

RENSSELAER CONNECTION

Greetings from the Parents Council

On behalf of the Parents Council, we would like to welcome you to a fresh semester. It's hard to believe that the fall semester has passed and graduation, for some, is just around the corner!



Over the past four years, the Parents Council has worked to increase the communication between parents and the Rensselaer community while also keeping parents connected to the most important population on this campus—their students. The Parents Council, along with the

Office of the First-Year Experience, conducts bi-annual meetings working with many different departments on campus to create the best possible learning environment for our students. Some of our committees have worked with Parking & Transportation, Residence Life, Hospitality Services, and Student Life. In addition, our volunteer members are present to greet and speak with parents at Student Orientation and other campus-wide events.

One of our most diligent committees created a Parents Directory where we, along with “ambassadors” according to geographic areas, field questions from prospective students and their parents and disseminate information where needed. And I hope all of you received your new Parents Discount Card at Fall Fest this past October! This wonderful program now gives Rensselaer parents discounts at local Troy businesses. In the near future, our map committee will have ready a map highlighting these and other resourceful local businesses.

In closing, I hope you have or will avail yourself to services and information provided by the Office of the First-Year Experience and the *Parents of Rensselaer*. Your feedback is always welcome and encouraged. E-mail parents@rpi.edu or call (518) 276-6864 with questions or comments. We also encourage you to visit the Parents Web site at www.rpi.edu/parents for more information on the council, and I wish all Rensselaer students a very successful and productive semester.

Sincerely,

Sally Giuffrida
President of the Parents Council

The Archer Center

The Archer Center for Student Leadership Development offers skill-based interactive leadership training. Collaborating with corporate partners, the center promotes practices that foster teamwork and integrity in professional and personal development.

In the spring, look for the following programs: **Slice of Leadership Luncheon:** February 8, Pam Daum '00, Senior Engineer, Lockheed Martin; **Key Executive Conference:** April 6, representatives from many fortune 500 companies participate with students; **Leadership Luncheon:** Guest from Knowles Atomic Power Lab; all events are free, however pre-registration is required.

For more information about the Archer Center, our courses and other programs, please visit our website at archer.union.rpi.edu or call (518) 276-2119.

Want to sign up for e-mail updates or learn more about getting involved?

E-mail parents@rpi.edu or fill out the form at www.rpi.edu/parents. Just click on the “Getting Involved” link.

Save the Date

Family Weekend 2005 was a great success, with over 1500 parents, family members, and friends joining their students and the Rensselaer community.

We hope even more people will be able to join us next year. In efforts to create a fun-filled weekend and continue to bring families, students, and the Rensselaer community together, we will be combining Homecoming with Family Weekend on **October 13-15, 2006** – save the dates! Information and details will be posted to www.rpi.edu/fye/parents as they become available.



Athletic Event Highlights:

- Men's Cross Country Team: Won first-ever Liberty League Championship
- Men's Soccer Team: Won the ECAC Upstate Championship
- Football Team: Won the ECAC Northwest Bowl
- Men's Swimming & Diving Team: Won second consecutive Liberty League title
- Women's Ice Hockey: Unbeaten in its first 10 games at the Division I level

Exciting news! Announcing the construction of a \$50 million Athletic Village to be built on the east campus! Ground breaking is scheduled to take place this spring or summer with the grand opening in the fall of 2008.

For information and a schedule of our events, visit us at www.rpiathletics.com. In addition, check out our facilities, intramural and recreational programs, and athletic clubs (sponsored by the Rensselaer Union) at www.rpi.edu/student_life/athletics.html.

Spring Break Transportation

Information regarding free Spring Break shuttles to the Albany International Airport, Amtrak train station, and Greyhound bus terminal can be found on the FYE Web site at www.fye.rpi.edu. Please contact Parking & Transportation at (518) 276-6616 or e-mail parking@rpi.edu with any questions regarding this service.

IPAC Ride Board Online!

Is your daughter or son looking for a ride home? Are they able to give someone a ride for gas money? Encourage them to use the IPAC (Information & Personal Assistance Center) Ride Board online. Using it is simple... just visit the IPAC Web site at www.rpi.edu/fye/ipac. Contact (518) 276-6636 or ipac@rpi.edu.

Academic Support Resources

Need more information on the academic resources available to your daughter or son? Visit the Advising & Learning Assistance Center Web site at j2ee.rpi.edu/alac to learn about the many services available, including supplemental instruction, learning assistants, tutoring, and more! Please contact the Advising & Learning Assistance Center at (518) 276-6269 with any questions.



Residence Life: Room Selection 2006-2007

All students in residence will be mailed information about the assignment process during the week of February 6. Our goals for this process are to be fair with the allocation of spaces, and to encourage formation and development of communities that last from year to year. The room selection process has three parts:

Squatters Rights – February 21 & 22: Current upper-class students have the option to either sign up to live in their rooms again for the next year or, if their roommate situation is changing, have the right to invite one or more other roommate(s) from on or off campus to live with them.

Intra-Hall Squatters Rights – March 5: This is for upper-class students who want to return to the same building/area but to a different room. They have priority to select another room in the same area.

All Campus Lottery – March 6 – March 24
Lottery Room Selection – Sunday, April 4: This is open to everyone. It is the means by which most first-year students select rooms (because they don't have Squatters Rights), and will include all rooms left after Squatters and Intra-Hall Squatters Rights are finished. Students sign up for the lottery at the Residence Life office, located in the Commons Dining Hall.

Tenant Training: February 7: Is your student interested in moving off campus next semester? Through the Tenant Training program, students can learn more about the apartment search process, their rights as tenants, how to prepare for life off campus, and more. Direct your students to www.fye.rpi.edu for more information.

Students can sign up individually, in pairs or in groups of up to six students. After numbers are randomly assigned, students compare numbers and pairs/groups can select using the lowest number between/among them.

Please contact the Residence Life staff with any questions at (518) 276-6284, or visit us online at j2ee.rpi.edu/reslife.

Career Development Center Spring Programs

Summer and graduation are both quickly approaching! The Career Development Center (CDC) at RPI has a number of exciting programs planned for the spring 2006 semester, including the Spring Career Fair, On-Campus Recruiting, and a variety of job search preparation workshops. Here's a quick overview of some things your students should know:

- On-Campus Recruiting Program: Over 125 companies participated in our fall On-Campus Recruiting Program, and we expect additional companies to come to campus to interview students in spring 2006.
- The CDC's annual Spring Career Fair: This year it will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Career-related resources: The CDC connects you to all of the career-related resources we have available for students. Visit www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/parents.html and stay up to date with all the latest CDC news!

The CDC also offers daily walk-in hours, resume critiques, mock interviews, one-on-one counseling, job fairs, workshops, and so much more! To learn more about all of the services and resources we provide to RPI students, please call us at (518) 276-6234, visit us at www.cdc.rpi.edu, or stop by the CDC during your next visit to campus in Darrin Communications Center, Suite 209.

Spring 2006 Special Events

Diversity Week & Black History Month: The lives of our students are enriched with cultural programming that includes: Chinese New Year, Caribbean Carnivale, and the Malaysian students' multimedia celebration known as "Nusantara."

The "Freak-End Weekend" February 11: This is an expanded version of a winter carnival that will end with the Big Red Freakout!, our homecoming hockey game.

GM Week: The student government will shine during the 121st Grand Marshal Week festivities in April. Over 50 different events will be featured as the 2006 student officers are elected.

No student should feel left out of the fun. Help your student find a way to belong by staying current with the activities schedule. For more information, try referencing the Union Web site at www.union.rpi.edu; the Institute Web site www.rpi.edu by clicking on "Campus Events;" the "What's Happening" section of the Polytechnic; the First-Year Experience Web site at www.fye.rpi.edu; or by calling the Union Administration Office at (518) 276-6505.

Commencement 2006

Is your daughter or son graduating in May? The final spring term is a busy and exciting time for our seniors. The course work is challenging, interviews and plant trips can be stressful but fortunately they will find time to have a little fun too! There are deadlines coming up that are very important for our graduating students and as a parent, we want to make sure that you are aware of these dates.

January 27: The last day for graduating students to file a degree application. This is an absolute "must do" for students planning to graduate in May!

January 27: Last day to add a course or adjust a course schedule

February 23: Bookstore Graduation Fair – students order their cap and gowns

April 10 – April 14: Transitions Week – a week of workshops and seminars designed specifically for graduating students

If you have any questions, please visit the Culminating Year Experience Web site at www.rpi.edu/student_life/cye, e-mail cye@rpi.edu, or visit the Commencement Web site at www.rpi.edu/academics/commencement.

May 1: Outstanding account balances due and student loan exit interviews must be completed

May 4: Graduation Status Check – Commencement tickets distributed for students who are preliminarily cleared for graduation

May 14 – 19: Senior Week – a full week of activities for seniors

May 20: Commencement at 9:30 a.m. on the Harkness Field



Hospitality Services at Rensselaer Updates and Upcoming Events

NEW – The Library Café – A modern yet casual dining experience. Its menu boasts items such as a full line of espresso and brewed coffee drinks, freshly squeezed lemonade, cookies baked on site and a deli concept featuring made to order wrap sandwiches, subs, grilled panini and so much more.

NEW – The Rathskeller – Newly renovated during the semester break of 2005/2006, offers a Grill 155° concept with all the classics as well as a few new ones, a Sub Connection with gourmet rolls baked on site, a wrap program known affectionately as Cyberwraps and Fire and Spice, quite possibly the best pizza and extras in town.

Customer Feedback – The Annual Customer Satisfaction survey results are in. Hospitality Services at Rensselaer scored huge in the satisfaction results! The survey showed 95% of the students on meal plans were satisfied. Of the 95%, 66% said they were "highly satisfied," rating us 8, 9 or 10. We donated \$2 to the Joseph's House and Shelter and Unity House for every student customer satisfaction survey completed. We allocated \$2,936 for this effort!

Big Red Freakout! Dinner – February 9: A fun-filled dinner offering specialty food, prizes, and a hockey shooting contest during the Big Red Freakout! hockey game (February 11) to win a semester of free board!

Vendor Food Show – March 23: The kickoff to the meal plan sales process, students snack on a variety of new, exotic foods served by over 60 vendors. Don't forget to encourage your student to sign up for a meal plan early! Students have a chance to win some great prizes for attending.

Spring Fling – May 3: A year-ending celebration featuring local bands, games, and fun to relieve stress before finals.

Student Orientation Advisors help to introduce new incoming students and their parents to campus. If you feel your student would be a good candidate for this leadership position, please encourage them to apply. Student Orientation Advisor applications will be available February 3 in the Office of the First-Year Experience. Your student can contact the FYE office at (518) 276-6864 or e-mail fye@rpi.edu for application information and questions regarding the positions.

Student Health Center Spring Highlights

These are all in addition to our 7 day a week healthcare for all of our students. We are very excited about offering positive programming all year long!

Student Health Center's Annual Health and Wellness Fair – February 14: This event is an opportunity to enhance the education of our students, faculty and staff by sharing community and campus resources. We strive to address total health; mind, body and spirit. Our goal is to increase awareness of health issues as well as make many resources available to our students so they can achieve and maintain a high-level of wellness in a way that is fun!

Spring Break Speaker – March 7: Mike Domitrz is a lecturer on dating, communication, respect and sexual assault prevention.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month – throughout April: Many exciting initiatives are planned for this spring. In April, we will host a panel of experts from our Dean of Students Office, Public Safety, the Rensselaer County District Attorney's office, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner from a local hospital, a student, and the Student Health Center. We will also offer a "Take Back the Night" vigil.

During the spring we will be educating faculty and staff on mental health warning signs, and having "stress free" days during finals, where chair massages, relaxation exercises, and comfort foods will be provided to students.

Community Service

Student participation in community service at Rensselaer is thriving. Students have contributed in so many ways over the fall semester, giving selflessly of themselves to help the community of Troy, the gulf coast region and even the northeastern region of Pakistan. Students have raised over \$40,000 through a variety of programs for local food pantries, as well as for various causes serving the victims of hurricanes and earthquakes.

Community service opportunities in the spring semester are plentiful. For more information, contact (518) 276-6272 or community-service-L@lists.rpi.edu.

Service Days

January 21
February 11
March 25
April 19-22

Blood Drives

January 24
February 22
March 28
April 20



Important Resources *All numbers are within the (518) area code

Admissions http://admissions.rpi.edu	276-6216	Dean of Students Office www.rpi.edu/dept/doso	276-6266
Advising & Learning Assistance Center http://j2ee.rpi.edu/alac	276-6269	Emergency www.rpi.edu/dept/public_safety	276-6611
Alumni Relations www.alumni.rpi.edu	276-6205	Financial Aid http://sarfs.rpi.edu	276-6813
Athletics www.rpiathletics.com	276-6685	First-Year Experience www.fye.rpi.edu	276-6864
Bookstore http://bookstore.rpi.edu	276-6555	Health Center http://studenthealth.rpi.edu	276-6287
Bursar http://sarfs.rpi.edu	276-6610	Hospitality Services http://hospitalityservices.rpi.edu	276-6277
Career Development Center www.cdc.rpi.edu	276-6234	Leadership Center http://archer.union.rpi.edu	276-2119
Chaplain's Office www.rpi.edu/dept/chaplains/public_html	276-6518	Parents of Rensselaer www.rpi.edu/fye/parents	276-6864
Computer Store www.rpi.edu/computerstore	276-8152	Registrar http://sarfs.rpi.edu	276-6231
Counseling Center http://studenthealth.rpi.edu	276-6479	Residence Life http://j2ee.rpi.edu/reslife	276-6284

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Rensselaer admits qualified students without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, color, marital status, veteran status, or disability. Photo credits: Evan A. Maridou '06, Joe Petrowski '08, Kris Qua

