

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

SPRING 2020

We hope everyone is remaining safe and healthy during these unusual times. Despite the spring semester being cut short RPI's Engineering Ambassadors have had another successful semester. This semester while we were on campus we facilitated numerous outreach events for the capital region including school visits, STEM Days and various other on and off campus activities.

To kick off the new year Engineering Ambassadors RPI travelled to the Bronx on our fourth annual visit. Thirteen dedicated ambassadors took time out of their winter breaks to share their passion for engineering with students of St. Raymond's Boys High School and St. Raymond's Girls Academy. The principals and teachers have shared that over the last four years we had a very positive impact on the children during our visits. Special thanks to Dean Garde's, RPI student organization funds which makes this trip possible.

At the conclusion of this recruitment season our organization continues to grow. Out of the 42 applications we have selected a 24 new members to our organization all of which show potential to be amazing Engineering Ambassadors. Despite the difficulties faced with COVID-19 our dedicated recruitment coordinator Elizabeth Friend successfully on-board our new ambassadors and they are now currently brainstorming presentation ideas and preparing for the annual conference in the fall.

The RISE HIGH program which is a collaboration with the Schenectady City School District continues to grow and thrive. This semester we successfully launched our new RISE HIGH Data Science Program where a group of ambassadors worked with RPI graduate students to develop a hands on program where students were able to learn about the fundamentals of Data Science. With the addition of this program we now have 6 RISE HIGH programs that we facilitate every year.

Even though our semester on campus was cut short we continued to work remotely. One of the ways we continued to serve our community was with our STEM at Home program where Ambassadors created DIY stem project tutorials which we posted on our RPI EA REACH Facebook page which we launched this semester. This enabled students at home to have fun and learn while school is closed. In addition to this our Ambassadors continued to develop our Remote Engineering Ambassadors Channel (REACH) which is our online resource design to expand our reach beyond the Capital Region.

As another academic year comes to a close, we have 19 seniors who are graduating and moving beyond RPI. While we are sad to see them go, we are excited to see all that the class of 2020 accomplishes! We thank them for their dedication and contribution to the organization.

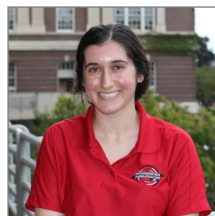
Thank you to all our alumni for your continued support of the program and its efforts! We hope that this note finds you well and always would love to hear from you.



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MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Each semester we like to feature a few ambassadors who have been going above and beyond both for our organization and in their own career paths.



Cameron Smith

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Hometown: Warrenton, VA

Presentations: Space Telescopes, Thermoelectric Devices

2020 Fall Internship: For my ARCH away semester, I will be employed with NASA as Pathways Intern. With this position, I will be working at Marshall Space Flight Center, located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Other involvements at RPI: In addition to my involvement with EA, I am also a part of the executive board of RPI's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). EWB is partnered with communities in Panama, Nicaragua, and locally in Troy, and we are dedicated to providing these people with access to basic human needs through engineering solutions. Also, I am a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and RPI's Club Water Polo team, which have given me opportunities to make some amazing friends.

Favorite part of EA: My favorite part about our organization, is having the opportunity to make an impact on so many students by showing them the marvels of STEM.

Major: Chemical Engineering

Hometown: East Rutherford, NJ

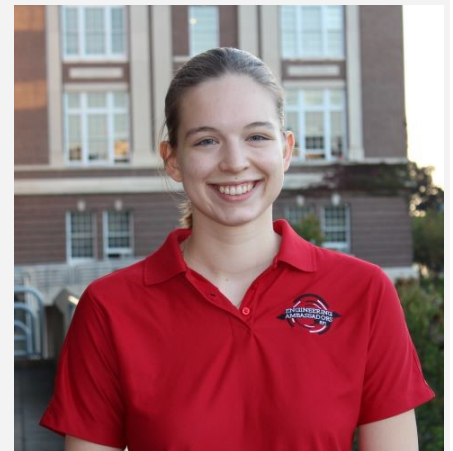
Presentations: Nanotechnology, Imagineering

Research at RPI: Transfer Molding of Nanopatterns for Tissue Engineering with Prof. Ullal

Plans After Graduation: I will be working as a Process Engineer at W.L.Gore in Delaware.

Other involvements at RPI: Besides Engineering Ambassadors, I am also a part of the Alpha Gamma Delta women's fraternity and the Society of Women Engineers. I have been an I-PERSIST Chemistry Mentor for first year students for 3 years to help them adjust to RPI academics and college life as a whole.

Favorite Part of EA: I have always enjoyed working with younger students and getting them excited about STEM, which EA allows me to do on a larger scale. Everybody in the organization is outgoing and passionate about outreach. I love seeing everyone thrive and accomplish amazing things in college and beyond!



Julia Leszczuk

Major: Mechanical Engineer

Hometown: Garnerville, NY

Presentations: Physics of Parachutes, Designing a Safe Roller Coaster

2020 Spring Co-op: Since January 2020, I have started a coop at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford CT. I am currently part of the Aero Thermal and Fluids Systems group where we analyze thermals and flows for the turbine section of the engine.

Other involvements: I am very involved with Greek life on campus as a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Off-campus I am heavily involved with creating, writing, and playing music with my band Los Minchalas.

Favorite Part of EA: What I love most of EA is the power and influence we have to change the conversation and inspire younger students that anyone is capable of doing engineering. It's also very exciting to see students engaged and curious to learn more about engineering and even hear them want to follow a career path in STEM.

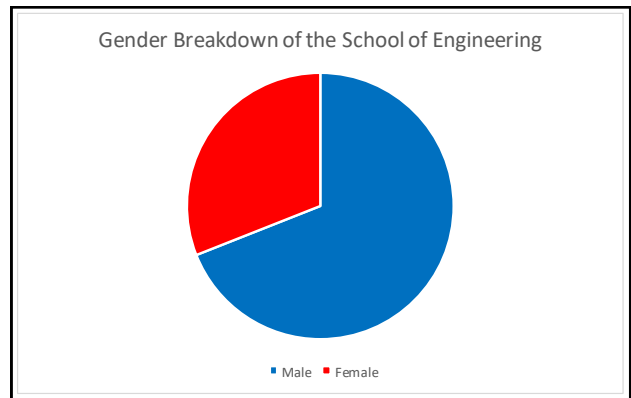
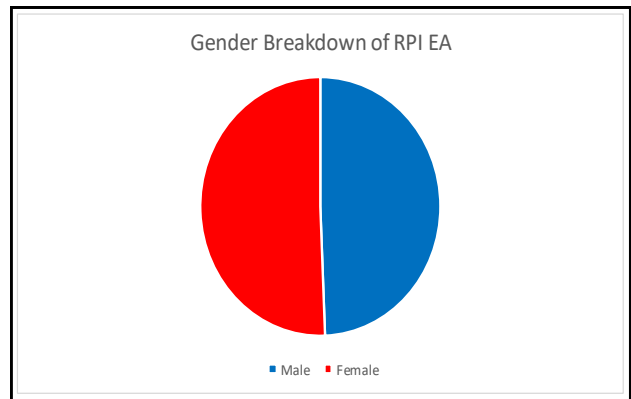
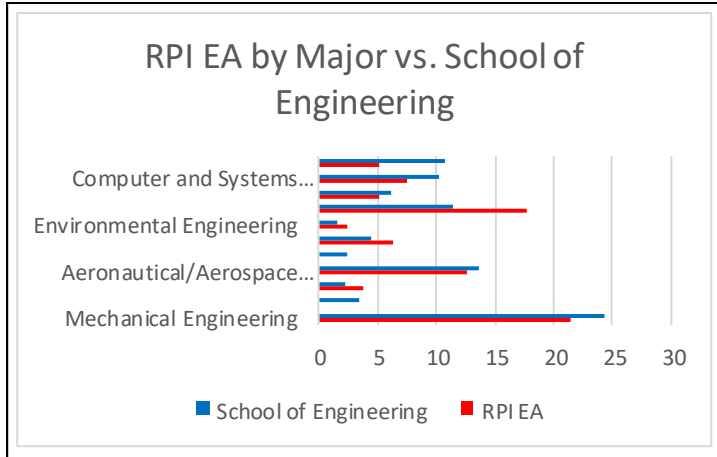


Jonathan Minchala

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RPI EA by the Numbers

We are proud to show that our organization is able to represent majority of the majors offered by the school of engineering. In addition, our organization out performs the school of engineering in terms of gender ratio with RPI EA almost evenly made up of men and women.



SPONSORS

This year has been filled with so much exciting news. Thanks to everyone who have supported our EA's since day one. Some of the organizations and companies that have offered and put their trust in the work of our Ambassadors.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Khalil Drayton

Background: Khalil graduated in May 2017 with both a MS in Supply Chain Management and BS in Biomedical Engineering. He helped to develop the Humanitarian Logistics Presentation when he was apart of EA. Outside of EA he was a Research Assistant in RPI Musculoskeletal Mechanics Lab, President of the RPI APICS Chapter and active in Greek Life as a brother of RSE.



After graduating from RPI in May 2017, I moved to Boston, Massachusetts to begin my career as a Global Supply Chain Planner at Boston Scientific. For the past three years, I have worked with BSC's Urology division supporting the Women's Health business. The responsibilities in my current role include demand planning, sourcing/production planning, and inventory management. My group's number one priority is to ensure that physicians and customers have the right amount of products they need to perform critical procedures on time.

Although I work in a business function, my favorite part of the job is being able to collaborate and problem solve with other functions within my company. I work with R&D, Quality & Supplier Engineers on some of the everyday issues that arise in a medical device manufacturing environment. I also collaborate with Marketing/Sales, Regulatory Specialists, Project Engineers and several other stakeholders on more strategic initiatives like new product launch planning and long term demand forecasting.

To this day, I am grateful that Elizabeth gave me the opportunity to join EA. Being part of this program teaches you invaluable skills that help down the road like how to work with peers from different backgrounds and how to effectively present to/engage any audience. My most memorable moment as an EA was being able to teach kids in my hometown of New York City about STEM careers and engineering. Being part of the first EA group to present at St. Raymond's high school meant a lot to me.

My advice to you all is to always take on a new challenge to do something outside of your comfort zone. It is the best way to learn and grow!

Mallory Gordon

Background: Mallory graduated in May 2018 with her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. She helped to develop the curriculums to for Rise High and Troy Prep Program which have become a staple part of Engineering Ambassadors RPI. Outside of EA she was a Learning Assistant in the freshman dorms, a member of the Rocket Society and actively involved in Greek life.



After I graduated in spring of 2018, I took an internship in a business development role at DEKA R&D with the intent to do a master's in business analytics the following academic year, and come back to EA for another year! Instead, I took an internship/co-op at the Tesla Gigafactory in Nevada on the New Product Introduction (NPI) team for energy products (historically best known for powerwall and powerpack) and pushed off my master's for a year. After working on that team for 10 months, I decided to accept their offer to join full time as a Project Engineer on the same team, and I've been working on Tesla's new Megapack program ever since! Megapack is a larger scale version of the Powerpack that is 60% more energy dense, faster to install at a customer's site and more competitively priced. Because of this, Megapack is able to build gigawatt-hour scale battery storage projects that make renewable energy sources like wind and solar more reliable, affordable, accessible, and stable. Even if not paired with renewable energy sources, utility companies are choosing Megapack instead of natural gas and coal powered "peaker plants" that are awful for the environment and expensive to operate during peak load times. I am very proud of the product and team I work with, and I really feel like I am living up to RPI's "change the world" motto.

Outside of work, I have been taking advantage of Reno's close proximity to the Sierra Nevada mountains and the rest of California. I've taken up skiing and climbing as my two main hobbies and am lucky to spend way more time outdoors than I did while I was at RPI and swamped with classes. Even though Tesla is very demanding, I'm able to make time to get out most weekends to do something active and unplug from work. If any of you are ever in the Lake Tahoe region, please reach out so we can meet up! I would love to reconnect with fellow alumni or meet the current generation of EAs.



Rensselaer

Feeling Generous?

Simply Call RenXchange at 518-276-6055 and ask to donate to the Engineering Ambassadors fund directly. Engineering ambassadors is always willing to accept donations to help continue bringing the inspiring field of STEM to the youth.