



Polytechnote

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Focus On Health

Summer is here and there is no need to be afraid of the sun. Common sense and a healthy respect for the sun will keep our skin safe and our vacations fun. Dermatologists suggest using sunscreen with a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15, and higher if you have fair skin. Allergy season has begun and you can ease the pain by practicing allergen avoidance. Here are some tips: give your lawn a rest and do not mow it when it is very dry, tune up your air conditioner by cleaning filters often, groom your pets, un-upholster consider tossing old pillows and carpet padding. The CDPHP Summer/ Fall Wellness Schedule has been finalized. These programs are free, exclusive to CDPHP members, and provided by trained educators. Subjects include health education, fitness, nutrition, stress management, and wellness. You can find out more about CDPHP's programs by either calling (877) 986-2373 or visiting their Web site: www.cdphp.com.

Nominations Sought for Pillars of Rensselaer Award

Nominations for the 2002 Pillars of Rensselaer Award are being sought. Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2002. Please return nomination forms to the Division of Human Resources, attn: Jackie Creech, 2144 Burdett Avenue. You may contact Jackie Creech at extension 2888 for additional copies of the nomination form. The Pillars Award is the highest honor bestowed upon employees of the Institute. The Pillars of Rensselaer Award is presented annually to a staff member who understands the Institute's mission and history, has been a role model for other employees, showed concern for students and their welfare, added to the human dimension of the school, and who has played an active role in their home community. The nominee must be employed in a staff role for at least 10 years, but not have received the award for at least 10 years. In 1993, Carl Westerdahl provided the funding to establish the Pillars Award to honor a long-term staff member. Past recipients have been Robert Conway, Phylis Federici, E. Jeanne Jenkins, Bonnie Carson, Oliver Holmes, Sharon Kunkel, Kerry Quinn, Richard Hartt, Rebecca M. Danchak and Lynn M. Hopwood.

The Pillars award consists of: a \$500 monetary award, a sterling silver pin designed by Tiffany & Co., and the recipient's name inscribed on the base of a permanent Tiffany Crystal Award displayed in the Office of the President in the Troy Building on the Rensselaer campus in Troy, New York.

Hold the Date: Annual Service Recognition and Retirement Dinner

The annual employee service recognition and retirement dinner will be held on Friday, August 2, 2002, at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany. Employees, who will complete service with Rensselaer in five-year increments by June 30, 2002, will be honored at this event along with employees who have retired during

the current fiscal year. Invitations will be issued in July. Contact Human Resources at extension 2888 for more information.

EPA Conducts Surprise Environmental Audit

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a surprise campus wide environmental compliance audit at Rensselaer during the first week of June.

The inspectors arrived early Monday morning on June 10th, and worked through Friday, investigating how well Rensselaer complies with federal regulations regarding the handling, use, and storage of hazardous wastes, as well as the management of environmental systems such as petroleum bulk storage tanks, wastewater systems, and air emissions systems.

"We welcome such surprise inspections," said President Shirley Ann Jackson. "Rensselaer is committed to excellence in protecting human health and in guarding our irreplaceable air, land, and water resources. Although we are vigilant in auditing our own compliance, we benefit from having regulatory inspectors evaluate our performance. Their recommendations are extremely valuable in helping us to identify safety and environmental issues we might otherwise have missed."

In the past four weeks, Rensselaer has also been independently audited by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and an independent third party auditor hired by Rensselaer to gauge our performance. While it is unusual to see all of these organizations within a one-month period, the inspections were performed independent of each other and represent routine regulatory inspections.

The June 10 arrival of the EPA inspectors was completely unannounced, but Rensselaer knew that EPA was conducting a targeted inspection initiative, said Cecile Mars '86, director of Rensselaer's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. "These audits are being conducted at colleges and universities all across the United States. Many schools that have failed to meet compliance standards have had to pay fines that have reached into the half-million-dollar range, with one penalty that approached \$2 million.

"We expect that the inspection will demonstrate the high level of commitment that Rensselaer faculty, staff, and students have for environmental excellence," said Mars. "With more than 2,000 pages of environmental regulation, no facility is ever perfect in the eyes of our regulators, but Rensselaer has invested a great deal of effort into properly managing our environmental future."

Rensselaer's Office of Environmental Health and Safety expects a report on the EPA inspection within the next six months.



KUDOS

Kudos to all those who participated and volunteered in our commencement festivities in May and to **Environmental Safety** for successfully completing the EPA Audit in June. Your commitment to excellence and dedication are greatly appreciated!

Way to go Coach! The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) has selected Rensselaer head baseball coach **Karl Steffen** as the New York Region Coach of the Year. Steffen, who recently completed his 18th season at Rensselaer, led the team to a school-record 33 wins (33-11) and its second-ever Division III World Series appearance.

Cardillo Recognized at Community Service Awards

Audrey C. Cardillo, Supervisor, Student Accounts (Accounts Receivable), Treasurer's Office, Rensselaer at Hartford, was honored as a "Special Award" nominee at the Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards held April 23 at the State Capitol. Cardillo received a certificate of appreciation for her volunteer work for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and organizing the Rensselaer at Hartford MS Walk Team.

2002 Multiple Sclerosis Walk: Lots of Fun and Fundraising

Several members of the Rensselaer at Hartford family participated in this year's MS Walk held April 21, and many more members of the Rensselaer at Hartford community pledged their support to help raise funds in the fight against MS. Rensselaer at Hartford volunteers and their families and friends included: Nancy Aborn; Alicia Blue and Ray Glass; Audrey C. Cardillo; Stacey, Jamie, and Kaylie Coggins-Jacquot; Rebecca M. Danchak; Sharon Gordon; Michael Harrington; Gayle Hoffman; Peter J. LaPlaca; Brenda Mayhew, wife of the late Ronald R. Mayhew, former Rensselaer at Hartford Treasurer, Director of Personnel and Affirmative Action Officer; Guido H. Slangen; and Marie Smith. Thank you to everyone for making the 2002 MS Walk a great success!

Rensselaer Chemical Inventory

Thanks to all Rensselaer lab occupants for your cooperation in the on-going chemical inventory process. Approximately 45,000 chemicals containers have been bar-coded and inventoried as part of this initiative. The initial physical inventory process is complete, and it included lab spaces in Cogswell, Ricketts, Walker, Linac, Empire State Hall, MRC, Low CII, JEC, the J-R Science Center and the Gallagher Health Center. Now that the physical inventory is complete, some data merging activities will take place to create one central electronic inventory, before the MSDS downloads into the Rensselaer MSDS database (msds.rpi.edu) can begin. This has been a considerable undertaking, but with your cooperation, the physical inventory portion of the project has proceeded extremely smoothly and without any significant issues! We'll be communicating further in the coming months about access to the inventories so that the process will add value for all.

Rensselaer at Hartford Staff Members Honored with Service Awards at Annual Awards Luncheon

Rensselaer at Hartford faculty and staff enjoyed a summer celebration cookout to honor staff members with service awards at the annual awards luncheon held on June 14. Andrew Z. Lemnios, Ph.D., Interim Vice President; Adam Hechler, Senior Analyst, Technical and Information Services; and James V. Gordon, Director of Community and Government Relations, served as chefs and expertly prepared grilled steak, barbecue chicken, and vegetable kabobs. There was plenty of delicious food including a cake decorated with the Rensselaer seal for dessert. Dr. Lemnios recognized each employee and bestowed anniversary thank you gifts from Rensselaer.

Dr. Lemnios also recognized the service of Allen F. Chapman, D.B.A., who retired from the faculty of Rensselaer at Hartford. Dr. Chapman was a Clinical Professor in the Lally School of Management and Technology who gave 30 years of service to the institution. He taught such courses as Financial Management, New Ventures, and Technical and Competitive Advantage. His research interests include entrepreneurship in technologically oriented businesses.

Employment Transaction Form Deadlines ***Semi-Monthly Payroll:***

July 3, 2002 for time worked 7/1 – 7/15

July 22, 2002 for time worked 7/16 – 7/31

Bi-Weekly Payroll:

July 5, 2002 for time worked 6/22/02 – 7/5/02

July 19, 2002 for time worked 7/6/02 – 7/19/02

The Changing Face of Rensselaer

New Hires

Jessica Deane, Assistant II, School of Science

Lori Forget, Assistant III, President

Paul Forrest, Associate Director, Student Life

Jennifer Fullam, Research Specialist, School of Architecture

Terry Jerard, Environmental Specialist I, Administration

Brian Kiel, Manager, Env. Services, Administration

Douglas Lord, Supervisor, Administration

Edgardo Morales, Environmental Specialist, Administration

Theresa Ondek, Laboratory Technician, School of Architecture

Sherry Perpetua, Assistant III, Administration

Amy Rupert, Assistant Institute Archivist, Research Libraries

John Singleton, Facilities Engineer, Administration

Rebecca Stevens, Clerk Specialist II, Student Life

Stephen Waters, Environmental Specialist, Administration

Retirees

Jean Bestle, *Asst. to the Chair Dept. of Cognitive Sciences*

R. Bruce Carlson, *Professor, Current Chair ECSE*

Robert Kelley, *Professor ECSE*

James LaWare, Sr., *Heavy Equipment Operator Environmental and Site Services*

Paul Mason, Sr., *Electronic Technician Campus Planning & Facilities Design*

Nicole Pertuiset, *Associate Professor Architecture*

Andrew Lemnios, *Vice President Hartford*

Great Escape Tickets and Hoyts Movie Passes

The Division of Human Resources has deeply discounted **Great Escape** tickets and **Hoyts Movie** passes available for sale in our office. Stop by to purchase them, and take advantage of the great savings!!