It all comes down to the last 4 weeks of our first year at RPI. Still can’t believe it although I better, with all the assignment that are due. Anyway we at GMSA felt that it was time to just update the Lally students on what all we have been up to in the last couple of months and what they should be expecting in the last couple of weeks of this semester and then beyond. So read on…..

**Undertaken Events**

**Movie Night**

The first event that GMSA undertook, the movie night was an immense success as even after an eight hour class on a Tuesday evening, quite a few students showed up for the events. Whether they came to see Samir Naghee…. Something and Michael Bolton smash the paper eating in Office Space (Um Yeah!!) or watch Gordon Gekko deliver his “Greed is good” speech in Wallstreet or maybe just the lure of free pizza and soda, we shall never know. In any case the night was a success as it was pleasing to see all those who attended the movie to willingly participate, without any class participation points 😊. Keep it coming guys!!!!

**NYSE Trip**

As a student of finance, I have to say that standing in the Board room of NYSE was one of the dreams I have had for a long time. Yes, yes I have weird dreams but having said that, it was a memorable trip that gave us an opportunity to connect with some of the alumni from the New York City chapter of the Alumni Association. Not only were they kind enough to host us at their office but were also generous enough to pick up half the tab for the lunch. In short it was a nice opportunity for some of the international students to go out and see the city, and basically just hang out with other students outside the class setting. Considering the success of this event, we shall definitely arrange another networking event in another big city……maybe Boston or some place else.

**Upcoming Events**
**Buddy System**

Regarding the international chair our main activity for this semester is the “Buddy System”. The attempt is to create a link between incoming MBA students and the existing MBA cohort. In the words of our international chair rep, Sigfredo Tineo, “We’ll answer inquiries that the students might have regarding the program and life in this part of the world. Also we’ll like to provide help in finding housing, setting up basic services, even picking them at the airport”. Initially the program was aimed at assisting international students, but we’re extending it to out-of-state students as well as they may also be unfamiliar with the Troy area.

**Alumni Relations**

“My marketing relations project is focused on improving the alumni – student body relationship to leverage such relations to facilitate career development and placement of students” says Michelle Lim, as she conducts interviews with key staff such as the Dean, Associate Dean, Director of Alumni Relations at RPI and key alumni such as both Presidents of NYC and Westchester Alumni chapters of RPI. With the help of such alumnus, the attempt would be to leverage our network to assist the student body in career placement upon graduation.

The immensely successful coordination of the trip to NYC where 25 students enjoyed networking opportunities with alumni was the first step with many more to come including a similar trip to Boston to expand our growing alumni network.

Her goal is to develop a stronger alumni network for our student body, be it among Lally alumni or RPI alumni, through our interactions with alumni chapters in larger metropolitan areas.

**Changes in the MBA Lounge**

Just few weeks into the office and GMSA took the initiative to re-decorate the GMSA lounge. We started off with installing a new refrigerator in the student lounge followed by purchasing a new microwave (waiting for work order to be fulfilled by Lally operations dept) and redecorated the 1st floor student lounge. We followed that up with the spring cleaning event done with the help of GMSA student body.

We will also be showcasing art submissions from our student body in the first floor student lounge to reflect their artistic side just to give the lounge a more cheerful and homely feel.
Networking events

On 21st April, we will be hosting a major networking event for local businesses, alumni, and students. Dean Hasan has arranged for a prominent Malaysian businessman to speak at the event. Afterwards, you will be able to discuss your career interests and opportunities with local business leaders and alumni. This will be a good opportunity to network with alumni and build relations for getting a full-time job after we graduate. There will be great food and entertainment so we encourage you all get yourself and your significant others to come and make this a successful event. Be sure to mark your calendars for 21st April.

Community Events

Ronald McDonald House of Charities Volunteer

For the community event, we are planning to volunteer at the Ronald Mcdonald house. We are planning on a small group to spend time with patients and siblings at the Children's Hospital in Albany Medical center. We will provide entertainment and activities (craft party, games) at the Family Room inside Albany Medical Center. We are also taking some toys as gifts. We are yet to get a definite date/time on our schedule but the tentative date at this time is around 9th or 10th of April, but we still need to hear back from the administrator of the house before we can say for sure. As and when something does pan out, you all will be the first to know 😊

Student Relations

In terms of understanding the needs of our students better, We are also working on developing a survey to distribute to Lally graduate students in order to learn more about how they view the role of the GMSA, and what kind of GMSA activities students would prefer. This would an important opportunity for the students to participate in this survey and communicate to the GMSA body what they think are the activities they want us to initiate. The survey will be distributed shortly, and we appreciate your patience and feedback.

Communications Events

We would be coming out with our first newsletter for the semester by the mid of April. The idea is to inform, educate and entertain the students with the events that are currently being undertaken by the GMSA and by others within and
without RPI. We would like to encourage any and everyone who might be interested to use this as a platform to air their views, comments or any suggestions that they might have about just about anything. Kindly contact myself, Ravi Sangtani at sangtr@rpi.edu or catch hold of me while in class and I shall do the needful.