11th Annual
Black Family Technology Awareness Day

2009
The World is Mine

Saturday, February 7, 2009
Darrin Communications Center, Great Hall
8:15 A.M. through 5:00 P.M.
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11th Annual Black Family Technology Awareness Day
February 7, 2009

Each year, area students and their families come to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to participate in the annual Black Family Technology Awareness Day event. The event is designed to excite area young people and their families to consider pursuing careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) fields, and the arts. The annual event is hosted by the Office of Institute Diversity and Academic Outreach Programs at Rensselaer. Rensselaer’s Black Family Technology Awareness Day is part of a nationally celebrated week of the same name. The theme for 2009 is “The World is Mine.” The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 on the Rensselaer campus located in Troy, New York.

Schedule of Events

8:15–9:00 a.m.  Registration opens – Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall
9:00–9:45 a.m.  Welcome and Opening Keynote Speaker – Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall
10:00–10:45 a.m.  Workshops – various campus locations.
11:00–11:45 a.m.  Workshops – various campus locations.
12:00–1:15 p.m.  Lunch – Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall.
1:30–2:15 p.m.  Workshops – various campus locations.
2:30–3:15 p.m.  Workshops – various campus locations.
3:30–5:00 p.m.  Closing session, give-a-ways and computer raffle – Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Concert Hall

Black Family Technology Awareness Day features more than 20 workshops — led by Rensselaer professors, students, and community organizations — that include using solar energy and fuel cells in cars, hearing about the future of lighting, making ice cream using liquid nitrogen, learning how to use basic forensic science techniques, discovering the artistic effects of evaporation, and exploring how plastic products are made via hands-on interactive science experiments, among others.

Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson has long warned of what she has dubbed a “Quiet Crisis” in America — the threat to the capacity of the United States to innovate due to reduced support for research and the looming shortage in the nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce. The impending workforce shortfall results from a record number of retirements on the horizon in the STEM fields, and not enough students in the pipeline to replace them.

Effectively using technology in the 21st century is important for full participation in America’s economic, political, and social life. This event will provide students, particularly minorities who are underrepresented in the STEM fields, with the programs and mentoring opportunities that will inspire them to pursue careers in science and technology.

For more information about Rensselaer’s Black Family Technology Day, go to: http://www.rpi.edu/about/bftad.
For more information on the “Quiet Crisis,” go to: http://www.rpi.edu/homepage/quietcrisis/index.html.
Schedule of Events
Program subject to change

8:15 – 9:00 am  Registration
Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall

9:00 – 9:40 am  Welcome
Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Tony Moore ’03

Keynote
Mr. Vonzell Jones ’06

Important Housekeeping Notes
Lt. John E. Riegert

10:00 – 10:45 am  Session #1 (Please choose one workshop to attend)
1. Alpha Flight
2. Basic Forensic Science and Crime Scene Investigation
3. Can I Build the Future?
4. CNC Machining: Let the Computer do the Work (max of 15 participants)
5. DNA Bingo
6. Engineering with Simple Machines (max of 20 participants)
7. FIRST and VEX Robotics (max of 15 participants)
8. Fuel Cell Model Cars (max of 12 participants)
9. “IT: The Best kept Secret”
10. Lego Robotics (max of 20 participants)
11. Minty Boost (max of 20 participants)
12. Molecules to the Max
13. Nanny’s Double Dutch League
14. Nature’s Velcro
15. Plasma Art Demonstration (max of 15 participants)
16. SMART Lighting: Engineering Light for a Brighter, Sustainable Future
17. Tips on Applying to College and Graduate School Programs

11:00 am – 11:45 am  Session #2 (Please choose one workshop to attend)
1. Alpha Flight
2. Basic Forensic Science and Crime Scene Investigation
3. Can I Build the Future?
4. CNC Machining: Let the Computer do the Work (max of 15 participants)
5. DNA Bingo
6. Engineering with Simple Machines (max of 20 participants)
7. Everything is Connected
8. FIRST and VEX Robotics (max of 15 participants)
9. Fuel Cell Model Cars (max of 12 participants)
10. “IT: The Best kept Secret”
11. Lego Robotics (max of 20 participants)
12. Minty Boost (max of 20 participants)
13. Molecules to the Max
14. Nanny’s Double Dutch League
15. Nature’s Velcro
16. Plasma Art Demonstration (max of 15 participants)
17. SMART Lighting: Engineering Light for a Brighter, Sustainable Future
18. Tips on Applying to College and Graduate School Programs
12:00 – 1:15 pm  LUNCH
Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall & 308
Music by the Rusty Pipes

1:30 – 2:15 pm  Session #3 (Please choose one workshop to attend)
1. Alpha Flight
2. Basic Forensic Science and Crime Scene Investigation
3. Engineering with Simple Machines (max of 20 participants)
4. Everything is Connected
5. Fuel Cell Model Cars (max of 12 participants)
6. Ice Cream with Chemistry
7. Imagination, Creativity, and Innovation
8. Jazz & Cosmology/Astronomy “The Black Book Project”
9. Laser Technology for the 21st Century
10. Lego Robotics (max of 20 participants)
11. Minty Boost (max of 20 participants)
12. Molecules to the Max
13. Nanny’s Double Dutch League
14. Nature’s Velcro
15. SMART Lighting: Engineering Light for a Brighter, Sustainable Future
16. Sudoku Made Easy
17. Why Technology as a Career is Important to You

2:30 – 3:15 pm  Session #4 (Please choose one workshop to attend)
1. Alpha Flight
2. Basic Forensic Science and Crime Scene Investigation
3. Breakdance Algorithms
4. Engineering with Simple Machines (max of 20 participants)
5. Fuel Cell Model Cars (max of 12 participants)
6. Ice Cream with Chemistry
7. Imagination, Creativity, and Innovation
8. Jazz & Cosmology/Astronomy “The Black Book Project”
9. Laser Technology for the 21st Century
10. Lego Robotics (max of 20 participants)
11. Minty Boost (max of 20 participants)
12. Molecules to the Max
13. Nanny’s Double Dutch League
14. Nature’s Velcro
15. SMART Lighting: Engineering Light for a Brighter, Sustainable Future
16. Sudoku Made Easy
17. Why Technology as a Career is Important to You

3:30 – 5:00 pm  Closing Session, Computer Raffle & Giveaways
Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Concert Hall

Please note that some workshops have a maximum number of participants. This is the maximum number of people who can participate in the “hands-on” portion of the workshops, but there may not be a limit to the number of observers.

Thank you and enjoy the day!
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
(listed alphabetically)

ALPHA FLIGHT
Hosts: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Location: Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Studio Beta

Come learn the basics of aerodynamics and flight through creating and testing paper airplane models.

BASIC FORENSIC SCIENCE AND CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
Host: Terrance Burns, Public Safety Officer, II
Location: J. Erik Jonsson Engineering Center (JEC) 5119

Participants of this workshop will learn basic forensic science techniques including lifting of finger prints, shoe print casting and basic crime scene investigation.

BREAKDANCE ALGORITHMS
Host: Ron Eglash
Location: Russell Sage Laboratory 3101

Learn some break-dance moves, and then try your hand at simulating them on a computer!

CAN I BUILD THE FUTURE?...PEOPLE IN CONSTRUCTION DO IT EVERYDAY.
Host: Turner Construction
Location: Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Mezzanine

Curious how buildings around you are built? Wonder who builds them? Come by and learn about the construction industry. Watch as construction workers erect RPI’s Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center.

CNC MACHINING: LET THE COMPUTER DO THE WORK (maximum of 15 participants)
Host: Scott Yerbury, Electromechanical Technician, Multidisciplinary Design Laboratory Prototyping Lab & Haas Technical Center
Location: J. Erik Jonsson Engineering Center (JEC) 2332 (telephone extension 8290)

Come see how CAD drawings (Computer Aided Drafting) are turned into machined parts using Computer Numerical Controlled machinery (CNC).

DNA BINGO
Host: Janet L. Paluh
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 324

An opportunity for students and parents to learn all about science, cells and DNA using a fun game of bingo. Images with short descriptions will be projected from a computer to a screen while participants circle the item on a supplied bingo card. A prize for the winner will be supplied.
ENGINEERING WITH SIMPLE MACHINES (maximum of 20 participants)
Host: The Children's Museum of Science & Technology
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 235

Have you ever wondered how the flagpole works to raise a flag? What makes the seesaw work so well or how about that hammer? Join CMOST staff as we investigate several different simple machines. Participants will use Lego building kits to build models of simple machines and then put them to work!

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
Hosts: Michael Moore, Associate Dean, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Location: Rensselaer Student Union 3602

Helping Students see the connections between their academic preparation and other involvement and how it has a direct effect on them successfully enrolling in college.

FIRST AND VEX ROBOTICS (maximum of 15 participants)
Host: Larry Ruff, Systems Engineer, Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory
Location: Low Center for Industrial Innovation (CII) 1027 (telephone extension 6441)

Some visitors will also get a chance to operate some of the smaller VEX based robots from this past fall's robot competition. This competition included robots from RPI, Albany High, Troy High and Shenendehowa.

FUEL CELL MODEL CARS (maximum of 12 participants)
Hosts: Sola Lawal, Sam Simmons, Kevin Wells
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Great Hall

Come join the Distinguished Gentlemen of Kappa Alpha Psi as we present the power of solar energy and fuel cells through the use of miniature race cars! The technology of fuel cells is quickly growing, and may one day be the primary source of energy in the world. After a short presentation on fuel cells everyone will join in on the fun of racing to see who has the most speed on remote controlled fuel cell cars!

ICE CREAM WITH CHEMISTRY
Hosts: RPI's Alianza Latina and African Caribbean Students Association
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 330

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of chemistry with the use of liquid nitrogen to make edible ice cream.

IMAGINATION, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION
Host: Tony Moore, '03
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 318

Innovation is the action of creating a new object or process. Innovation is closely related with the notion of creativity. This workshop is new for both students, parents, and even the presenter. Join me as I take students through an exploration of creativity, innovation and the brain-storming process of design. We'll look at some new technologies and even some technologies that haven't been released yet! There will only be a few hands-on aspects of the workshop. The main goal of this workshop is to allow participants to wonder, "What if...?"
People all over the world from the richest children in the richest nations to the poorest children in the poorest nations are flocking to information technology (IT) careers. What makes the IT field so attractive is the wide range of career types as well as long term and lucrative earning potential. From the entry level tech still in college to the senior consultant earning $200 per hour to the entrepreneur running his or her own consulting company, you are only limited by your imagination and your ambitions.

**JAZZ AND COSMOLOGY/ASTRONOMY “THE BLACK BOOK PROJECT”**
Host: Michael Roach with group TEN 27 (Jazz trio)
Location: Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Studio 2

This is an educational multimedia performance that combines jazz with images of the cosmos from the Hubble Space Telescope.

**LASER TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**
Host: Marshall G. Jones, GE Scientist
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 308

Attendees will be made aware of and will learn a little about the field of light as pertaining to laser technology. A laser beam is a unique form of light that can do many wonderful things to benefit and entertain society today. Through the use of a video, slides, hands on objects, and live laser demonstrations, some of the mysteries of laser light will be revealed. The participants will learn how laser light is playing a very important role in our lives every day.

**LEGO ROBOTICS (maximum of 20 participants)**
Hosts: Melissa Hershey, Senior Program Administrator, Center for Initiatives in Pre-College Education
Location: Low Center for Industrial Innovation (CII) 3206

This hands-on workshop introduces those involved to programming LEGO® Mindstorm robotics using ROBOLAB. The robots that will be used include standard LEGO parts and a computerized unit that can be programmed to control the robots’ sensing abilities. Participants will be challenged to program the robot to react to sensors to move, make sounds and more!

**MINTY BOOST (maximum of 20 participants)**
Hosts: Electronics Club
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 232

Come see how to create a minty boost: a simple circuit that takes the 3V from two standard AA batteries and converts it to 5V which is voltage needed to charge any USB device (iPad, iPhone, etc.)

**MOLECULES TO THE MAX**
Host: Sapna Sarupria
Location: Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Concert Hall

Molecules to the Max: The IMAX film is part of the Molecularium Project which is committed to promote science literacy and awareness for audiences of all ages. Aboard the Molecularium, audiences join a cast of atomic characters on an immersive and unforgettable adventure into the nanoscale universe.
NANNY’S DOUBLE DUTCH
Host: Nanny’s Double Dutch League
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) Well Area

Join this group of talented students involved in competitive Double Dutch to learn and participate in this activity that continues to rise in popularity. This rope skipping exercise is played when two ropes are turned in eggbeater fashion while a third person jumps within. Double Dutch helps young people acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes and build confidence toward becoming successful and contributing members of society.

NATURE’S VELCRO
Host: RPI’s National Society for Black Engineers
Location: Low Center for Industrial Innovation (CII) 3051

Join NSBE in learning how to make “Nature’s Velcro”. We will make gooey, sticky flubber by using simple chemical reactions to create polymers.

PLASMA ART DEMONSTRATION (maximum of 15 participants)
Host: John Szczesniak, Shop Supervisor, Student Machine Shop
Location: J. Erik Jonsson Engineering Center (JEC) 1010 (telephone extension 6551)

Come see how to turn designs into reality by using plasma cutters both manual and computer numerical controlled (CNC). Visitors will see how electricity and plasma are used to cut metals from computer-generated designs.

SMART LIGHTING: ENGINEERING LIGHT FOR A BRIGHTER, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Host: Ken Connor, Education Director for Smart Lighting Engineering Research Center. Assisted by graduate students.
Location: J. Erik Jonsson Engineering Center (JEC) 4309

An introduction to the future of lighting and its uses based on the four systems application testbeds of the new NSF funded SMART LIGHTING Engineering Research Center—Bio-imaging, Displays, Communication and Transportation. This will be a hands-on experience including a small amount of light emitting diode circuit construction.

SUDOKU MADE EASY/ADVANCED TECHNIQUES IN SUDOKU
Host: Michael Silas, Graduate Student, Civil Engineering
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 324

Introduce the game of Sudoku including rules, history and techniques for solving easy and more difficult puzzles.

TIPS ON APPLYING TO COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Hosts: Yvette Adeosun and Sonja Dennis Francis, RPI Women’s Club
Location: Darrin Communications Center (DCC) 330

In this practical and interactive session, parents/guardians will learn some valuable information about this process and discover ways to ensure that their high school graduate gets into a college of their choice. The presenters will share perspectives from their experience in higher education as college admissions administrator and college professor.

WHY TECHNOLOGY AS A CAREER IS IMPORTANT TO YOU
Host: Ronald Wagogo, Cisco
Location: Voorhees Computing Center (VCC) North

Cisco will be giving a presentation on IT opportunities and a game about technology.
Mr. Vonzell Jones ‘06

Vonzell Jones came to the Capital District in 2002 by way of Buffalo, NY. In 2006 he received a BS in Computer Systems Engineering from Rensselaer. While attending Rensselaer he participated in many different leadership and community service activities, including Black Students Alliance, N.S.B.E. and Black Family Tech Day.

He is currently working for the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR). As a Legal Intern with NYSTAR, he has worked on state contracts and the distribution of request for proposals for the development of technology in New York. Working with the contracts for Rensselaer’s Super Computer, New York’s Green Initiative, and other projects. He has also handled regulatory reform and drafted his own policies, such as a New York State Intellectual Property policy. Additionally, Vonzell also worked as a law clerk with the Rensselaer Office of Technology Commercialization. There he aided in drafting responses to the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the evaluation and updating of Rensselaer licensing agreements.

Vonzell is a semester away from obtaining his J.D., with a concentration in Intellectual Property from Albany Law School. At Albany he has participated in the Black Law Student’s Association, Intellectual Property Society, Men’s Rugby team, and is the Senior Student Ambassador.

Upon graduation in May, Vonzell will be assuming the position of Associate Director of the New York State Science and Technology Law center at Syracuse University.

Acknowledgements

A Special Thank You to:

Price Chopper
Capital IQ
Tony Moore
Tequisha Hendrickson ‘10
Claudeen Pierre ‘09
Rusty Pipes

THANK YOU to all sponsors who donated towards this year’s event!
A Special THANK YOU to all our Event Volunteers!
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You are all instrumental in making Tech Day a success!
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Keep dreaming.
This summer is an exciting time to be at Rensselaer, a place where enthusiasm and innovation are the very hallmarks of our programs and classes. Rensselaer is an outstanding technological university and an exceptional place to Explore and Discover.

We invite elementary, middle, and high school students to enroll in summer enrichment programs and sports camps. In addition, summer credit courses are available to academically qualified and talented high school students.

### CREDIT COURSES
Summer courses for college credit are available to academically qualified and talented high school students. Visit [http://sis.rpi.edu](http://sis.rpi.edu) for more detailed information and to see our summer course listings.

Courses are offered for high school students during Summer Session III: June 29-Aug. 7. Visit the summer website at [http://summer.rpi.edu](http://summer.rpi.edu) for academic requirements and other information.

Applicants for summer courses are required to submit a current high school transcript, inclusive of all current year marking periods. Students interested in taking credit courses only should apply for non-matriculated status. Visit the website to download an Application for Admission as a Non-matriculated Undergraduate Student.

### ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

#### DAY PROGRAMS

- **Aerospace Engineering Summer Career Exploration Program**
  - July 27-31
  - Day Session | High school students

- **ASM Materials “Day” Camp(SM)**
  - July 6-10
  - Day Session | High school students entering 11th and 12th grade in the fall

- **Build Your Portfolio for College Application**
  - Aug. 3-7
  - Day Session | High School Students

- **Creative Writing Workshop for Youths**
  - July 6-10
  - Day Session | Ages 8-13

- **Creative Writing Workshop for High School Students**
  - Aug. 10-14
  - Day Session | Ages 14-17

- **Rensselaer Robotics Engineering Academy**
  - **NXT Session I: July 6-17**
    - 1/2 Day A.M. | Girls Ages 11-13*
  - **NXT Session II: July 6-17**
    - 1/2 Day P.M. | Ages 10-14
  - **Advanced NXT Session: July 20-24**
    - Day Session | Ages 11-14

*Registration for this session will be offered through Emma Willard

- **Samaritan-Rensselaer Children’s Center RPI Summer Day Camp**
  - June 29-Sept. 3
  - Day Session | Graduates of Kindergarten through 12 years old

#### VEX Robotics Engineering Academy**
- July 27-31
- Day Session | Ages 13-16

#### Whodunit? The Science of Crime Scenes**
- July 20-24
- Day Session | Middle school students entering 7th and 8th grade in the fall

#### Young Actors Guild**
- Center Stage Program: July 6-Aug.7
- Day Session | Ages 8-14
- One-Week Program: Aug. 10-14
- Day Session | Ages 8-18

#### RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

- **Architecture Career Discovery Program**
  - Session I: July 12-24
  - Overnight 2-weeks | High school students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade in the fall
  - Session II: July 26-Aug. 7
  - Overnight 2-weeks | High school students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade in the fall

- **Computer Game Development Academy**
  - July 19-Aug. 7
  - Overnight 3-weeks | High school students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade in the fall

- **Envision Product Innovation Academy**
  - July 5-17
  - Overnight 2-weeks | High school girls entering 12th grade in the fall

- **Video Production Summer Residential Workshop**
  - July 26-Aug. 7
  - Overnight 2-weeks | High School Students

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**Sports Camps**

- **Rensselaer Football Camp**
  - Youth Camp Week One: July 13-16 (M-Thurs.)
  - Evening Session | Grades 3-8
  - Senior Camp Week Two: July 20-23 (M-Thurs.)
  - Evening Session | Grades 9-12

- **Hockey Camps**
  - Engineers Elite Hockey Camp
    - Dates to be determined
    - Day Session | Ages 6-14
  - Red & White Hockey School for Girls
    - Dates to be determined
    - Day Session | Ages 6-17
The Greater Albany Chapter of
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Congratulates the Rensselaer Polytechnic
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Congratulations
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11th Annual Black Family Technology Awareness Day

Friendship Baptist Church

407 Union Street
Schenectady, NY

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you are not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11
The Albany District Chapter
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salutes

The Office of Institute Diversity
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

on your

Eleventh Annual Black Family Technology Awareness Day

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*Riding Snowflakes* is currently playing at
The Children’s Museum of Science and Technology
250 Jordan Road, Troy NY
CONGRATULATIONS

to

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on their
“11th Annual Black Family Technology Awareness Day”

from

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For more information or to place an order, contact Audrey Bennett at bennett@rpi.edu or (518) 276-8129— or fill out and return the below form to Audrey Bennett, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180.

To preview the Cornrow Curves CSDT software, visit: http://www.rpi.edu/~eglash/csdt.html
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