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NFL

Kicker signs with Miami



Joseph Shen/The Polytechnic

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. The record now stands at 54 yards, which he set against Hobart College last October. The kick was

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SENATE

Senate hears reactor petition

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE STUDENT SENATE BEGAN TUESDAY'S MEETING with four petitions. The first was "Don't Shut Down RPI's Nuclear Reactor," presented by graduate Nicholas Thompson. The Walthousen Reactor Critical Facility is a zero-power nuclear reactor used for education, training, and research by RPI nuclear engineering students. The City of Schenectady has pushed for its shutdown; however, many faculty members want it to remain in service. Thompson feels that this is a time-sensitive issue, as it is possible that the reactor could be shut down as early as this summer. Graduate Senator Mike Caiola asked if it would be possible to send a formal letter to the administration, should it pass, who have the final say on the decision. The Senate supported the petition in a 16-0-1 vote.

Next was the petition "Don't Renew Sodexo's Contract." Michael Han '16 said that this was a touchy subject, as Sodexo's contract does not expire until 2018. James Wheland '16 motioned to refer the petition to the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee. Joe Venusto '17 said that while HSAC works with hospitality services, it is not the same thing as Sodexo. Seeing this, Paul Ilori '17 amended the motion to charge it to the Facilities and Services Committee. This passed 17-1-0.

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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 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake 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 campaign Wednesday, 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 \$600 raised during 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 unused FLEX dollars at Blitman 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-

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Weather

8-Day Forecast

Day	High/Low	Precip.	Hum.	Wind
Wednesday	78°/50°	0%	27%	3 mph
Thursday	82°/58°	0%	37%	3 mph
Friday	88°/61°	20%	44%	5 mph
Saturday	89°/64°	20%	47%	9 mph
Sunday	87°/64°	20%	50%	7 mph
Monday	83°/64°	30%	60%	7 mph
Tuesday	76°/56°	70%	53%	6 mph
Wednesday	63°/50°	20%	50%	8 mph

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, began their first ever Islander Week. Based around the FIJI nickname, many FIJI chapters hold tropical-themed islander events for charity or social reason. This year, the RPI chapter raised \$1,425 for the nine families that were displaced by the fire on Fourth and Washington Streets in Troy, N.Y. on April 10.

On Monday, April 27, FIJI kicked off the week with an inflatable obstacle course on



Chris Leong/The Polytechnic

THE BROTHERS OF PHI GAMMA DELTA HELD a week of events to raise money for downtown fire victims.

the '86 Field, playing music 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

two hundred people ran the obstacle course throughout the day, and even more purchased food or drink. On Tuesday, April 28, the chapter tabled

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Petitions: *Electronic voting proposed for Senate*

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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 charged with investing student usage of EMPAC and possibly expanding its use.

The Senate moved on to appointing new committee chairs. Joshua Rosenfeld '16 was officially appointed

parliamentarian. Krajewski was appointed as vice chairman 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 chairman. Ilori was appointed Student Life Committee chairman.

There was then a motion to have some form of electronic voting for Senate proceedings, since the past and current Grand Marshal 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*

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ments. Additionally, six dollars of every eight dollar lunch or dinner purchased by individuals without a meal plan at RSDH or Commons will be donated from today through May 13.

As part of the RPI Relief: NEPAL campaign, RPI Relief will be holding a Climb for Nepal event on Friday, May 8, 5-7 pm at the Approach. Participants can buy tickets that they carry up the Approach to enter in raffles for prizes including tickets to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, hockey tickets, and a free parking pass for the 2015-2016 school year in North Lot. Any individuals who want

to participate but are unable to go up the Approach can pay an extra five dollars to have a member of RPI Relief carry their tickets up the Approach for them. Raffle tickets can be purchased in the Dean of Students Office in Academy Hall 9 am-5 pm, May 6-8, or at the event. There will be food for sale and music provided by UPAC Sound. Donations for the RPI Relief: NEPAL campaign will go to The United Nations Children's Fund, the American Red Cross-NEPAL, and All Hands Volunteers. As of Tuesday, May 5, \$1,700 has been raised.

FIJI: Proceeds help fire victims

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outside of Russell Sage Dining Hall from 8 am-5 pm, once again selling non-alcoholic piña colodas, hamburgers, and hotdogs, while promoting their Evening of Performances at their chapter house, the former First Baptist church, in downtown Troy. The event took place at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary of their house. The show was free, but donations were strongly encouraged. The first act was Pumper, a pop-punk band comprised of RPI students, followed by Sheer Idiocy, and The Rusty Pipes.

On Wednesday, April 29, the brothers again tabled outside Russell Sage Dining Hall from 8 am-5 pm, promoting their ultimate frisbee tournament at 3 pm on the Anderson Field. From the tournament alone, the chapter raised \$105. On Thursday, April 30, a dunk tank was set up beside the RPI Playhouse, facing Sage Dining Hall. FIJI brothers took turns sitting in the dunk tank and sold softballs to throw at the bullseye target. Over \$400 was raised during the day. On Friday, May 1, the fraternity's founder's day, brothers once again tabled in front of Sage Dining Hall to promote the day's event: duct tape a brother. Duct tape was sold by the foot and a member of the fraternity was taped captive on one of the columns by the Center for Industrial Innovation. Those that paid for duct tape could place their strips on areas that had already been duct taped.

In total, from tabling, food, drink, Frisbee, and square cash payments, the fraternity raised \$1,425, just shy of \$1,500. All of the proceeds will go towards the nine families that were displaced by the fire on Fourth and Washington Streets. The conclusion of FIJI's Islander Week comes almost two weeks after their win as Alpha Phi Omega's Meanest Man on Campus, raising \$1,797.25 for Peppertree Dog Rescue. For information on the RPI chapter of Tau Nu Phi Gamma Delta, visit <https://www.taunufiji.com/>.

INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTIGATOR TERRANCE BURNS

Wednesday, April 29

Hall Hall

Criminal Mischief: Two callers reported seeing a student throwing paper on fire from a window of the third floor study room. Upon DPS arrival, the incident was still occurring. The student was interviewed, and information was collected about the incident. Evidence was collected from the scene, and DPS took photographs of the incident. Both an incident report and a grounds for disciplinary action referral were completed by DPS, and DOSO was notified.

Rensselaer Union

Theft: A bicycle was stolen from outside the Union between 8 pm-1 am after the student had left the bicycle unattended without locking it.

Saturday, May 2

Mueller Center

Suspicious Liquid: A container was found to be leaking hydrochloric acid inside the RPI Ambulance garage. Upon investigation, it was determined that the barrel was labeled as muerotic acid. TFD responded to the incident. A small amount of liquid was found on the floor. It was ruled that the spill was not acid, but motor oil. DPS contacted the RPI Physical Plant, but they responded saying it was not their issue. Environmental Health and Safety was then contacted and the barrel was scheduled to be moved Monday. The area around the barrel was surrounded with caution tape and DPS was notified.

Monday, May 4

Watervliet Facility

Fire: The caller stated that a smell of smoke was coming from the front of the building and that the fire alarm pull station had been activated. Watervliet Fire Department responded. The smoke was caused by an individual working with a blow torch. The alarm was reset and a fire report was filed.

WORLD NEWS

7.8 magnitude earthquake shakes southern Asia

Stanley Wong
Senior Reporter

AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7.8 ON the Richter scale struck Nepal, and has resulted in a death toll of 7,500 and caused serious damage to the nation's infrastructure, according to Nepal's Prime Minister. The quake itself occurred on April 25, and is the most powerful earthquake in Nepal since 1934. Casualties in neighboring countries (i.e., India, China, and Bangladesh) have also been reported. Additionally, at least 17 climbers have been killed in the earthquake's wake on Mount Everest; the effect of the earthquake on the height of Mount Everest is currently being analyzed by expert geologists. According to The Himalayan Times, there were as many as 20,000 foreign nationals in Nepal at the time of the earthquake. As such, there are numerous multinational di-

saster relief efforts being undertaken currently. The extensive damage to Nepal's commercial and historical sites, however, has slowed relief efforts and produced long-lasting effects on the nation's historical heritage.

The airport that much of international aid organizations utilize, Tribhuvan International Airport, has frequently closed and many of its workers have not been able to clock in due to the quake's aftershocks. Despite the logistical challenges, many international organizations are rushing to Nepal's aid. India in particular has airlifted thousands of its citizens and others on heavy lift planes such as the C130J Hercules. This operation has become the largest relief effort undertaken by India on foreign soil. China has rushed supplies and a 62-man team made up of veterans from the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, which had a 70,000 death toll. Despite

all the aid Nepal is receiving, Nepal will likely still feel the effects of the earthquake years from now.

Nepal's earthquakes' 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 all of this, much of the aid that Nepal receives has not gone to the most poor and vulnerable places. Keura, 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.



Courtesy of Krish Dulal

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 now too damaged and dangerous to be used. Nepal's finance minister estimates that at least \$2 billion is needed just to rebuild homes, hospitals, and schools. For the years to come, Nepal will need additional help in not only rebuilding, but also restructuring its economy and infrastructure to mitigate any damage a future disaster may inflict.