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RAMAPO PROFESSOR NAMED DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM

(Mahwah) – Dr. Edward Saiff, a professor of biology, recently assumed leadership of the Ramapo College Honors Program. Students selected for the program work directly with faculty on honors projects that provide an added layer of challenge to their coursework and participate in specialized trips and lectures. For the fall 2004 semester, 31 first-year students joined 33 continuing Honors students.

Saiff envisions an invigorated Honors Program with high-level, academically oriented activities and coursework. Students admitted to the program are accepted based on an application that includes a short essay, their high school record and SAT scores.

“I’m excited about it,” he says. “This is another challenge; it gives me an opportunity to work directly with the students, which is why I get up in the morning.” Saiff has held many roles at the College, including professor, dean of the School of Theoretical and Applied Science and president of the Faculty Assembly.

He foresees enhancing curricular components of the Honors Program by linking them to programs Ramapo College directs at the New Jersey Meadowlands Environment Center. “I’m hoping to create a faculty lecture series centering around timely events like the election and the history of religion,” he says. He also would like to plan extracurricular activities that have a New Jersey focus, for instance, trips to minor-league baseball games at one of the three regional ballparks or attending programs at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Dr. Saiff’s areas of expertise include neuroscience, vertebrate biology and zoology. He resides in Mahwah, New Jersey.

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