Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s graduate engineering programs are ranked among the best in the nation in the 2009 U.S. News & World Report guide to “America’s Best Graduate Schools,” that hit newsstands on April 1 (www.usnews.com).

“We are proud to be counted among the nation’s most elite universities,” said Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson. “But the true measure of our success is reflected in the caliber of students who have chosen to come to Rensselaer and in the accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, and staff who are truly changing the world.”

The Graduate School of Engineering is ranked 32nd in the nation, up from 36th the previous year. Three engineering programs are ranked among the top 20 (nuclear engineering, aerospace engineering, and materials science and engineering), and nine of Rensselaer’s 11 engineering programs are ranked among the top 30 in the country. Two programs saw their rankings improve from the previous year.

Graduate engineering degree programs offered by Rensselaer at Hartford include Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer and Systems Engineering, and Engineering Science. Graduate certificate program options include Control Systems and High Temperature Materials.

ISP to Set Sail in June

Rensselaer’s inaugural International Scholars Program (ISP) will launch on June 8 as the class sets off on its transatlantic journey aboard Cunard’s Queen Mary 2 to Europe. Students will begin their training and education on the ship as they embark on an exciting 10-week program that aims to provide “a passport to a better career.” The Rensselaer ISP will provide college graduates with a global learning experience in Europe and Asia and an accelerated career-building opportunity as they make the transition from college to the working world. Upon completion of the program, students will have earned 40 percent of the requirements toward a Rensselaer master’s degree in Management or Information Technology.

Participants in the Enterprise Management track will travel to Barcelona, Spain, and Shanghai, China; while students in the Information Technology track will travel to Rome, Italy, and Warsaw, Poland. A Culminating Experience will be a requirement of both areas of study. This value-added project will span 10 weeks and be integrated into the curriculum. Students will be working with key industry leaders, their peers, and Rensselaer faculty to develop interdisciplinary solutions to complex problems. Clinical Associate Professor Randall G. Peteros, J.D., of the Lally School of Management and Technology, is the faculty coordinator for the Enterprise Management path; while Houman Younessi, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Academic Programs and Clinical Professor in the Department of Engineering and Science, will serve as the faculty coordinator for the Information Technology track.

The ISP combines Rensselaer’s academic...
New Executive Education Program: MS-MBA Modernization

The Hartford Department of the Lally School of Management and Technology has unveiled a new program specifically designed for experienced business leaders and managers who earned their M.B.A. or M.S. in Management degrees in 2000 or earlier. The weekend education series enables seasoned management professionals to reinvigorate their advanced business degrees with modern business knowledge and best practices that will drive organizational change, stimulate innovation, and enhance their abilities to compete in the current global business community.

The MS-MBA Modernization seminar will be delivered in ten half-day sessions in a five-day program, covering topics focused on three specific content areas: Strategy and Policy, Technology, and Operations. The program is taught by a consortium of faculty practitioners, Rensselaer researchers, and industry experts. The seminar provides the opportunity to learn alongside experienced peers and to network with business colleagues.

The next series is scheduled to run May 19-23. Complete details and registration information is available at: www.ewp.rpi.edu/mod. To learn more about the MS-MBA Modernization program, please contact a program manager at (800) 306-7778 or mod@ewp.rpi.edu.

Professor Stodder Commissioned to Write Report on Property Taxes

James P. Stodder, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Lally School of Management and Technology, was commissioned to write a report by Council 4 the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for a study of Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell’s proposed cap on Connecticut’s property taxes. The study finds that Governor Rell’s property tax cap proposal will worsen inequities in the state’s economy, and recommends a series of fair and innovative solutions for property tax reform. Dr. Stodder authored the 40-page report, “Connecticut’s Property Taxes: Asking the Right Questions,” which Council 4 released on February 14 at a press conference at the State Capitol. Professor Stodder and Greenwich businessman Ned Lamont joined Council 4 Executive Director Sal Luciano in announcing the report.

Both Stodder and Lamont, who wrote the introduction to Stodder’s report, predicted that a property tax cap would lead to greater educational funding inequities and increased sprawl. To read Dr. Stodder’s full report, please see: www.council4.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/stodder-study.htm. AFSCME, with 1.5 million members, is one of America’s largest unions. Council 4 AFSCME represents 35,000 state, municipal and private sector workers. With over 400 affiliated local unions, Council 4 represents public employees who work for 153 of Connecticut’s 169 municipalities.

Professor Stodder summarized the report for an opinion piece published in the Hartford Courant on February 6, 2008, entitled, “Property Tax Cap Would Perpetuate Inequalities.” To read his commentary, check out: www.conr.am/news/opinion/editorials/hc-stodder0206.artfeb06,0,7966939.story. In addition, Dr. Stodder was quoted in five daily newspapers in Connecticut regarding the property tax cap proposal and the report, including: The Hour, The Middletown Press, the New Britain Herald, the Norwich Bulletin, and The Register Citizen.

Dr. Stodder scored yet another media hit when he participated in an interview by Steve Kotchko on WTIC NewsTalk 1080 AM Radio during the morning news segment on February 15, 2008. Professor Stodder (www.ewp.rpi.edu/hartford/~stodder) is often sought out by the media as an expert in economics, and is included in the Rensselaer Faculty Experts Directory.

Professor Gutierrez-Miravete Featured in COMSOL News

Ernesto Gutierrez-Miravete, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Engineering and Science, was interviewed for an article about the use of COMSOL in the classroom at Rensselaer at Hartford, in the 2008 issue of COMSOL News: A Technical Computing Magazine. Professor Gutierrez-Miravete uses COMSOL Multiphysics as an aid in teaching multiphysics phenomena and the practical applications of partial differential equations (PDEs) to his engineering students. According to Dr. Gutierrez-Miravete, “Most students find COMSOL easy to learn; they also like to be able to formulate their models using the language of differential equations. Several of my students are now using COMSOL to create models of real-world systems they work with on a daily basis.” To read the article, visit the COMSOL Web site at: www.comsol.com/shared/pdf/comsol_news_2008.pdf.
Alumni News

1970s
Lawrence A. Cox ('73 M.S. Mechanical Engineering) has joined the volunteer board of directors of New Neighborhoods, Inc., in Stamford, Fairfield County’s oldest non-profit housing developer and manager. Cox is a special counsel with Kelley, Drye, Warren, LLP, representing institutional investors, developers, corporate owners and borrowers, and real estate investment advisers.

John “Jack” S. Keenan ('73 M.S. Management) has been elected Chief Operating Officer of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Previously, he was Senior Vice President of Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer. In his new role, Keenan will lead and manage the utility’s day-to-day operations.

1980s
John P. Casey ('81 M.B.A.), President, General Dynamics Electric Boat, was the recipient of the 2007 William Crawford Distinguished Service Award, a yearly honor bestowed to an outstanding member of the community who has contributed not only to the quality of life in the region, but also to his neighbors. He received the award in a ceremony on November 15 hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

Philip J. McCabe ('86 M.S. Management) was promoted to Vice President for Finance at Sacred Heart University. Prior to joining Sacred Heart in 2000, he worked in the insurance and financial services industry for 23 years.

1990s
Karen J. Gotette ('96 M.B.A.) has been appointed Assistant Vice President of Planning and Business Development at MidState Medical Center. She is responsible for the hospital’s strategic and facility planning, development of new programs and services, and certificate of need submissions.

Norma C. Eccellente ('97 M.S. Management) has joined People’s United Bank as Vice President, Small Business Lending Department. She has been involved in banking since the mid-1980’s and her background includes international banking, commercial credit, and loan review. Eccellente has concentrated on small business banking since 1996.

Chandler J. Howard ('97 M.S. Management), President and CEO, Liberty Bank, received the 2007 Community Service Award from the United Way of the Capital Area on March 19. The award is the highest honor bestowed on a volunteer by United Way through his overall community service and his specific contributions through United Way—including his leadership of the 2002 Community Campaign.

2000s
Deborah “Deb” L. Torgersen ('05 M.B.A.) was profiled in the January 2008 edition of Avon Life about her franchise, Let’s Eat!, a gourmet meal preparation shop, part of the Let’s Eat Dinner, Inc., chain. Torgersen and her husband, Eric, found the idea in Entrepreneur magazine.

RAA Hartford Chapter Prepares for Seventh Annual Career Night

The Rensselaer Alumni Association (RAA) Hartford Chapter will hold its 7th Annual Career Night on June 18, 2008. With the changing landscape in career orientation moving toward increased small entrepreneurial ventures and new business start-ups, the program will host an expert panel that will provide insight into career aspects in today’s marketplace.

The panel will not only address the start-up and entrepreneurial nature of today’s market, but also the career positioning that can be achieved. Each panelist will have an opportunity to present their key considerations relative to the basic focus of the evening in 10-minute intervals. This will be followed by a Q & A session, lasting approximately 30 minutes. The remainder of the evening will be open-ended at the discretion of the panelists and attendees in order to allow more personal exchanges and networking. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a light dinner. The formal program will begin at 6 p.m. and will end at approximately 8:30 p.m. Registration and panelist information is on the Web at: www.alumni.rpi.edu/involved/chapters/hartford.html#career.

In Memoriam

Alumni
Robert E. Sullivan ('63 M.S. Engineering Science) of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, died on March 9. He retired from the Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies Corporation. While employed he was honored with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Silver Award for engineering design and technical superiority.

James H. Thach III ('70 M.S. Management) of Lyme, died on February 2. He served in the Army and was also a Navy midshipman. Thach was employed at Sikorsky Aircraft for 35 years, where he was Director of Search and Rescue Requirements, working primarily on Coast Guard projects.

Timothy Francis Brodeur ('91 M.B.A.) of Old Saybrook, died on January 13. He was a Senior Manager at the Portfolio Decision Analysis Group. Previously, Brodeur was employed by Pfizer Inc., where he worked in research and development finance for nine years.

Robert W. Vigue, Jr., ('99 M.S. Management) of Agawam, Massachusetts, died on March 18. He was employed at Cigna Insurance in Bloomfield, and formerly at Aetna Insurance in Hartford. Vigue had also worked for Otis Elevator.

Staff
Robert Douglas Lathrop of Hartford, died on April 24. Lathrop was a Parking Attendant in the Operations and Facilities Department at Rensselaer at Hartford since 2000. He also maintained a part-time weekend security position with First Security at the Hartford campus. Lathrop began patrolling the grounds of Rensselaer as a part-time guard in 1991 and became the supervisor in 1993. Prior to coming to Rensselaer, Mr. Lathrop had retired after 30 years as a technical illustrator with Pratt & Whitney.

Student
Kevin Fitzgerald Ryan of East Granby, died on February 19. He was working toward an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Rensselaer. Ryan was a Senior Engineer with Hamilton Sundstrand.
Student Winners x 2…

Graduating Student Wins First Place at AIAA Region I-NE Student Conference

Jessica Albernaz is a current Rensselaer student scheduled to graduate this May with an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree. She submitted an 11-page paper entitled, “Bending Analysis of Laminated Composite Sandwich Plates Reinforced with Carbon Nanotube Forests,” to the 2008 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Region I-Northeast (NE) Student Paper Conference. The paper is based on her master’s thesis under the direction of Clinical Associate Professors Brice N. Cassenti, Ph.D., and Ernesto Gutierrez-Miravete, Ph.D., of the Department of Engineering and Science. She attended the conference held at Clarkson University, April 4-6, and gave a presentation based on her paper. Albernaz won first place in the Master’s level and earned a cash prize of $500. In addition, she has been invited to present at the International AIAA Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, in January 2009. At the International AIAA Conference, she will be representing AIAA Region I-NE and competing, again, for a cash prize.

“I am honored to have received this award and have found my education at Rensselaer through the EWP [Education for Working Professionals] program to be quite a rewarding experience,” said Albernaz. “The support and individual attention I received from my advisor while working on my thesis was exceptional, and enabled me to integrate my career with an enriching educational experience. Through my work on my thesis I discovered a renewed passion for aircraft and engine material design, particularly the rigor involved in creating newer, ever lighter materials still capable of withstanding the demands of flight vehicles.”

Albernaz is a Powerplant Performance Monitoring Engineer at Pratt & Whitney. She monitors in-flight engine performance for operating engines used by commercial airline customers. She receives and analyzes daily performance data for all flights using these engines, then provides alerts, repair recommendations, and applicable improvements to ensure optimal engine performance.

Student Satisfaction Survey Winner Announced

Timothy Demers of West Haven, who is working toward a Master of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering, won the $250 Amazon.com gift certificate for participating in the online 2008 Student Satisfaction Survey sponsored by the Office of Student Services. Demers is currently a Senior Design Engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, where he is the lead Rotor System design engineer on the S-92 helicopter. His job responsibilities include customer, production, and aftermarket support, as well as implementing and managing design improvements. Demers used the gift certificate to purchase a racquetball racket as well as cycling gear and parts.

Rensselaer at Hartford Employees Form New Book Club

Several members of the faculty and staff at Rensselaer at Hartford have formed a new book club that meets every two weeks in the Cole Library. So far, the club has read: The Nanny Diaries; The Golden Compass; Eat, Pray and Love; The Cowboy and His Elephant; and is currently reading The Memory Keeper’s Daughter. The initial idea for the book club came from Rebecca Danchak (’78 M.S. Management), Acting Associate Dean for Student Services, who approached Carol Flynn, Acquisitions/ILL Librarian, the Cole Library, in September 2007 about starting a book club. Books are selected for reading by members of the club, who encourage a wide range of topics for consideration and diverse opinions during book discussions. The club has been very successful and welcomes new members without any commitment. With a never-ending selection of outstanding books to read, the book club should be going strong for a long time.

EWP Troy Staff News

Kim Scalzo, Director of Outreach Programs; Michael Gunther, Program Manager for Recruitment; and Marie-Pierre Huguet, Course Developer; all from Education for Working Professionals (EWP) at the Troy campus, participated in the 2008 American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration (CIEC) held February 13-15 in New Orleans. The theme for this year’s conference was “Securing Our Engineering Future.” Scalzo served as the Program Chair for the Continuing Professional Development Division (CPD), Gunther was a moderator at the conference, and Huguet gave a presentation entitled “Selection and Implementation of Effective Tools and Technologies for Distance Learning.” To read more about the conference, please see: www.asee.org/conferences/ciec/2008/index.cfm.
The Enrollment Management department is pleased to announce that Jonathan Judd was named Program Manager; Elaine Papanic, formerly, Program Specialist, Rensselaer’s Centers for Professional Development, was appointed Program Administrator; and Christa A. Sterling (’95 M.B.A.) was promoted to Senior Program Manager. The Enrollment Management Team is always available to prospective students, including cohort candidates, in person, by phone, fax, e-mail, or through online sessions. For more information about Rensselaer’s graduate programs, please contact a member of the team today!

ISP Sets Sail
Continued from page 1

rigor with the global industry exposure of an international internship to provide an international experience introducing the college graduate to the global stage. An exciting feature of the program will include corporate site visits with a series of talks by guest speakers whose topics will be of interest to the students. Through four graduate courses, students will complete individual and team-based projects, will be introduced to management of multinational corporations, and will be immersed in influential cultures. The ISP curriculum will emphasize global and international subjects encompassing trade, innovation, security, and competitiveness.

After this summer, ISP students will have established pathways to degree completion in areas including: M.S. Computer Science, M.S. Information Technology, M.S. Management, M.B.A., and Ph.D. To learn more about ISP, visit: www.ewp.rpi.edu/isp.

IPM Black Belts

Rensselaer students in the Industrial Process Management (IPM) cohort program received their Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certificates in a ceremony held on February 12 at the Hartford campus. Students in the IPM cohort participate in a unique educational program that enables engineers to simultaneously earn the certification along with a Rensselaer M.S. in Engineering Science. The goal of this program is to teach engineers to use these statistical and probabilistic tools to enhance and improve the quality of products and services. A work-related engineering project is an integral component of the program.

Pictured here are students who work for Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky Aircraft divisions of United Technologies Corporation (UTC) who are enrolled in the IPM cohort through Rensselaer’s Education for Working Professionals (EWP) program.

Enrollment Management Team Continues to Grow

The Enrollment Management department pictured here (left to right): Christa A. Sterling; Robert F. Sheftel, Program Manager; Kristin E. Galligan (’02 M.S. Management), Director, Enrollment Management and Marketing; Jonathan Judd; and Elaine Papanic.

Commencement 2008

Rensselaer at Hartford will hold Commencement Exercises on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Hartford campus. David P. Hess (’79 B.S. Electrical Engineering, ’86 M.S. Electrical Engineering), President, Hamilton Sundstrand, will deliver the commencement address. Rensselaer President Shirley Ann Jackson will preside over the ceremony. If you are preparing to graduate from Rensselaer’s Hartford Campus, please visit the Hartford Campus Commencement Web site at: www.ewp.rpi.edu/hartford/registrar/commencement2008/index.html.
Rensselaer’s Hartford Campus
275 Windsor Street
Hartford, CT 06120-2991

Upcoming Connecticut Quality Council (CQC) Workshops

- Finding Root Cause – June 12
- Lean Project Management – June 26
- Mistake Proofing – August 19
- Process Downtime Reduction – September 18

All CQC workshops will be held at Rensselaer’s Hartford Campus. Discounted workshop fees are available to CQC members. CQC workshops are offered in the areas of: Performance Management, Process Improvement, Tools and Techniques, Mini-Programs, Software Quality Assurance, and Special Programs. For more information and/or to register for a program, please call (860) 548-2488, e-mail: cqc-info@ewp.rpi.edu, or visit the Web at: www.ctqualitycouncil.org.

President Jackson on the “Charlie Rose Science Series” Show

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was a guest on the Charlie Rose PBS television show on Monday, April 7th, participating in a roundtable discussion on “The Imperative and Promise of Science.”

The panel explored the roles of science in our society and its impact on our lives. The roundtable discussion addressed the potential crisis in science education, scientific research and innovation, and the role science should play in the 2008 Presidential Election. “Throughout our science series, I hope we have stimulated our audience’s curiosity about science and communicated an understanding of how dramatic our age of discovery is,” said Charlie Rose. “Science affects nearly every aspect of our lives. It is a tool for solving problems, both large and small, that enriches our society through discovery and understanding.” To watch a video of the show online, go to: www.charlierose.com/shows/2008/04/07/1/charlie-rose-science-series-the-imperative-of-science.