

# This Year at **SCTE**

21-JUNE-2011  
Special Edition

Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship

## Severino Interest Group

SCTE hosted another exciting year of [Severino Interest Group](#) breakfast meetings, the perfect forums for networking and conversation around relevant topics and speakers.

- **"Introducing Recent Startups: Tech Valley's Newest Businesses"** Jon Ashdown, CEO, Wavefront Technologies Inc; Todd Drowlette, Founder, Move That Block; Roshan Jachuck, Founder, President & CTO, R3Fusion



Remy Arteaga '06 circled by MBA students eager to learn of his success.



- **"Entrepreneurship and the Arts: Developing Sustainable Revenue Models"** Philip Morris, CEO, Proctor's Theater
- **"Capital Region Incubators Converge"** Richard Frederick, Incubator Director, Rensselaer; Thomas Keane PhD, Director, Sage Colleges Incubator for New Ventures in Emerging Sciences and Technologies; Michael Hickey, Executive in Residence, Siena College; Donald Siegel, Dean, School of Business, University at Albany; Michael Visk, Marketing Research Analyst/Business Development, Union Graduate College Innogen Business Excelerator
- **"How Do I Decide?"** David Gibson, CEO and President, X-Ray Optical Systems Inc.
- **"Patient Capital for an Impatient World"** Jacqueline Novogratz, Founder and CEO, Accumen Fund
- **"Confessions of an Entrepreneur"** Remy Arteaga '06, CEO, DualAlign LLC

## Rensselaer Entrepreneur Internship Program

The Severino Center's [Rensselaer Entrepreneur Internship Program \(REIP\)](#) successfully placed 4 MBA students with 4 different start-up companies. They will participate in a 10-week summer Co-Op performing various tasks in the entrepreneurial environment of a young company. The REIP interns will gain firsthand experience in working with management challenges typically faced by start-ups. In turn, participating companies gain the help of top-notch students, by providing supplemental salary for the period of the internship, on projects that otherwise may not have been undertaken.

## Entrepreneur in Residence

The Center's Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR), Richard Frederick, advised more than 24 unique student entrepreneurs/teams in need of assistance developing their innovations. His extensive knowledge in launching entrepreneurial ventures has been, and will continue to be (as EVE Director), invaluable to our students.

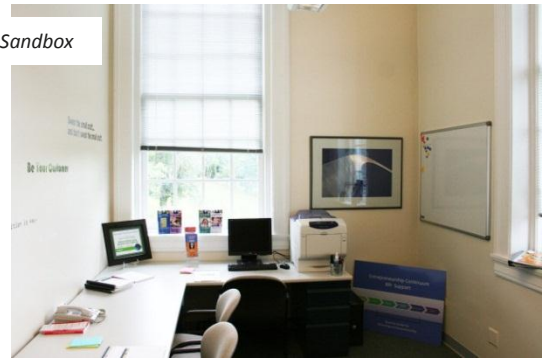
Richard Frederick



# Student Sandbox

Since the launch of the [EVE](#) program, student buzz has increased regarding campus entrepreneurship, which has resulted in an increase in student traffic in the Center's [Student Sandbox](#). The Sandbox has been used for [EIR](#)-Student meetings, [E\\*ship Club](#) officer meetings, student team meetings and general innovation space for students to work.

The Student Sandbox



## Entrepreneur of the Year



President Jackson; EOY Winner, Jacqueline Novogratz; Acting Dean, Iftekhar Hasan

The 2010 [Entrepreneur of the Year](#) (EOY), [Jacqueline Novogratz](#), Founder and CEO of Acumen Fund shared her take on the campus motto "Why Not Change The World"™ when she addressed the crowd at the EOY Celebration on December 1. In anticipation of her arrival, several students, faculty, staff members, as well as alumni and friends of Rensselaer joined together in an informal book club setting to discuss Ms. Novogratz's bestselling book, *The Blue Sweater*. The 2-day celebration was deemed a success with several new campus collaborations emerging from the planning efforts involved in hosting Ms. Novogratz.

## Business Plan Competitions

[Business plan competitions](#) play a role in any student entrepreneur's journey. This year, the Center helped prepare teams to compete in competitions such as the [Loyola University Business Plan Competition](#), the McGinnis Venture

Competition at Carnegie Mellon and the [NYS Business Plan Competition](#). Industry Industry, Venture Capitalist and mentor connections were made and Rensselaer teams won prizes totaling \$21,500 to further advance their innovations.

Professor O'Connor celebrating MICROrganics Technologies' \$10K win at the NYS Business Plan Competition in April.



## A Year for Innovation

This year has been one of great advancement in the development and strengthening of the Innovation culture and infrastructure at RPI. Laban Coblenz, Chief of Staff to President Jackson and Associate VP for Policy and Planning initiated RPI's first Innovation Council. [Professor Gina O'Connor](#) represents the Lally School's [Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship](#) on that council. In addition

to the Severino Center, the Council is comprised of leaders of RPI's Incubation program, [Technology Park](#), [Office of Technology Commercialization](#), [Office of Research](#), [Government and Community Relations](#) and [Vice Provost for Entrepreneurship](#).

Together this group represents much of Rensselaer's [Emerging Ventures Ecosystem](#) (EVE), a new initiative designed to ensure that all of the elements of RPI's innovation system are linked and work collaboratively. The Innovation Council meets bi-weekly to discuss new businesses that are emerging from the faculty and students, new incubator companies, and larger initiatives associated with regional and global economic development. The Council and the EVE program have already succeeded in engineering several new processes to help ease the process of technology commercialization and new venture creation for students, faculty and alumni. Very exciting times!

[Read more in Technology Transfer Tactics](#).

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Cheers to another great year.

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