

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bonnie Franklin: bfrankli@ramapo.edu or Rosa Diaz-Mulryan: rmulryan@ramapo.edu

September 30, 2004

**RAMAPO COLLEGE PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL
SEBASTIAN J. RACITI MEMORIAL LECTURE AND DINNER**

(Mahwah) – Edward W. Ryan, the Ryan-Bacardi Professor of Economics at Manhattanville College, will be the guest lecturer at The First Annual Sebastian J. Raciti Memorial Lecture and Dinner on Wednesday, October 13 from 6 - 8 p.m. in Friends Hall on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey. The public is invited to attend the lecture and dinner, sponsored by the Center for Business and Public Policy of Ramapo College and the Ramapo College Business Network. Friends Hall is located in the College's Student Center.

Ryan's topic is "Economic Freedom and Public Policy." He is the founder and director of the Manhattanville College Economic Freedom Institute, which has as its mission the study of economic freedom in a scholarly manner. Ryan is the author of *Virtue, Liberty and Happiness: The Story of Economic Freedom in America*. The popular lecturer is the recipient of several teaching awards. The professor was a long-time friend of Sebastian J. Raciti, in whose memory the event was established.

For thirty-one years, Sebastian J. Raciti (1934 - 2003) served in various roles that were instrumental in the development of Ramapo College. Known as Sib, he was one of the founding faculty, arriving in the College's second year.

"We are delighted that we will be inaugurating the annual Sebastian J. Raciti Memorial Lecture and Dinner," says Dr. Murray Sabrin, executive director of the Center

- more -

for Business and Public Policy. “Dr. Raciti’s long-time friend, Professor Ed Ryan will talk about economic freedom and public policy. In addition, we will award the first annual Sebastian J. Raciti scholarship in honor of Sib. A student will be chosen who best exemplifies Sib’s lifetime qualities: integrity, leadership, character and scholarship.”

Raciti held various posts during his tenure including director of the School of Metropolitan and Community Studies, dean of the School of Administration and Business, vice president for Academic Affairs, vice president of Institutional Advancement and professor of economics. He was also the director of the Governor’s School for International Studies, a summer program for gifted high school students. In his administrative roles, he helped design new academic programs, raised funds to support new initiatives and scholarships and recruited new faculty.

Tickets are \$75 per person. To reserve a seat, call 201.684.7373 or e-mail cbpp@ramapo.edu.

###