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The Poly unveils Person of the Year nominees

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Zane Van Dusen:

Compassion and devotion are important qualities for the Poly Person of the Year, and Zane Van Dusen is one of the most dedicated musicians around campus. A self-proclaimed enthusiast, Van Dusen is a rocker with an infectious personality—a key asset for Ground Zero business. He has the ability to not only get people involved with projects but also to see his vision of how a project should turn out.

Van Dusen is the poster child for Ground Zero and what it aims to achieve. This year in particular, he was the activities chair in charge of booking bands and informing the public about upcoming shows. In the spring semester alone, he set up 13 concerts, seven open mic nights, a jam session, and a talent show. He and his friends also set up 10 concerts during GM Week, referred to as the "EMUCK Initiative." The shows were performed in various weird places around campus, including laundry rooms and parking lots. Van Dusen has also been elected next year's Ground Zero president, which will keep him busy with the all-around running of the program.

When he's not living in the Nugent Hall Basement, Van Dusen is probably practicing or performing with one of his bands. The first band he formed at Rensselaer was People on Top of the Statue of Liberty and They are Threatening to Jump. He described it as a bizarre free jazz group, with Van Dusen playing keyboard and guitar and his friend reading poetry. It evolved into an Indie rock band, and they eventually performed at UPAC's Battle of the Bands. His more well-known band endeavor is the Face Stabbers—more on the punk rock side. He explained it as more intense with louder drums and better guitar riffs. Hot Gurl Party, a noisy dance music, is another band he is involved with, and it just recorded an album with Jason Martin at 51 3rd

Street, downtown. His final project is a solo venture combining technology and rock without sounding like experimental arts.

On the whole, Van Dusen is one busy musician just trying to get people involved. He believes in Ground Zero and what it aims to achieve by keeping it student-run. Through these opportunities he has made friends from around the country, and he does everything possible to make visiting bands feel comfortable and welcomed. When asked how he has time for anything else, he replied, "That's what I do, and that's what I'm proud of." Who needs free time when they are doing what they love?

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