

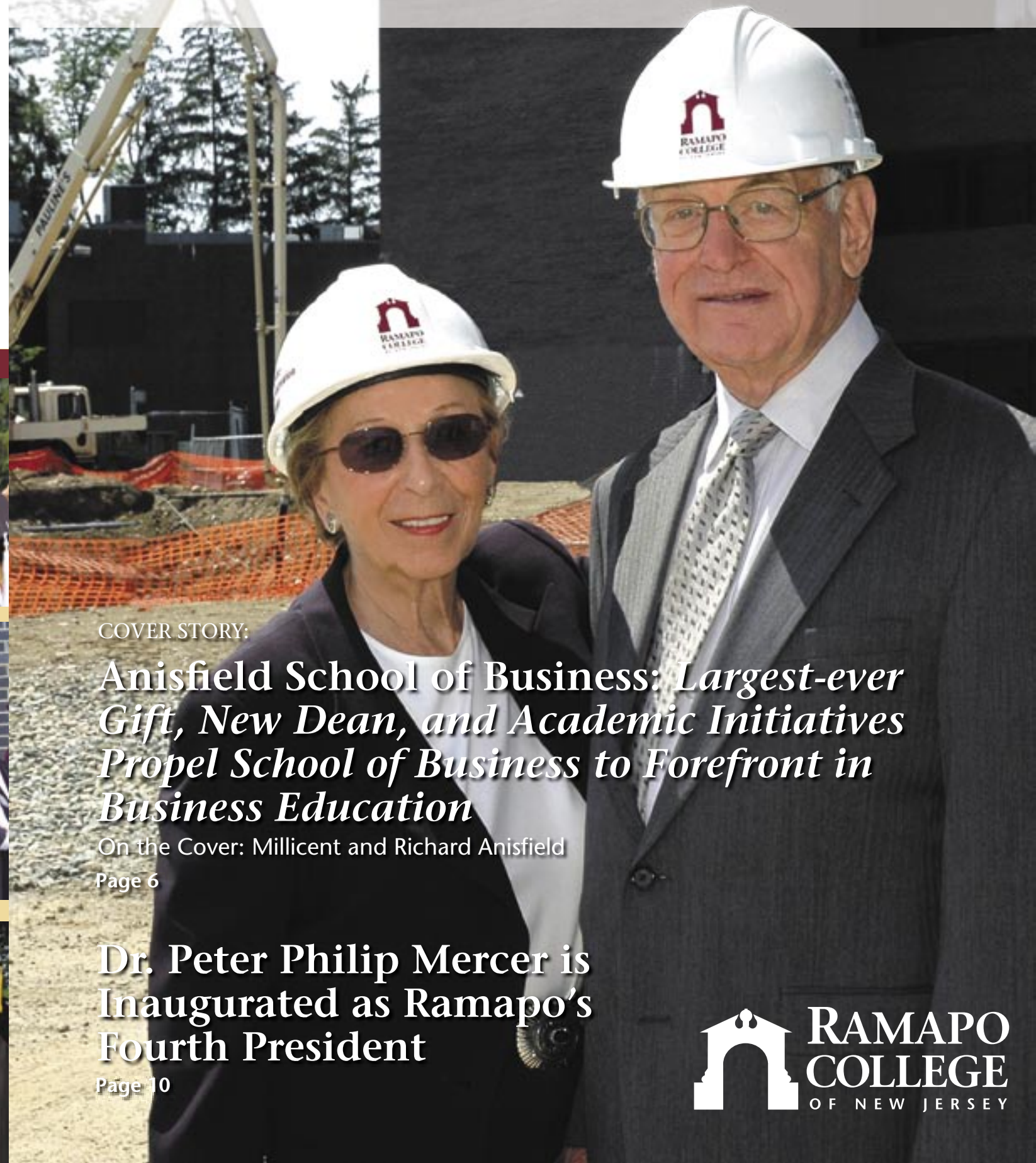
Dr. Fred Jacobs Pays Tribute to the Class of 2006

"You will always remember this day...graduation is a turning point in your life. What you have learned here—the intellect you have sharpened—the moral code you have developed...is your foundation for the future."

Addressing Ramapo's 1,308 graduates, Dr. Fred M. Jacobs, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, encouraged graduates to continue to build for their future by continuing to enhance what they learned at Ramapo.

Dr. Peter Mercer, Ramapo's fourth president, congratulated graduating students on their many achievements and extended his "very best wishes" at the May 25, 2006 Commencement.

(1) Meredith Cimmino, Daniel Muniz, Dorian Walker, and Stephanie Gambino are part of the first class to graduate from Ramapo in the Joint Bachelor of Biology/Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. Following three years at Ramapo, students continue at UMDNJ, earning their bachelor's degree (from Ramapo) after the fourth year, and their doctorate (from UMDNJ) after the sixth year.



COVER STORY:

Anisfield School of Business: Largest-ever Gift, New Dean, and Academic Initiatives Propel School of Business to Forefront in Business Education

On the Cover: Millicent and Richard Anisfield
Page 6

Dr. Peter Philip Mercer is Inaugurated as Ramapo's Fourth President

Page 10

Students Excel at Summer Endeavors

A number of students spent their summer breaks pursuing prestigious research and internship opportunities here and abroad.



Vanessa Faxas



Nitika Paudel



Gadareth Higgs



Ravneet Nagi



Marlie Massena



Stacey Lococo

Students Further Their Education Through Research and Work During Summer Break.

A sampling of their endeavors:

Ravneet Nagi (*Theoretical and Applied Science*) conducted colon cancer research in the Undergraduate Student Scholars Program in the NIH Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nitika Paudel (*Theoretical and Applied Science*) attended a summer research program at the Mayo Clinic. Another TAS student, Sophie Okolo, performed research at the Duquesne University Undergraduate Research Program.

Vanessa Faxas and Stacey Lococo (both *Social Science and Human Services*) were named 2006 Wachovia Bank/NJDCA Housing Scholars. Faxas interned at the Elizabeth Development Company in Elizabeth, NJ, and Lococo worked at United Way of Morris County. The program, a partnership between Wachovia Bank, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, encourages the creation of affordable housing in the state.

Anisfield School of Business students Ryan Babiak, Paul Gadian, Christine Gray, and Jennifer Smith completed a co-op education program with Ernst and Young, while Christian Moran (*Anisfield School of Business*) completed a co-op education program at Maersk Corporate Headquarters.

Ivan Ivanov (*Anisfield School of Business*) worked as a research analyst on projects modeling financial and economic cycles for Dr. Jason Hecht and Dr. Eric Haye, professors in the school. Ivanov presented a paper, co-authored with Hecht, at the Money, Macro and Finance Research Group 38th Annual Conference at the University of York in England. Another ASB student, Bak Magdalena, completed a co-op program at Wachovia Securities.

Brian Nathanson (*Anisfield School of Business*) was a human resources intern at The New York Mercantile Exchange.

Siquina Anthony (*American and International Studies*) worked in Venezuela for EIS Energy Company as an international co-op student. Dimo Dimitrov (*Anisfield School of Business*) worked as an actuarial summer intern at the Insurance Services Office, Inc., in Jersey City.

Harrison Gilbert (*American and International Studies*) interned with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. Gilbert assisted in rezoning parts of the city using digital mapping software designed for urban planning purposes.

Gadareth Higgs (*Theoretical and Applied Science*) attended the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Marlie Massena (*Contemporary Arts*) spent the summer at the University at Lille in France updating a Web site, creating programs, welcoming artists, and publicizing Les Tres Riches Heures de l'Orgue en Berry, a festival featuring organists.

RAMAPO MAGAZINE

Winter 2007

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

COLLEGE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Peter P. Mercer, Ph.D.

President

Beth E. Barnett, Ed.D.

Provost

Pamela M. Bischoff, Ed.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs

Cathleen Davey

Vice President for Institutional

Advancement

Dorothy Echols Tobe, Ph.D.

Chief Planning Officer

BOARD CHAIRS

Thomas A. Zelante, Esq.

Board of Trustees

Thomas O. McGurn

Board of Governors

Lisa A. Ryan

Alumni Association

Francis J. Rodriguez

Friends of Ramapo College of New Jersey

RAMAPO MAGAZINE STAFF

Cathleen Davey

Editor-in-Chief

Bonnie D. Franklin

Executive Editor

Mary Cicitta

Managing Editor

Rosa Diaz-Mulryan

Editor

Cynthia Burns

News Editor

Kathleen Austin

Foundation Editor

Rachel McCann

Sports Editor

Carolyn Herring

Staff Photographer

Design:

the bynegroup / thebynegroup.com

Information contained in this magazine can be made available upon request in alternate media. Requests should be directed to 201.684.7611.

Alumni contact and change of address:

Purvi Parekh at 201.684.7115

or purvi@ramapo.edu

Student Affairs contact:

Pam Bischoff at 201.684.7457

or pbischof@ramapo.edu

Ramapo Magazine is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications.



505 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430-1680

Visit our Web site at www.ramapo.edu

COVER STORY



Richard and Millicent Anisfield announce their gift of \$2.5 million to establish the Anisfield School of Business.

2 COLLEGE NEWS

4 FACULTY NEWS

6 COVER STORY:
Anisfield School of Business:
Largest-ever Gift, New Dean, and
Academic Initiatives Propel School
of Business to Forefront in Business
Education

10 DR. PETER PHILIP MERCER IS
INAUGURATED AS RAMAPO'S
FOURTH PRESIDENT

14 FOUNDATION NEWS



Robert A. Scott, president emeritus of Ramapo College; President Peter P. Mercer; Alice Chandler, former interim president; and George T. Potter, founding president of Ramapo College at the 2006 Inaugural Ceremony.

16 GRANT NEWS

17 ALUMNI NEWS

18 CLASS NOTES

22 FRIENDS OF RAMAPO

23 COURTS AND FIELDS

24 RAMAPO
REFLECTIONS

25 SPOTLIGHT:
ALTERNATIVE SPRING
BREAK PROGRAMS

COLLEGE NEWS



Dr. Beth E. Barnett, Provost

Dr. Beth E. Barnett Appointed Provost

President Peter Mercer announced the appointment of Dr. Beth E. Barnett as provost effective July 1. Barnett most recently held the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. Among her accomplishments at Scranton, Barnett provided oversight for the development of the Lehey Community Health Center, developed to provide health services to underserved populations within the university's 10-county service region; expanded the Office for International Initiatives and Scholars, leading to increased study-abroad participation and increased scholarly activities surrounding global issues; supervised the Fellowships Office and supported initiatives to increase medical school acceptances; and expanded faculty development opportunities to include grants for interdisciplin-

ary, international, mentoring, applied learning, and education for justice initiatives.

"Dr. Barnett brings to Ramapo College a range of experience and accomplishments that will complement and augment the mission of the College," noted Dr. Mercer.

Prior to her position at The University of Scranton, she served as dean of the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies at Salisbury University in Maryland; dean of the School of Education and Human Services and graduate program coordinator for counseling at Manhattan College in New York City; and coordinator of the master's program in motor development at Columbia University in New York City.

Dr. Barnett received a doctor of education degree, a master of education degree, and a master of arts, all from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree from the University System of Pennsylvania. Most of her published articles have been devoted to issues concerning childhood development, with an emphasis on language skills and motor development.

Unsung Heroes Honored With Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference

Through a chance encounter with a victim of domestic abuse, Sa'idah Sharif of Roselle experienced a personal call to help Muslim victims of domestic violence, drawing on

her knowledge of Islamic culture to found the state's first support service for members of the Islamic community. For her work as director of Baitul Hemayah (Arabic for "House of Protection"), Ms. Sharif was awarded the 2006 Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference and the top award of \$50,000. Since it was founded, Baitul Hemayah has provided referrals and counseling to more than 200 women. "With a building," she said, "I'll never have to turn anyone away."

The \$35,000 award was given to Father Ronald Stanley of Midland Park, a Catholic campus chaplain and director of campus ministries for Ramapo College who, for the last 30 years, has traveled to a small village in the remote mountains of the Dominican Republic to help build a stronger community. For the last decade, he has enlisted the aid of college students who travel with him and live among the poor farming families as they work to bridge the gap between the First and Third World peoples.

Receiving the \$25,000 grant was 17-year-old Anthony Marzocca of Wayne, who worked alongside his father to pull two children from a burning car after it hit a tree and burst into flames.

Delivering the keynote address was former Governor and current Senate President Richard J. Codey. Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Steve Aduabato hosted the awards program.



Robert Bullard, Ware Distinguished Professor of Sociology

2006 Conference of the African-American Professoriate

The Africana Institute hosted the 2006 Conference of the African-American Professoriate, "Environmental (In) Justice: Katrina and Beyond." The keynote luncheon address, "Environmental Injustice and Sustainability—New Challenges in a Post-Katrina World," was presented by Robert Bullard, Ware Distinguished Professor of Sociology and director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He is credited with originating the phrase "environmental racism." Bullard is the author or editor of three texts, *Confronting Environmental Racism* (1993), *Dumping on Dixie* (1994), and *Unequal Protection* (1996).

The conference also featured several breakout sessions that addressed the continuing issue of the Katrina disaster, environmental justice and its place in the curriculum, and a discussion of the impact of Ford Motor Company's waste disposal on the Ramapough Lenape Nation.

Students Rally to the Cause in Alternative Spring Break Programs

Forty Ramapo College students soaked up the sun on spring break as they rebuilt homes in hurricane-ravaged Gulfport, MS; planted trees in indigenous villages in Oaxaca, Mexico; provided urgently needed home repairs to families in the Appalachian region of Asheville, NC; and worked on a farm in Rutland, MA.

The four programs were sponsored by the College's Cahill Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services, the Community Service Center, and the Community Builders' Coalition. *Please see article on page 25.*

Dr. Lewis M. Chakrin Appointed Dean of the Anisfield School of Business

Please see article below first column on page 8.



Dr. Sharon Rubin, former coordinator of the American Democracy Project, with Dr. Michael Edelstein, a professor of environmental psychology who donned Colonial garb, read parts of the Constitution, and was questioned and challenged by students and faculty during Constitution Day, a campus event sponsored by the American Democracy Project.

The American Democracy Project

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.



Ramapo College Ranked Number One Among Public Comprehensive Colleges in the North

In the 2007 edition of America's Best Colleges, released by *U.S. News & World Report*, Ramapo College is first among regional public comprehensive colleges. This is the third consecutive year that *U.S. News* has ranked the institution as number one among regional public comprehensive colleges. "It is great to see that *U.S. News* recognizes what we have always known: Ramapo College is one of the region's premier institutions," says Peter Goetz, vice provost for enrollment management. In addition, Ramapo College is listed in the top tier (eighth place) among all comprehensive colleges (public and private) in the north.

Ramapo College also ranked number one among public comprehensive colleges in the north for the lowest acceptance rate (41 percent) and has the second-lowest acceptance rate in the north among public and private comprehensive colleges. Additionally, of the 320 comprehensive colleges in the United States, Ramapo has the fourth-highest rate of entering students ranking in the top 25 percent of their class.

The College is one of only five schools among all 25 public and private schools in New Jersey listed in *U.S. News & World Report* that rank as "more selective" for their admission criteria. The others are Drew University, Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and The College of New Jersey.

Ramapo College also was named among the best 222 northeastern colleges in The Princeton Review's 2007 edition of *The Best Northeastern Colleges*. There are more than 1,000 colleges and universities in the northeast.

Voices Sing Out in Commemoration and Celebration

Drawing on a wellspring of talent and knowledge of musical traditions, Lisa Lutter, assistant professor of choral music, has displayed a unique ability to inspire and shape student performances. As a result, the Ramapo Chorale and its ensemble offshoot, the Canta Nova (new song) singers, have emerged as singing groups that have brought ability and musical engagement to each of their performances.

They recently performed at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) joint commemoration of the College's Center



Lisa Lutter (far left), assistant professor of choral music, leads the Ramapo Chorale in a performance at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day at Temple Beth Haverim in Mahwah.

Photo courtesy of Michael Riff.

for Holocaust & Genocide Studies and Temple Beth Haverim in Mahwah. The event brought together the Ramapo College and synagogue ensembles for a musical program of emotional depth. "Beyond the sheer content of the music was the cooperation and harmony of the entire undertaking," noted Michael Riff, director of the Center.

The Ramapo Chorale also performed at President Mercer's inauguration and presented "The Two Worlds of Kurt Weill," a debut of a demanding program of songs and staging that showcased the composer's work for the German and American musical theater.

LEFT (L to R): Sa'idah Sharif, Anthony Marzocca. CENTER: Father Ronald Stanley. RIGHT (L to R): Broadcaster Steve Aduabato, former Governor and Senate President Richard J. Codey, Angelica Berrie, and President Peter Mercer at the 2006 Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference.



FACULTY NEWS

Angela Cristini Named to National Science Foundation Committee

Dr. Angela Cristini, a professor of biology and the executive director of special programs, serves on the



Committee on Informal Science Learning of the National Academy of Sciences. The committee is under the direction of the Board on Science Education at the National Research Council and is also sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Cristini will review research perspectives that are relevant to informal science learning, deliberate about the evidence base, pro-

duce a consensus report that will characterize the state of research on learning science in informal environments, and provide guidance for future research.

She was nominated based on her experience in science education for children, adults, and older adults in formal and informal settings. Cristini oversees Ramapo College's Master of Science in Educational Technology Program and educational programming at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

Artwork Featured in the 2006 DeCordova Annual Exhibition

A 45" x 30" digital ink-jet print titled "Untitled, 2005" was one of several of artist Matthew Swarts' works featured in the 2006 DeCordova Annual Exhibition at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, MA. Swarts is an assistant professor of photography/digital media.

The exhibition was a round-up of regional talent in the visual arts that surveys the best new art in six New England states. Swarts, of Somerville, MA, was one of twelve artists invited to exhibit. The show focused on the quality and diversity of contemporary art created in New England.

The artist uses the Internet as a photographic apparatus. Combin-



RIGHT: "Untitled, 2005" by Matthew Swarts, ink-jet print, 45" x 30".

ing photographs of human bodies with informational graphics from the Web, he overlays the figurative image with a dense pattern of found graphics. The result is a two-layered image that explores perception and digital information by invoking two ways of seeing.

"I spend an inordinate amount of time collecting strange images from the Web," he said. "Search engines have become like books to me. I cruise through literally thousands of pictures to download a few I find interesting."

Sharon Rubin Named Director of Honors Program

Dr. Sharon Rubin, a professor of American studies and literature, was named the director of the Ramapo College Honors Program. Students selected for the program work directly with faculty on projects that provide an added layer of challenge to their coursework and



participate in specialized trips and lectures. There are currently 90 students in the program.

"My goals are to raise the visibility of the Honors Program on and off campus and to serve the current honors students as well as I can," Rubin said. She plans to form focus groups of students and faculty to provide insight into what the Honors Program might become. Students admitted to the program are accepted based on an application that includes a short essay, high school records, and SAT scores.

Rubin came to Ramapo College in 1993 as vice president for academic affairs and served in that capacity until 2000. She teaches courses in the areas of American studies, humanities, and the College's First Year Seminar. Rubin has written and consulted extensively about experiential learning, a cornerstone of Ramapo College's mission statement.

Mitchell Kahn Receives the 2006 Jack Richardson Memorial Award

Mitchell Kahn, a professor of social work, received the 2006 Jack Richardson Memorial Award



for Outstanding College Leadership. "Jack Richardson was a man of strong convictions and fervent opinions," noted Kahn. "He stood steadfast for his values and principles and he never backed down from his commitment to social and economic justice. I am grateful that my colleagues see me in his light."

Jack Richardson epitomized an independent faculty and staff, ready to take a strong stand against what he considered unreasonable bureaucratic solutions and directions.

The nominating committee stated, "We want to honor Jack and to recognize people who have shown leadership in his spirit. Mitch Kahn is an exceptional College and community leader in this tradition."

Video Artist's Work Featured on WNET-TV

Soft Targets, a video by Shalom Gorewitz, a professor of communications media, was shown as part of WNET/Channel 13's *Reel New York* series. The film is about being a street artist carrying a camera after 9/11, when everything seemed like a soft target. In the program called "9/11 Fallout," Gorewitz cautioned about the climate of fear that has developed in New York City and beyond during the last five years.



Reel New York presents independent films and videos made in New York. The program is in partnership with the Museum of Modern Art, Woodstock Film Festival, and Gotham Center for New York City History at CUNY.

Soft Targets also was exhibited at the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center Gallery in New York City.

IN MEMORIAM

The Ramapo College community mourned the passing of several of its members this past year.



Paul Adams



Murray Bookchin



Dr. Walter T. Brown



Paul Humphreys



Anthony Tarallo

Founding faculty member and professor *emeritus* **Paul Adams** retired from the School of Administration and Business, (now known as the Anisfield School of Business), several years ago and was a former director of the school. He received an Ed.D. from the University of Saratoga and earned B.S. and M.B.A. degrees at Boston University.

Murray Bookchin, professor *emeritus*, taught at Ramapo College from 1977 to 1981. He was a proponent of libertarian ideas and was among the first people in the early 1960s to promote the then-emerging field of ecology into political debate. He published *Our Synthetic Environment* under the pseudonym Lewis Herber in 1962, in which he called for alternative energy supplies, among other environmental proposals. It was in that book, which predated by five months *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, that Bookchin introduced the notion of social ecology.

Dr. Walter T. Brown, a professor of history and international studies, was the recipient of five Fulbright Award grants through the United States Department of State and Department of Education. All of his Fulbright research dealt with the subject of Muslim minority populations, their culture, and politics. In addition, Brown co-directed the College's study abroad program to Prague. He received his doctorate and master's degrees from Boston University and his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York.

Professor Paul Humphreys, an associate professor of psychology in the Anisfield School of Business, received his doctorate degree and his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago. He earned a master's degree at Oxford University in England. He joined the faculty in 1974.

Anthony Tarallo, professor *emeritus*, was a founding faculty member of the College. During 20 years as a professor and administrator, he served as director of the School of Administration and Business. Previously, he was a senior consultant for Touche Ross & Co., vice president and controller of First National State Bank of New Jersey, and director of the New Jersey Financial Executive Institute. He was a certified public accountant and a researcher for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He was a graduate of New York University, where he also received a master's degree.

"I fell in love with Ramapo"

It's wonderful and rewarding to be part of Ramapo and to make a difference."

—Millicent Anisfield



Largest-ever Gift, New Dean, and Academic Initiatives Propel School of Business to Forefront in Business Education

Naming Gift From Anisfields Augments Business Education

The large crowd of faculty, staff, and students gathered in the Bradley Center had been told only that a major announcement would be forthcoming. They responded with loud applause and cheers when President Peter Mercer stepped before them and announced that longtime supporters Richard and Millicent Anisfield had given the College \$2.5 million, the largest gift in Ramapo's history, in support of the business school. To express its appreciation, the College's Board of Trustees named the school the Anisfield School of Business. The \$2.5 million is in addition to previous gifts from the Saddle River residents totaling more than \$500,000.

Trustees Chair Thomas Zelante, Esq., spoke for everyone when he acknowledged the Anisfields' far-reaching donation, saying, "The College will be indebted to them for generations to come. This gift will ensure that students receive the most competitive education and skill set, so that when they graduate they are well prepared for selective graduate programs and poised for long-term success in their careers."

The Anisfield gift will support the construction of a new academic building, an endowed deanship, student scholarships, and faculty fellowship awards. "The Anisfields are committed to our business school's mission to provide undergraduate students with exceptional public education through the strategic integration of the business disciplines and the liberal arts," said Ramapo President Peter Mercer.

At the ceremony announcing the gift, then-Interim Dean Brian Lofman said, "I never could have predicted that when I met with Dr. Mercer and Cathleen Davey, executive director of the Foundation, to enlist their support to seek funding for several critically important needs for the school, that I would be acknowledging receipt of a gift of this magnitude."

For the Anisfields, however, continuing their advisory and financial support of Ramapo College seemed a logical progression of Mrs. Anisfield's more than twenty years of service to Ramapo as a trustee and member of the Board of Governors. In the 1970s she served on the board of Montclair State University. Due to term limits, she left that position, and the New Jersey chancellor of higher education suggested she become involved with Ramapo College or another of the state's public institutions.

"I fell in love with Ramapo," Mrs. Anisfield recalled. "It's wonderful and rewarding to be part of Ramapo and to watch the College's growth in size and stature." She credits former President Robert Scott and the staff he appointed for doing a "phenomenal job in recognizing the potential of Ramapo College and taking advantage of that potential." She is proud of the College's higher admissions standards, which she helped to implement as a member of a campus strategic planning committee, the diverse student body, and the quality and vigor of the faculty.

The Anisfield School of Business, the largest of the College's five schools, with 23 percent of Ramapo students, will be housed on the lower level and the first three floors of the new building. It will include fourteen "smart" classrooms, two of which will be high-tech lecture halls, study lounges, an e-mail lounge, faculty offices, break-out rooms for seminars, and a dean's suite. Construction is underway.

Facing Change and the Future

The Anisfields' gift was bestowed at a crucial point in the business school's history. The school was in the midst of a search for a dean following the retirement of Dr. Frederic Champlin as well as on the threshold of a rigorous accreditation process. Faculty, under the guidance of then-Interim Dean Lofman, were involved in discussions on how to enhance and restructure the school's teaching and learning environment, while enlisting the support of business leaders and alumni.

The business school's leadership and faculty participated in a retreat that resulted in a revised mission statement. "The key phrase in the statement, 'the School of Business is committed to providing its undergraduate students with exceptional public education through the strategic integration of the business disciplines and the liberal arts,' emphasizes our core strength and highlights our intended niche," said Lofman. The faculty have structured the core undergraduate curriculum to best accomplish this mission. Concurrently, a strategic plan is being developed that will serve as a guiding document over the next several years.

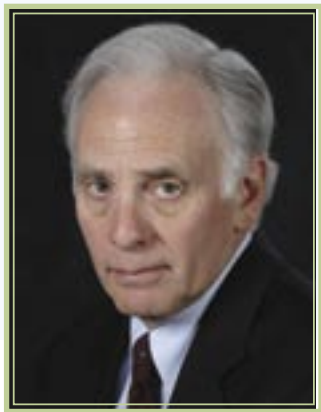
Two advisory boards have been formed to strengthen and expand the school's external relationships, to counsel the dean, and to assist the school in achieving its goal. The Dean's Advisory Board is being chaired by Bernard Milano, and the Business Alumni Advisory Board is chaired by Frances Hackett '80, vice president of administration and OSGLI at Prudential Financial.



LEFT (L to R): Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas A. Zelante, Millicent and Richard Anisfield, and Trustee A. J. Sabath at the announcement of the Anisfields' \$2.5 million gift to Ramapo College.



RIGHT (L to R): Millicent and Richard Anisfield, Provost Beth E. Barnett, Anisfield School of Business Dean Lewis M. Chakrin, and Foundation Executive Director Cathleen Davey review a model of the Anisfield School of Business, currently under construction.



**Dr. Lewis M. Chakrin
Named Dean**

Dr. Lewis M. Chakrin, a Mendham resident and former corporate executive at AT&T, was appointed dean of the Anisfield School of Business on July 1. A national search, the first the College has undertaken for a dean, was conducted to fill the position. His appointment is another step in the process of enhancing the school's academic offerings and building on its solid foundation to achieve even wider recognition.

His desire to work in academia is not happenstance. "I spent the first twelve years of my professional life in a research organization that closely resembled an academic environment. Then I spent twenty-five years in the corporate world. As a result, I believe I can bring to Ramapo College an understanding of both the theory of business and how it can best be applied in the business world. From the beginning, it was always my plan to someday return to academia. This is the right time, and Ramapo is the right place."

Chakrin brings vast academic and corporate experience to the position. He began his career

"I want the school to be recognized..."

...as providing one of the highest-quality and most relevant business educations in the northeast and in the nation among both public and private colleges." —Dr. Lewis M. Chakrin, Dean

as a researcher with Bell Laboratories, where he developed quantitative analysis techniques used to solve business problems. He then embarked on a diverse business career, serving most recently as executive vice president, corporate strategy and business development for AT&T Wireless in Redmond, WA.

The dean believes the challenge for business graduates is to help the companies in which they become employed to adapt to and prosper in what he terms "continuous disruptive change." "The pace and magnitude of technological and market structure change will continue to increase," he said. "For example, look at what has happened to the telecommunications industry over the last five to ten years and consider how the audio and video entertainment business has been transformed as a result of the Internet. I think the energy industry is in for enormous changes in the next few years. It's our responsibility as educators to prepare students to thrive in this rapidly changing world."

Chakrin earned a Ph.D. in finance and an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business, New York University. He graduated with a master of science degree in operations research from the School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University and earned a bachelor of

science degree in operations research from the School of Engineering at New York University.

The dean reaffirms the role of a liberal arts focus in the business school. "As a businessman and a hiring manager, I always looked for candidates who had solid backgrounds in the business disciplines—accounting, marketing, finance, etc.— as well as a strong set of skills that are more in line with a liberal arts background, such as the ability to speak and write well and to express and sell ideas. I also looked for individuals who could function effectively in the diverse, multicultural world of global business."

The AACSB Accreditation Initiative

The AACSB Project Team for academic year 2006-2007 has the following members: Tim Burns, professor of information systems; Lewis Chakrin, dean of Anisfield School of Business and project team co-chair; Nicolas Dahan, professor of international business; Dorothy Echols Tobe, chief planning officer of Ramapo College; Karen Norton, AACSB specialist and project team co-chair; and Kathryn Yeaton, professor of accounting.

How a \$2.5 Million Gift Quickly Grew Exponentially—and Brought Distant Family Members Together

Word that Ramapo College of New Jersey was the recipient of a \$2.5 million gift, the largest in its history, from longtime supporters Richard and Millicent Anisfield, soon spread beyond the campus. Among those who learned of the gift was a distant cousin of the Anisfields, Ina Anisfield Meyers, a Florida resident.

Just a few weeks after the April announcement at Ramapo College, Meyers, who was researching her family history, Googled "Anisfield" and pulled up an article about the \$2.5 million gift. She learned that Richard and Millicent designated their gift to the College's business school to support construction of a new academic building, an endowed deanship, endowed student scholarships, and faculty fellowship awards.

Meyers remembered meeting Richard Anisfield many years earlier, when they were both seven years old. Though now in their 80s, they had not been in touch since. Meyers contacted Ramapo College, asking to be put in touch with the Anisfields, and the relatives were soon reconnected.

Always concerned about support for deserving students, and having a desire to

memorialize her son, Steven Meyers, she approached the Anisfields, President Peter Mercer and Cathleen Davey, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the Ramapo College Foundation. Meyers accepted a proposal for her own gift to the Anisfield School of Business.

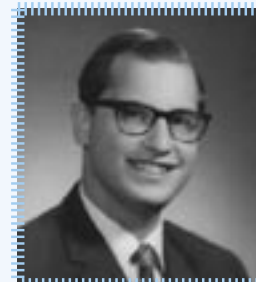
Ina generously committed to setting up an endowed faculty chair in finance in honor and memory of her son, Steven. As well, she committed to a similar size endowment for student scholarships from the Anisfield-Meyers Family for students majoring in finance and management.

"The more I think about this, the more I realize what an incredible coincidence it is," Meyers said. "I was searching for something exactly like Ramapo College. It's a privilege to be a part of something that so many people have worked so hard at for so long."

In the months since the announcement of the Anisfields' gift, their mutual commitment to the Anisfield School of Business has fostered a warm relationship among the distant relatives. The Anisfields and Meyers are regularly in touch, speaking by phone at least once a week.

In addition to gifts from Meyers and the Anisfields, the Ramapo College Foundation was named the beneficiary of significant Charitable Remainder Unitrusts for the Anisfield School of Business.

Part of the Meyers gift memorializes Steven Meyers, who was completing his M.B.A. at the University of Virginia and seeking employment in finance at the time of his death. He received a bachelor of science degree from Georgetown University. As a student, he participated in the Model General Assemblies program, for which he won the Outstanding Delegate Award.



Steven Meyers

"We are so grateful to Ina for her incredible generosity. She contemplated for many years the most beneficial way to honor the memory of her son, Steven. In her very quiet and humble manner, she chose to make a difference in the lives of future Ramapo students. Each time I speak with Ina, I am overwhelmed by her joy in planning this gift for Ramapo. Ina's most generous bequest will ensure that deserving students with need will have the funds to attend the Anisfield School of Business. As well, students will have the opportunity to study and, conduct undergraduate research with the esteemed holder of the Steven Meyers Chair in Finance."

—Cathleen Davey, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Executive Director, Ramapo College Foundation

New Faculty Join the Anisfield School of Business

Among the initiatives launched in support of strengthening the business school was a commitment to expand full-time faculty. These faculty members began teaching this fall:

Dr. Rikki Abzug, associate professor of management, holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Yale University and also received a M.Phil. and a master's degree in

sociology from the university. Among her interests are the theory and practice of non-profit management, international comparative management, and managerial challenges.

Julio Huato, assistant professor of finance, is a doctoral candidate in economics at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He received a master's degree in economics from the new School for Social Research

and a bachelor's degree in economics and statistics from the Universidad de La Habana, Cuba.

Huiping Li, assistant professor of international business, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Management and Global Business at Rutgers Business School. Her research focus is on joint ventures, technology capability-building, strategy, and performance. She earned her M.B.A. in Beijing, China.

Dr. Ed Petkus, associate professor of marketing, received his Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Tennessee, and his M.B.A. and bachelor of science degrees from Virginia Tech. He most recently was the Bertie Deming Smith Distinguished Chair and associate professor of business administration at Mary Baldwin College in Virginia.

Topping-Off Ceremony For Anisfield School of Business

The Ramapo College community celebrated the topping-off of a new academic facility to house the Anisfield School of Business on October 24.

The Topping-Off Ceremony signifies the completion of the building's highest and final structural element. In an outdoor ceremony, the beam was signed by those in attendance, including major donors, then hoisted by crane into its final position. Also hoisted was an American flag and an evergreen tree, which signifies continued growth. The building is scheduled for completion in 2007.

TOP LEFT: The commemorative beam, with the American flag and evergreen, both symbols of growth, hoisted into its final position.

TOP RIGHT: Richard and Millicent Anisfield adding their signatures to the beam before its hoisting.

LOWER LEFT: Scott W. Sim, the bagpiper, performing at the ceremony.

LOWER RIGHT: (Far right) Congressman Scott Garrett presenting the flag to (left) President Peter P. Mercer and Thomas Zelante, chair, board of trustees.



DR. PETER PHILIP MERCER IS INAUGURATED AS RAMAPO'S FOURTH PRESIDENT

Joined by New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, delegates from other colleges and universities, Ramapo College students, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends, Dr. Peter Philip Mercer was inaugurated as the fourth president of Ramapo College of New Jersey in an investiture ceremony held in May in the Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center.

The theme of his inaugural address was "The Enduring Value of a Liberal Education." Sir David Williams, vice-chancellor emeritus of Cambridge University (England) and Dr. Mercer's thesis advisor when he was a student, was the guest speaker. Thomas Zelante, Esq., chair of the Ramapo College Board of Trustees, swore him in to office.

Prior to the ceremony, Dr. Mercer's colleagues accompanied him in a procession from the College's arch, Ramapo's historic symbol, to the Bradley Sports and Recreation Center. The procession was led by musician Peter Del Vecchio and the Conservatory Brass, representing the Mahwah Township schools.

In his first investiture of a college president since his own inauguration earlier this year, Governor Corzine was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree, also his first as governor.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Mercer stated, "My favorite definition of liberal education is 'education that enlarges and disciplines the mind irrespective of the particular business or profession one may follow.' In other words, education in how to think critically in order to analyze and solve problems."



"... a liberal arts education is the very weave of a strong social fabric, not its embroidered border, and we must offer a public education that makes it possible for qualified New Jersey students to fulfill their educational and societal potential."

Following are Excerpts From President Mercer's Inaugural Address

The full text is available online at www.ramapo.edu/inauguration/address.

"Recently there has come to light much more direct evidence of the value of a liberal education. In the 1990s, the core subjects of liberal education, the humanities, the social sciences and the fine arts were on the wane. This was in large measure because of the push to make higher education responsive to the assumed needs of the market. In 2001, an article appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Higher Education* entitled 'Against All Odds? The Enduring Value of Liberal Education in Universities, Professions, and the Labour Market.' Drawing from recent and previously unreported data, the article demonstrated that liberal education produces positive economic benefits for the individual graduate and that 'policies designed to diminish the presence of liberal education in universities in favor of more supposedly market-worthy subjects are short-sighted.'

"At about the same time, similar and very compelling evidence was being presented by the American economist Anthony Carnevale, who was then vice president for public leadership at the Education Testing Service. He was also formerly chair of President Clinton's National Commission for Employment Policy and the senior policy analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. At an American Youth Policy Forum in July 2001, he identified reversals in three trends that will directly affect education and employment policy over the next two decades.

1. The reversal of the education premium in the American economy.

• In the 1950s through the 1970s, blue-collar workers with a high school education were doing better relative to college-educated white-collar workers.

• The number of college-educated workers was growing and the glut of well-educated Baby Boomers resulted in increased competition for skilled jobs. This further reduced the education premium. Since 1980, however, the college wage premium has nearly doubled, largely because of the added value of a college education in the new economy.

• His conclusion: In the knowledge economy, education allocates earnings; work alone is not enough."

2. The second important trend reversal is the declining growth rate of the American labor force as Baby Boomers retire. Forty-six million college-educated baby boomers will retire between 2001 and 2020. Dr. Carnevale estimates that there will be a shortage of 9 million college-educated workers by 2020. This shortage will increase earnings differentials between educated and uneducated workers, further raising the education premium.

• Note: Social policies are not the solution to this problem. Raising the retirement age or providing access to childcare and transportation, if implemented without additional public support for higher education, will simply increase the supply of less-skilled, non-college-educated workers.

3. The third trend is the shift from the relatively small Generation X (born between 1965 and 1981) to the much larger Generation Y (born between 1982-1996). By the year 2015, Generation Y will bring almost 5 million additional 16- to 24-year-olds into high school and college. Providing funds for the almost 2 million of these who will go on to college right after high school will require \$20 billion in public funds.

Dr. Carnevale is now with the national Center on Education and the Economy. At this year's AACU conference in Washington, he presented the results of his study of

—continued on page 13



(L to R): Governor Jon Corzine, Board of Trustees Secretary Timothy Schroeder, Board Chairman Thomas A. Zelante, and Trustee Sharon K. McGahee at Dr. Mercer's inauguration.



—continued from previous page

Department of Labor data from the last 15 years. There are two features of his findings that are particularly relevant to Ramapo College.

The first has to do with the skills that are most valued in the marketplace: He divides skills, defined as the ability to perform tasks, into seven classifications:

- Problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Technology and computer skills
- Learning skills
- Leadership and management skills
- Effective communication skills
- Service skills
- Mechanical skills

Mean earnings were highest for those whose education had provided them with critical thinking and effective communications skills.

The second is the fact that socio-economic status is tied ever closer to educational attainment. Among the socially and economically disadvantaged there is increasingly less likelihood that a higher education will be pursued.

What does this mean for Ramapo College and for my role as your president? Ramapo College is New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College. We must continue to assert what we and our students and graduates and indeed our governor and legislators know to be true: a liberal arts education is the very weave of a strong social fabric, not its embroidered border, and we must offer a public education that makes it possible for qualified New Jersey students to fulfill their educational and societal potential.

I am grateful that you have expressed your confidence in my ability to proclaim this message and lead Ramapo College: New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College."

See the complete inaugural event at <http://www.ramapo.edu/inauguration/video.html>.



TOP: Board of Governors members Don Mahoney, '73, Bernard Milano, and Elaine Adler with Dr. Mercer at the inauguration.

BOTTOM: President Peter P. Mercer and his mother, Pauline Mercer.



FOUNDATION NEWS

Golf Outing

On a beautiful summer day on the scenic links of the Tuxedo Club, the 19th Annual Foundation Golf Outing raised in excess of \$100,000 toward support of student scholarships, faculty research, and campus projects. Sponsored by Seiko Corporation of America, a record 146 golfers participated in the day's events, which concluded with a gourmet barbecue and an exciting live auction conducted by President Mercer. The popular Prestige Skills Challenge had many putting and chipping for the \$1,500 grand prize. With three chances to take home a 2006 automobile (SRX Cadillac from Brogan Cadillac of Ridgewood, a Ford Explorer Sport Trac from All American Ford, and a Hyundai Azera from Liberty Hyundai), a delightful day was had by all.

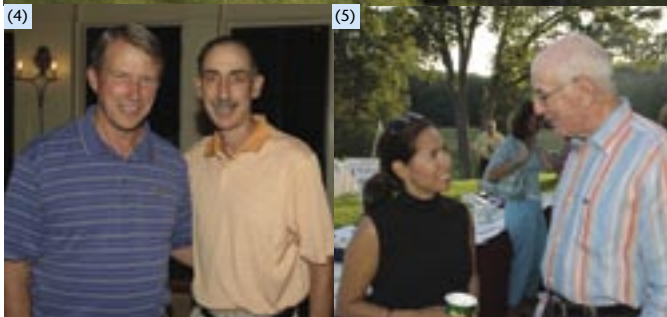
Golf Chairman Don Mahoney '73 and his committee would like to acknowledge the following event sponsors: Century 21 Construction (dinner), Dobco, Inc. (lunch), Prudential Financial (shirt), CDT Training, Inc. (goody bag), O'Connor, Davies, Munns and Dobbins (driving range), Stryker (swing-shot photography), and Prestige Family of Fine Cars (skills challenge). Inserra Supermarkets, Inc., and Optimum Lightpath were Platinum-level sponsors, while BMW of North America, Inc., and PSE&G were Gold-level. Mahoney extends his sincere thanks and appreciation to this year's participants. He welcomes these newcomers: UPS, Aircraft Services Group, Golf World Magazine, Huron Consulting Group, Inc., Let it Grow, Inc., Intelligencer Printing, and Cambridge Construction Services, and he invites everyone to join in next year on Monday, July 23, 2007, at the Tuxedo Club for another enjoyable day supporting Ramapo.



(1) (L to R): Don Mahoney, golf chair; Mike Marin, Prestige Skills Challenge winner; Chuck Luciano, representing Prestige Family of Fine Automobiles; and Tom McGurn, chair, Ramapo College Foundation.



(2) (L to R): Golf Committee: Ned Lipes, David Repetto, Joe Napolitano, Tom McGurn (chair, Foundation), Fran Hackett, Sam Prisco, Dr. Mercer, Eric Bechtel, Don Mahoney (golf chair), and Tom Palmer.



(3) (L to R): Greg Dunlap, Beth Acquire, Mike Carcich and Tim Erway of PSE&G.

(4): Board of Trustees member Peter McBride with Foundation board member Marc Goldstein.

(5): Jackie Ehlert-Mercer and Richard Anisfield.

(6) (L to R): Jackie Ehlert-Mercer, Debra Perry '78, and Linda Dator, Foundation board governors.

Alumni Strengthen Ramapo by Establishing Scholarships

In the 2005-2006 academic year, a number of Ramapo College graduates gave back to their alma mater by creating scholarships.

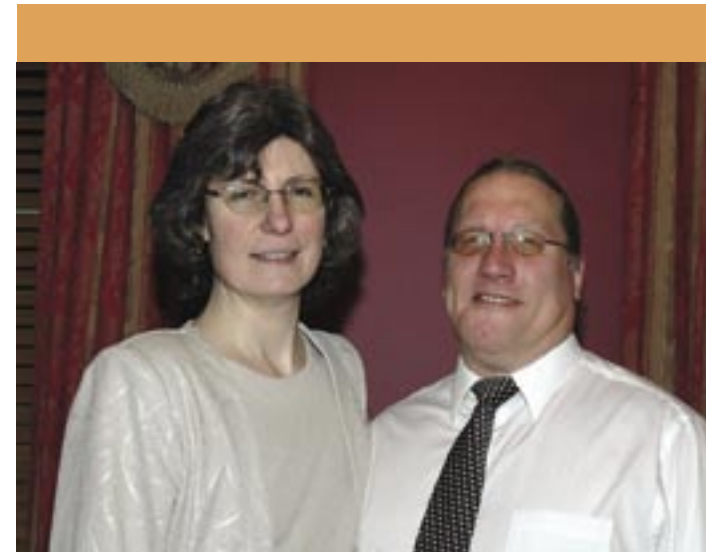
Each scholarship pays tribute to a personal aspect of the alum's life or an especially meaningful experience as a student, while benefiting current and future students.

Heather Hemphill '05 and her family created two endowed scholarships: the Marion Pawlick Busch Scholarship and the Ramapo EMS Scholarship. The Busch award is named in honor of Heather's grandmother, and benefits teacher education students. Heather was an active emergency medical technician as an undergraduate, and she created a scholarship award to recognize dedicated members of the squad.

David Berntsen '85 and his family created the Audrey Cook Berntsen Endowed Scholarship in memory of his mother. The award is for business majors and students in the teacher education certification program. Matching gifts from Berntsen's employer, UBS Paine Webber, help increase the value of the fund.

Meena Joisher '92 and her husband, Mukul, created a second endowed scholarship fund in honor of their daughters Purvi Parekh '01,'04, and Manshi Joisher '02. The new award mirrors the goals of Mrs. Joisher's first endowed-scholarship: to recognize hard-working international students.

Lucille Zirpoli '84 met her husband Arthur Zirpoli '83 when they were Ramapo undergraduates living in the Van Horne House, a historic colonial house once used as student housing. The couple created the Van Horne



Lucille '84 and Arthur '83 Zirpoli

Scholarship for Entering Freshmen from George F. Baker High School in their hometown of Tuxedo, NY.

When she was an undergraduate, **Marion C. Dugan '80**, a returning adult student, was impressed by the deep commitment of Ramapo students, particularly those with children. Mrs. Dugan created an endowed scholarship fund to benefit senior-level students with financial need.

Mahwah residents **Marina Topken '87 and her husband, William,** have been supporters of Ramapo College since its earliest years. "We created an endowed scholarship to honor the positive relationship we have shared with the College and recognize student leaders with financial need in the teacher education certification program."

"We created an endowed scholarship to honor the positive relationship we have shared with the College and recognize student leaders with financial need in the teacher education certification program."

—Marina and William Topken



L to R: Manshi Joisher '02, Tuguldur Tungalag, Meena '92 and Mukul Joisher

For Ramapo College, grants mean funding for a commitment to teaching in high-needs schools, enhanced learning in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and support for the performing arts

NSF Funds Noyce Scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded \$409,720 to Ramapo College for the establishment of a Robert Noyce Scholarship Program. Noyce Scholars will be selected from juniors and seniors majoring in mathematics or science and committed to teaching in a high-needs school in one of New Jersey's Abbott districts. Each teacher certification student who fulfills the Noyce Scholars Program requirements can be awarded up to \$20,000. A unique feature of the program is the extensive follow-up and support that will be available to new teachers during their first two years of teaching. A good adjustment during this period is critical for success in the field. Research indicates that the majority of new teachers who leave teaching do so during this time.

The Noyce Scholarships were created to help alleviate the shortage of teachers of mathematics and science in urban and rural schools. Ramapo College has a long history of affiliations with inner-city schools, especially in Paterson,

NJ through programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation that include Upward Bound, College Bound, and science seminars for grades 2 through 10 at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

Dr. Larry D'Antonio is the principal investigator (PI) for the Noyce Scholars program, and Dr. Carol Frishberg is the co-investigator. Dr. Victoria Madden, coordinator of the College's Center for Technology Enhanced Education, designed the teacher support project, which will be implemented through the grant. The Noyce award is important recognition by the NSF of the high-quality preparation that teacher certification students receive at Ramapo College.

A Multi-faceted Environmental Education and Sustainability Practices Project was Funded by New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities

The Board granted \$75,000 to the College's Institute for

Environmental Studies for public education in solar energy, targeted regional environmental outreach and the organization of an Energy and Green Living Expo. The programs will involve hundreds of individuals and families in the region who are interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Students from 15 area schools will also be invited to take part in a Junior Solar Sprint using solar-



Dr. Michael Edelstein

powered model cars. The project will be directed by Dr. Michael Edelstein, professor of environmental psychology and a leader of the College's environmental and sustainability education programs.

The Georgia O'Keefe Fellowship

The Georgia O'Keefe Museum Research Center, located in Santa Fe, NM, awarded a fellowship to Ramapo College's art historian, Meredith Davis. Dr. Davis will study at the O'Keefe Center during the spring 2007 semester, and will complete her research project, Fool's Gold: American Trompe l'oeil Painting in the Gilded Age. An additional grant to fund Dr. Davis' temporary replacement was received from the College Art Association, a national organization that supports the arts and art educators.



Georgia O'Keefe



New Jersey State Council on the Arts

A \$31,222 grant that will help support the performing arts series offered by the College's



Jane Stein

Berrie Center was awarded by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The annual series presents a diverse collection of concerts and dramatic productions that have broad appeal. Jane Stein, director of the Berrie Center, regularly arranges for performances that attract loyal audiences from the northern New Jersey region.

By Ron Kase, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Director, Grants Administration



(L to R): Dr. Larry D'Antonio, Dr. Carol Frishberg, Dr. Victoria Madden



View the Alumni E-Newsletter and Class Notes at http://www.ramapo.edu/alumni_foundation/newsletter/

Spring Reunion, May 6, 2006



(1) (L to R): Pat and Anne Chang, Rob Dente '92 and Troy '98 and Staci '97 Marshall with baby Olivia.

(2) (L to R): Linda Diaz, Bryan Steros '98, Peter VanAulen '87, Miki Cammarata, and Brook VanAulen.

(3) (L to R): Alumni board members Steve Fonder '74 and Pat McClenton '76 with Peter Goetz '89 at the third-annual Alumni Spring Reunion.

Summer Concert Series



Summer at Ramapo College is filled with academic classes; special programs including the New Jersey Governor's School for International Studies, Upward Bound, and EOF Summer Institutes; plus a variety of camps. Summer at Ramapo is also a special time to welcome all from our regional community for a series of four outdoor concerts at the Bandshell. Sponsored by Commerce Bank

ABOVE (L to R): Marissa Cabani, Courtney Kuenzler, and Commerce Bank Branch Manager Larry West.

with additional support from McBride Enterprises, the Ramapo College Alumni Association, and the Friends of Ramapo, and hosted by the Ramapo College Foundation, the 2006 Concert Series entertained more than 5,500 guests.

Alumni Tent, July 6, 2006

Over 100 guests, alumni, and their friends and families, attended this annual event and enjoyed the barbeque, concert, and fireworks.



New Alumni Summer Reunion, July 24, 2006

Over 100 alumni, who graduated in the last five years, attended the event.

TOP RIGHT (L to R): April Deleasa '06, Jill Freudenfels '06 and Kimberly M. Velocci.



Champagne at Sunset, May 24, 2006



ABOVE (L to R): Jill Freudenfels '06, Trudy Kelly '06, President Mercer, Alexandra Walczak '06 and Lauren Mosko '06.

CLASS NOTES

MARRIAGES AND UNIONS



Theodore Saland '96 to Belinda Bouby
Stephanie Kristine Puch '97 to John Joseph Sullivan III
Jennifer Zeichner '97 to Aaron Greenberg
Ryan Van Dalinda '99 to Sharon Ann Dahdah
Rachel McCann '01 to Damian J. Pinton '99
Edwin Crane '01 to Amanda Latrenta
Lauren Smolinsky '02 to Craig Penna
Bethany Bucko '03 to John Renzo

Steven M. Frost '03 to Valerie LaScala
Melinda Harrison '03 to Mauricio Araujo
Christine Ann LeValley '04 to Brad Stephen Piotrowski
Leighann Rivera '04 to Michael Penaga
Michelle Lynn DeSantis '05 to Brian Coombs
Lara Jansen '05 to Matthew Rouillard
Nicoll Van Nieuwland '06 to Thomas P. Spinner
Colleen Claire Miller '06 to Christopher Robert Marczyk

'76

Christine E. Twomey-Cadley presented a multimedia installation entitled the "Madonna Series" at A Gathering of the Tribes Gallery. Her paintings portray groups of mothers and children as 21st century icons, reiterating the ideas of place and history. This is her second exhibition with the Tribes Gallery. Christine has received numerous awards including a Ford grant, an Experimental TV grant and an American Film Institute Directing Internship.

'77

Randall Kirkpatrick has been appointed as the director of development for CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocates, of Mercer County. His responsibilities will include expanding and creating new donor contributions from individuals, businesses and other organizations. Randall will also assist with upcoming fundraising events and benefits for CASA. He currently resides in Kendall Park, with his wife, Lynne, and sons, Kyle and Alex.

Rachele Unter presented her paintings at the Bergen County Y, a Jewish Community Center in Washington Township. Unter thinks of her own creations as "an imitation of the plants, vegetable and flowers," growing in her backyard, "using them as subjects or objects to reflect my artistic ideas." Unter has exhibited at the Cultural Arts Center in Saddle River, the Bergen Museum's Juried Art Show, and won first place in original prints from the Ringwood Manor Association of Arts in 1987.

'79

Hal Meyers co-owner of Versatile Visions, LLC, based in Maine, has partnered with Extreme Glow in the design and manufacture of the "POWER POM®" (illuminated/flashing Pom Pom) seen at the opening of the NBA finals between the Miami Heat and the Dallas Mavericks. Hal and his business partner are also the manufacturers and patent holders of the SKYLINER® Virtual Message Writer novelty item which puts a message in the air that revolves 360 degrees (www.theskyliner.com). The Skyliner is currently found in DisneyWorld and Disneyland theme parks. After selling over one million Skyliner units throughout the globe, they launched a new version in July 2006.

'81

Ralph Marino, a baseball coach in North Bergen donated his old vehicle to the town community for use for anyone who needs handicapped transportation. He works in the Child Study Team department of the high school and also works in special services, helping other handicapped students. Marino became paralyzed in 1974 as a result of a near fatal collision when he was playing catcher for the North Bergen team in the Build Better Boys Baseball League in a play-off game against Union City.

'82

Marion Sweeney will have a photo of a painting included in *Surviving Well Beyond the Pale*. Marion is the granddaughter of Mary Barrett Daly, the sister of Margaret Barrett O'Leary. Marion's works were also in-



cluded in a showing by the Tamaron Artists Group.

'83

Charles Robertello has been appointed as the vice president of sales, Americas, for Radware in Mahwah. He brings over 20 years of technology-industry experience to his new position. Most recently, he successfully built highly effective sales organizations for F5 Networks and Expand Networks.

'84

Peter Marshall was promoted to director of Environmental Affairs/Safety & Health at Church & Dwight, Princeton. Peter has been with the company since his graduation from Ramapo College.

'85

Dorothy Gillman received the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators (NAVPA)



Executive Committees 2005 Award for leadership and outstanding service to the

association at their fall conference in Washington, D.C. She is vice president of NAVPA.

'86

Matthew Lee is employed as marketing director for Reed Business Information. He was previously appointed to the Youth Advisory Committee for Bloomingdale. He has been a member of the Bloomingdale school board for ten years.

'87

Peter Sullivan is chief financial officer of Ruitenberg Displays, Inc.

'88

Patrick Henneberry has been appointed as a Foreign Service

officer at the United States Embassy in Bogota, Columbia.

'89

Richard C. Alnor is employed as territory manager for the Field Operations Group of Quest Diagnostics, Inc. in Teterboro. He is a volunteer firefighter in Wyckoff, serving as chief for three years, and was the recipient of the Dana Hannon Distinguished Service award for the construction of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

'90

Diederik Olijslager was appointed vice president, Selective Insurance Group, and senior vice president, head of fixed income, Selective Insurance Co. of America. He is a member of the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA), the New York Society of Security Analysts, and the Municipal Bond Buyers Conference.

'91

Ronald J. Campione recently joined the firm of Bressler Amery & Ross, specializing in franchise and commercial litigation. Ronald earned his J.D. at Seton Hall University in 1999.

Elliot K. Chalef was recently appointed vice president in the Sales Force Productivity and Development Group and National Manager of Non-Prime OnBoarding for JPMorgan Chase's



Home Mortgage Group in Iselin. Elliot will now be responsible for the management and coordination of all of Home Mortgage's Non-Prime new hire efforts, including Human Resources and Training

& Recruiting. He and his wife Donna were married in Disney World during the summer of 2005 and are expecting their first child together in March of 2007. From his first marriage, Elliot has a daughter, Stephanie, age 7, whom he describes as the "light of his life." Elliot and his family reside in the Season's Glenn Community in Mt. Arlington.

Andrew F. Herrmann received a Master of Arts in Communications from Saint Louis University, IL. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Communications at the University of South Florida, FL.

'92

Paula Lein is a staff accountant at the firm of Mills & Defilippis. She is a cultural arts coordinator for the Midland Park PTA, a member of the Church of the Nativity Parish, where she volunteers as a CCD teacher, and a former member of the Nativity Mom's Group.

'93

Erik Hunter serves as the National Policy Manager for Training with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Kelly Good Kahn is the vice president of marketing for the Movado Group in Paramus.

Jonathan Marcus and his wife Tammy happily announce the birth of their baby girl, Johnna May Marcus was born on September 13, 2006.



'94

Rob Modafferi co-curated an art exhibit entitled "rage against the machine" in Beacon, N.Y. The exhibition, which explored the relationship between machines and nature, also featured other Ramapo affiliates including Kerry Dennehy '94.



Rabbi Meir Rosenberg is employed as an executive director at the offices of Mizra-

chi Canada and acts as the first full-time spiritual leader of the three-year old Congregation Ayin L'Tzion, housed at Thornhill's Netivot HaTorah Day School

James Sexton graduated from Fordham Law School and is an attorney and partner with the firm of Masch, Coffey & Sexton, LLP. With offices in Manhattan, Rockland and Bergen counties, his practice deals primarily with matrimonial and family law. In 2003 he received the RBA "Forty Under Forty" award for his professional and humanitarian accomplishments. He remains active in the Ramapo College community, promoting the college as an alumnus and speaking frequently at open house events.

'95

Laura Cardine-Sardella is an environmental engineer at Space Gateway Support at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

James McCusker has been appointed the new assistant principal of E. A. Cavallini Middle School. This move comes after completing five years at the Roy W. Brown Middle School in Bergenfield where he was voted 2004-2005 "Teacher of the Year."

'96



Jamie Payne has been promoted to vice president, Commercial Mortgage at

Valley National Bank in Wayne. Jamie has been employed with Valley National Bank since 1998, beginning her career with the company as a management associate.

Theodore Saland and Belinda Bouby were married at the Crestmont Country Club in West Orange, NJ. Theodore works as a senior art designer for ESPN in New York City. Belinda earned a degree in architecture design from the Universidad Del Sagrado Corazon in Lima, Peru. The couple resides in Jersey City.

'97

Mike Roche played a lead role in *Fahrenheit 451*, a dramatized version of Ray Bradbury's 1953

novel which shares the name. The play received rave reviews from its critics, and was performed both in the Godlight Theater, NY and the Gilded Balloon in Edinburgh, Scotland. Roche is also a member of a leadership program that hires actors to provide professional-development presentations for business managers and executives.

Marcella Runell's first feature article for *VIBE*, titled "Hip Hop Education 101" was published on September 12, 2006. She is the education fellow for the Tanenbaum Center, and a volunteer co-director of education for the Hip-Hop Association. She also serves as adjunct faculty for the Bank Street College of Education, and works as a freelance writer for the New York Times Learning Network. In addition, Marcella is an advanced doctoral student in the Social Justice Education Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Marcella's dissertation, a work in progress, is entitled: *Education in a Hip-Hop Nation: Implications for Our Identity, Politics and Pedagogy*. Marcella received her master's degree in Higher Education Administration from New York University in 1999. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York

'98

Seth John Healy is engaged to Anne Elizabeth Hannigan. Seth is vice president of Goldman Sachs, New York. A September wedding is planned.

Robin Keller had artwork accepted into the 24th Annual Juried Metro Show at "City Without Walls" in Newark. The work is also part of a traveling show.

P. J. Bartolotto and his wife Lisa are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Aubrey Sophia Bartolotto, born on April 22, 2006 weighing 7 lbs 12 oz. and measuring 20¾ inches.



'99

Christine Aschenbach married Lenny Volpicella on April 1, 2006. After a fairytale proposal in Disney World, the



two were married in a Jersey Shore wedding. Christine is a senior project director at Fallon Medica where she is responsible for planning pharmaceutical educational meetings, while her husband is a supervisor with the NJMVC in the school bus unit.

'00

Heather Morse and her husband Jeffrey Keene announce the birth of their baby girl, Victoria Hazel Keene, born on February 12, 2005.



Kim E. (Peterson) McDonough and her husband, Sean, announce the birth of their baby girl, Erin Kaleigh, born on June 30, 2006.

Rick Skrosky entered his 23rd year as a football coach, 19th in the college ranks. He had been Columbia's offensive line coach and offensive coordinator for the last five seasons. Previously, he served in the same capacities at Monmouth for eight years. Prior to that, he was an assistant and head coach at Ramapo, the tight ends coach at Rutgers for two seasons and an assistant coach at Lodi and St. Peter's Prep.

Eileen Petrovich worked for the State Department of Defense in Baghdad over the summer. While at Ramapo, she participated in an international cooperative program for UNESCO in Paris. She earned a master's degree in foreign policy at American University and completed an embassy internship in Africa.

Justin Spingler and Lauren P. Adessi, '03 announced their engagement. Lauren is employed by Wade Odell Wade, United Van Lines, Midland Park; Justin is employed as a representative for D&M Holdings in Mahwah. A May 2007 wedding is planned.



'01

The band, Mean Gene Wilder, featuring 14 pieces including a full horn section and keyboards, is a new venture spearheaded by **Brian Riback '01**, best known for his work in the very popular

IN MEMORIAM

Robin Goldman (Falk) '77
 Jack Fletcher '80
 Ann DiBella '81
 Samuel 'Howie' Saunders III '82
 Carol N. Derringer '84

David Duimstra '89
 Alice (Dean) Merz' 89
 Robert Paul Minnich '95
 Barbara E. Cutler '90
 Ramapo Baseball Coach
 Harold L. Sharp



TOP (L to R):
 Khadijah Baker '03,
 Syreta White,
 Brian Riback '01
 BOTTOM (L to R):
 Todd Petrich '99,
 Kim Rude '02,
 Sean Powers '99,
 Andrew Adler '99.

local band Kangaroo Jones. Their repertoire at Chubb McGuire's in Orangeburg, NY in June 2006, included an eclectic setlist crossing genres and covering Dave Matthews Band, Aretha Franklin, and numerous original compositions.

One of the special guest vocalists was Khadijah Baker '03, who, as Brian says, "has a voice you have to hear to believe." There were many other alumni on hand enjoying the gig!

Brian Walters created all the animation for this year's Daytime Emmy Awards. The projects included a twenty-second opening sequence and all the nominee packages. He is also in the final stages of releasing his first DVD, a fifty-minute compilation of educational songs for children that he directed and animated. A montage can be accessed at www.brian-walters.com.

'02

Michael Savetsky recently joined the firm of Lowenstein Sandler, specializing in bankruptcy litigation. Michael earned his J.D. at Seton Hall University in 2005.

Lauren Smolinsky and Craig Penna held their wedding ceremony and reception at Knoll Country Club West in Parsippany, NJ. After spending their honeymoon in Aruba, the couple returned to their home in Rockaway Township. Lauren is working toward her master's degree at

Montclair State University, and works as a seventh-grade reading and writing teacher for the Parsippany Board of Education.

Jacquelyn Oshman graduated from Rutgers University with a master's degree in Library and Information Sciences. She is now a reference librarian at the New Brunswick Free Public Library.

Atif Khawaja works in the Information Systems Center for the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Maria Lorenzo and John Vella were married on April 29, 2006.



Maria works as a registered nurse at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Emergency Department. The couple resides in Rahway.

Ida Ngueng-Feze graduated from Howard School of Law and International Law Class of 2006. She was a member of the International Moot Court Team which entered the European Law Student Competition on Trade and WTO Law. The team qualified to go to Geneva for the final international courts. This is the first time in the history of the law school that a team has advanced to this level.

Tancy Nunez was welcomed as a new member of the Ramapo community in her new position of financial aid assistant, Financial Aid Department.

Caitlin O'Neill Lehmann and '03 **Kenneth Lehmann** announced



the birth of their son, Gavin James, born on June 3. He weighed

in at 7 lbs., 5.8 oz and was 21.25 inches long. Caitlin bought a tiny Ramapo College hooded sweatshirt and sweatpants and gave them to Kenneth when she announced that she was pregnant. The couple married on November 5, 2004.

Manshi Joisher accepted the position of data management manager at MetLife Corporate Investments - Middle Office in Morristown. Manshi also participates on the Board of Directors for Hospitality for the Homeless, Ramapo's Anisfield School of Business Advisory Board, and is the chairperson of the Young Adult Committee of the Share and Care Foundation.

'03

Tanya Aschenbrand of New Milford has been awarded a master's degree in social work from Yeshiva University in New York.

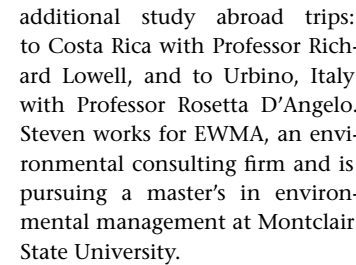
Bethany Bucko and John Renzo were married in the chapel at Waterloo Village, Stanhope. A reception followed at The Meeting House, Waterloo Village. The bride is a licensed social worker with NorthWestern Human Service, Lansdale, PA. Her husband works as a civil engineer with Pennoni Associates in Philadelphia, PA.

Chris Curasco and **Lauren Sartori** announce their engagement. The couple met through their involvement in Ramapo's Student Government Association



(SGA). Christopher works as an underwriting analyst for Crum & Forster Holdings Corp. in Morristown. Lauren works as a communications coordinator for BMW of North America, LLC in Woodcliff Lake. They are planning to wed in October 2007.

Steven M. Frost recently married Valerie LaScala, a graduate of Dominican College. The couple met on a study abroad trip with Professor Howard Horowitz' to the American Northwest. Steven and Valerie participated in two additional study abroad trips: to Costa Rica with Professor Richard Lowell, and to Urbino, Italy with Professor Rosetta D'Angelo. Steven works for EWMA, an environmental consulting firm and is pursuing a master's in environmental management at Montclair State University.



Pedro E. Hernandez is a litigation associate concentrating in the representation of general contractors, construction managers and design professionals in all aspects of construction litigation for a firm in Miami, Florida where he practices law. He earned his law degree from Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law in 2006. While in law school, Hernandez clerked for the Honorable Judge Jose Linares, the United States District Court of New Jersey, and held internships at Avaya, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson.

Alexandra M. Khorover recently joined the firm of Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross, specializing in health care litigation. Alexandra earned her J.D. at Seton Hall University in 2006.

Jill Schuck and Joseph Brown III announce their engagement. Jill works as the director of broadcast operations for Medco Health Solutions in Franklin Lakes. Her fiancée is the director of Program Research for the cable network Bravo. A summer 2007 wedding is planned.

Nancy A. Smith received her Ayurvedic certifications from the Kripalu School of Ayurveda (MA)

and the Ayurvedic Institute (NM). Since 2001, Nancy has been a dedicated Yoga Instructor and Reiki Master. She is the founder and director of Essence of Self Ayurvedic Holistic Health, NJ;



co-director of Ananda Retreats, LLC; and dean of American Schools of Ayurveda, NJ. Nancy volunteers as a seaton associate at the Sisters of Charity in Convent Station, NJ. She also holds memberships in the National Ayurvedic Medical Association, the Kripalu Yoga Teachers Association, the Yoga Alliance, and the International Association of Reiki Practitioners.

Jeff Vybihal landed a job opportunity at Storis Management Systems. He is starting as a technical support specialist and was offered the chance to learn the UniBASIC language which is used to create the software.

'04

Kelly Evernham is spending six months hiking from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. Her parents escorted her to Amicalola Falls State Park, Georgia and she has since hiked almost 1,000 miles. Her trail name is



"Kurlly" because of her very curly hair. You can visit http://trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?trailname=3663.

Ptl. Robert Grabowski joined the Bloomingdale Police Department in NJ on September 1. A certified police officer, Grabowski graduated from the alternate route program at the Morris County Police Academy. He worked actively as a class 2 special officer for the North Haledon Police Department.

Christopher Irving was recently hired as the assistant director for Student Development Programming at Seton Hall University in South Orange. One of the things Irving said he enjoys most about the position is getting students excited about extracurricular

involvement. Irving's energetic, enthusiastic personality makes him a perfect fit for the position, and he anticipates a successful semester.

Christine Lion teaches seventh grade social studies at Fieldstone Middle School.

Kevin Pertusiello recently completed a national theatrical tour of the Great Lakes area with the National Theatre for Children,



along with another 2004 Ramapo grad, Jenelle Sosa. Kevin has enjoyed many performing successes since graduation including many theatrical performances in New York City, minor roles in *Law & Order: Trial by Jury*, *The Producers: Movie Musical*, and leading roles in the Cannes Film Festival selection, "Killswitch," and the Indie Can Film Festival selection, "The Cyclist." Kevin is currently starring as Tateh, one of the lead roles in the musical *Ragtime*, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and the Algonquin Arts Theater in Manasquan.

Wendy J. Polanco received her M.A. in Political Economy/Latin America from New York University in May. Her thesis tracked political processes in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Costa Rica during the US-DR-CAFTA negotiation/ratification period. She is currently a Presidential Management Fellows Program Finalist and works as a senior associate at Trans-National Research Corporation.

Beth Eileen Shilane graduated in May from Fordham University, New York City, with a master's degree in counseling and personnel services.

'05

Lara Jansen and Matthew Rouillard were married at St. Mary's Church in Denville. After spending their honeymoon in Mexico's Riviera Maya, the newlyweds are now home in Morris Plains. Lara works as a third-grade teacher at Our Lady of Mercy School, while Matthew is employed as a Web developer with Corner Edge Solutions.

Christine Ann LeValley married Brad Stephen Piotrowski on December 17, 2006. Christine is a first grade teacher in the Mahwah public school district.

Lindsay McGovern was announced by Withumsmith+Brown Certified Public Accountants and Consultants as a staff accountant in the firm's Red Bank office.

Laura Ann Pignataro and Thoma Hendricks announce their engagement. Laura works as an engineering documentation associate to the head of engineering at Asymtek in San Diego, California. Thomas recently separated from the U.S Marines, where he served for nine years and returned from his 2004 tour in Iraq with honors. He graduated from the San Diego Police Academy on October 12, 2006. The couple plan to return to the East Coast in the fall of 2007 and will marry in 2008.

Kinga Sliwinska along with her sister, Blanca Sliwinska, presented a photographic show titled "Reflections" at the Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark. The series of photographs titled "Broken Intimacy" showed the fluid transgressions of the human body in a private world, the images revealing uninvited vulnerability.

'06

Darrell Fertakos has been selected for an Honorable Mention by the judges of the Modern Marvels Invent Now Challenge. His entry was selected from among over 4,200 submissions based on his description of his invention and embodiment of the inventive spirit. Fertakos' invention was featured on www.History.com/invent in its listing of the Honorable Mention recipients. His idea of innovation entails a digital coupon system utilized at stores. Fertakos was featured in a video-clip in the *The Tonight Show*. The video was shot at the Yankee Invention Convention held in Waterbury, CT. Phil Anderson (TAS) and Cherie Sherman (SAB) taught Fertakos in their course "Invention: Creative, Social and Legal Perspectives." Darrell is now speaking with engineers and investors to make his product a reality.

Michael A. Patti is a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He was commissioned at the United States Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, GA in late August 2006. Lieutenant Patti will continue serving as an Armor Officer (working with tanks) and will be stationed outside Seattle, WA. In addition, Lieutenant Patti will be getting married to **Laura Sernotti '05**, the girl he met on the first day of classes during the Spring 2001 semester at Ramapo College. The wedding is planned for March 11, 2007. The couple will then reside in the Seattle area.



Christina Prumos was named one of two 2006 Outstanding Campus Ministry Students of the Year. Her story was highlighted in an article in *Catholic Advocate*.

Nicoll Van Nieuwland married Thomas P. Spinner on June 10, 2006. Nicoll is employed at Professional Communications in Erie, PA.



Alumni Interested in Teaching...

Do you wish to develop valuable relationships with experienced teachers who can help you reach your teaching goals or refine your teaching skills?

If so, **Ramapo's Center for Learning and Instruction is just the place for you!**

Learn more about the Center for Learning and Instruction.

Contact:
 Richard Russo, Ed.D.
 at 201.684.7886
 or email the Center
 at cli@ramapo.edu.





The Friends of Ramapo College was founded in 1977 to expand communication and foster greater understanding between the campus of Ramapo College and neighboring communities.

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, the Friends hosted an auction of original work by the region's leading artists and a cabaret performance by Wendy Kelly. Attended by 150 patrons and guests, more than \$6,000 was raised for the Friends' scholarship endowment fund, which provides awards to students with outstanding academic achievements. A highlight of the evening was the live auction conducted by Dr. Peter Mercer, Ramapo College president.



- (1) Members of Salute to Women in the Arts.
- (2) Artist Cornelia Baker.
- (3) Artist Sandra Frech.
- (4) Liz and Ralph Mastrangelo and Tom Srednicki. Ralph Mastrangelo and Tom Srednicki serve as governors on the Foundation Board.
- (5) Artist Linda Dator, Ramapo College Foundation governor and Francis J. Rodriguez, president, Friends of Ramapo.
- (6) Artist Rebecca Kraus, director, Friends of Ramapo Board.
- (7) Wendy Kelly's cabaret performance featured the music of David Friedman, famous for his arrangements of Disney shows including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Pocohontas*, and *Aladdin*.
- (8) Rich and Linda Conti; Myron, Russell and Elaine Adler.
- (9) Peg Knight, Kay McNamara, Muff Thayer, director, Friends of Ramapo Board, and Leonie Castelino, artist.

The Friends of Ramapo gratefully acknowledge the following artists who donated their works for the silent auction:

- Cornelia Baker
- Ruth Bauer Neustadter
- Leonie Castelino
- Linda Dator
- Sandra Frech
- Alice Harrison
- Dan Kirschenbaum
- Rebecca Kraus
- Jenny LaPlaca
- Armin J. Lovi
- Ellen Miret
- Ellen Reinkraut
- Lisa Peters-Russ
- Kiyoko Sakai
- Alida Van Dyke
- Rosemary Zabal

Many are affiliated with Salute to Women in the Arts. Linda Dator is a governor on the Foundation's Board, Rebecca Kraus is a director on the Friends of Ramapo Board, and Jenny LaPlaca is a director of the Alumni Association Board.



Ramapo's Softball Team Knows How To Play Hardball On The Field

The Ramapo College softball team, under Head Coach Benjamin Allen, played in the Division III World Series in Raleigh, NC in May after defeating the No. 4 seed, Moravian College, in the Atlantic Region finals. The trip to the World Series was the College's first ever. The Roadrunners faced NJAC conference rival Rutgers-Camden University for the sixth time of the season in the opening game and ultimately were defeated by a score of 3-1.

The loss dropped Ramapo (36-12 overall) into the bottom bracket, and the team went on to face Ithaca, whose strong performance in the third inning

Complex in Raleigh, cruised to a 5-3 victory over the Ramapo Roadrunners. Ramapo's softball team headed home from the series with a final record of 36-13.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Division III Top 25 Poll named Ramapo College seventh in the top 25. The NFCA Division III Top 25 Softball Poll is voted on by National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III head coaches representing each region, based on records as of May 22.



ABOVE: "A good offense and defense" catapulted the Roadrunners softball team to an overall 36-13 season. BELOW: Members of the 1978 Football Team.



2007 Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

On April 21, 2007, the Athletic Hall of Fame will honor alumni for significant contributions to the College's sports teams. Save the date and join us!

Call Rachel Pinton at 201.684.7679 for tickets/details.

- Honorees Inducted Into Hall of Fame**
- Ramapo College of New Jersey inducted several honorees into the Athletic Hall of Fame:
 - Ben Arcuri '97, Basketball
 - Mary Hendricks '88, Track and Field
 - Bob Jankowski, Football
 - Andrew Latincics '89, Track and Field
 - DJ Pinton '99, Soccer
 - the 1978 Football Team

Lowber Crowned Champion at NCAA Championship

Senior Todd Lowber (Riverside, NJ) was crowned champion in the high jump competition at the NCAA Division III Championships held at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL, on May 26, 2006.

Lowber's jump, measured at 7'5", was marked as the No. 1 jump in Division III this year. He also set a stadium record at

Benedictine University with the jump. With the same jump he broke his own school record set at TCNJ's New Jersey Invitational on April 15, 2006. Lowber is the College's first individual national champion. He is the fourth National Qualifier and second All-American during Coach Mike Jackson's two-year tenure at Ramapo. Congratulations to Todd, Coach Jackson, the rest of the coaching staff, and the entire Ramapo College track team on an outstanding season in 2006!

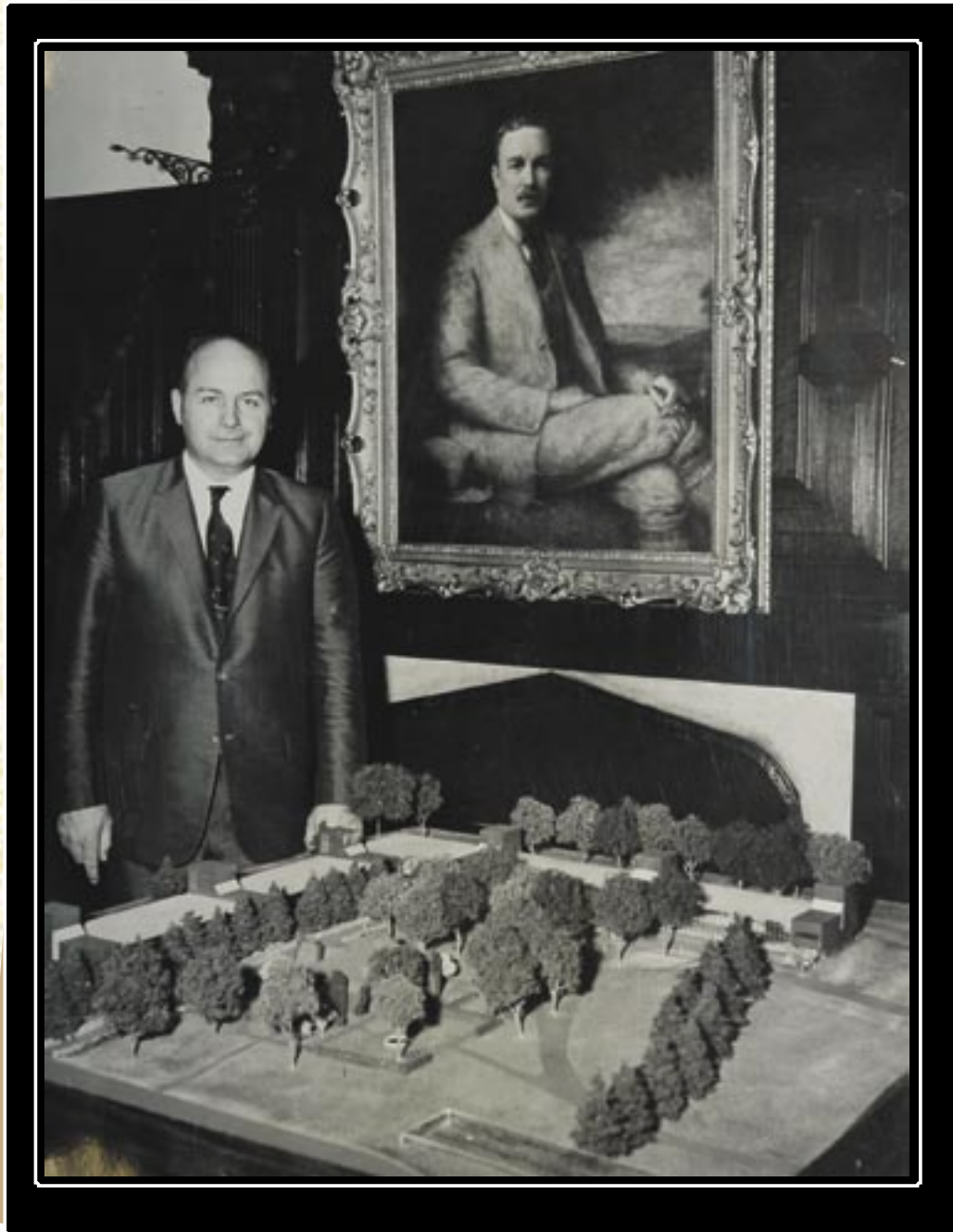
- Members of the Ramapo Roadrunners softball team earned a number of post season awards:**
- Erica Moore—NJAC 1st Team All-Conference, NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team
 - Andrea Pastiglione—NJAC 2nd Team All-Conference, NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team
 - Lisa Rizzo—NJAC 2nd Team All-Conference, NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team
 - Beth Choma—NJAC 2nd Team All-Conference, NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team
 - Michele Rossi—NJAC 2nd Team All-Conference, NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team
 - Lauren Cascino—NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team
 - Katie Norton—NCAA Atlantic Region All-Tournament Team

By Ron Kase, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for
Institutional Advancement and
Director, Grants Administration

From a Grand Beginning to a Grand Present

In 1968, a bond issued by the State of New Jersey raised money for the purchase of the Birch Estate and the construction of the Phase I Academic Building of the newly created Ramapo College of New Jersey. Phase I contains sections A through D without the Library, Student Center or the H and G wings. In the 1969 photo to the right, Dr. George Potter, the College's founding president, is shown with a model of the campus as it was conceived by the architects and planners involved with constructing a college on a historic site with landmark buildings, stone walls, and beautiful plantings. President Potter and the campus model were photographed in the Mansion's dining room which is presently part of the office occupied by the Division of Institutional Advancement and the Ramapo College Foundation.

The photo also shows a portrait of Stephen Birch, the owner of the property that became Ramapo College. Birch founded Kennecott Copper in 1898, which mined fourteen percent of all copper in the world at that time. In the center of the campus is the Birch Mansion, which was home to the Birch family for many years. As indicated in the College's 1974 master plan, "The Mansion grounds form the center of the academic zone."



Richard Roberts, associate vice president for finance and planning at Ramapo College, has led the careful transformation of a country estate to a modern institution of higher education.

He reminds us that the campus was "built according to a master plan that was formulated over 30 years ago, which has protected the historic nature of the property."

ABOVE: In an archive photo, George T. Potter, founding president of the College, with a model of plans for the future Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Students Rally for the Cause in Alternative Spring Break Programs



Forty Ramapo College students soaked up the sun on spring break as they rebuilt homes in hurricane-ravaged Gulfport, MS; planted trees in indigenous villages in Oaxaca, Mexico; provided home repairs to families in the Appalachian region of Asheville, NC; and worked on a farm in Rutland, MA.

The trip to **Gulfport, MS**, gave students a chance to rebuild homes while using their artistic talents to reflect upon the experience and tell the stories of those affected by the hurricane. "Going there, being a part of the service, and seeing the devastation was an experience of a lifetime," said senior Jaquair Gillette. "I was glad to be part of the process of rebuilding." Participants recorded the untold stories of survivors in *The Katrina Chronicles*, a "zine" the students published containing stories and artwork.

Students who traveled to **Oaxaca, Mexico**, engaged in a reforestation project. They also assisted with an organic garden, cleaned up litter, and worked with youth and children's groups in the San Javier area. "Students furthered their understanding of our geographic neighbor, separated from us by barriers of

language, culture, and history," said trip leader Paula Straile-Costa, a professor of history and Latin American studies.

Mountain Housing Opportunities (MHO), a nonprofit organization serving **Asheville, NC**, provides affordable housing for low-income people. Students worked through MHO's Emergency Home Repair program to provide repairs and construction work. "You can see the gratitude in the eyes of the people you help," said Kat McGee, a 2006 graduate who is attending Pace University School of Law.

Students traveling to **Rutland, MA**, worked on the Heifer Project's Overlook Farm. Heifer Project International helps families become more self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in their care. Participants helped with farm chores including feeding, milking, and cleaning.



"These programs provided students with the opportunity to challenge their comfort zones and to effect grassroots social changes," said John Yao, service learning coordinator with the College's Cahill Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services. "It was a constructive and safe alternative to the traditional clichéd spring break party scene."

The programs were sponsored by the College's Cahill Center, the Community Service Center, and the Community Builders' Coalition.

