The Quicker You Let Go of Old Cheese, the Sooner You Can Enjoy New Cheese!

First-year students will soon discover that Rensselaer has much to offer! In addition to educating yourself for a 21st century workforce, you will develop lasting friendships, possibly become involved in exciting research, stretch your imagination, lead, and innovate!

The majority of our students are interested in making a difference for others and positively impacting our world. That’s what the mentoring partnership is all about. Whether you are the mentor or the protégé, your personal experiences will enrich each other’s lives. We’ve all been shaped by our own unique experiences, our families, our communities, what we’ve read, heard and by those whom we’ve interacted and exchanged ideas. We’ve developed particular belief systems and formed judgments about the world that helps us to make sense of our place in the world. Get ready to challenge your belief systems!

When you transition from what you’ve been comfortable with for the last 17, 18, 19 years (or more), to a new environment, you may naturally experience some anxiety. However, here’s a thought that should help you to relax! There are a number of first-year students who are also transitioning to college for the first time and the students who are in the classes ahead of you have successfully made the transition. While your experiences are uniquely yours, there are plenty of students who can offer you support when you need it and who would be delighted to hear your perspective!

The Mentor Program offers monthly social activities that bring mentors and mentees together from all majors to enjoy the community of women, to de-stress from classes, to discuss first-year issues like resolving roommate issues, interacting with your professors and balancing your course work and your extracurricular activities, and finding out information about other majors, minors, courses, faculty, programs, and research opportunities. Professional Development workshops, seminars, panels, and speakers series will help you to find your life’s passion, develop important life-skills like interviewing techniques, addressing work-life balance issues, interacting tips for producing win-win relationships, and much more!

To sustain a successful mentoring partnership throughout the academic year, mentors and mentees should begin by building a solid foundation. Your mentor is there to answer questions, share her knowledge and experience, and to provide advice when it’s requested. To establish a successful mentoring partnership, it will be necessary to get to know each other, to appreciate and respect each other’s differences as much as you appreciate that which you have in common.

--Continued on next page.--
Message from the Program Director

Share with each other what you each hope to gain from the mentor-mentee relationship. What are your individual academic and personal goals for the coming year? How are your goals the same and how are they different? What are your interests? Do you have common personal interests? If not, can you introduce your mentee to a friend who has personal interests that match those of your mentee? What can you learn from your mentor? What can your mentee teach you? Are your class schedules similar? How often will you interact with each other? Will you commit to IM or email each other once a week just to check in? Will you try and attend Mentor activities together? If your schedules don’t jive, can you introduce your mentee to a friend who has the same major and who would be willing to accompany her to Mentor Program activities that you cannot attend? Go beyond the expected and EXTEND YOURSELVES to each other!

While we do our best to match first-year students with mentors in the same or related major, that’s not possible in every case. Because it’s not possible to match by personality type, it will be up to the two of you to look beyond your differences. What makes each of us different also makes us uniquely interesting. Share what is important to each of you and listen intently to each other. In your sharing, you may be surprised to find how easy it is to create a meaningful relationship and friendship with a complete stranger!

If you have not connected with your mentor or mentee by August 1, feel free to telephone me at 518-276-6203 or send email to ruelb@rpi.edu and I will assist you.

I look forward to meeting each of you at one of the welcome receptions during Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond, August 26 or 27, or at our ice cream social on September 7!

If you’re looking for a good book to read this summer, pick up Who Moved My Cheese? By Spencer Johnson, M.D. It provides important advice about embracing change which many employers are saying is the single most important skill you can possess for the 21st century.

Best wishes to all mentors and mentees for a terrific year and a satisfying mentoring experience!

Barbara Ruel
Director
Women at Rensselaer Mentor Program

Mentor Program
Select Fall Event Dates

Navigating Rensselaer
Welcome Reception
Friday, August 26, 12 – 2pm and
Saturday, August 27, 2 – 4pm
Russell Sage Dining Hall, 2nd floor

Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, September 7, 8 – 9:30pm
Russell Sage Dining Hall, 2nd floor

Navigating the Career Fair Workshop
Tuesday, September 20, 4-6pm
Location to be announced

Pumpkin Design Party
Thursday, October 20, 8 – 9:30pm
Mother’s in the Union

Thanksgiving Dinner and Panel of Professionals
Friday, November 18, 5pm – 8pm
Russell Sage Dining Hall, Second Floor
First and foremost, we would like to welcome you to the 2005 – 2006 school year. We have many great social and professional development activities planned for this year, and cannot wait to share them with you! Having participated in the Mentor Program in years past as mentees and mentors, we are excited to share our experiences and to lead such a great program. We look forward to meeting all of our incoming mentees at the Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond Welcome Reception on August 26th and August 27th and/or at the Ice Cream Social on September 7th, and cannot wait to share with you the friendship, compassion, and support that the community of women here at Rensselaer has to share.

Located within your folder is information about your mentor or mentee. Our mentors are caring, supportive, and most of all, friendly individuals who are eager to share with you their experiences and lend their guidance as you take the next steps. Please telephone or forward e-mail to your mentor or mentee during the summer.

This is a good way to ease those pre-move-in anxieties or to help you better adjust to Rensselaer when you finally do get here. Plus, you’ll have a friend waiting for you when you get here in the Fall! As co-chairs for the program, we are also available for questions or concerns. Please feel free to send us an e-mail or give us a call using the contact information at the end of the letter. We’d love to hear from you!!

We have scheduled many social events that will help you to get to know other undergraduate women at RPI. It would be great if you and your mentor could attend some of these events together. However, that may not always be possible. The Mentor Program community provides a rich opportunity to meet other students, make new friends and to receive and share advice and information on limitless topics. Even more importantly, these events are for us to simply relax, de-stress, have fun and to gain wisdom and learn skills that will be important in the workplace.

(Article Continued on Page 13)

Mentor Program Co-Chairs

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<tr>
<th>Social Team</th>
<th>Professional Development Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>Priyanka Bakhru ‘07</td>
<td>Niveiditha Anandam ‘06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
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<td>518-755-3835</td>
<td>518-495-1110</td>
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<td>Rebecca Katz ‘08</td>
<td>Gina Rophael ‘06</td>
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<td>Chemical Engineering &amp;</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>205-937-0466</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rophag@rpi.edu">rophag@rpi.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle MacFarland ’07</td>
<td>Archana Siddalingappa ’07</td>
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<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>Biology; Accelerated Med.</td>
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<td>207-712-3070</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:macfam@rpi.edu">macfam@rpi.edu</a></td>
<td>812-299-4413</td>
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<td>Dhanishry Narine ’07</td>
<td>Zheng Yao ‘07</td>
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<td>Industrial and Management Engineering</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>646-981-3978</td>
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<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Ziemek ‘07</td>
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Welcome to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute! We at the Advising and Learning Assistance Center are happy that you’ve decided to participate in the Women at Rensselaer Mentor Program. Rensselaer is certainly an exciting and challenging place to further your education, and the women’s mentoring program is an excellent way to navigate your way through this new experience.

Whether you’re enrolling just out of high school or whether you’re coming from another college, becoming familiar with all of the resources that Rensselaer has to offer will be a continuing process for you! One of these resources is the Academic Advising and Learning Center.

The ALAC’s services include:

- Individual academic counseling – just call for an appointment
- Workshops on a variety of topics including study skills and time management
- Tutoring for most undergraduate courses
- Supplemental Instruction
- Advising for undeclared majors

We also hire and train the Learning Assistants (LA’s) who live in the first-year residence halls. Our Learning Assistants will be one of your academic resources in your residence hall throughout your first year. All of our services are free!

Your academic workload at Rensselaer will be very different from what you’ve been used to. The amount of time you’ll have to learn the material for your college courses during one semester is approximately one-third the amount of time you spent learning course material for your high school classes. Additionally, your homework and projects will likely be more challenging and you’ll have more of both than you did in high school.

Learning how to manage your time so that you can complete assignments on time and how to study to get the most out of your courses will require new skills and habits. We can help you with that.

You may have excelled as one of the top students in high school, but some students will find that it’s not as easy to earn grades equivalent to those they received in high school. Don’t panic! When you get your first tests back, you’ll know whether you need to seek additional help. Many students seek additional help outside of class time to understand the material they’re learning in class. Remember that your transcript will only list your final grade in your courses; it will never divulge whether you received extra help from professors, graduate teaching assistants, supplemental instructors, peers, or a tutor. Use whatever assistance is available to you to fulfill your academic goals and to be the successful student you know that you are!

If you’re not doing as well as you’d like, talk to your mentor. Ask for suggestions on what you can do. Be honest with yourself and get the help you need!

Nan Williams,
Assistant Director Of Advising and Learning Assistance Center

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Advising and Learning Assistance Center

Sage 2106   x 6269
http://www.rpi.edu/dept/advising
✓ study skills    ✓ advising
✓ time management ✓ tutoring

We can help you reach your goals!
Welcome to Rensselaer! We are happy to hear that you will be joining us! And for the returning upper-class mentors, a very special THANK YOU for donating your time and energy to help our new women as they begin their Rensselaer career. Only with such enthusiasm and dedication could the mentoring program continue to be such a success!

Most people think that the health center is simply a place to go when you are not feeling well. Actually it’s much more than that! We are made up of an outpatient medical clinic (that’s the part for when you’re not feeling well!), a counseling center and a health education program. Our comprehensive, accredited, physician-directed program also features a certified laboratory, gynecological clinic, and allergy clinic.

The Student Health Center is located at 3200 Academy Hall, The Student Life Services Center. During the school year we are open seven days a week – Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm. The Counseling Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm during the academic year. A more limited schedule is available during the summer. The Health Center operates on an appointment system. Call 276-6287 to schedule a medical appointment. You will usually be able to make one within 24 hours. And don’t forget – since every student pays a health center fee with their tuition, there is no charge for these services.

Gynecological care is available three days per week. At the gyn clinic there is no charge for routine annual exams, pap smears and pregnancy tests. We recommend that every woman over the age of 18 have a yearly gyn exam. Kris Newman, our part-time nurse practitioner, is great with women who are having their first exam, explaining what is involved and making her more at ease.

I am a certified health education specialist and am available for individual sessions or group programs on topics such as alcohol and other drugs, eating disorders, exercise, HIV/AIDS, nutrition and healthy eating, safer sex, sexuality, smoking and tobacco, healthy relationships, stress and wellness. I serve as the student advocate for SART (Sexual Assault Response Team). The Student Health Center also coordinates the campus-wide Safe Zone Program and The Women’s Circle, a monthly meeting of Rensselaer women (students and staff) discussing issues as they affect and are affected by women. As health educator, I am happy to work with you to provide information or create a wellness program that meets your needs. Call 276-2305 to schedule an appointment.

Finally, four licensed PhD psychologists staff our Counseling Center. The goal of the Counseling Center is to help students maximize their sense of well being, as well as their academic, personal and social growth. Call 276-6479 to schedule an appointment. The Counseling Center has a psychologist on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To reach the Counseling Center after hours call Public Safety at 276-6211.

As you see there are many people at the Student Health Center waiting to welcome you to Rensselaer and to help make your stay here a healthier one! Enjoy the rest of your summer and be sure to seek us out in the fall...just for a visit, for information, or for an appointment. We look forward to meeting you!

Terri Kersch
Certified Health Education Specialist
Gallagher Student Health Center

Contact Information
Student Health Center 276-6287
Counseling Center 276-6479
Health Education 276-2305
Whether you’re a new student or a continuing student, you may be wondering what the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is all about, what it has to offer you, and what contributions you have to offer Rensselaer’s student chapter.

The Society of Women Engineers is the largest non-profit educational and service organization representing both student and professional women in engineering and technical fields. Founded in 1950, it was designed to serve as a center of information on women in engineering and to encourage women engineers to attain high levels of education and professional achievement. SWE represents over 17,000 members in 90 sections and 300 student sections; one of which is here at RPI.

We hold activities on and off-campus that include monthly general meetings, interacting with local Girl Scout troops and area schools to encourage interest in science and engineering fields in college, plant trips to company sites, speaking with prospective students and incoming first-year students, hosting an etiquette dinner, and fun monthly social events.

In addition, SWE is a unique opportunity to meet other women on campus with similar interests as your own, give and receive support, and create a network of friends.

Be sure to check out our chapter website http://swe.union.rpi.edu/ as well as the national website http://www.swe.org/ for more information. If you have any questions, ideas, or thoughts, please feel free to get in touch with one of us through email. Enjoy your summer and come learn more about SWE once you arrive on campus!

“To encourage and support women in the pursuit of a professional career through corporate interaction, outreach, and social events, both locally and nationally.”

Mission Statement
SWE Rensselaer Student Chapter

SWE Officers
Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

President
Lynn Reis Reisl@rpi.edu

Vice President
Andrea Catelotti Catela@rpi.edu

Secretary
Elizabeth DeLouise Alexah2@rpi.edu

Treasurer
Ashley Phillips Philla2@rpi.edu

Corporate / Alumni Coordinator
Alicia Castagna Castaa@rpi.edu

Membership Coordinator
Anne Roberts Robera2@rpi.edu

Outreach Coordinator
Meghan Doran Doranm@rpi.edu

Publicity
Sharmin Rahman Rahmas@rpi.edu

Webmaster
Priyanka Bakhrui bakhrp@rpi.edu
Do you want to be involved in something important in college that will help you accomplish your goals at Rensselaer and in the future? Civic engagement through community service and volunteerism is a positive path to choose. Using your knowledge, skills, and life-experiences to help others and to contribute to society will not only help the community: on a personal level civic engagement will also give you valuable new life-experiences that will help you handle real world applications in the future with grace and confidence.

The Rensselaer Community of students, faculty, and staff participate in a variety of volunteer activities and programs each year. Besides the intrinsic good that occurs from service, students have a lot of fun volunteering with their friends. Opportunities include day-long projects - Community Service Days - to discover what kind of service you like to do. There are tutoring opportunities in local schools and on the weekends in the Tutor Time program. It's also possible to give blood to the American Red Cross every month on campus. There are a number of service club activities, as well as opportunities to volunteer through fraternities and sororities – or even as a part of the Women in Engineering program! Many students volunteer individually at one of over 50 agencies and public sector organizations located within walking distance of the campus on a regular basis.

As a matter of fact, during 2004-2005, over 38,000 hours of service were reported for engaged clubs and organizations, fraternities and sororities, and individuals as volunteers and in Federal College Work Study community service positions. Countless additional hours were spent in a number of student initiatives to fund raise over $38,500 for worthy causes, including over $10,000 for tsunami relief. (A complete accounting of reported hours and money raised is posted on FYE’s Community Service Web site, at www.rpi.edu/fye/commservice.)

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Finally, you will want to save the following dates:
The 12th annual Community Service Fair will be held on Wednesday, August 31, the first Community Service Day will be on Sunday, September 11; the first blood drive this year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13. Look for information on the website on these and other opportunities that will be offered throughout the upcoming year.

The Office of the First-Year Experience coordinates all campus community service initiatives. To find out more information and to get involved:

- Drop by Academy Hall, Suite 4100, or check out the Community Service bulletin board in the Union (outside the bookstore)
- Phone - (518) 276-6864
- Email - fye@rpi.edu
- Check out the Web site - www.rpi.edu/fye/commservice

Cynthia Smith
Assistant Dean
Office of the First-Year Experience

Save the dates!

Wednesday, August 31
The 12th Annual Community Fair

Sunday, September 11
First Community Service Day

Tuesday, September 13
First Blood Drive
There’s something about Rensselaer. Like many of you, I applied to more schools than I can count on two hands which resulted in a cross country expedition second only to Manifest Destiny. The other schools I checked out just didn’t have it.

What is it? I’ll tell you what I told my mom when we left the Union after my visit: interest. Rensselaer students are both interesting and interested—a powerful combination.

Whether you realize it or not, you made it through the admissions vetting process because there’s something that uniquely defines you. It’s the one constant that unites us. Having a long high school résumé, after all, isn’t really about being well-rounded; it’s about being polyhedral, with all kinds of different angles. Whether you’re a political activist who develops space shuttle experiments for NASA in your spare time, a star athlete who speaks fluent Swahili, a punk rocker who puts on concerts to raise funds to fight slavery in the Sudan, or a golfer who writes classical music, you’ll fit right in. Not, of course, because there’s anyone else quite like you. You’ll find that having something in common with another person, like putting a man on the moon, comes down to “intangibles.” All of us are too many things at once to be defined by any ready categorization (even “nerd”).

At Rensselaer, you never have to apologize for your passions. Intensity is the name of the game; though their outward personae run the gamut from chilled out to hyped up, Rensselaer students all have fire in their bellies. What’s your obsession? Camping? Community service? The can-can? Over and over again, you’ll say to yourself, “I thought she was such a quiet, unassuming person. Until—” Until you found out she could talk for hours about cytology. Until you found out he was determined to become the next world champion in crossword puzzles. Until you discovered he was starting his second business. Until you saw her name in a prominent scientific journal.

Which brings me to my next point. As my kindergarten teacher taught me, everyone is interesting in his or her own way. (I even met a few interesting people at MIT.) Having an active, outward-reaching curiosity is what really makes the difference. Take every opportunity you are given to meet new people. Rensselaer is a level playing field for everyone. You could almost call it a blank slate—you’re free to stick to your strengths or reinvent yourself. Or both, if you prefer.

I recall it all being a little overwhelming, to tell the truth. Think you’re pretty smart? Rensselaer will humble you. But even if you’re as intimidated as I was at first, you’ll realize you can more than hold your own. From section to lab to meaning-of-life debates in the wee hours, you’ll have something to say—because someone will want to hear it. Nearly 5,000 of the world’s best and brightest are about to become your interlocutors, your friends to lean on, your biggest fans, your testing ground for crazy theories—your classmates. Our appetites, for knowledge and insight and friendship alike, are insatiable. I’m a big fan of ingenuity and innovation, and I admit that every once in a while I get burned out. I start to feel like the envelope has reached its limit. Without fail, Rensselaer will prove me wrong. Someone, a professor or a friend or a classmate, will say something that triggers a new way of thought and discovery. My advice: check your paradigm at the door.
Message from the President of the Union

First-year students, welcome to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute! You are the newest members of our family and your arrival marks a new academic year and a new Class of students filled with limitless potential. As students, we are the lifeblood of campus and the very essence of our school. We are a student-first institution, in that we have direct say and fiscal control over those extracurricular programs offered through the Rensselaer Student Union. As one of only a handful of universities in the nation that are truly student-centered, Rensselaer funds over 150 clubs and organizations as well as intercollegiate athletics.

As you prepare to arrive on campus in August, take some time to reflect on what you want your Rensselaer experience to be. It’s your responsibility to define your own path, to be the author of your life, and to take the initiative to continue in a rich tradition of discovery and innovation as a lifestyle, not simply a profession.

The decisions you make today will set a trend that will define your life. At the end of your college tenure you will graduate with a Rensselaer degree, common among all your peers, but it is your interpersonal skills and leadership experience that will determine your options beyond Rensselaer. These experiences and traits will determine your future.

Leadership is about taking advantage of opportunities. The Rensselaer Union is filled with opportunities. Take the initiative. Start something new, provide a lethargic club with the energy necessary to expand and grow. Express yourself in the arts, serve the greater good and get involved in your community, compete in athletics, just get involved and you will find that the most rewarding parts of your education will occur outside of the classroom.

As rewarding as your student experience at Rensselaer will be, the leadership skills and interests that you develop and refine through your Union-related activities will create opportunities for you, years beyond those you spend at Rensselaer. The future for technology-based careers is quickly changing. Due to the changing global economy and

(Article Continued on Page 13)

Student Government

President of the Union
Peter Baldwin
276-8598 pu@rpi.edu

Grand Marshal
Max Yates
276-8597 gm@rpi.edu

Student Senate
http://senate.union.rpi.edu
senate@union.rpi.edu

Executive Board
http://eboard.union.rpi.edu
eboard@union.rpi.edu

Judicial Board
http://jboard.union.rpi.edu
jboard@union.rpi.edu

Independent Council
http://independent.union.rpi.edu
ic@union.rpi.edu

For a full list of campus clubs, visit http://clubs.union.rpi.edu or come to the Activities Fair on Thursday, September 1 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in the Field House!
Welcome to Rensselaer! Life at Rensselaer is full of opportunities and a wide array of organizations seeking your involvement. Each one of these opportunities will assist you in building a well-rounded education. However, not all of these opportunities can give you the excitement and rewards that being in a sorority lends its members. Greek Life helps you to develop leadership skills, social skills, promotes community service, and provides opportunities to develop lifelong friendships. Members can work on their leadership skills by holding various positions within chapters and the Panhellenic Council (the governing body for sororities). Greeks hold many leadership positions in campus activities ranging from President of the Union, and Class Presidents, to Captains of the Varsity Athletic Teams and Resident Directors. Greek Life also helps to develop both personal and professional networks that will be there for you to call upon throughout your lifetime.

When you arrive on campus you may not know much about Greek Life. Even if you are not interested in Greek Life, going through recruitment is a great way to meet new people and become familiar with the campus. Our campus is home to four sororities: Alpha Phi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Pi Beta Phi, and Sigma Delta. I encourage you all to meet the members of each sorority, as each one is very different and has something special to offer.

In order to become a member of a sorority, you need to participate in “recruitment”. Recruitment is when sororities open their doors to potential members. During this time, you may attend recruitment parties during which you spend time with the girls from each sorority house. You may be surprised by how friendly we are! After getting to know the girls, you may be confused as to which house is the best fit for you. While this decision is a personal one, there are fifteen recruitment counselors who are available for unbiased advice. The first recruitment event is “Meet the Greeks” in the McNeil Room of the Union right after Freshmen Convocation.

Sorority members participate in various social events including sisterhood events, BBQs, and formals. We volunteer at local animal shelters, and food pantries. The houses hold events to benefit different charities such as a 24-hour Volleyball tournament, Jail n’ Bail, and the Mr. RPI contest. Over the past three semesters, the Panhellenic Council has raised over $7,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeastern New York. In order to achieve this, we have held many events including a Date Auction in which we auctioned off 40 RPI singles. This semester we are planning a Lip Sync competition. Even if you choose not to go Greek, attending Greek events is a great study break.

Academics are always a first priority. Being a part of a sorority is a great way to learn study skills through sponsored seminars. Houses also have study files from girls who have taken classes before and support is available from older sisters with similar majors. Once you are a member of a sorority, you become a member of that family. This family helps to support you and make your time at college safe, fun, and focused on the right priorities.

No matter what your initial opinion is on Greek Life, I encourage you to check it out. We are a friendly group of people with high aspirations. Every house is different and encourages individuality. Sorority life at Rensselaer truly challenges stereotypes and creates lasting and endearing friendships that we call sisterhood. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at gollik@rpi.edu. I look forward to meeting you all in the fall!

Karen Gollins, President
Rensselaer Panhellenic Council

Visit http://panhel.union.rpi.edu/ to learn more about the Rensselaer Sororities!
Leadership: A Key Asset

Leadership is perhaps the most valuable resource for the business world, as well as society as a whole. Without solid leadership, even the best organization will fail. While some people have been called “born leaders,” upon close examination, we usually find that their leadership skills have been nurtured somewhere: at home, in school, or on the job.

The Mary Jane and Hugh M. Archer ’37 Center for Student Leadership Development helps students at all levels to enhance their leadership skills through a variety of interactive learning experiences. Its programs are designed to reach every student at the Institute by working both in and outside the classroom. The Center’s goal is to provide the means for students to acquire/practice the leadership skills necessary to interact better in their daily lives, and to carry their experiences into the industrial world. Student groups, faculty, staff and administrators, and Fortune 500 companies regularly benefit from Archer Center programs.

The Archer Center offers a variety of classes and programs, including:

- Credited required classes in engineering and management
- Custom-designed workshops: the Center will custom-design and facilitate interactive leadership workshops for your club, organization, fraternity, or sorority
- “A Slice of Leadership”: Leadership Development Series – Workshops offered on a variety of leadership topics.
- Students may attend one workshop, or all. Pizza is served.
- Key Executive Conference: a unique forum, which allows a limited number of students to interact with established, high level directors and managers at corporations with ties to Rensselaer on selected leadership topics.
- New at Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond: for our incoming first year students, we will be hosting a leadership institute with Procter & Gamble. The sessions will cover conflict management, diversity, resource management and change. A great way to learn concepts and skills to get your Rensselaer experience on the right track!

Keep your eyes open for information about the Annual Student Leadership Conference, scheduled for September 24th. It’s co-sponsored this year by IBM and is free and open to all students.

Contact the Archer Center at 276-2119 or archercenter@rpi.edu for more information about these programs or to add your name to our mailing list.
The Amazing Power of Networking

You’ve all heard the phrase: “It’s not what you know, but who you know.” Well, that phrase is very true, especially when it comes to the job search. Beginning in the fall, most of you will be gearing up for another job search, too, whether it’s a full-time position, a co-op position, or a summer internship. Research suggests that at least 60% (some say higher) of all jobs are found through networking, so it’s important to identify—and find ways to expand—your network!

Let’s first take a look at some of the people who might comprise your network:

- **Family & Relatives.** Aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters, and yes, even your parents.
- **Friends & Acquaintances.** College friends, high school friends, your neighbors across the street and down the block, and also friends of friends.
- **Members of Professional & Social Organizations.** People you know or have met through SWE or other associations (that includes professionals working in the field, not just student members), sorority sisters, and associates at volunteer organizations where you work.
- **Business Colleagues & Co-Workers.** Supervisors, former supervisors, managers whom you’ve met, and other current/former work associates.
- **Faculty & Administrators at Rensselaer.** Faculty members are important as are career counselors in the CDC, and professionals in other offices on campus.
- **Rensselaer Alumni.** It’s important to separate out these people in a special category, because they are a powerful alliance!

I could actually add to this list, but if you have people from each of these categories, you’re in great shape. So the first thing that you want to do is actually write down the names of people in your network. How many people do you have? If the list is very short, you have some work to do. Reach out and get to know more people. Second, pull together the contact information for members of your network or stop by to see them. Third, let your network know, in a professional way, that you are seeking employment. Ask them if they could they let you know if a position comes up that might interest you. Offer to send them a copy of your resume if they would like one.

As you use your network, though, remember some very important rules. First, don’t ask someone to do the work of your job search for you. They may offer an employer’s name, but you should make the contact (putting in a good word for you is always nice, however). Second, remember that networking is a two-way street. Find a way to say thank you to the people who have helped you. And...remember that some day soon (maybe even now) you will be part of someone else’s network. Take time to listen and to do them a favor.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Diana Leis Delker
Sr. Associate Director
Career Development Center

Be sure to register with the CDC in the fall in order to take full advantage of all the resources we offer!
Message from the Program Co-Chairs
Continued from page 3.

Some of our planned social activities for the fall are the traditional Pumpkin Design Party, a Faculty – Student mixer, Navigating the Career Fair Workshop, Speakers Series on Preparing for the 21st Century Workplace, Thanksgiving Dinner and Panel, and a De-Stress and Holiday Brunch. Check out the complete list of activities at the end of this newsletter.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize that these events are yours. We need your honest input, feedback, and assistance in making these events something you want to attend. We’ll have sign-up sheets at the NR&B receptions and the Ice Cream Social, and we hope that’ll agree to help plan those social or professional activities that most interest you. The success of the Mentor Program is dependent on your involvement and participation!

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to speaking with you in the upcoming months, and even more – to meeting you this fall at one of the events!

Sincerely,
Your Women at Rensselaer Mentor Program Co-Chairs

Check Your Paradigm at the Door
Continued from page 8.

For the next four years, you won’t know what to write down when a form asks for your permanent street address and phone number. “Do you want my phone number here, or my parents’ phone number in Montana, or my phone number in California for the summer, or my phone number in Switzerland next semester?” Rensselaer won’t let you feel completely settled—in your physical surroundings (get ready to pack everything up again at the end of the year), in your opinions (get ready to have them challenged and re-challenged), in your identity (get ready to enter a world without context, where who you are is who you decide to be). If you still aren’t sure who your new best friends are going to be after the first two weeks, don’t worry. Remember, everyone is dying to get to know you, so long as you’re willing to return the favor. That goes for all four years.

Q.E.D., Rensselaer students are a pretty phenomenal bunch, and you’re one of them. A Rensselaer education is expensive, but rest assured, you’ll get your money’s worth. It’s just one thing about Rensselaer.

Max Yates
139th Grand Marshal
(aka, your Student Body President)

Message from the President of the Union
Continued from page 9.

increasingly talented international competition, engineers and scientists in the United States are being pushed to develop innovative and challenging solutions to problems that will require imagination and creativity. The multitude of interdisciplinary programs offered at Rensselaer as well as those offered through the Student Union will provide you with the skill sets and traits you will need to succeed in the workplace. Americans with jobs in technology-based industries will be given challenges that are not addressed in current textbooks and will require drawing knowledge from unconventional sources.

The technological leaders of tomorrow will have to rely on a wide array of skills, most of which will take seed in your undergraduate years. So I encourage you, I challenge you, and I implore you to take a thorough look at what Rensselaer and in specific the Rensselaer Union may have to offer your individual interests. As a union it is our mission to provide you with the resources to pursue your passions, whatever they may be. So welcome, and prepare to follow in paths of our Rensselaer predecessors whose curiosity and innovative spirits have defined the history of technology and innovation for well over a century.

Peter Baldwin
President of the Union
Resources and References

Barbara Ruel (ruelb@rpi.edu)
Mentor Program Director

Mentor Program Website
http://www.eng.rpi.edu/wmp

Mentor Program Fall Event Dates

Navigating Rensselaer
Welcome Reception
Friday, August 26, 12 – 2pm and Saturday, August 27, 2 – 4pm
Russell Sage Dining hall, 2\textsuperscript{nd} floor

Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, September 20, 8 – 9:30pm
Russell Sage Dining hall, 2\textsuperscript{nd} floor

Navigating the Career Fair Workshop
Tuesday, September 20, 4-6pm
Location to be announced

Pumpkin Design Party
Thursday, October 20, 8 – 9:30pm
Mother’s in the Union

Thanksgiving Dinner and Panel of Professionals
Friday, November 18, 5pm – 8pm
Russell Sage Dining Hall, Second Floor

De-Stress and Holiday Party
Sunday, December 4, 1pm – 2:30pm
Mother’s in the Union

Websites of Interest

Office of the First Year Experience
http://www.fye.rpi.edu

Greek Life
http://www.rpi.edu/dept/doso/greek/

Student Union Clubs Listing
http://clubs.union.rpi.edu

Academic Calendar
http://www.rpi.edu/dept/catalog/calendar.html

Mobile Computing (Laptop Program)
http://www.rpi.edu/laptops/

Campus Religious Organizations

Chaplain’s Office - chaplain@rpi.edu
Union Suite 3514, x 6518

University Parish – Christ Sun of Justice
http://www.rpi.edu/web/C+CC/csjsj.html

Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC)
http://www.basicrpi.org

Hillel (Jewish)
http://hillel.rpi.edu

Korean Christian Fellowship
http://www.kcfny.org

Muslim Student Association
http://msa.union.rpi.edu

Newman Catholic Fellowship
http://newman.union.rpi.edu

Rensselaer Christian Association
http://rca.union.rpi.edu

Have a great summer!

We look forward to seeing you on Campus!