Renaissance at Rensselaer Campaign Update

Firing on All Cylinders

The Campaign is firing on all cylinders as each day brings news of research breakthroughs and student achievements on our campuses, and as more alumni and friends are impressed that Rensselaer people are changing the world. Our donors are joining the thousands who have made gifts of all kinds to the Renaissance at Rensselaer Campaign, fueling the greatest transformation on our campuses in 100 years.

Not since President Ricketts swept the Troy campus with an expansive construction effort and a broadening of the curriculum to include the humanities and social sciences, has the Rensselaer community stepped forward to support such a transformation.

In recent days we have earned substantial new gifts to support students – with new scholarships and graduate fellowships, support for student research, student leadership programs, and outreach efforts to support students from groups underrepresented in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). We are also earning significant academic and research support. Individuals and corporations are stepping forward to support Rensselaer.

As of February 2008 we have earned $1.316 billion toward our $1.4 billion goal by 2009. The Renaissance at Rensselaer Campaign is building a foundation for the future, but it is up to the Rensselaer community – alumni and friends – to keep the momentum going. As President Shirley Ann Jackson affirms, “Let us join together to share the good news about Rensselaer, to build and to harness our collective power to truly build a great university for all time.”

Pave the Way for the East Campus Athletic Village

The most extensive athletics construction project in the Institute’s history is under way. The new East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV) will be a major addition to campus facilities, while expanding athletic opportunities and enhancing the overall student experience at Rensselaer.

Now you can leave a lasting reminder of your involvement with Rensselaer by donating a paver (paving stone) with your engraved name or message. These 24” x 24” pressed concrete pavers will be part of the concourse in the new ECAV stadium. Leave a lasting testimony to your generosity by ordering your paver with up to three 30 character lines of your message. Visit rpi.edu/campaign/paver.htm or contact Norm Ainslie at ainsln@rpi.edu to fill out a Paver application.

You may order up to three lines of your message on the 24” x 24” paver.

Your paver will be installed on the floor of the concourse in the East Campus Athletic Village (shown below).
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greater numbers of alumni, alumnai, and friends are joining the effort to lift Rensselaer to its rightful place among the nation’s top technological universities. We are also grateful for the support of corporations and foundations, and of our friends in the Capital Region.

Rensselaer does not just belong to those of us in Troy and Hartford who are working hard to transform Rensselaer. It is the alumni and alumnae who are the living legacy of the university. It is up to you to connect with each other, to build the network that is going to sustain Rensselaer for the long term. It is up to you to harness the skills, the passion, the determination, and the commitment to Rensselaer to build the sustaining engine that will keep it moving forward.

Rensselaer alumni and alumnae are the key. It is not just about the financial support, although that is of critical importance. It is about the community you create. We have a great start with affinity groups, with alumni chapters, with growing numbers of young alumni who are active on our behalf. We must engage them in a broader and more concentrated effort to build the network of alumni and alumnae. The other great universities have built such networks, and they support the work of the universities by giving – much and consistently, by identifying and attracting prospective students, by building connections with important institutions – in industry, in government, and among the large foundations.

This is a historic time. Rensselaer needs your support. Let us join together to share the good news about Rensselaer, to grow and to harness our collective power to truly build a great university for all time. Reach out and – as I like to say: each one, bring one – and we will achieve great things for Rensselaer.

Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.
President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Regional Volunteer Network Created to Support Campaign

As we enter the homestretch of the Renaissance at Rensselaer Campaign, we are reaching out to alumni and friends to help establish the Regional Volunteer Network. Designed to expand national and international outreach of the campaign, forty-eight volunteers will be reaching out to over 500 alumni and friends in eight U.S. regions and four international regions. The regional volunteers will be contacting potential prospects and will host luncheons and dinners in the regions. The Network Chair, Arthur Golden ’66, secured the first gift of the network, a $50,000 donation from a classmate.

Please contact Lisa McGrath ’89 at mcgrath@rpi.edu or call (518) 276-2737 for more information.

Regional Volunteer Chairs:
Northern California and Northwest Regional Campaign
Lou Bellardo ’67, John Russo ’78

Southern California and Southwestern Regional Campaign
Mike Ciminera ’59, Stu Foster ’72, Frank McKone ’83

Midwest Regional Campaign
Don McMurtry ’86, Harvey Zove ’52

Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Campaign
Janet Rutledge ’83, Jerry Williamson ’55

Boston Regional Campaign
Lee Bishop ’60

Upstate New York and Western New England Regional Campaign
Harry Apkarian ’46, David Haviland ’64

New York City Regional Campaign
Stu Benton ’62, Michael Miller ’79

Northeast New Jersey Regional Campaign
Howard Biltman ’50

International Volunteers:

Asia/Pacific
Douglas Henck ’74
Jackson Tai ’72
Stan Wang ’99
Peter Zhu ’99

Canada
Don McMurtry ’86
East Campus Athletic Village Makes Progress

Construction for Rensselaer's $114 million East Campus Athletic Village is on schedule. Foundations and retaining structures are nearing completion and the steel structure is being erected. The Lower Renwyck fields are complete, while site work related to roads and underground utilities continues. Women's lacrosse began playing under the lights on January 29th.

Renowned Physicist Named Kodosky Constellation Chair

Shengbai Zhang, a quantum physicist renowned for his computational modeling and research in semiconductor defects, has been named senior chair of Rensselaer's Gail and Jeffrey L. Kodosky '70 Constellation in Physics, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship. Zhang joined Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Jan. 1, 2008. The first to hold the constellation position, Zhang is also a professor in the Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy.

Financially supported and endowed by Gail Theilmann Kodosky and Institute Trustee Jeffrey Kodosky '70, the Kodosky Constellation will focus on energy conversion, future electronics, nano sciences, and a broad range of other cutting-edge areas of inquiry, including cyber-based physics and science discovery.

Acclaimed lighting designer Jennifer Tipton recently turned the nearly completed EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) building into a dynamic light sculpture. The “Light Above the Hudson” installation used recent innovations in lighting to illuminate the EMPAC building.

SAVE THE DATE

EMPAC Grand Opening Celebration: October 3-19, 2008
EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) will host a series of concerts, cutting-edge performances, interactive artworks, presentations, and film screenings including world premieres of commissioned works.
President Jackson Recognizes Donors for Significant Scholarship Support

Rensselaer honored donors Jeanne and Frank Fischer ’64 with the Alis Aquilae medal in recognition of their philanthropy for scholarship support at Rensselaer. The medal was awarded by President Jackson at a Patroon dinner on February 21, 2008 in East Palo Alto, CA. The medal, which translates to “on the wings of eagles,” was commissioned to recognize donors who have given a singular gift of $1 million or more to the Institute’s $1.4 billion capital campaign, Renaissance at Rensselaer.

The Jeanne and Frank Fischer ’64 Scholarship was established with a $1 million gift to the Rensselaer endowment in 2005, and is used to provide scholarship support. “Jeanne and Frank Fischer understand how vital it is that we reach out to every talented student, regardless of financial need, if we are to educate the innovators and technology leaders of the 21st century,” said President Shirley Ann Jackson.

In recognition of their philanthropy over the years, the Fischers are members of the Stephen Van Rensselaer Society of Patrons, and for their annual gifts each year, they also are members of the President’s Circle of the Annual Patron Society.

2007 Celebration of Student Support

Alumni and friends of the Institute who support Rensselaer students through endowed scholarships and fellowships, and the Patroon Scholars program, gathered for a luncheon on December 7, 2007, at the Russell Sage Dining Hall, with the students who benefit from their generosity. The event, part of the Renaissance at Rensselaer: The Campaign for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, celebrates the vision of donors and the impact of their gifts on the lives of those students they support.

Tonita and Frank McKone ’63 (center) with their supported students Keith Holman ’10, Mathew Sherwood ’11, and Michael Zwack ’11 (left to right).

Alumni Athletes Honor Coach Kalbaugh

Forty-seven alumni joined other guests at Rensselaer in late February to honor Bill Kalbaugh, who coached basketball, golf and JV baseball from 1953 to 1987. Together with more than 250 alumni whom the Coach mentored and coached, they have launched a $150,000 fundraising effort to name the basketball coaching suite in the Arena of the new East Campus Athletic Village the "R. William Kalbaugh Basketball Coaching Suite." If you want to participate in this fundraising effort, contact Adrienne Larys at larysa@rpi.edu.

To receive the Campaign UPDATES newsletter via e-mail, please contact Norm Ainslie at ainsln@rpi.edu.