make a lasting impact on the Rensselaer community for the better, making this an excellent opportunity to give back.

This weekend is packed with events going on around campus, so I hope you all get the chance to get out and enjoy them! I’ve heard nothing but good things about The Players’ performances of Dirty rotten Scoundrels, which is showing this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 pm in the Playhouse. This Saturday, the Dance Team is having their Spring Recital, and UPAC is throwing a Field Day with laser tag and yard games on the ’86 Field. Men’s baseball will be home facing off against Rochester Institute of Technology or Clarkson University in the Liberty Leagues tournament on Friday. Other performances and events are abound! Be sure to check out the Rensselaer Union website and keep your eyes peeled for the details.

As always, if you have questions/comments/concerns, or even a joke you’d like to share, feel free to reach out to be at any time at pu@rpi.edu or swing by my office hours (10 am–12 pm MWR) and PUB Chats (8 pm–9 pm MR). Just remember: One Monday remaining in the semester, and Clarkson still sucks.

Have a good one, RPI!

The Polytechnic will be holding elections on Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 pm in Mother’s Wine Emporium.