



Greek Leadership Summit Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Sponsored by the Alumni Inter-Greek Council
of the Rensselaer Alumni Association**

January 26, 2008

Samuel Heffner Jr. '56 Alumni House

Special Thanks To:

*Office of Alumni Relations, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs,
Dean of Students Office, Hospitality Services, and the Heffner Alumni House*

2008 Summit Contacts

Use this area to list contact information for people you've met here at the Greek Leadership Summit!

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From the AIGC President

January 26, 2008

Welcome to the Rensselaer Greek Leadership Summit!

Thank you for attending this important program and thereby showing your commitment to the up building of your fraternity or sorority and our community. As members of one of the oldest Greek communities in the country, RPI alumni have a responsibility to remain as active and involved with the university as you do. To that end, the Alumni Inter-Greek Council was formed to facilitate alumni involvement in the fraternal affairs of the Institute. I have been privileged to serve as President of the AIGC since April 2007, and can report that we have made great progress in improving our interfraternal community at RPI.

Let me begin by saying that as a professor and an alumnus, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by our undergraduate chapters. Adapting to a different kind of student body, Institute policies, and our own internal rules requires a lot of change management. Our organizations commit countless hours to community service (and funds for charities) but are seldom recognized. Thankfully, the Rensselaer Alumni Association has created an awards program specifically designed to recognize the outstanding community service by fraternities and sororities.

Challenges also still exist in the recruitment and retention of the best members. This is not only a marketing and outreach challenge, but an academic one as well. In a recent semester, fraternity and sorority members accounted for almost one third of the academic expulsions from the Institute. RPI's Greek chapters must secure a way to attract the top students, and keep them at the top.

The Rensselaer Greek Leadership Summit is designed to get you thinking about these concepts, and give you some new information relative to resources for your success. Chapter leaders will have the opportunity to interact and receive practical training. Council officers will be involved in a development program in an effort to unify Rensselaer's Greek efforts among the various governing organizations.

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you today, as I am serving as a facilitator at the winter retreat of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in Texas – a retreat that our keynote speaker has missed in order to attend the Greek Leadership Summit! I wish you the best of luck and continued success at RPI; please let me know if I can assist you or your organization in the future.

Sincerely,



Roger A. Grice, Ph.D. '87

President, Alumni Inter-Greek Council
Professor of Technical Communication
gricer@rpi.edu

2008 Summit Facilitators



John A. Minasian, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean, Rensselaer at Hartford
minasian@rpi.edu

John Minasian leads Education for Working Professionals at Rensselaer, serves on the President's Cabinet, and is chief executive officer of the Hartford campus. In 2000 Dr. Minasian was elected to the Board of Directors of Lambda Chi Alpha International, which he currently serves as Vice Chair. Dr. Minasian has developed training and seminars on leadership development at both the corporate and fraternity level. Prior to joining Rensselaer in 2005, he was Dean of Corporate Education at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Minasian received his Ph.D. in operations and systems engineering from WPI.



Mark Smith
Dean of Students
smithm@rpi.edu

Mark Smith has served as Dean of Students at Rensselaer since 2002. As Dean, he oversees student services, judicial affairs, and Greek life. Previously, he served for seven years as associate dean of students and director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs. Smith joined Alpha Tau Omega as a student at Northwestern. He received his master's degree at the University at Albany and a certificate of advanced study in educational administration from SUNY Cortland.



Geoff Seber
Associate Advancement Officer, Office of Alumni Relations
seberg@rpi.edu

Geoff Seber works at the Heffner Alumni House where he is involved in student and Reunion programs. Seber has helped many chapters improve alumni relations through on-campus events and outreach, including the recent Greek Chowderfest. In 2007, Seber was named The *Rensselaer Polytechnic's* "Poly Person of the Year." He earned his degree from Western New England College in 2000.



Jonathan "Jerry" Witter, Ph.D. '82
Advisory Engineer at AREVA NP and AIGC Board of Directors
jonathan.witter@gmail.com

Jerry Witter has served on the AIGC Board in multiple positions, and was previously chapter advisor to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Dr. Witter has been instrumental in the continuous improvement of Rensselaer fraternity/sorority life policy, particularly in the areas of alcohol, recruitment, and chapter management. He holds a doctorate in nuclear engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Raymond A. Lutzky '02
Associate Director of Admissions and AIGC Board of Directors
lutzkr@rpi.edu

Ray Lutzky is director of outreach at Rensselaer Admissions and serves on the Rensselaer Alumni Association Board. He is Master Steward for Lambda Chi Alpha's Warren A. Cole Recruitment Institute, and a speaker for the CAMPUSPEAK agency. He received his M.S. in public relations from the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

AIGC Board of Directors Contacts

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Leadership Summit Rules

1. BE HERE

Let's face it, you need to be here. The Greek Leadership Summit was created for your benefit, and will only be successful with your participation. In addition to being on-time for all the sessions and physically present, this also means remaining focused on the topic at hand. Don't waste time by being a distraction; activities that disrupt the experiences of other participants will not be tolerated (and may cause ejection from the program).

2. ASK QUESTIONS

The ultimate goal of this program is to enhance fraternity and sorority life at Rensselaer. This may require clarifying a point, or asking a facilitator to expand on a topic that might be useful for the entire group to hear. In most cases, the question you want to ask is on the tip of another participant's tongue, too. Don't be afraid to find out what you don't know.

3. INTERACT

There will be opportunities throughout the day to meet students you may not have had the opportunity to introduce yourself to. The Leadership Summit is all about connections, so use this as an opportunity to make contact with as many leaders as possible. The exchange of ideas and stories is useful and can help build relationships that will assist you down the road.

4. CHANGE

Staying the same is not an option. Rensselaer's Greek community needs new, innovative techniques to reach potential new members, creative solutions to our common challenges, and to grow. Take what you have learned back to your chapter, discuss it with others, build a coalition and lead the change. The knowledge is only powerful when it's put into action.

Track Alpha: Chapter Presidents & Leaders

- 8:45 am – 9:10 am **Registration**
Jessica Wickiewicz, Assistant Dean of Students
- 9:10 am – 9:20 am **Welcome and Review of the Day's Events**
Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC
- 9:20 am – 9:45 am **Introductions and Remarks**
"Alumni Involvement in Fraternity and Sorority Life"
Roger Mike '70, AIGC Vice President
- 9:45 am – 10:45 am..... **Morning Session 1**
"Maximizing Your Alumni Network"
Facilitator: Geoff Seber, Office of Alumni Relations
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am **15 Minute Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Morning Session 2**
"Achieving Academic Excellence"
Facilitator: Mark Smith, Dean of Students
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Deli Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm **Keynote Address: "Lessons From Alice"**
John A. Minasian, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean, Rensselaer at Hartford
- 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm **15 Minute Break**
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Afternoon Session 1**
"Chapter Management Workshop"
Facilitator: Jonathan "Jerry" Witter, Ph.D. '82, AIGC
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Afternoon Session 2**
"Dynamic Recruitment Workshop"
Facilitator: Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm **"The PR War Room"**
Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC

Track Beta: Council Officers

Note: Council Morning and Afternoon Sessions take place in the Dining Room of the Heffner Alumni House.

8:45 am – 9:10 am **Registration**
Jessica Wickiewicz, Assistant Dean of Students

9:10 am – 9:20 am **Welcome and Review of the Day's Events**
Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC

9:20 am – 9:45 am **Introductions and Remarks**
"Alumni Involvement in Fraternity and Sorority Life"
Roger Mike '70, AIGC Vice President

9:45 am – 10:45 am **Morning Session 1**
"Identifying and Confronting Obstacles"
Facilitator: John A. Minasian, Ph.D., Vice President and Dean

10:45 am – 11:00 am **15 Minute Break**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Morning Session 2**
"You and the Institute: A Strategy Session"
Facilitator: John A. Minasian, Ph.D., Vice President and Dean

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Deli Buffet Lunch**

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm **Keynote Address: "Lessons From Alice"**
John A. Minasian, Ph.D.
Vice President and Dean, Rensselaer at Hartford

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm **15 Minute Break**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Afternoon Session 1**
"Dynamic Recruitment Workshop"
Facilitator: Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Afternoon Session 2**
"Mentor Pairing"
Facilitator: AIGC Board

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm **"The PR War Room"**
Ray Lutzky '02, AIGC