Kicker signs with Miami

RPI KICKER ANDREW FRANKS' 15 signed with the Miami Dolphins as a free agent. During his time playing for RPI, he was an All-American and set a school record for longest field goal.

Joe Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

On Saturday, May 2, RPI senior place kicker Andrew Franks signed a free agent contract with the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League. The seven-round NFL Draft started April 30 and extended into the afternoon of May 2; however, during that time, none of the 32 teams selected a kicker. Franks started as kicker and punter all four of his years at RPI. During his four years, he made 37 of his 56 field goal attempts, including 16 of 25 during the 2014 season. In addition, Franks set and reset the record for longest field goal at RPI three times. This record now stands at 54 yards, which he set against Hobart College last October. The kick was See FRANKS:

PHILANTHROPY

RPI Relief helps earthquake victims

Kelsey McNeely
Senior Reporter

RPI RELIEF BEGAN THE RPI RELIEF: NEPAL campaign on April 28 which will continue through Wednesday, May 13. The RPI Relief: NEPAL campaign is raising money to help the victims of an 8.1 magnitude earth- quake that hit Nepal on April 25, 2015. The earthquake affected peo- ple in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal. Aftershocks reaching magnitudes of up to 6.7 caused further damage. According to official reports, the death toll has surpassed 7,500 and over 17,000 people have been injured.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Omega manned a donation station for the RPI Relief: NEPAL campaign on April 29 through Friday, May 1. Individuals that wanted to donate but did not have cash on hand could pledge to donate and received an email with a link to donate to the United Nations Children’s Fund. During its three days of tabling, Alpha Phi Omega raised $600 in cash and $150 was pledged. In addition to the money raised through tabling, an unnamed faculty member donated $1,000 to the cause.

RPI Relief is working with RPI Hospitality Services to raise money for the RPI Relief: NEPAL campaign. Students have the option to donate un- used FLEX dollars at Bitten Dining Hall, Burdett Avenue Residence Hall Dining Hall, Commons Dining Hall, Father’s Marketplace, the McNeil Room, and Rathskeller. FLEX dollars can be donated in one dollar incre-See PETITIONS:

GREEK LIFE

Fraternity raises money for families

Chris Leong
Senior Reporter

On April 27, the RPI chapter of the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta, also known as FIJI, kicked off the week with an annual event to raise money for downtown Troy victims.

On Monday, April 27, FIJI kicked off the week with an inflatable obstacle course on the ‘86 Field, playing music and selling virgin strawberry daiquiris, hotdogs, and hamburgers. Over two hundred people ran the course.

THE BROTHERS OF PHI GAMMA DELTA HELD a week of events to raise money for downtown fire victims. The event featured two hundred people running the obstacle course throughout the day, and even more purchased food or drink. On Tuesday, April 28, the chapter tabled hotdogs, hamburgers, and Frisbee from 8 am-5 pm. The fraternity set up a grill and tables in front of the course to sell virgin strawberry daiquiris, hotdogs, and hamburgers. Over
Relief: RPI Relief holds Climb for Nepal event

From Page 1

The third petition, installing Water Bottle Filling Stations around Campus, was postponed to the next meeting, as the scheduled presenter was unable to attend. The final petition was Expand use of [the] Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, presented by Chuck Carletta. Since many students feel that EMPAC has not been useful to them since freshman orientation, Carletta proposed some new uses, such as TED talks and monthly movie showings. Jessica Krajewski ’16 and Whelan were challenged to develop an Investigative usage of EMPAC and possibly expanding its use.

The Senate moved to appointing new committee chairs. Joshua Rosenfeld ’16 was officially appointed parliamentarian. Krajewski was appointed as vice chair of the Senate. Graduate Senator Jenn Church was appointed as the Senate Communications Committee chairman. Han was appointed as FSC chairman. Graduate Senator Spencer Scott was appointed Academic Affairs Committee chair. Hori was appointed Student Life Committee chair.

There was then a motion to have some form of electronic voting for Senate proceedings, since the past and current Grand Marshall have had difficulties counting votes. Rosenfeld also pointed out that students can’t tell who voted for what just from meeting minutes. Church said that a whole system is unnecessary, as roll call votes and Roberts Rules of Order should cover everything. However, the motion passed 8-6-4 in favor of charging the Web Technologies Group with investigating a voting system.

Another motion was brought to the floor regarding the amount of time petitions take up of Senate meetings. The motion proposed creating a petitions committee that would handle petitions. According to the bylaws, this would infringe on the Rules and Elections committee’s jurisdiction, so the motion was changed to making it a subcommittee of R&E. Rosenfeld argued that creating this committee would defeat the entire purpose of the petition, which is to allow students to be heard in front of the entire Senate. At this point, the Senate decided it would be best to postpone the motion, and the meeting concluded.

Relief: RPI Relief holds Climb for Nepal event

From Page 1

Relief: RPI Relief holds Climb for Nepal event

WORLD NEWS

8.7 magnitude earthquake shakes southern Asia

Stanley Wong
Senior Reporter

An earthquake of magnitude 8.7 on the Richter scale struck Nepal, and has been described as the nation’s worst earthquake to come in recent history, and caused serious damage to the nation’s infrastructure, according to Nepal’s Prime Minister. The quake itself was on April 25th through May 13.

As of Tuesday, May 5, $1,700 has been raised. This is to be donated from today through May 13.

FIIJ: Helps prevent fire victims

From Page 1

Friday, April 29, the brothers again tabled outside Russell Sage Dining Hall from 8 am–5 pm, once again selling non-alcoholic piña coladas, hamburgers, and hotdogs, while promoting their Evening of Performances at their Performing Arts Center, hockey tickets, and other aftereffects. Treacherous and muddy roads prevent the village from receiving the aid it needs. Only helicopters, of which there are not enough, can transport necessary supplies to such villages.

The Earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25 has killed over 7,500 people and caused at least $2 billion in damage.

In addition to the increasing death toll, there are injured and thousands that remain unaccounted for. Most of the few hospitals and schools are temporarily closed and many of its villages susceptible to landslides and other aftereffects. Treacherous and muddy roads prevent the village from receiving the aid it needs. Only helicopters, of which there are not enough, can transport necessary supplies to such villages.

The earthquake comes almost two weeks after their win as Alpha Phi Omega’s Meanest Man on Campus, and was then followed by a fire on Fourth and Washington Streets. The conclusion of FIJI’s Islander Week was postponed to the next meeting, as the scheduled presenter was unable to attend. The final petition was Expand use of [the] Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, presented by Chuck Carletta. Since many students feel that EMPAC has not been useful to them since freshman orientation, Carletta proposed some new uses, such as TED talks and monthly movie showings. Jessica Krajewski ’16 and Whelan were challenged to develop an Investigative usage of EMPAC and possibly expanding its use.

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Relief: RPI Relief holds Climb for Nepal event

From Page 1

Additionally, at least 17 climbers have been reported. Nepal’s Prime Minister. The quake has resulted in a death toll of 7,500 and caused serious damage to the Nepal’s commercial and historical landmarks. For the years to come, Nepal will need additional assistance in order to recover from the damages sustained. China has rushed supplies and many international organizations such as the C130J Hercules. This operation has become the largest relief effort undertaken by India on foreign soil. China has raised supplies and a 62-man team made up of veterans from the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, which had a 7,000 death toll. Despite all the aid Nepal is receiving, Nepal will likely still feel the effects of the earthquake years from now. Nepal’s earthquake’s woes have been exacerbated by its poor infrastructure and economy. At the time of the disaster, Nepal was still rebuilding after a 10-year-long civil war. Average gross domestic product per capita was less than $700 a year and most people’s homes were constructed without the help of trained engineers. On top of this, much of the aid that Nepal receives has not gone to the most poor and vulnerable places. Kirna, for example, is one of many mountain villages susceptible to landslides and other aftereffects. Treacherous and muddy roads prevent the village from receiving the aid it needs. Only helicopters, of which there are not enough, can transport necessary supplies to such villages.
### Events

**Wednesday, May 6**

**The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering presents**

Dr. Nicholas L. Abbott. His lecture is titled “Modulation of the Strength of Hydrophobic Interaction by Proximally Immobilized Ions.” It will be held in Ricketts 211 from 9:30–10:30 am.

**The Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering introduces**

Dr. Kunihiko Taira. His presentation is titled “Examining the Roles of Momentum and Vorticity Injection in Separation Control.” It will be held in DCC 330 from 10:30–11:30 am.

**The Materials Science & Engineering Seminar Series continues**

with guest speaker Dr. Long-Qing Chen. It is titled “Understanding and Manipulating Domain Patterns in Nanoscale Thin Films and Heterostructures Using Phase-field Method.” It will be held in CII 3051 from 11 am–noon.

**The Dean’s Seminar Series hosts**

a joint seminar featuring Dr. James C. Latridis and Dr. Robert J. Linhardt. It will take place in Jonsson Rowland Science Center 1C13 starting at 11 am. Lunch will be provided after.

**The American Red Cross Club and Phi Kappa Tau sponsor**

this American Red Cross Blood Drive and are currently recruiting participants! Walk-ins are welcome. It will be held in the Mueller Center from 11:30 am–5:30 pm.

**The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department presents**

seminar speaker Dr. Richard Sause. His seminar is titled “Innovative Low-Damage Earthquake-Resistant Building Structural Systems.” It will be held in JEC 3117 from 1–2 pm.

**The Department of Physics, Applied Physics and Astronomy hosts**

Dr. Robert Hull. His seminar is titled “The new interdisciplinary Rensselaer Center for Materials, Devices and Integrated Systems.” This will be held in CII 3051 from 4–5 pm.

**The Mathematical Sciences Department presents**

an undergraduate seminar titled “Exploiting sparsity, redundancy and multi-scale structures in image data.” It will be held in Amos Eaton 214 from 4–5 pm.

**Thursday, May 7**

**Lori Setton, Ph.D., Duke University, presents**

“The Stressful Life of the Intervertebral Disc Cell” as part of the Sheldon Weinbaum ’59 Distinguished Lecture in Biomedical Engineering. It will be held in the Biotech Auditorium in CBIS from 3:30–4:30 pm.

**The Mathematical Sciences Department hosts**

Xiaozun Zhang. The lecture is titled “Computational methods for sparsity promoting in inverse problems.” It will be held in Amos Eaton 214 from 4–5 pm.

**Paint**

your own wine glass at the Rensselaer Pub from 7–9 pm. This is the final occurrence of the Painting at the Pub series for this semester.

**The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center hosts**

The Fortunetellers. The narrative performance is inspired by American artist Ellie Ga’s six-month residency on the Tara, a research boat frozen in the Arctic ice, drifting near the North Pole to gather scientific data. Cost is $6 for RPI students. It will be held in EMPAC Studio 2 from 8–9 pm.

**FRIDAY, May 8**

**Physical Plant closes**

the Parking Garage on College Avenue the weekend of May 8. Please have your vehicles removed by Friday, May 8, at 6 pm. Alternate parking is available in the Academy Hall lot.

**EMPAC hosts**

Eureka, a lighthouse play. It is a narrative performance that centers on the Great Lighthouse of Alexandria. It will be held in EMPAC Studio 2 from 8–9 pm. Cost is $6 for RPI students.

**Saturday, May 9**

**Watch**

the members of Dance Club and Team perform at the Annual Dance Club Spring Show! All of their members have worked hard this semester to bring to the Rensselaer community amazing pieces of different styles. Tickets are $3 for students. It will be held in West Hall Auditorium from 2–4 pm.

**W2SZ and the Albany/Troy VE Team sponsor**

the 2015 amateur radio license exams. Cost is $15 and it will be held in CII 3045 from 9 am–1 pm. For more information, contact Gerald Murray, (518) 482-8700.

**The RPI Players present**

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.** Lawrence Jameson makes his lavish living by talking rich ladies out of their money. Freddy Benson more humbly swindles women by wakening their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother’s failing health. After meeting on a train, they attempt to work together, only to find that this small French town isn’t big enough for the two of them. Cost is $5 with RPI ID. It will be held at the RPI Playhouse from 8–11 pm.

**Sunday, May 10**

**The RPI Bowling Club hosts**

its first event, RPI BOWL-A-THON. Whether you bowl alone or in a team, join them for a friendly competition for two hours of unlimited bowling! Plenty of pizza will be provided. Cost is $10. The event will be held at Uncle Sam’s Lanes from 1–3 pm. Register at http://bit.ly/rpibowl.

**MONDAY, May 11**

**The Biological Seminar Series presents**

graduate students Matt Sufliita and Calvin Chen. Each will be giving a seminar. It will be held in Bruggeman Conference Center in the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies from noon–1 pm. Refreshments will be served at 11:45 am.

**The Mueller Center hosts**

free Sahaja Meditation Classes, open to students, staff and faculty. Spend an hour to learn a simple effective way to de-stress and revive your energy, or, if you are so inclined, get yourself ‘blissed out’ sitting comfortably in a chair. Learn from someone with more than 30 years practicing and teaching meditation to newcomers. Class runs from 6:15–7 pm.

**Wednesday, May 13**

**Classes end!** Regularly scheduled classes will end after last evening class.
Sports

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

BASEBALL

Engineers earn top seed for tournament

RPI takes three of four from RIT; will play Tigers again on Thursday

Joe Saulsbury  
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS TRAILED AFTER FIVE innings in their first game of two against the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers last Saturday. A solo home run in the sixth inning by RPI senior starting pitcher Jared Jensen tied the game at two. The game went to extra innings. In the bottom of the eighth, senior rightfielder Shane Matthews led off with a double and took third on a passed ball. Then, the Tigers walked Jensen and senior second baseman Tim LeSuer to create easier force-out opportunities. It didn’t work though, as senior shortstop Nick Palmiero singled to left field to bring in Matthews and give the Engineers a key 3-2 victory.

Jensen pitched a complete game, giving up just two earned runs on five hits and striking out six. Palmiero also doubled in the game while junior centerfielder Nick Amannziata recorded his 27th hit of the season on a single in the bottom of the fifth inning.

In the second game, Rensselaer tallied two runs in the third and fifth innings and rolled to an easy 4-1 win. Junior pitcher Greg Echeverria went the distance for the home squad, allowing just one run on six hits and striking out seven in seven innings of play.

Matthews started the third inning rally for RPI with a lead-off double to the left field gap. Later, with one out, Jensen hit a sharp groundball past Tigers third baseman Phil Sammon to put the Engineers in front. Then, after Jensen stole second, LeSuer singled to left field to bring in Jensen and give the home team a 2-0 edge.

Senior leftfielder Tyler Listing added a one-out single in the bottom of the fifth and subsequently scored on a sacrifice bunt by LeSuer. Then, two wild pitches by RIT starting pitcher Brandon Cohall allowed Jensen to score his second run of the game. A run by Tiger centerfielder C3 Bolorin in the sixth inning failed to ignite an RIT comeback and the Engineers won both games of the afternoon and secured the top seed in the upcoming Liberty League tournament.

In a back and forth affair on Sunday afternoon, the Engineers saw themselves fall behind early after a slew of RIT hits allowed the visiting Tigers to take a 4-1 lead into the third inning. RPI responded quickly. Singles by Listing, LeSuer, and Palmiero gave the Engineers a run in the top of the third. Then, a two-out rally in the top of the fourth was capped by a Jensen three-run homer, his second of the weekend and seventh of the season. The Engineers took a 7-4 lead into the bottom of the sixth after scoring two unearned runs off of a two-out error by Sammon and a subsequent RBI single by Palmiero. The lead wouldn’t last long, though. Five Tiger hits, including two two-out doubles, allowed RIT to score five runs and earn a needed 9-7 victory over Rensselaer.

In defeat, Matthews, Jensen, LeSuer, and Palmiero each recorded two hits, while sophomore first baseman Jason Ramos then doubled to left center to drive in Desmond and give the Engineers a 3-2 advantage. Sophomore designated hitter Matt Lawrence singled past the RIT relief pitcher Tim Dillon to put runners on the corners.

Later, Matthews walked in Ramos and Listing grounded to second to bring in M. Lawrence and give the Engineers a 5-2 lead.

RPI senior starting pitcher Sean Contryn struck out nine in seven and two-thirds innings and gave up two runs on 10 hits. Later, junior closer Stephen Schiavone earned his second save of the season, allowing just one hit and no runs in the bottom of the ninth.

With three wins in four games against RIT, the Engineers finished with an overall record of 22-14 and a conference-best record of 18-6. This Thursday, May 7, RPI will once again host the Tigers for the first game of the Liberty League tournament. The tournament will feature a double-elimination format with Clarkson University and the University of Rochester also competing as the second and third seeds, respectively.

Franks: Former kicker to train with Dolphins

From Page 1 also the longest in Division III this season. Over the past two seasons, Franks also knocked in three-pointers from 50, 51, and 52 yards. His 37 field goals are the most any kicker has ever made at Rensselaer.

On kickoffs, Franks averaged 61.2 yards per kick and broke the school record for touchbacks his senior season with 33. As a punter, Franks punted a total of 102 times and landed 31 inside the 20-yard line. In both his junior and senior seasons, Franks earned DIIIfootball.com All-America First team honors as well as the award for Liberty League Special Teams Player of the Year. In addition, Franks also earned Liberty-League All-Academic honors as a Biomedical Engineering major in his final three years as an Engineer.

As a newly-signed member of the Miami Dolphins, Franks will report to rookie camp this week and then will take part in training camp next month. In order to make the team, Franks will most likely need to beat out Dolphins starting kicker Caleb Sturgis. This is because most NFL teams only keep one kicker; some teams, however, keep one kicker for field goals and another for long distance kicks and kickoffs. For this reason, kicker is one of the, if not the, most difficult positions to be successful at. Franks is one of just eight undrafted free agent kickers to be signed following the NFL Draft. During his training workouts with the Dolphins, he will be fighting for not only a position on the team, but also striving to gain recognition from the other teams, as well.

JUNIOR CATCHER CHRIS HOLOMAKOFF TAKES A RIP AT a pitch in a match against the Tigers. Holomakoff caught two wins in the RIT series.

From Joseph Shen/The Polytechnic

RIT starting pitcher Conor Herlihy pitched a complete game, giving up seven runs on 11 hits and striking out five.

In the series finale, both teams scored twice in the first five innings of play. Then, in the top of the sixth, the Engineers broke open the game. Desmond singled to right center with one out in the inning. Sophomore first baseman Jason Ramos then doubled to left center to drive in Desmond and give the Engineers a 3-2 advantage. Sophomore designated hitter Matt Lawrence singled past RIT relief pitcher Tim Dillon to put runners on the corners.

Later, Matthews walked in Ramos and Listing grounded to second to bring in M. Lawrence and give the Engineers a 5-2 lead.

RPI junior catcher Chris Holomakoff takes a rip at a pitch in a match against the Tigers. Holomakoff caught two wins in the RIT series.

From Joseph Shen/The Polytechnic

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Fade filled with dank memes

University Press

For those of you that are unaware, Fade is a social media app that, similarly to Yik Yak, allows users to post content anonymously on their phones. People in the surrounding area can then see this content. The main difference between Yik Yak and Fade is that Fade allows for pictures as well as a sentence or two. The point of such an application is to allow those around RPI to post pictures of interesting and funny things that they see around campus. However, due to the “internet” culture that surrounds RPI, people see it as just a place to post pictures of funny posts.

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I, for one, enjoy a dank meme, but there is a time and a place. If I wanted to check out funny internet pictures with witty captions, I could go to any of the dozens of websites that literally do nothing but this. If I want to see interesting and funny pictures of things that are going on around RPI, there is only one place for that: RPI Fade. This epidemic probably even be that bad if there were the occasional post of a meme. However, on most days, the page is comprised entirely of internet culture jokes with silly captions! The worst of it is all that the most of the memes you are probably aware of this atrocity, but it’s time we get everyone on the same page. This unfortunate occurrence which is happening on the same page. This unfortunate occurrence which is happening on this trend into the next semester. We’re planning on continuing this trend into the next semester and beyond.

Over the course of the summer, we will con- continue work on our new website, so stay tuned for changes on that front. Our current site runs off of WordPress, which is a bit more lim- ited, as it is meant for more of a blog-style site. The new site will feature a better integration of front-end and back-end systems, which will allow us to provide better integra- tion between stories and tags, for example. In the interim, we are exploring options of using more up-to-date WordPress theme, which better reflects our status as a media organization.

In this last semester, we’ve made quite a few changes to our paper, both visually, and in terms of content. We pioneered a new section and added writ- ing some longer, more in-depth articles, and have expanded our online presence. In the last year, we’ve been increasing usage of our Twitter, Facebook, 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 re- spective jobs and fu- ture endeavors. I’d like to take a moment to recognize some of our fu- ture alumni. Ethan Spitz ‘15, one of our current contributing web editors, has been on The Poly since Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond of his freshman year, in the fall of 2011. Since then, he has served as photography editor, copy editor, and web and 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 man- ager. Kirk Smith ’15, who also joined in fall of 2011, served as news editor for multiple semes- ters. All of them have contrib- uted a great deal to The Polytechnic in 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 in our offices, just let us know. We’re always looking for help- ing hands (and it’s also a great résumé booster).

Looking forward, we plan 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.

Evan Barr

Managing Editor

To submit your feedback, queries, or any other related content, please email edop@poly.rpi.edu! Please, let Fade know. If you get a cut-off finger in your Sodexo meal, let the world know how disgusting it is. This kind of stuff is so much more interesting for the average student than a meme that has been downloaded from the internet. Even feel free to throw in a witty caption as long as it’s your own content. Together, we can fix this tragedy. We can take advantage of this unique application and make it something that is hilarious and entertaining. We, as a united campus, can fix this! With the original RPI content, down with the dank memes!

Have an opinion? Send a column request and samples to edop@poly.rpi.edu

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Joseph Shier

Kayla Cinnamon

Evan Barr

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Ethan Spitz

Kelsey McNeely

Michael McNeely

Ethan Spitz

Geoffrey Rosenbaum

Saskia Shymansky

Katie Jacobson

Tyler Carney

Marla Kouznetz

Production Staff: Isabelle Johnson

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Summer has arrived

Ah, May; the weather is forecasted to have temperatures in the 80s and plentiful sunshine for the next five days. Lawns every- where 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 me the opportunity 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 snacks 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 over the vally. For those that love hiking, rock cliffs, and abundance of trees, and some substantial waterfalls, it’s a half-mile walk from campus.

If you’re not enough to 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. Thatchers 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. Pookie’s 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 (Pookie’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. If you want to see something with a few feet of snow, there are plenty of mountains to ski and snowboard if you’re up for it.

If you’re just looking for a little something to do here on campus, there’s still the Experimental Media Center that’s in 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 ECAC. Pick up a football, soccer ball, lacrosse stick, rollerblade, tennis racket, tennis ball, running shoes, blanket to eat on, or even nothing at all and have some fun or just relax with your friends. The end of the semester is really stressful, and counterintuitively, spending some time not working will actually improve results on last exams, projects, or finals.
Executive Board applications due; weekly events

GM relays personal experience with ALAC
ALAC and CCP prove useful for core courses and communication

Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshall

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).

Now onto the business of the Senate for this week: we heard presentations on several petitions, and decided if we should take action, and if so, what sort of action should be taken. These petitions are: “Don’t Shut Down RPI’s Nuclear Reactor!”, “Do NOT Extend Sodexo’s Contract,” “Install Water Bottling Stations around campus”, and “Expanded use of EMPAC.” Next week, at our meeting on May 12 in Elsworth, we will be addressing the petitions “Bring Beer Back to GM Week,” “Bring big-name concerts back to RPI,” and any others that may come up. Check out the current petitions, or post new ones at http://petitions.ptugw.com/.

Oh, and the best resource that we have for our studies is the person sitting in the seat next to us, who is going through the same challenges, may know a trick to make studying a better experience, and we all learn better when we can help someone else understand it as well.

As always, contact me at gm@rpi.edu for any questions, comments, concerns, or studying tips!

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 subreddit (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/vix/0/1c1 and a Google Form here: http://poly.rpi.edu/v/1dx/cf. 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 delegated. 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 psu@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 Mother’s Wine Emporium.
HARK! A VAGRANT
by Kate Beaton

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

WORD FIND
by Shane O’Brien

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals.

NBA Playoff Teams

Hawks
Raptors

Bucks
Rockets

Bulls
Spurs

Cavaliers
Trail Blazers

Celtics
Warriors

Clippers

Nets

Grizzlies

Warriors

Cryptogram

A Cryptogram is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated.

For example: AMXBMAAYQ = ENGINEERS


Fyh ejlrp ejde ubsdhmb fyh’tb mleelra vjbtb fyh dtb, drw L dc mleelra vjbtb L dc, ejde fyh dtb lr syretyq yg vjde lm duyhe ey jdkkbbr. Fyh’tb clmedpr. L dc lr syretyq, ubsdhmb L pryv ejlram ejde fyh wy rye pryv.”

—Dqdr Ehtlra

Ejb Lcledelyr Adcb
TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten reasons why our Top Ten is better than Buzzfeed

10. Less hated
9. Our website doesn’t look like an awful British tabloid
8. We aren’t posted by your annoying friends
7. No one cares about their lists’ contents
6. Ours don’t have GIFs (PNGs FTW)
5. Less clickbait-y titles
4. We’re not mainstream
3. We have physical copies (sometimes)
2. Our articles are longer than a paragraph
1. We were first

Monday Punday
By Matthew Broussard

ASNOWERS
Here are the answers to last week’s cryptoquote and mondaypundays.
“I don’t know why he saved my life. Maybe in those last moments he loved life more than he ever had before. Not just his life—anybody’s life; my life. All he’d wanted were the same answers the rest of us want. Where did I come from? Where am I going? How long have I got? All I could do was sit there and watch him die.”
— Deckard
Blade Runner

Welcome to the Degree-Off, where did you determine which field is the best? Which would you go first?
Sure I’d like to tell the story of Richard Feynman’s Manhattan Project Lockpicking Pranks...

XKCD
By Randall Munroe

The Imitation Game
Friday • May 8, 2015
7 pm, 9:30 pm, & Midnight • DCC 308 • $2.50

The King’s Speech
Saturday • May 9, 2015
7 pm, 9:30 pm, & Midnight • DCC 308 • $2.50

DINOSAUR COMICS
By Ryan North

Faith Hill on exoplanet spectroscopy

Tales about Europe
In restaurants that have been serving food since before your country was even a thing?
A: Yes!
Q: Are there cities whose origins are lost, which is a non-dramatic way of asking if there are cities which predate history... herself?
Yes! Old stuff is present everywhere!

This comic brought to you by Tourism Europe
“We also invented Vampires”
**Film Review**

**Avengers flies to new heights; could go farther**

Joseph Shen  
Senior Reviewer

**Avengers: Age of Ultron is the next film in the new wave of Marvel Entertainment films released over the past few years, and, once again, another adaptation of their comic book stories into action on the silver screen. It is sometimes funny and sometimes serious, but it manages to balance the two well to create an atmosphere that is both welcoming for newcomers while still satisfying the die-hard "stay-up-all-night-on-Monday-morning" fans.

As someone who has seen most, but not all, of the related Marvel films but hasn’t read the comics, Age of Ultron presents itself as some sort of a multi-faced and quite by the way, a Hydra overwrite to the scepter which Loki wielded in the previous Avengers film. It is during this fight that we are introduced to two new characters—Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, portrayed by Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen, respectively, who joins the Avengers trouble.

After they successfully retrieve the scepter, billionaire genius Tony Stark, again excellently portrayed by Robert Downey Jr., discovers and utilizes an artificial intelligence in the scepter to create his "Ultron" global defense initiative program. Predictably, this goes wrong.

The team then must chase down and save the world from the rogue AI, Ultron, whose belief of the only way to destroy humanity, by extension, the Avengers. Their journey takes them from Seoul to South Africa and explores interpersonal and internal conflicts that threaten to tear the team apart. Stark delivers a distinguished performance as the voice of Ultron with his self-aggrandizing, villain-type dialogue.

Age of Ultron grossed $191.3 million in its opening weekend, just shy of the No. 1 $207.4 million record set by its predecessor in 2012. On this movie, they aren’t wrong; the franchise. I know I hadn’t seen from a band in some time, and I feel sorry for the concert as a whole was entertaining. Additionally, the next two singles the duo released, riled the crowd, while the first two singles the duo released, riled the crowd, while the former is a fitting sequel to the previous film. The film’s 141-minute runtime gives the viewer out of the film. The movie itself, with fairly glaring usages of CGI pulling special effects, while mostly on-par with the new inclusions: Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, and the Vision. While I feel like they were good inclusions and made for some awesome scenes, I feel like most of these characters have been thrown away heroes that come in for their special spotlight in later films. Case in point: Warmachine and Falcon in this film. I don’t mind a larger repertoire of heroes, but an Avengers B team kind of sucks when it is constantly being compared to the all-star original team. The only good focuses I enjoyed was establishing Hawkeye as a member of the Avengers. While Hawkeye has either been a cameo villain in Thor or an actual villain-turned-heros in the first Avengers, it was nice to see Hawkeye not only as the glue the team of gods needs to stick together, but also as the mentor for the new heroes.

I won’t have to tell you how cool the movie is, or how awesome it was when Hulk/Thor/Scarlet Witch/Not Black Widow blew up a thing while doing a flip onto another thing, yadda yadda yadda. It’s certainly entertaining, but extremely underwhelming. The entirety of the film feels like a one-off without anything really important happening. Even the post credits scene was disappointing, and everything just seems like a set up for the next wave of films before the next Avengers. This film feels like Marvel is slowly creeping in new heroes to distract the fans from how far they are trying to stretch out the Thanos arc, and while it’s not bad now, I’m scared this will become a feature in the upcoming Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

**Concert: MSMR lights up night at ECAV Arena**

From Page 10

artist of Bell’s Roar, sang passionately and interacted with the crowd. Her remix of “Slow” moved the crowd and sounded much better with more people and a bigger venue; I enjoyed her act much more this time around.

The next was Titanium, composed of duo keyboardist and vocalist Mark Lombardo and guitarist Derek Rogers. Titanium was a much more mellow act. If I were at the library, working on homework or relaxing in my room, they would probably be the band I’d listen to. However, when I go to concerts, I’m looking for high energy performances and music with upbeat rhythm and full sound. As a result, Titanium’s chillwave and dream rock influences did not appeal to me. However, the band did put on an interesting light show, displaying contrasting cool and warm colors during their performance.

"Monday is January; Friday is December. The calendar means nothing, when you can’t remember who you are."  - Painted by MSMR

Painted，“contains fast moving percussion and a catchy hook; as one of the first songs performed, it set the tone for the night. Vocalist Lizzzy Plapinger demonstrated her brilliant voice and crazy dance moves. "Fantasy," one of the first two singles the duo released, riled the crowd, while one of other similarly paced popular songs, “Think of You," was passionate and moving. Later on in the set, Plapinger danced with Max Hershon, the other part of the MSMR duo, adding to the spirit of the show. The set ended with their most popular song, "Hurricane."

Though the opening acts had a different style than MSMR, the concert as a whole was entertaining. Additionally, the Arena as a musical venue was also odd, but it’s due to a lack of attendance, which I am disappointed about. However, that’s mostly due to its restriction to RPI and Russell Sage students. MSMR put on a lively and energetic show that I hadn’t seen from a band in some time, and I feel sorry for those that missed it. I had a surprisingly entertaining time by the end; I’ll definitely be on the lookout for future shows. For more information regarding future shows, visit http://concerts.union.rpi.edu/.
ACTS SURPRISE MANY WITH IMPRESSIVE SHOW

SHOW REVIEW

Chris Leong
Senior Reviewer

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, UPAC CONCERTS and the Rensselaer Union 125th Anniversary hosted their MSMR concert at East Campus Athletic Village, in the East Campus Athletic Village Arena, featuring MSMR and special guests Bell’s Roar and Titans. The doors opened at 7 pm and the concert started at 8 pm. Tickets were sold at the door and also had been sold in the Rensselaer Union the previous three weeks by UPAC Concerts. In high school, regularly went to concerts, seeing bands like AFI, Dragonforce, and music festivals, such as Bamboozle, Mayhem Festival, and Warped Tour. So I’m used to packed venues and areas so crowded it takes 10 minutes to just get to the nearest portapotty, let alone wait in line. When I walked into the ECAV Arena, you can imagine my surprise when I saw only a quarter of the floor filled with people, with people sitting on the pulled out bleachers. It was then that I found out that the concert was exclusive to RPI and Russell Sage College students and not the greater Troy area. RPI has about 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students combined; we are not as big as a state university or institution that has 20,000–70,000 students. Had it been bigger, I believe that the atmosphere would have been more vibrant and at least as big as the Mutt and Kim and Passion Pit UPAC concert.

Bell’s Roar was the first act, taking the stage at around 8 pm. As I stated in my past review of Bell’s Roar and Mirk, Bell’s Roar is an experimental sound. Though the acoustics in the arena were much less than desired, it was a straight upgrade from Mother’s Wine Emporium, in the Rensselaer Union. Sean Desiree, the solo performer, had been sold in the Rensselaer Union the previous three weeks by UPAC Concerts. was the headlining act of the night, albeit a short one.

LIZZY PLAPINGER PERFORMS as one half of the duo MSMR at the ECAV Arena on April 30. The band, brought to RPI by UPAC Concerts, was the headlining act of the night, and had one of the best sets of the night, albeit a short one.

ALBUM REVIEW

Longtime EDM artist releases killer full album

Shane O’Brien
Senior Reviewer

IN AN AGE WHERE MUSIC ARTISTS ARE BURDENED WITH THE PRESSURES OF MAKING SONGS ENTIRELY for the radio and mainstream success, there are still some producers and musicians who can find a way to shine with their unique talents and abilities. Kill Paris, one of these gifted musicians, solidifies his own identity in the funk electronic genre with his newest release Galaxies Between Us, which came out on April 14. With solid bass lines and outstanding guitar riffs, the album gives off a feel good vibe that is easy and satisfying to groove to.

Kill Paris, despite being around the music scene for the better part of a decade, has somehow eluded a full LP release until just last month. Countless originals and remixes for the radio and mainstream success, there are still some producers and musicians who can find a way to shine with their unique talents and abilities. Kill Paris, one of these gifted musicians, solidifies his own identity in the funk electronic genre with his newest release Galaxies Between Us, which came out on April 14. With solid bass lines and outstanding guitar riffs, the album gives off a feel good vibe that is easy and satisfying to groove to.

Galaxies Between Us, courtesy of Kill Paris

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Some electronic music albums struggle to establish a consistent feel while still having the individual songs maintain their own unique touches. Kill Paris’, however, allows the listener to relax, groove a little bit, and just truly enjoy an easily flowing album for around 45 minutes. This musical journey is available for free through his label Sexy Electric, and I highly recommend checking it out.