Sean O’Sullivan Funds Engineering and Science in Africa

A gift of $1.25 million from Sean O’Sullivan ’85 will fund a new program to bring Rensselaer’s hallmark experiential learning programs to select universities in South Africa and Ghana in a five-year collaboration in science and engineering research, education, and development.

The program will feature a two-month summer experience for African university students, faculty, and administrators on both the Rensselaer campus and on-site in Africa, in which cross-cultural teams will work together on problems related to such areas as energy and the environment, transportation, potable water, and infectious and chronic disease control.

“What I like about the program which Dr. Jackson has crafted is that it isn’t about hand-outs or Band-aids,” O’Sullivan says. “It is a capacity-building program that puts responsibility squarely in the hands of the local population, while increasing cross-cultural communication and cooperation.”

O’Sullivan also has supported the creation of the Rensselaer Center for Open Source, which supports the development of solutions to promote civil societies across the globe. He also funds the “Change the World Challenge,” a student competition to stimulate entrepreneurial innovations to make the world a better place.

EMPAC Grand Opening Celebration
October 3-19, 2008

Celebrate the Grand Opening of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) with three weekends of world-class artistic performances and workshops, premieres of commissioned artworks, eye-opening exhibitions of research at the frontiers of science, and social events ranging from black-tie elegant to come-as-you-are eclectic.

(View schedule on page 3)
This issue of Campaign Updates highlights the grand opening of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC). EMPAC will have a major impact as Rensselaer continues to move into the top tier of research institutions in the world – unique among our peers in pushing the frontiers of science, engineering, and the arts. We will celebrate the opening of EMPAC with a wonderful array of events on October 3 to 5, 2008, and for two weekends beyond that.

Please join us to celebrate the unique nexus of the arts, science, and technology that EMPAC represents – and please continue to support the final stretch of our remarkable journey by contributing to Renaissance at Rensselaer: The Campaign for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

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

Renaissance at Rensselaer Campaign Update Story

As the Campaign approaches the ambitious goal of $1.4 billion, the Rensselaer community can be proud of the many achievements of Renaissance at Rensselaer: The Campaign for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, such as the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC). In October, members of the community representing a wide spectrum of alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff will gather together in celebration of the completion of a world-class arts and research facility on the Rensselaer campus.

EMPAC is integral to the ongoing transformation of Rensselaer, as envisioned in The Rensselaer Plan and supported by our capital campaign. Recent efforts to expand academic opportunities, increase student support, enhance research horizons, and improve global reach, serve to remind us that although we have come a long way, we must continue the transformation to achieve the full potential for Rensselaer.

As of August 4, 2008 we have raised $1.38 billion toward our $1.4 billion goal by 2009. It is up us, the Rensselaer community, to provide the final push that takes the campaign over the top and supports a university on the move.

Watch Rensselaer’s New Institute Video

Since its inception in 1824, these have been the hallmarks of Rensselaer. To view Rensselaer’s exciting new Institute Video, visit: rpi.edu/about/advancement/video
EMPAC Grand Opening Celebration  (Continued from Page 1)

October 3-5
The Gala Weekend will celebrate the expressive range that can be accommodated by EMPAC: from classical music presented in an environment of unprecedented acoustical purity to interactive multimedia works that test the boundaries between performer and audience.

Highlights include:
- Ribbon Cutting
- Presidential Colloquy
- EMPAC DANCE MOVIES,
- The Albany Symphony Orchestra
- Cecil Taylor

October 9-11
Symposium Weekend will include a symposium featuring eminent researchers from the science and engineering communities in a discussion about where these fields may intersect and connect with EMPAC.

Highlights include:
- A Two-day Symposium
- 360° film The Wooster Group
- The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
  with Winton Marsalis

October 17-19
Homecoming and Family Weekend will feature artistic performances in a wide variety of media and styles. Chosen in collaboration with Student Life, the intent is to reflect the interests of the Rensselaer student body as well as showcase their talent.

Highlights include:
- Workspace Unlimited
- The Rensselyrics
- Improvcappella
- The Ramsey Lewis Trio

Learn more at www.empac.rpi.edu
SPOTLIGHT
Paula and Jeffrey R. Gural ‘64 Scholarship Supports Future Engineers

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has received a gift of $1 million to endow the Paula and Jeffrey R. Gural ’64 Scholarship for undergraduate students in civil engineering.

According to Jeffrey R. Gural ’64, “I have been fortunate to have a successful career, and I feel it is my responsibility to give back to the university that educated me. I want the scholarship to support talented students from all walks of life, who will create the diversity we need on college campuses to solve the challenges facing the world.”

“I applaud and am grateful to Jeff and Paula Gural for their generosity and their commitment to engineering education,” said Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson. “If the United States is to maintain its standing as the global technology leader, our nation will require a significant increase in the number of young people, especially the underrepresented majority — women, minorities, and persons with disabilities — who choose to pursue careers in science, engineering, and mathematics.”

Gural is chairman of Newmark Knight Frank (NKF), a global real estate company with headquarters in New York City. In addition to the new endowed scholarship, Gural and his wife provide support for four Rensselaer Patroon Scholars each year.

New Opportunities to Support the East Campus Athletic Village

The most extensive athletics construction project in the Institute’s history is under way. You can leave a lasting reminder of your involvement with RPI by selecting from the list of opportunities below. Inscribe your name on a paver, seat, or locker and support the new East Campus Athletic Village. To make your contribution, download the ECAV Inscription Order Form from www.rpi.edu/campaign/paver.htm

Concourse
Inscribe a paver on the Stadium Concourse - $1,000 and $2,000

Stadium
Name a seat in the VIP section - $5,000
Name a seat in the General Admissions section - $1,000
Name a locker in the locker rooms - $1,000

Arena
Name a locker in the locker rooms - $10,000

Houston Field House
Name a locker in the men’s or women’s ice hockey locker rooms - $10,000

All contributions support the East Campus Athletic Village and are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

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