

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2007 RPI Reunion

**Saturday, June 9**

Reception at the RSE Club House

**Ed Wood '57**

(EdMWood@aol.com)

and **Dick Kogler '67**

(koglerh@earthlink.net) would encourage their respective classmates to attend.

## ADDRESSES NEEDED

### Don't Be Left Out!

#### Make Sure RSE Has Your Current Email Address

Our database stores email addresses for 60% of our alumni members. Are you one of them? Visit [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org) today to verify your contact information and to ensure you're receiving ALL of RSE's communications, including our monthly e-Letter.

## ON THE WEB

### Learn About Four RSE Members Launching a New Company

Four RSE members have successfully launched a social marketing company called eCollegeTrade (ECT). The company focuses on student and community interaction with an emphasis on real-time communication. Visit [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org) to read the full article on the efforts of **Alex Ma '06**, **Jamie Flores '04**, **Mike Davis '04** and **Dominic Lin '05**.

# OverSEer



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April 2007

## Reunion 2006 at RSE Was Spent Socializing

### Come Enjoy Fellow Alumni and Junior Members at 2007 Reunion on June 9

By Mark A Vince '75

RSE alumni returning to campus for the 2006 RPI Reunion gathered on Saturday afternoon at the RSE Clubhouse. The RSE Trustees hosted an informal reception. RSE Junior Members socialized with alumni and discussed their experiences in the Clubhouse. A good time was had by all.

Alumni in attendance follow.

- **John Schenck '61** (Voorheesville, NY)
- **George Aronstomm '66** (Glastonbury, CT)
- Marilee and **John Biel '66** (Chesterland, OH)
- **Hank Duwe '66** (Springville, NY)
- **Jeff Gorss '66** (Greenfield Center, NY)
- **Edward Larsen '66** (Ann Arbor, MI)
- **Steve Shelley '66** (Spencerport, NY)
- **Robert Larsen '68** (Averill Park, NY)
- **Tom Keating '75** (North Attleboro, MA)
- **Mark Vince '75** (Spring Lake Heights, NJ)

- **Mark Anderson '79** (Niskayuna, NY)

- **Scott MacPherson '82** (Colonie, NY)

The Class of '66 spent a great afternoon reminiscing. Several photos are posted in the Photo Album section of the website, [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org).

**Ed Wood '57** (EdMWood@aol.com) and **Dick Kogler '67** (koglerh@earthlink.net) would encourage their respective classmates to attend. Feel free to contact Ed or Dick regarding your Reunion attendance.

If you attend RPI Reunion 2007, **please plan to visit the Club House on the afternoon of Saturday June 9, 2007**. The House will be open and an informal reception will be held. The current RSE Junior Members will be available and look forward to meeting the RSE Alumni. Plan to spend part of the afternoon reminiscing and relaxing at RSE.

## The Club House is Undergoing Renovations

### Drywells to Alleviate Basement Flooding and Front Door Repairs Are Part of the House Maintenance Project List

By John Freer '98

Work on the Club House is proceeding in several areas. First, work on the House LAN has progressed. A Wiki page is now available for posting many of the operating procedures.

Second, several drywells have been constructed around the House to alleviate flooding in the basement. The Junior Members lent a hand in accomplishing this labor intensive task. The drywells appear to be providing the necessary drainage.

Third, a local architect, Bo Michaels, has been retained to assist in the specification of the more significant repair work to be done at 1501 Sage Avenue. He has prepared a specification for the repair of the front door. This document has been reviewed and we had

a bidders' conference in late March with final bids due April 6th. As works proceeds, be sure to visit the website [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org). I will be posting photos of the progress. **Charlie Adkins '94** is leading this project with assistance from **Scott MacPherson '82**.

*"The Junior Members lent a hand  
in accomplishing this labor  
intensive task."*

Finally, we are in the process of identifying and assessing the next significant repair/upgrade task. The House is 80+ years old so there is not shortage of candidates. I'll be sure to advise the Alumni as we move forward.

## Four Junior Members Benefit from Annual Fundraising Efforts

### Three Academic RPI-RSE Scholarships and the Frank Becker Scholarship

The RSE Foundation is pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2006 RPI-RSE Scholarships:

- **Franklin Wong '09:** Academic Scholarship (two-year award);
- **Mark Radecsky '08:** Academic Scholarship (receives his second year of support); and
- **Daniel Young '08:** Brotherhood Scholarship for service to RSE and RPI, house spirit and leadership.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute administers these scholarships in conjunction with the RSE Foundation. The awardees are Junior Members of RSE, currently enrolled at RPI.

**Rudy Bergfield '49** has been largely responsible for the initiation of the RPI-RSE Foundation Scholarships. He has also been a major contributor and recently agreed to additional donations to the scholarship fund with matching funds from his former employer. Rudy strongly hopes that other alumni will follow his example and support the Junior Members of RSE through generous donations to the RPI-RSE Scholarships. It is Rudy's vision that the RPI-RSE Scholarships

become a major destination for RSE alumni donations to RPI. **Any donations to RPI can be directed to the scholarship fund by simply marking the pledge card "for the RPI-RSE Scholarship Fund."** Funds will be placed in the RPI-RSE Scholarship endowment with proceeds made available yearly to the RSE Foundation for these scholarships.

In addition to the RPI-RSE Scholarships, the RSE Foundation also awards the **Frank Becker Scholarship** to a Junior Member in the third year (junior year) of study. As previously announced, **Autumn Eberhardt '08** received the 2006 award recognized for RSE spirit and membership.

Applications are currently being accepted for the RSE Foundation-administered scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year. We expect to award four more scholarships for the upcoming year.

Once again, RSE alumni can support the RSE scholarships when they donate to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Just assign your RPI donation by writing "RSE Foundation Scholarship" on the memo line of your check.

**Donations to the Frank W. Becker Scholarship can be made directly to the RSE Foundation.** For those not familiar with this scholarship, Frank W. Becker was a member of the class of 1983 who succumbed to cancer less than six months after his delayed graduation in the spring of 1984. Members of Frank's pledge class established this scholarship to remember his courage and character. The history of the Frank Becker scholarship is available at [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org).

### How to Give to the RPI-RSE Foundation Scholarship

#### RPI-RSE Foundation Scholarship

**Check:** Make checks payable to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and write "RSE Foundation Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. Mail to: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 110 8th Street, Gift Processing – Troy Building, Troy, NY 12180.

**Mutual Fund Shares:** Wire transfer to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Account #58L-001003, DTC #443, Pershing & Co., Tax ID 14-1340095 for the RSE Foundation Scholarship Fund.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Richard Picard '64

(3689 Traskwood Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45208; [rpicard@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rpicard@cinci.rr.com)) One of my favorite memories was playing hockey on the front lawn and each evening around 11 p.m. laying down another layer of water. I retired from P&G in 2004 and bought a second home in Sea Pines, Hilton Head, SC. I spend about four months a year there and eight months in Cincinnati. If you are in the Hilton Head or Cincinnati area, give me a call on my cell (513) 260-6187 and maybe we can get together for a drink or some tennis. **Peter "Pete" Kosche '64** visited me in Hilton Head in March 2006 on his way home from Florida. We played golf one time (not my game) and had a few meals and drinks together as we reminisced about the past.

### Where Have You Been?

We need your news! Have you recently gotten married? Had a baby? Become a grandfather? If so, your RSE members want to hear about it!

Log onto the website at [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org) to submit your update, and read up on your old friends.

## HELP US FIND OUR LOST MEMBERS!

### Let Us Know If You Can Locate Them!

We've lost touch with the following RSE members, and need your help to find them. If you know of their current whereabouts, email our alumni relations office at [feedback@affinityconnection.com](mailto:feedback@affinityconnection.com) (include RSE in the subject line).

Joe Dechiaro	Roland Eustace '60	James W. Trufan Jr. '80
Doug Hill	Andrew W. Holroyd-Sills '61	Glenn M. Sylvester '81
Kathayne Trader	Frederick Lehrer '62	Scott Weissenberg '84
Clifford Henry '38	Eduardo Febles '66	Christopher Corkery '85
Robert Jenny '39	William Cable '67	Douglas P. Clark '86
James Mann '40	Richard Galitz '68	Thomas Mclaughlin '86
Harry Meister '44	John Claussen '70	Steven Duym '89
Robert S. Stewart '45	Michael McClintock '70	Thomas Carter '90
Robert Thurston '45	Clifford L. Lloyd '72	Mark Inserra '92
Arnold Zachow '47	Robert Demanko '74	Dan Kostovich '93
Gonzalo R. Arellano '49	Bruce Friedman '76	Gregory Baker '98
David Charters '49	Richard McCormack '77	Dana Asplund '99
Kenyon Sweitzer '50	Stephen Pietraszek '78	Charles Bassett '99
Raymond J. Towner '50	John C. Campanelli '79	Scott Gilman '99
Marino Estrada '53	Richard C. Hetherington '79	Preston Gordon '99
John Warso '55	Steven Trief '79	Richard Czyzyewski '00
Ronald A. Laferriere '59	Selcuk S. Eren '80	Matthew Schumaker '00

### An Engineering Career Worthy of Honor—William A. Davis '50 Receives Posthumous Praise from Rensselaer Society of Engineers

*Quiet, Devoted Family Man is Unlikely Pioneer for World-Changing Structures*

**William A. Davis '50** passed away unexpectedly and suddenly three years ago, on November 3, 2002. He received a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in January 1950 and was a devoted member of the Rensselaer Society of Engineers (RSE). His wife, Ann Marie Davis, states clearly and with much feeling even now, "We love him, miss him and will never forget him. He is in our hearts forever."

The Institute and the Society are proud of his many accomplishments. Davis earned 750 patents throughout his career as a

project manager for Chicago Bridge and Iron Company (CB&I). He was a member of the American Society of Professional Engineers, and was honored as Engineer of the Year in 1969 for his part in the Khazzan Undersea Oil Storage Tanker project in Dubai.

Davis attended RPI with the help of a CB&I scholarship. His father was a CB&I employee, stationed in the South, where Davis was raised. When he came to Troy, NY, he had a strong southern accent that earned him the nickname "Rebel." One of his study room

roommates, **Rudy Bergfield '49**, explains that Davis was teased good-naturedly for this.

Rudy also remembers that, thanks to the soft-spoken Davis, he attended a CB&I recruiting event and was hired by them almost immediately. Rudy moved to Aruba six days after he graduated and began a career that took him around the world. While they did not stay in contact during their careers, they did reconnect after retirement, which is when Rudy became aware of Davis's role in the Khazzan and automatic welding projects. Rudy describes Davis as the unassuming type that would be uncomfortable with any focused publicity. He was shy and very intelligent; he preferred to keep his head in his work and

"give it his all," confirms Ann Marie.

This nose-to-the-grindstone trait of Davis's paid off. In the '50s, he pioneered and developed a method for stress relieving (annealing) field-erected structures, which permitted the use of special materials and thicknesses. This method has been used on hundreds of large field-erected structures up to nuclear containment vessels. He also contributed to the concept and development of a specialized automatic welding machine to weld horizontal joints between vertical plates in oil storage tanks. This patented device became the standard in the industry.

In the '60s, he managed an engineering group that set the engineering standards for worldwide CB&I operation. He also managed a construction engineering group responsible for developing and designing special equipment for worldwide construction, including several derricks and resulting in several patents. Later in the '60s, Davis organized a nuclear quality-control program and organization enabling CB&I to enter into the manufacturing and constructing of nuclear reactors, being only one of three U.S.A. firms with such capability.

Then, he conceived, patented, planned and managed construction of the three Khazzan Undersea Oil Storage Tankers. The first was cited by the National Society of Professional Engineers as "One of the outstanding engineering achievements of the year 1969." He shared this award with the Apollo Moon Project and the Boeing 747, which left him in pretty good company.

Davis semi-retired in 1974 and consulted part-time for CB&I in site surveys and selection for building large offshore structures. These unique pioneering ventures involved structures in the North Sea, Iceberg Alley off the coast of eastern Canada, and in the Arctic.

In the summer of 1949, Davis's fraternity brother, **Sam Rentsch '50** was dating Ann Marie and asked Davis to watch after her while he was gone for the summer. However, Davis and Ann Marie fell in love and were married in February 1950. (Sam was in their wedding.) They were married 52 years at the time of his death.

Davis and Ann Marie raised three girls: Mary Brawn, Linda Lennon and Cathy Hagarty. They settled in Bozeman, MT in the '60s. Davis was always at peace in the wilderness. He loved to ride, hunt, fish, hike and ski. His wife still resides there.



**"Rebel" Davis, on the far right, describes his underwater oil storage system to CBI executives**

*The Khazzan (Arabic for "storage") Dubai tank was the first of its kind and the largest underwater crude oil storage tank in its day. It was 270 feet in diameter at its base and weighed 30 million pounds and could store up to 22 million gallons of oil; it was 15-times larger than the previously installed Gulf of Mexico storage tank. This submerged, bottomless tank eliminated on-shore storage, port facilities and 70 miles of underwater pipeline that were previously necessary to transport and store oil from the offshore fields.*

*It could be bottomless because it worked on the principal of oil being lighter than water. To design this tank and its submersion procedure, Davis and his crew had to take into account the waves, the winds and the effects of saltwater.*

*Placing this tank was no small feat. The largest ocean-going tug boat in the world hauled it 58 miles out to sea after it was manufactured on the Dubai shore. Thirty steel piles were cemented 90 feet into the sea floor to hold it in place. This tank took four years to design and less than an hour to place, and earned Davis one of the "Engineer of the Year" awards from the Society of Professional Engineers.*

*More information is available at [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org).*

## ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER REPORT

### Do You Have Memorabilia From Your Time At RSE and RPI? Help Us Start A Museum In The Card Room!

*Alumni, Let Us Know How We Can Keep You Informed!*

*By Dave Hall '80*

The Society desires to increase the involvement of our alumni, so we'd like to fill you in on what's going on at RSE and RPI. We would like to get your feed back on how to provide you with information in order to increase your participation.

*One more table would give us room for classes from then until the present to carve a design utilizing the brothers' names in each class.*

**The Website:** [www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org)

Our alumni are spread all over the world; the website ([www.rse.org](http://www.rse.org)) is often the only way to remain involved with the activities at 1501. Trustees **Mark Vince '75** and **Bob Bachman '02** are working with our consultants at Affinity Connection to update and expand the content. Junior Members and trustees have made suggestions. However, we need feedback from the alumni. **What can**

**we do with the website? What information, features, etc. will draw your interest? How can we develop communications between alumni, trustees and Junior Members to build a stronger bond?** Please contact me (see below) and I will work with Mark and Bob to include your suggestions.

**RSE Archives and Historical Preservation**

**Rudy Bergfield '49** has made a significant contribution towards another table or tables to match the living room tables that have the class carvings. We are actively investigating the respective costs and feasibility of various options associated with additional tables. Alternatively, we are considering oak slabs, the same size as the tabletops, mounted on the walls of the Card Room. The Card Room would also be outfitted with some glasses cases for the display of RSE memorabilia.

This leads us to the next idea, a museum of RSE history in the card room. If you have anything that could be included and is a piece

of RSE history; or if you have stories, pictures or other memorabilia, please contact me. We would like to have physical memorabilia along with an electronic archive that will store memories of our past.

**Summer Reunions**

The class of '80 has for sometime (since 1990) sponsored a summer reunion in Troy for our class and others (RSE 1975–1985 and other RPI students of the era who were friends of the house). These events generally include a golf tournament, picnic, softball game (in the old days) and usually tie into the races at Saratoga and/or a concert at SPAC. We will do this again in 2010. In the meantime, maybe a class from a different era would like to pick up the idea? For the summer of 2007, maybe '67 or '72 would like to get the group from 1964–1974? Or maybe '87 or '92 want to jump in and go for the 1986–1996 era? We can do a different era each year if we can get a class or group of classes to organize it. And I'd be glad to help.

**Dave Hall**

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[duraslot\\_dave@verizon.net](mailto:duraslot_dave@verizon.net)

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND DONORS!

### Your Support Is Crucial to Maintaining the Society's Integrity

The following members have contributed to the 2006-07 Annual Fund. The list reflects gifts received as of March 12, 2007.

#### Jarrett Society

George J. Achenbach '50  
Joseph S. Champagne P.E. '55  
William D. Lawrence '70  
David C. Youmans '75

#### Lockhart Society

Jose Ricardo Tarajano Sr. '56  
Mike C. Mushala '69

#### Presidents Association

Gerald M. McDonald '57  
Richard B. Smith '79  
Christopher M. Brown '94

#### Pi Eta Society

Henry F. Borges '49  
Donald W. Read '50  
Robert L. Seaman '50  
Roger L. Whiteley '52  
Samuel S. Markowitz '53  
Phil K. Klabunde '57  
Clyde C. Richard '63  
Barton T. Guttag '71  
Wesley K. Lord '72  
Don L. Thoma '83  
Jerry J. Szilagyi '84  
Kai E. Hansen '92  
Eric C. Stoever '04

#### 1866 Club

Harry S. Shorey '41  
Stephen Petrovits '43  
Harry G. Meister '44  
James Harding '45  
Daniel J. Carnese '47  
Richard J. Zeh '47  
William J. Dugan '49  
Edward C. Geissler Jr. '52  
George L. Lehmborg '53  
Richard E. Singer '56  
Bruce N. Thomson '56  
Richard N. Bohlin '60  
Eugene F. Young '61  
Richard U. Barkstrom '63  
Richard A. Picard '64  
Lombard John Pozzi '67  
Robert E. Larsen '68  
Robert M. Stevens '69  
Harry William Palmer Jr. '70  
Hugh W. Miller Jr. '72  
David P. Menzer '75  
David R. Hall '80

Leon Scott Rice '80  
Thomas P. Wacker '81  
Ted G. Rawson IV '86  
Richard DeSalvo Jr. '89  
Brian C. Hartman '91  
Eric M. John '95  
Gregory J. Aymes '96

#### Regular Alumni Membership

Robert D. Towne '38  
Charles L. Gilmore '42  
Donald S. McDowell '50  
James L. Derby Jr. '53  
Herbert L. Thal Jr. '53  
Richard T. Gedney '58  
Douglas J. Bowden '59  
James L. Cuddihee '65  
Thomas A. Gilbert '70  
Joseph Zahka '70  
Timothy McKee '71  
Robert A. Mooney, Ph.D. '71  
Timothy Levandowski '80  
George A. Chrisbacher '89