



Academic Achievement Ceremony

Thursday, May 14, 2015

3 p.m.

Sharp Theater, Berrie Center

PUSHING > BOUNDARIES

 **RAMAPO
COLLEGE**
OF NEW JERSEY

The Academic Achievement Ceremony (formerly the Honors Convocation) celebrates the academic achievements of undergraduate students at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

As we continue to admit students who are better prepared for the rigors of college, students honored at this event are more and more likely to be among the most outstanding. These students are recognized for their specific as well as more general intellectual achievements.

The Office of the Provost would like to recognize the gracious assistance of all whose work makes our acknowledgement of student achievement possible today.

We would like to thank the deans, conveners, and faculty who took the time to assess carefully the contributions of students considered for these awards.

We are especially grateful to the benefactors who contributed monetary awards: the Ramapo Federation of State College Teachers/AFT Local 2274, Carol Schaefer/Shepard Foundation, and others. (See About the Awards for more details.)

Our greatest appreciation is extended to those students honored today and to the many students whose achievements made the choice of honorees a difficult one. Their excellent academic achievement and co-curricular activities are the life of Ramapo College.

www.ramapo.edu/aac

ABOUT THE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT MAJOR AWARD

The Outstanding Academic Achievement Major award is given each year to a graduating senior in each major with a 3.5 and above grade point average who has excelled in his or her field of study. Majors with more than 250 students will be granted two awards. The Ramapo Federation of State College Teachers/American Federation of Teachers Local 2274 provides the monetary awards from generous contributions of their union members.

RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Ramapo Book Prize for Academic Excellence is awarded each year to one continuing student in each school who has exhibited outstanding achievement in his/her field of study. The Ramapo College of New Jersey Office of the Provost provides each student with a gift award.

FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

The prestigious Faculty-Student Research Award is given to a team of students or up to two individual students in each of the academic schools who have conducted research in close collaboration with faculty mentors and made a significant contribution to the project. Students will have presented the research at an outside conference presentation or exhibition or submitted it for publication. The Ramapo College of New Jersey Office of the Provost proudly provides each student with a gift award.

CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES/ SHEPARD FOUNDATION AWARD

The Carol Schaefer Human Services Award is given to several graduating students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to working in the human services field and who will be attending graduate school next year. Each recipient receives a generous monetary award graciously provided by the Carol Schaefer/ Shepherd Foundation.

NASW SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARSHIP

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Social Work Scholarship award is given to an undergraduate social work student for the opportunity to attend professional conferences or for scholarship. An endowment for the NASW/Social Work Scholarship generously provides the monetary award.

HERBERT WORTREICH AWARD

The Herbert Wortreich Award is given to a graduating senior who best embodies the values of an environmental professional and offers promise of contributing to the field. An anonymous benefactor generously donates the monetary award.

AFT GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The AFT Graduate School Scholarship is selected by the Ramapo Federation of State College Teachers/American Federation of Teachers Local 2274 and awarded to one graduating senior who intends to pursue graduate studies. The Ramapo Federation of State College Teachers/American Federation of Teachers Local 2274 provides a generous monetary award from contributions of their union members.

HENRY J. FRUNDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship is given to a second- or third-year student with an interest in labor studies, social justice, or Latin American Studies. The Ramapo Federation of State College Teachers/American Federation of Teachers Local 2274 generously provides a monetary award from contributions of their union members.

LEE SENNISH PRIZE

The Lee Sennish Award is given annually to a graduating female student who demonstrates outstanding fulfillment or visibly improved academic performance over the period of enrollment, has 60 or more credits completed at Ramapo, and has a minimum grade point average of 2.75. The Ramapo College of New Jersey Office of the President proudly provides a monetary award.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Introduction and Greetings

by Beth Barnett,
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

School Awards for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Faculty-Student Research presented by the Deans

Anisfield School of Business – Lewis Chakrin
Contemporary Arts – Steven Perry
Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies – Stephen Rice
Social Science and Human Services - Samuel Rosenberg
Theoretical and Applied Science – Edward Saiff

American Federation of Teachers Graduate School Scholarship Award Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship Award

presented by Martha Ecker, President of AFT Local 2274

Lee Sennish Prize

presented by Peter P. Mercer, President
and Katherine McGee, Coordinator of the Women's Center

Closing Remarks

by Peter P. Mercer, President

Alma Mater

Music Provided by Professor Lisa Lutter
Vocal Performance by Michelle Encarnacion '15

*Immediately following the event, awardees will recess to The Grove.
At 5:00 p.m. graduates will line up at their designated school areas
for the Ramapo College Arching Ceremony.
All are welcome to attend the Arching Ceremony at 5:30 p.m.*

SCHOOL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Anisfield School of Business, Lewis Chakrin, Dean
Anthony E. Darakjy Accounting
Brandon J. Gruber Accounting
Cristhian J. Vera Economics
Irina Samoila Finance
Nicholas Y. Kang Information Technology Management
Blair N. Ballin International Business
Jessica A. Lawrie Management
Michael C. Dunn Marketing
Zachary N. Bilis Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Ashely M. Orlando Faculty-Student Research Award
Faculty: Rita Shea-Van Fossen
Title: *A Revised Model of Alcohol Education for First Year College Students*

School of Contemporary Arts, Steven Perry, Dean
Shayna A. Reed Communication Arts, Digital Filmmaking
Alexandra M. Lehaf Communication Arts, Global Communication & Media
Brianna M. Farulla Communication Arts, Journalism
Amy A. Lando Communication Arts, Visual Communication Design
Cara M. Daniello Communication Arts, Writing
Nikolette T. Sirawsky Contemporary Arts
Kelly T. Haggerty Music
Samantha N. Simone Theater
Alyssa M. Maurin Visual Arts
Nathaniel C. Moon Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Nicholas G. Walsh Faculty-Student Research Award
Faculty: Peter A. Campbell
Title: *Dramaturgy and Program Design for Miss Julie*

Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, Stephen Rice, Dean
Bridget M. O'Keefe American Studies
Geraldine A. Finlayson History
Brianna K. Kennedy International Studies
Jillian N. Cener Liberal Studies
Heather N. De Bel Literature
Erik A. Topp Political Science
Paola S. Bermedo-Sturla Spanish Language Studies
Dana L. Molinari Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Jonathan B. Mangel Faculty-Student Research Award
Faculty: Jeremy Teigen
Title: *Putting the Problem in the Cross-Hairs: Partisan Perceptions of the Causes of Gun Violence*

School of Social Science and Human Services, Samuel Rosenberg, Dean
Kathrynn P. Sleight Environmental Studies
Jonathan B. Mangel Law and Society
Donna Elazar Psychology
Kimberly K. Halloran Psychology
Sara F. Bazaz Social Science
Jared M. Schneider Social Work
Jordan S. Moses Sociology

School of Social Science and Human Services, Samuel Rosenberg, Dean *(continued)*

Alexey Y. Likhovidov	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
James R. Ticchio	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Aaron Lorenz
	Title: <i>Federally Financed Elections: What is the Problem and What are the Solutions?</i>
Julia L. Hughes	NASW Social Work Scholarship
Heather M. Darley	Herbert Wortreich Award
Jessica L. Barrows	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Alyssa J. Cullere	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Franchesca M. Gomez	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Edlira Gora	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Gerson J. Lovera	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Tara B. Zahorenko	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award

School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Edward Saiff, Dean

Courtney L. Mower	Biochemistry
Abigail J. Ameri	Bioinformatics
Alyssa N. Finnegan	Biology
Keimya D. Sadeghi	Biology
Dobromir A. Yordanov	Computer Science
Shauharda Khadka	Engineering Physics
Danielle M. Bara	Environmental Science
Christine A. Holl	Integrated Science Studies
Alyssa A. Martin	Mathematics
Thalia I. Lopez	Nursing
Joanne Catharine Tanis	Nursing
Lauren E. Schmidt	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Akram Hussain	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Sarah Carberry
	Title: <i>Cyclic Voltammetry of Organometallic Compounds and Greener Experiments in the Undergraduate Laboratory</i>

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
LOCAL 2274**

AFT Graduate School Scholarship Award

Samantha N. Simone

Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship Award

Marissa G. Hatten

LEE SENNISH PRIZE

Abigail J. Ameri

The 2015 Academic Achievement Ceremony program and biographies

(in order of appearance) will also appear on our website at

www.ramapo.edu/aac

2015 Academic Achievement Ceremony

BIOGRAPHIES

ANISFIELD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The first outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is ANTHONY DARAKJY.

Anthony served as a member of the Anisfield School of Business Board of Trustees member and was the recipient of the New Student Service Award in 2012. In addition, Anthony attended the Active Leadership Conference in 2012, the AGB Governing Board Conference in 2013 and 2014 and made a presentation at the 2015 Honors Program Symposium and Scholars Day Research exhibit. Anthony has been inducted into many honor societies while at Ramapo College, most notably Beta Gamma Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Anthony be joining the New York City office of Ernest & Young in their Assurance and Advisory Services Department.

The second outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is BRANDON GRUBER.

Brandon was extremely active during his tenure at Ramapo serving as the President of the Accounting Club and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the national business honor society and Alpha Lambda Honor Society. In addition, Brandon was a member of the Finance Club and the Intramural Flag Football Team. Brandon was a recipient of the 2014 Beta Gamma Sigma Scholarship. Brandon worked as an intern in a variety of areas most notably as a Construction Management Intern at the Trump Organization. Brandon will be joining Ernst & Young in New York City in the fall.

The outstanding student in ECONOMICS is CHRISTIAN VERA.

Christian is an exceptional economics student whom the faculty believes will play a pivotal role in shaping the economic policy of Latin America in the years to come. During his time at Ramapo, he has demonstrated a strong interest in understanding economic theory and its application in the practical aspects of economic policy making, especially in his Comparative Economic Systems project where he studied Brazil. Additionally, he has worked as a research assistant under Dr. George Gonpu, where they are investigating the macroeconomic determinants of the US-Liberian dollar exchange rate. Christian is a very enthusiastic learner and a very promising young economist.

The outstanding student in FINANCE is IRINA SAMOILA.

Irina is a member of the ASB's Dean's Advisory Council, Finance Club Vice President, Beta Gamma Sigma honors society, ENACTUS and a Sustainability Project Leader. She participated in the Charter Financial Analyst (CFA) Research Challenge and worked as a Research Assistant on Dr. Juan Cabrera's project on behavioral finance; Irina also won the "Best Research Assistant" award two years in a row.

Irina has participated in several internships including working at SportsCare Institute and at Technical Solutions. She also interned in the Teams Finance department at Madison Square Garden where she will become a full-time Staff Accountant after graduation.

The outstanding student in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT is NICHOLAS KANG.

Nicholas is a January 2015 graduate. While at Ramapo, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda, Beta Gamma Sigma, and the Golden Key Honor Society. He was also awarded the Kuchar Book Award. In fall of 2014, Nicholas participated in a work-study program for the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he assisted veterans seeking information regarding benefits. Since graduation, he has been offered and accepted a job at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Nicholas' future goals include the pursuit of a MBA in Information Systems degree and to find economically-sound, technological solutions that increase productivity and efficiency in workplace.

The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS is BLAIR BALLIN.

Blair has actively participated in numerous activities during her time at Ramapo. Of note was her participation in several regional and national competition presentations with Enactus. She has also been active in the International Business Club, Beta Gamma Sigma and with the NJ Collegiate Business Administration Association Honor Society. She has studied abroad in Paris to perfect her French language skills and has also interned at several companies including Unilever, Mercedes-Benz USA and Comcast NBC Universal. After graduation, Blair will be working with Comcast NBC Universal on the Time Warner merger as an IT specialist.

The outstanding student in MANAGEMENT is JESSICA LAWRIE.

Jessica is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, Beta Gamma Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. She is also President of both the Society for Human Resources Management and the International Business Club. She participated in the 2014 and 2015 Society for Human Resource Management Conferences and presented a poster with her co-authors at the Eastern Psychological Association's 2014 Boston conference. She has interned at Stryker Spine and is currently interning at Jaguar Land Rover. Jessica's future goals include working at a Fortune 500 company in the Human Resources Department and pursuing her MBA.

The outstanding student in MARKETING is MICHAEL DUNN.

In addition to maintaining an extraordinary level of excellence in his studies, Michael served as a leader in many aspects of life at Ramapo College, including the Student Government Association, the myCCT Initiative, and the Alpha Lambda Delta and Beta Gamma Sigma honor societies. He worked as a Marketing and Social Media Student Assistant in the Ramapo College Office of Marketing & Web Administration and also participated in the Spring Break China Immersion Experience in 2013. Michael is currently working as a community manager at the social-media marketing firm Likeable Media in New York City.

The 2015 ASB RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to ZACHARY BILIS.

Zachary is an Information Technology Management major. He has been inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honors societies and has been on the Dean's List three times. Zachary's future goals include finding employment after college or, if possible, going to graduate school.

The 2015 ASB FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to ASHLEY ORLANDO.

Working with Professor Rita Shea-Van Fossen, Ashley's research work includes her honor's project titled "Conformity Pressures Experienced by Virtual Team Members Communicating Online" and a change research project "A Revised Model of Alcohol Education for First Year College Students". This program utilizes trained students volunteering as peer facilitators and has three areas of focus, Low-Risk Drinking, Good Samaritan Policy, and Actions have Consequences. Ashley not only conducted this research using qualitative interviews and Kotter's eight-step model of successful change, but Ashley received approval for this program from senior leadership across Ramapo College and Ramapo will be initiating this program in Fall 2015.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Ashley is the co-President of Ramapo's Student Affiliate chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), is a founding brother of the new professional business fraternity here at Ramapo, Alpha Kappa Psi, and was one of only 20 students Nationwide to be selected for AKPsi's Academy Fellow's program. After graduation, Ashley hopes to work in Human Resource Management for a major company in the New York City area.

SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

The outstanding student in DIGITAL FILMMAKING is SHAYNA REED.

Shayna worked at Magnolia Pictures as a marketing and publicity intern, promoting films through grassroots marketing campaigns and conducting research for a national marketing campaign. Professionally, she is interested in screenwriting and editing, and plans to write and promote film and television projects that foster an atmosphere of diverse representation in the media. She also volunteers at and supports pet adoption organizations.

The outstanding student in GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA is ALEXANDRA LEHAF.

Allie has been involved in many programs and associations, including the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, the Honor Societies Golden Key and ODK, Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society, and the college's Honors Program. She has presented at various academic conferences: Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, the National Collegiate Honors Conference, and twice at the Eastern Communication Association Conference. She studied in Paris, and completed an internship with "Good Housekeeping" magazine. In September, she will start a full-time position at Macy's Merchandising Group in their Executive Development Program for Product Development in New York City.

The outstanding student in JOURNALISM is BRIANNA FARULLA.

Brianna is a member of the Honor Societies Lambda Pi Eta and Phi Theta Kappa and has been on the Dean's List through her whole college career. She completed internships at Bloomsbury Publishing and *The New York Post*. She plans to pursue a career in journalism as an editor or reporter.

The outstanding student in VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN is AMY LANDO.

Amy has served as President of the Creative Media Club and Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society, and has belonged to The Golden Key National Honor Society for three years. She completed internships with the Online Team of the Asia Society and Kraus Marketing, and is currently the Design Assistant at RockTenn. She recently won the Smith Design Branding and Packaging Award from the Art Directors Club of New Jersey in their state-wide design competition for college students. After graduation, she hopes to work in packaging design or branding.

The outstanding student in WRITING is CARA DANIELLO.

Cara is a member of the college's Honors Program and has served on its Executive Board for the past two years. In addition to being a Peer Facilitator since her sophomore year, she has been a member of the Rock Climbing Team and the American Democracy Project for four years. She presented at the American Democracy Project National Conference, and completed a marketing internship with Wiley Publishing. Last summer she was a Production Assistant and Script Supervisor on a professional film shoot. Cara has been submitting her feature-length screenplay, "The Fun in Dysfunctional," which was her Senior Honors Thesis and Writing Capstone project, to various film festivals. She is applying to Columbia University's MFA program in screenwriting, and plans to pursue a screenwriting career.

The outstanding student in CONTEMPORARY ARTS is NIKOLETTE SIRAWSKY.

Nikolette was a co-founder of the Ramapo Disney Club, and an original member of the *a capella* group, 4Gotten Suitcase. She participated in the National Student Exchange, spending a year at Dakota State University, where she won an animated holiday card design competition. She interned in 2D animation with Nan North, co-founder of Queue Graphics, and plans to pursue a career in design and animation.

The outstanding student in MUSIC is KELLY HAGGERTY.

Kelly has been a member of the Ramapo Chorale and the Ramapo Music Club throughout her college career. For her Senior Capstone project, she created a website to help musicians find performance venues and open mics in the New York City area. She spent her Spring 2014 semester in Ramapo's exchange program at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, England, and completed a Licensing and Synch internship with Ultra Records, an independent electronic music label in New York City. She plans to pursue a career at a label or publishing company, or in the music department of a film/television company.

The outstanding student in THEATER is SAMANTHA SIMONE.

Sam has served as Secretary for Alpha Psi Omega, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary of Fusion Dance Crew, and was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta. She was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Award at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival regionals. Please see AFT GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP for more about Samantha near the end of the biographies.

The outstanding student in VISUAL ARTS is ALYSSA MAURIN.

A member of Alpha Lambda Delta, and Secretary of Phi Beta Delta, Alyssa is also a Global Roadrunner, having studied abroad in Argentina, Denmark and Scotland. She represented the college at the 2014 Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, and at the 2015 Phi Beta Delta International Scholars Honors Society Conference. Her photography has been exhibited at the Center for Fine Art Photography in Colorado and at ArtHelix in Brooklyn. After teaching English abroad, she plans to pursue an MFA in photography.

The 2015 CA RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to NATHANIEL MOON.

Nate is President of Alpha Lambda Delta and Omicron Delta Kappa. He is the Treasurer and Co-Founder of the Ramapo College Concert Band where he is a cellist, as well as a pianist in the Ramapo Chamber Ensemble. He is also the Treasurer of the Investment Club. A double-major in Music and Computer Science, Nate plans to pursue a career that combines music and technology.

The 2015 CA FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to NICHOLAS WALSH.

Working with Professor Peter Campbell, Nick conducted dramaturgy and wrote the program notes for the Theater program's Fall 2014 production of Strindberg's play, *Miss Julie*. He has served as Publicist and President for Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theater Honor Society, has apprenticed at the New Victory Theater, and has interned at both The New York Innovative Theater Foundation and New Light Theater Project. He received the Thomas H. Kean Award from the Garden State Arts Center Foundation in 2014.

SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES

The outstanding student in AMERICAN STUDIES is BRIDGET O'KEEFE.

In addition to majoring in American Studies, Bridget completed a minor in Human Rights and Genocide Studies. She studied abroad in Denmark, where she focused on children's human rights and human trafficking, and in the summer of 2014 worked as an intern for the Figment Project in New York City. Her paper "Happiness, Womanhood, and Sexualized Media: An Analysis of 1950s and 1960s Popular Culture" was published last year in *New Errands: The Undergraduate Journal of American Studies*. Bridget graduated in December and now lives and works in Portland, Maine.

The outstanding student in HISTORY is GERALDINE FINLAYSON.

Geraldine is a member of both the Golden Key International Honor Society and Phi Alpha Theta, which is the national History honor society. Faculty in the History program note that she demonstrates a real ability at doing historical research and at developing sophisticated and well-supported historical arguments. Geraldine plans to go to graduate school in History, or to law school. She is also considering doing compliance work in the financial industry.

The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL STUDIES is BRIANNE KENNEDY.

Brianne served as a Student Ambassador for the International Studies Program and is a member of Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honor Society. She has had four internships while a student at Ramapo, including with the International Rescue Committee, the National Organization for Women, and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Last spring she presented her paper "Gender Relations, Vulnerability, and Violence in the Sudanese Conflict" at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference. After graduation Brianne plans to continue working in non-governmental organizations "that strive to better the global community."

The outstanding student in LIBERAL STUDIES is JILLIAN CENER.

Jillian has served as President of both the Italian Club and the Ramapo chapter of the Alpha Omicron Pi Women's Fraternity. She is also a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key, Kappa Delta Pi, and Phi Beta Delta honor societies, and she has presented her scholarship at Ramapo's annual Scholars' Day event. She studied abroad in Italy and participated last summer in the National Organization of Italian American Women's Cultural Exchange Program. This coming summer Jillian will be serving as a Student Ambassador for the United States Pavilion at the Expo Milan in Italy.

The outstanding student in LITERATURE is HEATHER DE BEL.

Heather is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is also a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. She presented her work earlier this year at the Sigma Tau Delta international conference, and last year at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Regional Undergraduate Research Conference. She twice studied at the Skidmore Summer Writers Institute and was last year's Faculty Prize winner in poetry for her publication in the college's literary journal *Trillium*. Heather plans to pursue an MFA degree in Creative Writing.

The outstanding student in POLITICAL SCIENCE is ERIK TOPP.

Erik is a member of three honor societies: Pi Sigma Alpha, for Political Science; Omicron Delta Epsilon, for Economics; and Phi Sigma Tau, for Philosophy. He currently serves as the Ramapo chapter president of Pi Sigma Alpha. Last year he presented his research on judicial elections and political partisanship at Ramapo's annual Scholars' Day event, and he has spent two semesters conducting research with Professor Jeremy Teigen. Erik worked as an intern for the Democratic Committee of Bergen County last summer and will be attending Seton Hall University School of Law on a full tuition scholarship.

The outstanding student in SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDIES is PAOLA BERMEDO-STURLA.

Paola is completing a double major in Spanish Language Studies and International Studies. She is a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society; Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honor Society; and Alpha Sigma Lambda, which honors scholarship and leadership. This past year she received both the Sykes Family Scholarship and the Francis K. Hackett Scholarship. Paola has worked full time while completing her degree and hopes now to get a job as a Spanish teacher. Her longer-term goal is to complete a doctoral degree and become a college professor.

The 2015 SSHGS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to DANA MOLINARI.

Dana is a junior International Studies major with a minor in Italian. She is a member of Ramapo's Italian Club and has studied abroad in Italy. Professor Hassan Nejad, who nominated Dana for this award, writes that he is "truly impressed with Dana's intellectual curiosity and passion for learning." Dana is considering future studies in international law.

The 2015 SSHGS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to JONATHAN MANGEL.

Jonathan is a graduating senior with a double major in Political Science and Law and Society. Working with Professors Jeremy Teigen and Michael Unger, his on-going research project and honors thesis, "*Putting the Problem in the Cross-Hairs: Partisan Perceptions of the Causes of Gun Violence*," demonstrates that Democrats and Republicans have statistically distinct attitudes on some causes of gun violence. Jonathan has presented this work at several conferences over the past year, including the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Undergraduate Research Conference and the Northeast Political Science Association annual conference. Please see more about Jonathan under the outstanding student in Law and Society.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SERVICES

The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES is KATHRYNN SLEIGHT.

Katey is an active member of the Ramapo Beekeeping Club and the Golden Key International Honor Society. She made a presentation on composting at last year's Sustainapalooza at New York University, attended Shalefield Justice Spring Break in March 2015, and also volunteered with the Mahwah Environmental Organization. Katey is currently working at the Meadowlands Environment Center as an assistant educator and volunteers at a journalist for the New Jersey Public Policy Network. After graduation, she hopes to buy and operate a farm growing healthy, organic food.

The outstanding student in LAW & SOCIETY is JONATHAN MANGEL.

Besides his previous research accomplishments noted in SSHGS, Jonathan is a member of the College Honors Program Student Executive Board, member of the Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the first Editor-in-Chief of the Ramapo Journal of Law and Society. Jonathan presented research at three national conferences. He also studied abroad in Beijing and Shanghai as part of the China Immersion program. Jonathan will be attending Boston College Law this fall.

The first outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is DONNA ELAZAR.

Donna is a Ramapo College Presidential Scholar and not only has a double major in Social Science, but a minor in Environmental Studies, a Business Essentials Certification and a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Certification thru Ramapo. She served as President of the Yoga Club and Mindfulness Club, a peer facilitator for First-Year Seminar and an OSS academic peer and participated in the Psychology Research Symposium. Donna plans to take a year break after graduation and then either start a business or go to graduate school.

The second outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is KIMBERLY HALLORAN.

Kimberly is President of the Psychology Coalition, Disney Club and secretary of Psi Chi. She has been a research assistant for both professors Nick Salter in his LGBT Workplace Experiences Lab and Leah Warner in her Social Psychology Emotions Lab. Findings were presented at the Eastern Psychological Association conference. This fall Kimberly will be attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha as an MA/Ph.D student in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

The outstanding student in SOCIAL SCIENCE is SARA BAZAZ.

Sara is currently working for a behavioral health organization in Bergen County. She enjoys this fulfilling and challenging work and is looking forward to what the future will bring. She feels all of her experiences at Ramapo College helped guide her in this direction. Sara plans on pursuing a MSW in social work and continue work helping a population with co-occurring disorders.

The outstanding student in SOCIAL WORK is JARED SCHNEIDER.

Jared is a member of Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. He has worked 3 semesters at NewBridge Services, a non-profit organization serving community residents in Morris County. Jared plans to get a Masters of Social Work and work in adolescent counseling or gerontology.

The outstanding student in SOCIOLOGY is JORDAN MOSES.

Jordan is the President of the Sociology Club. He attended the Eastern Sociological Society and presented "How Demographics Shape Our Opinions on Gun Control". As an intern, Jordan worked on grant research at Bruno Associates. He plans to go to graduate school and earn a Ph.D. in Sociology.

The 2015 SSHS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to ALEXEY LIKHOVIDOV.

Alexey is a returning student in the Degree Completion Program. Speaking only Russian, he came to the US at age 17 while playing in semi-professional volleyball leagues. The sport brought him to Ramapo College. Although very competitive and learning to communicate better, he could not reach the desired level of success in his studies and decided to take a break. Last year, Alexey realized he was ready to fulfill his dream of receiving a college education. He still plays volleyball but Alexey now looks forward to his new goal of graduating, not only to get a better job opportunity, but also to enroll in a Graduate program.

The 2015 SSHS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to JAMES TICCHIO.

A Law and Society major, James worked with Professor Aaron Lorenz on a paper titled "Federally Financed Elections: What's the Problem and How We Can Fix It." He presented the work at the Northeastern Political Science Conference in the fall of 2014. James has been in the Ramapo Honors Program since fall 2012, the Academic Integrity Board since fall 2013 and the President of Phi Alpha Delta from fall 2014 to date. He also traveled to China this spring for a China Immersion Experience. James plans to attend Columbia Law School and become a consultant.

The 2015 NASW AWARD goes JULIA HUGHES.

Julia is a member of the Social Work Club, Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, and the Yoga Club. She is also a Golden Key Society member and Theta Kappa Honor Society member. She volunteers at an elder abuse center and homeless shelter. Julia plans to teach in Southeast Asia, South America, and sub-Saharan Africa before returning to the U.S. to earn a Master's degree.

The 2015 HERBERT WORTREICH AWARD goes to HEATHER DARLEY.

Heather is the President of 1Step Environmental Club, the student chair of the President's Committee for Campus Sustainability, founding president of Plant Strong, and the head gardener and community coordinator of Sustainable Living Facilities. She has participated in the People's Climate March and International Women's Earth and Climate Summit. She aspires to become a park ranger with the National Park Service.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to JESSICA BARROWS.

Jessica was a member of the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. She had internships assisting homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS, as well as substance abuse clients. She is now employed at a preventionist at Morris County Prevention is Key. Jessica is also attending Fordham University in the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work Program.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to ALYSSA CULLERE.

Alyssa has participated in many clubs and associations. She has been President and Treasurer of Colleges Against Cancer and acting President of Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. She was also inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Alyssa has interned in group homes, adult day care service agencies and non-profits for affordable senior housing. She is attending Rutgers Graduate School for a Masters in Social Work.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to FRANCESCA GOMEZ.

Francesca was a member of the Social Work Club. She interned at the Community Resource Council, Visiting Homemaker Services and Care Plus, NJ where she worked with youth aging out of the foster care system. She is presently applying to graduate schools for a Masters in Social Work and plans to become a licensed clinical social worker.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to EDLIRA GORA.

Edlira is a member of the Social Work Honor Society, Phi Alpha and Rho Sigma Delta Chapter of the Alpha Lambda Honor Society at Ramapo College. She has interned at Care Plus and created a toy drive for children who are placed in foster homes. She volunteers at the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center. Edlira is presently applying to grad schools to acquire a Masters in Social Work.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to GERSON LOVERA.

Gerson is a member of the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and a member of the Professional Co-ed Community Service Fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. She participated in the Study Abroad India Program and interned at three social service agencies. Gerson was accepted into New York University Advanced Standing Social Work Program. She would like to teach English abroad and join the Peace Corps.

The 2015 CAROL SCHAEFER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS goes to TARA ZAHORENKO.

Tara is a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Social Work Club. She has done internships related to substance abuse, geriatric and hospice care. Tara will be attending New York University's Silver School of Social Work in F15, where she received a significant scholarship. Her interests include gerontology, mental health and hospice.

SCHOOL OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE

The outstanding student in BIOCHEMISTRY is COURTNEY MOWER.

Courtney joined the Relay for Life Planning Committee as a sophomore and was Event Co-Chair for the last two years. She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society and the Sigma Xi Research Honor Society. She participated in the TAS Research Honors Program for the past two years. Courtney studied in Dublin during the summer of 2013. In 2014 she received the Elaine Winshell Biochemistry Award and the Beck Endowed Scholarship. Courtney will attend Arcadia University for a Master's of Forensic Science degree this fall.

The outstanding student in BIOINFORMATICS is ABIGAIL AMERI.

Abigail has been active in the Bioinformatics Club, The Golden Key International Honor Society, Sigma Xi, The National Society for Collegiate Scholars, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, and is Founder and President of the Geocaching Club. She has presented for the American Society of Plant Biologists, Ramapo Scholar's Day, the TAS Student Research Symposium, and the International Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society, and Soil Science Society of America. She interned at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in 2014. Please see the Office of the President Lee Sennish Award for more about Abigail at the end of the biographies.

The first outstanding student in BIOLOGY is ALYSSA FINNEGAN.

Alyssa has been active in the Biology Club and is a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Ramapo College Dance Team. She participated in the NDA Nationals in 2013 and 2014 as part of the Ramapo College Dance Team. She also tutored for Biology and Chemistry and volunteered at Orange Regional Medical Center. Alyssa's future goal is to attend medical school. Her advisor, Dr. Tom Owen, predicts that she is going to be a wonderful doctor with both technical skills and great patient relations.

The second outstanding student in BIOLOGY is KEIMYA SADEGHI.

Keimya is enrolled in the Ramapo College Honors Program and is currently an Honors Development Group Leader. She has participated in a TAS Research Project entitled "Precursor Effects of Glutamate on Frog Skeletal Muscle Contractility: Assessing the Early Signs of Motor Neuron Excitotoxicity." Keimya served as an intern at NovaBay Pharmaceuticals in Emeryville, California. She is interested in global public health and international human rights. Her future goals include attending graduate school for Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

The outstanding student in COMPUTER SCIENCE is DOBROMIR YORDANOV.

Dobromir has served as President of the Math Club and is a member of the Computers and Technology Club. He participated in the New Jersey Undergraduate Math Competition and Conference, the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, and received the Meritorious Award at the Mathematical Contest in Modeling. Dobromir also presented at the TAS Research Symposium. He interned at Google, Inc. in Boston during the summer of 2014 and has now accepted a full-time offer with Google in New York City starting this June. Future plans are to attend grad school and specialize in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

The outstanding student in ENGINEERING PHYSICS is SHAUHARDA KHADKA.

Shauharda is President of the Engineering Physics Club and the International Student Organization, and an inductee of the Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society. She published a paper titled "Fabrication of Oxygenation Microfluidic Devices for Cell Cultures" in [The Journal of Undergraduate Research](#). She presented at the 2014 TAS Research symposium, and in 2015 she gave a talk on "Non-Linear Regression Using Genetic Algorithms to Determine Optical Response of a Material to Electromagnetic Radiation." Shauharda served as a National Science Foundation REU Intern at the University of Illinois. Future plans include attending Oregon State University to pursue a Ph.D. in Robotics.

The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE is DANIELLE BARA.

Danielle is President of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the Subcommittee Co-Chair for Ramapo's Relay for Life, and is a member of NSCS, Golden Key, ALD and Sigma Xi. She has presented at the TAS Student Research Symposiums on "The Tree Species Selection of Red-Bellied Woodpeckers in a Floodplain Forest in Northern New Jersey" and "Ecology and Restoration of the American Chestnut Tree". She traveled to Costa Rica on "Alternate Spring Break" this spring. Danielle received the Book Prize Award in 2014. Future goals include continuing to do research in the area of applied ecology (restoration and conservation).

The outstanding student in INTEGRATED SCIENCE STUDIES is CHRISTINE HOLL.

Christine volunteered at the Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge throughout her college career. She also worked in a kindergarten classroom, where she developed a passion for teaching children. Alongside her degree, Christine has earned her Teacher Certification in Elementary Education. Christine's career goals include joining "Teach for America", a non-profit organization that brings leaders and educators to under-served school districts.

The outstanding student in MATHEMATICS is ALYSSA MARTIN.

Alyssa serves as President of Kappa Delta Pi, and is a member of the New Jersey Special Olympics and Future Teachers of Ramapo. She volunteers for the New Jersey Conference for Exceptional Children at Ramapo and is the Children's Library Assistant at the Franklin Lakes Public Library. She has also served as Museum Educator/Docent at the Hermitage Museum and a Peer Tutor in mathematics for the Office of Specialized Services at Ramapo. Future plans include becoming a high school math teacher.

The first outstanding student in NURSING is THALIA LOPEZ.

Thalia is a member of the Nursing Student Organization, Alpha Lamda Delta, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Spanish Club, and Delta Phi Epsilon. She has participated in various community events, visiting nursing homes, fundraising for Relay for Life, Cystic Fibrosis, ANAD Awareness, and has now become a member of Sigma Theta Tau. She is currently completing her clinical rotations and is part of the Emergency Department Ambassador Program at Morristown Medical Center. Thalia hopes to work in an emergency department, cardiac unit or ICU.

The second outstanding student in NURSING is CATHARINE TANIS.

Catharine has been a nurse at the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ, for almost 24 years and plans to continue. She has worked on many different units, including critical care and medical-surgical departments. She received her diploma in Ontario, Canada, and worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario, moving to the U.S. when she got married. Catharine has been involved in different community service projects in her neighborhood, has three children and is actively involved in the school community.

The 2015 TAS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to LAUREN SCHMIDT.

Lauren has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key International, and Chi Alpha Sigma honor societies and will serve as Co-President of Kappa Delta Pi during 2015-16. She also serves on the Executive Board of the College Honors Program and participates in various other clubs. She recently presented at the TAS Student Research Symposium. She works as a biology lab assistant at Ramapo and as an educational assistant at the Meadowlands Environmental Center. Lauren is currently in the Teacher Education Program for her secondary certification.

The 2015 TAS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to AKRAM HUSSAIN.

Akram received this award working with Professor Sarah Carberry for his work entitled "Cycling Voltammetry of Organometallic Compounds" and "Greener Experiments in the Undergraduate Laboratory". The results of Akram's work on his first Green chemistry project were presented at the 13th TAS Student Research Symposium and the 16th Annual Hudson-Bergen Chemical Society Undergraduate Research Symposium. The preliminary results from this research project will hopefully lead to a publication in [The Journal of Chemical Education](#). Akram also contributed to a second Green project on "Greener Column Chromatography." This procedure was also incorporated into the Organic Chemistry course at Ramapo in fall 2014 and will be published in the online lab manual. He continues to study organometallic compounds in the field of chemical education, and it is also intended to improve the undergraduate Organic Chemistry laboratory course. Akram has served as a Community Assistant in Residence Life, is a member of Sigma Xi and is an Educational Opportunity Fund student. He has attained EMT certification and plans to become a doctor of Physical Therapy.

AFT GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The 2015 AFT GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to SAMANTHA SIMONE.

Besides her previously mentioned Theater accomplishments, Samantha studied abroad in London, and interned at two New York City theaters, Looking Glass Theater and 13th Street Theater. In the fall, Samantha will enter the prestigious MFA program in Acting at Columbia University.

The 2015 HENRY J. FRUNDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to MARISSA HATTEN.

Marissa is a member and serves in leadership roles of a long list of groups and committees including Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, the Diversity Action Committee, Sociology and Criminology Club just to name a few. She participated in the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, and presented research in the Sociology Research Symposium. Marissa volunteered in the DREAM Project in the Dominican Republic and was so inspired she went back and volunteered again. Marissa hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in non-profit management or social entrepreneurship.

LEE SENNISH PRIZE

The LEE SENNISH PRIZE WINNER is ABIGAIL AMERI.

A returning student and Bioinformatics major, the TAS faculty note Abigail is clearly dedicated to learning science and has discovered a passion for genetics. As we have previously noted under her outstanding student in Bioinformatics award, she has been engaged in research winning several awards and recognitions. In addition, Abigail is very dedicated to her community and organizations. For example, the new Geocaching Club she founded now has several hundred members in its first year on the Ramapo campus. Having received multiple acceptances at Doctoral programs across the country, Abigail will be attending the University of Georgia's Integrated Life Sciences Program beginning this fall.

RAMAPO COLLEGE ALMA MATER

Lyrics by:
Michael Alasa

Music by:
David Welch

Ramapo we sing to you.

Ramapo with pride.

Praised filled voices raised on high fill your mountain side.

*In the time we've spent together we have come to learn
to have dignity, a mind that's free and celebrate humanity.*

Ramapo, as years go by.

Ramapo with love.

Even when you're far away, for ever we'll be one.

