Founded in 1824 as the oldest technological university in the English-speaking world, Rensselaer made an indelible mark on both the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, Rensselaer offers students and faculty an interactive, interdisciplinary learning environment—and a chance to be among the forces shaping the 21st century.

THE RENSSELAER ENDOWMENT

"The endowment provides the fundamental financial underpinning of the university, and as such, ensures its sustainability over time, and positions the Institute to continue to serve and support our students and the faculty who teach them now, and into the future."

—President Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.

2014 – 2015
Annual Report

PREPARED FOR
The Rensselaer Alumni Association
Board of Trustees
February 2016

Enclosed please find the 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Rensselaer Alumni Association. This report is a direct reflection of the dedication to Rensselaer on the part of the RAA Board of Trustees, alumni, and friends.

Thanks in large part to your support, Rensselaer has been able to provide exceptional programming for our alumni around the country, ensuring that they maintain a strong connection to their alma mater. In particular, the new career and professional development program for our alumni has been very well received. We continue to be impressed with the growth of the RAA Endowment, as it is a vote of confidence in the RAA mission to represent alumni interests to the Institute.

We look forward to continuing and building upon the great work the RAA has accomplished in the years ahead. Please contact Jeff Schanz at schanj@rpi.edu with any questions you may have regarding the report.

Sincerely,

Graig R. Eastin
Vice President, Institute Advancement

Jeffrey M. Schanz, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations
Executive Director, RAA

"Using advanced technologies, The New Polytechnic enables collaborations between talented people across disciplines, sectors, and global regions, in order to address the complex problems the world faces."

President Shirley Ann Jackson
Rensselaer Alumni Association Endowment

The Rensselaer Alumni Association Endowment, established at Rensselaer by the generosity of the Rensselaer Alumni Association, supports Rensselaer Alumni Association chapters and alumni network activities, domestically and internationally, and is designed to encourage and inspire broad-based engagement and philanthropic support to Rensselaer among our students, alumni, and alumnae around the world. In addition, this fund supports an annual cash award to an outstanding sophomore or junior student member of the Red & White organization who, working with Institute Advancement, has shown leadership in building a sense of alumni community among the student body.

Rensselaer Alumni Career Services

Launched in December 2014, Rensselaer Alumni Career Services is a critical part of our comprehensive effort to provide professional and career support for all alumni. Supported by the Rensselaer Alumni Association Endowment, the career program features Rensselaer Alumni Connect – an online platform that allows alumni around the globe to network and connect; post and search jobs; and obtain useful career advice from peers.

With a focus on alumni to alumni networking and career support, Rensselaer Alumni Career Services has seen over 2,000 alumni engage with the program and Rensselaer Alumni Connect platform. Since its launch, the platform has also had nearly 250 unique companies seeking to share job opportunities with Rensselaer alumni.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING NEW SKILLS OR IMPROVING ON OTHERS?

Additionally, opportunities for Rensselaer alumni skill development have been offered through Lynda.com and other virtual classroom initiatives. Future additions to the program will continue to focus on providing career information and advice for Rensselaer alumni, building on the success, knowledge, and skills of nearly 100,000 alumni worldwide.
Red & White Emerging Leader Award

This annual cash award is given to rising juniors or seniors who are members of the Red & White Student Organization. Candidates must show exceptional leadership, as well as a commitment to the Rensselaer student and alumni communities. The second annual Red & White Emerging Leader Award was presented to two outstanding candidates this past year – Whitney Gervais ’16 and Gavin Noritsky ’16.

Whitney has held multiple leadership roles within Red & White – including the newly created role of Executive Director of Professional Development. She has worked to create programs and events to assist members with developing their professionalism in their roles as student leaders. She was also the Chair of the Rensselaer Union 125th Anniversary Committee. In addition, Whitney works two on-campus jobs while remaining an active member in Red & White. Whitney was selected for the award due to her dedication to Red & White and her work in strengthening the link between students and alumni.

Whitney sent the following message:

“I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the RAA Board for generously awarding me the Emerging Leader Award. On behalf of Red & White, I genuinely appreciate the RAA recognizing and awarding a Red & White member every year for the work we put in to create lasting student-alumni connections. Red & White has been very important to me since my first year at Rensselaer and to be awarded for doing something I enjoy is truly a gift. Thank you.”

Gavin has also held multiple leadership roles within Red & White – including vice president for membership and president. Gavin regularly engages with alumni at chapter events as well as Reunion & Homecoming. He may also be familiar to many of you from his participation as on-air talent in the RPi Day giving campaign. Gavin has served as president of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, is a member of the American Nuclear Society, and a member of White Key. The award was presented to Gavin in recognition of his commitment to Rensselaer and to building the student-alumni connection.

Gavin writes:

“It is a great honor to be a recipient of the RAA Emerging Leader Award. As a student attending Rensselaer, I’ve enjoyed all of the engaging opportunities that I’ve had to interact with RPI alumni, staff members, and students. From participating on the Rensselaer Alumni Advisory Board to attending various regional alumni events, it has been an incredible experience to work with and meet the diverse members of the Rensselaer community.”
Support from the Rensselaer Alumni Association Endowment enhances Reunion & Homecoming in many ways, allowing for the entire Rensselaer community to gather together and reconnect with Rensselaer. It begins with the “Heffner Alumni House Experience,” and the training of our dedicated group of volunteers who provide a warm and knowledgeable welcome to all guests. Support from the fund also plays a role in the transformation of the Alumni House through technology into an inviting and nostalgic gathering space, as well as the traditional all-alumni gift which is presented to each participant.
The Rensselaer Endowment

Rensselaer spends approximately five percent of its endowment each year to support students, faculty, programs, and facilities. Endowment gifts have fueled the Institute’s mission since 1824 when Stephen Van Rensselaer founded a school dedicated to the application of science to the common purposes of life. Donors who support the endowment, either in their lifetime or through their estate, create a permanent legacy that enables the Institute to educate people who will make the world a better place.

Rensselaer Annual Fund

Rensselaer Annual Fund gifts are the most important dollars for the immediate needs of the Institute and for our students. Every dollar invested in the Rensselaer Annual Fund is invaluable. Through these gifts, Rensselaer students receive scholarships, competitive financial aid packages, and a world-class undergraduate education of undisputed intellectual rigor. Our students experience award-winning student programming, participate in undergraduate research and study abroad programs, collaborate with our talented and dedicated faculty, and so much more.

Expendable Funds

Every department at Rensselaer depends on day-to-day operational funding to maintain the high standards set by The Rensselaer Plan 2024. Contributions to an expendable fund can make possible specific activities, such as undergraduate research, or more general operations. Expendable funds provide the critical flexibility that allows Rensselaer to keep pace with the demands of a changing world.

If you have any questions regarding your gift, please contact the Office of Donor Relations and Advancement Communications, at (518) 276-6247 or by e-mail at drc@rpi.edu.

We invite you to please save the date...

Celebration of Support

May 5, 2016
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Samuel F. Heffner Jr. ’56 Alumni House

The annual Rensselaer Celebration of Support honors the vision and legacy of our generous donors and the amazing impact of their gifts on the lives of our students and faculty.

Visit http://giving.rpi.edu/celebration-support to enjoy photos and a video from the 2015 Celebration of Support.