



# Academic Achievement Ceremony

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Thursday, May 12, 2016

3 p.m.

Sharp Theater, Berrie Center

PUSHING > BOUNDARIES



*The Academic Achievement Ceremony 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 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 carefully assess 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.*

## **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 or 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 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.

### **SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The Social Work Student Conference Scholarship Award is given to an undergraduate social work student for the opportunity to attend professional conferences or for a scholarship. An endowment for the Social Work Conference 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 – Aaron Lorenz

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

A. Tamika Quick, Assistant Director of Equity and Diversity Programs

### ***Closing Remarks***

by Peter P. Mercer, President

### ***Alma Mater***

Music provided by Professor Lisa Lutter

Vocal Performance by Lisa A. French '17

*Immediately following the event, awardees will recess to the Grove.*

*At 5 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 A. Ellis	Accounting
Marisa R. Piwowarski	Accounting
Vladislav Ananov	Economics
Emma R. Munro	Finance
Stephen R. Drabik	Information Technology Management
Jenna M. Wasserman	International Business
David A. Howard	Management
Jennifer Esposito	Marketing
Princep Shah	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Kevin Ng	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Jason Hecht
	Title: <i>The Impact of Technological Change on Small Single-State Community Banks</i>

### **School of Contemporary Arts**, Steven Perry, Dean

Anthony J. Scalia	Communication Arts, Digital Filmmaking
Brandon M. Molina	Communication Arts, Global Communication & Media
Rebecca A. King	Communication Arts, Journalism
Emily Itskovitch	Communication Arts, Visual Communication Design
Mindy A. Gorin	Communication Arts, Writing
Jessica L. Minzner	Contemporary Arts
Emma R. Munro	Music
Angelina Turro	Theater
Joao Z. Zago	Visual Arts
Michael J. Pacheco	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Rosa E. Javier	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Marc Gidal
	Title: <i>Improvisation-Based Interactions Among Puerto Rican, Brazilian, and New York Musicians</i>

### **Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies**, Stephen Rice, Dean

David J. Ward	American Studies
Jonathan L. Lancaster	History
Dana L. Molinari	International Studies
Rosa E. Javier	Liberal Studies
Bryan R. Potts	Literature
David G. Ermann	Political Science
Cristina Cutri	Spanish Language Studies
Cassandra R. Fenton	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Rosa E. Javier	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Rosetta D'Angelo
	Title: <i>African Women Writers in Italy Today</i>

**School of Social Science and Human Services, Aaron Lorenz, Dean**

Sara J. Di Vito	Environmental Studies
Molly C. Hopkins	Law and Society
Alana L. Acciardi	Psychology
Sarah L. Murphy	Psychology
Jaimie A. Towey	Social Science
John L. Baxton	Social Work
Kathryn T. Yost	Sociology
Vanessa L. Mirasola	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
John D. Stern	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Sangha Padhy and Mihaela Serban
	Title: <i>The War on Drugs and Jim Crow's the Most Wanted: A Social and Historical Look at Mass Incarceration</i>
Jenna D. Colabelli	Social Work Student Conference Scholarship Award
Brianne D. Bishop	Herbert Wortreich Award
Melissa Acevedo	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Heather L. Dunn	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Amanda L. Goritski	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Medeum Naissant	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Jennifer Schoemer	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award

**School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Edward Saiff, Dean**

Ryan P. Ludvigsen	Biochemistry
Melissa K. Mayberry	Bioinformatics
Nicole C. Baratta	Biology
Lauren E. Schmidt	Biology
Mingzhao Liu	Computer Science
Steven O. Hofmann	Engineering Physics
Michael A. Finocchio	Environmental Science
Edith J. Carpio	Integrated Science Studies
Kevin Ng	Mathematics
Chelsea L. Johnson	Nursing
Jennifer Moon	Nursing
Bishal Regmi	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Sophia M. Lazar	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Thomas Owen
	Title: <i>Differences In the Induction of the Osteoblast Lineage in Mesenchymal Stem Cells Through Stimulation of the EP4 Prostaglandin Receptor by the Natural Ligands PGE1 and PGE2</i>

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 2274**

**AFT Graduate School Scholarship Award**

Amanda L. Goritski

**Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship Award**

Grace E. Maute

**LEE SENNISH PRIZE**

Altondra J. Williams

*The 2016 Academic Achievement Ceremony program and biographies (in order of appearance) will also appear on our website at [www.ramapo.edu/aac](http://www.ramapo.edu/aac)*

## **2016 Academic Achievement Ceremony BIOGRAPHIES**

### **ANISFIELD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **The first outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is ANTHONY A. ELLIS.**

After completing his Associate degree at Warren County Community College, Anthony transferred to Ramapo to earn his B.S. in Accounting and was recently inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business School Honor Society. Eligibility for induction into Beta Gamma Sigma is limited to the top 10 percent of business students attending an AACSB-accredited business school. Anthony is a member of the Ramapo Chapter of Enactus, an international student club whose members apply their business skills to address socially important projects. Anthony worked on an Enactus project team-focused on improving sustainability on the Ramapo campus. After graduation Anthony plans to work in governmental accounting and to one day open his own business.

#### **The second outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is MARISA R. PIWOWARSKI.**

In addition to her major in Accounting, Marisa has completed a minor in Literature. She has been inducted into several honor societies including Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society, and Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. In 2014, Marisa was invited to attend the New Jersey Society of CPA's Scholars Institute which recognizes the top 100 Accounting students in New Jersey. Marisa has completed an accounting internship with the Traphagen Financial Group, a wealth management firm, and will be taking her CPA exam shortly after graduation before beginning her full-time job with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

#### **The outstanding student in ECONOMICS is VLADISLAV ANANEV.**

Vladislav has an amazing and inspiring story. Emigrating from the Republic of Belarus, he began his college career at Rutgers, but struggled as he tried to adapt to his new home in the U.S. Saddled with significant student debt, he then worked three jobs simultaneously in order to afford to return to college. He earned his Associate degree at Bergen Community College and then came to Ramapo to become our highest performing student in Economics. In addition to being inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma and Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Economics Honor Society, Vladislav has been doing research on the Federal Open Market Committee with Professor Charles Steindel, former Senior Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

#### **The outstanding student in FINANCE is EMMA R. MUNRO.**

Emma is completing a dual major in Finance and Music. Dean Perry will describe her impressive accomplishments in Music and Dean Chakrin will elaborate about her extraordinary performance as a finance student. In November 2015, Emma was one of the top five scorers in the Americas Region on the Bloomberg Aptitude Test and was therefore inducted into the Bloomberg Hall of Fame. She has also passed the Level 1 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam. She has been inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society, and the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association Honor Society – top one percent of all business students in the state. She has completed three internships doing market research and data management for companies in the music industry. Emma's goal is to work in wealth management, helping entertainment artists manage their unique assets and income streams.



**The outstanding student in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT is STEPHEN R. DRABIK.**

As Stephen increased his knowledge and skills in information technology over the past few years, he used that expertise to help others. Stephen currently works in the Ramapo College Office of Specialized Services where he helps students with disabilities utilize the capabilities of the school's Adaptive Technology Computer Lab. As a field service intern at St. Barnabas Medical Center, he aided medical professionals in the use of computer information systems, helped troubleshoot hardware problems in the hospital and assisted patients and their families with technical issues. More recently, he worked at the Barnabas Health Corporate Offices as a member of the IT Security team helping to safeguard sensitive patient information. During his junior year, Stephen was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society.

**The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS is JENNA M. WASSERMAN.**

After a stimulating study abroad experience in Sevilla, Spain, Jenna was invited to join the Global Roadrunners Program at Ramapo College, an organization designed to engage returning study abroad students in the development and strengthening of a study abroad "culture" at Ramapo College. Demonstrating that same level of commitment to preparing for her professional career, Jenna has completed four separate internships with companies, including two marketing agency firms in New York City and the Warner Music Group. Jenna's future plans include graduate school, employment with a foreign or multinational company and opportunities to volunteer abroad.

**The outstanding student in MANAGEMENT is DAVID A. HOWARD.**

Before coming to Ramapo College, David attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology in their Architecture and Technology Studies Program. Although he did very well there, he transferred to Ramapo College to pursue a degree in Management. He hopes to make his business career in the automotive industry and has been working for Prestige Mercedes Benz for the past four years. David is a very socially minded individual. He has been a volunteer at the Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization for eight straight years, participated in trail building and conservation projects at the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference and he is an Eagle Scout having completed 300 hours of service projects.

**The outstanding student in MARKETING is JENNIFER ESPOSITO.**

Jennifer is a member of several honor societies including Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society, and the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association Honor Society, which inducts only the top one percent of undergraduate business students from among all public and private business schools in New Jersey. Jennifer has been working as an intern at Tranquility49, a media public relations firm in New York City for the past three years. In addition, she has worked for the past five years at Nourison Industries as an eCommerce Coordinator and plans to continue her employment there after graduation while pursuing her graduate education.

**The 2016 ASB RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to PRINCEP SHAH.**

Princep is an international student from Nepal with a dual major in Finance and Engineering Physics. Princep is arguably the busiest man on campus. He is a member of the International Student Organization and received the Roukema Center's International Spirit Award which recognizes students for their commitment to the International Mission of the College. He is a member of the Student Government Association and was the SGA

Senator for the Anisfield School of Business. He currently serves as Treasurer of both the Finance Club and the Global Roadrunner Club. Princep was recently inducted into the New Jersey Collegiate Business Association Honor Society – top one percent of all business students in the state.

**The 2016 ASB FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to KEVIN NG.**

Kevin is actually a Math major but is also pursuing a minor in Economics in the business school. He has been doing research with Professor of Finance, Jason Hecht, on the impact of technological change on small single-state community banks. More specifically, the study seeks to determine whether these small banks can successfully compete with larger multi-market and internet-based institutions who have embraced mobile and advanced technology banking. The project required extensive statistical analysis. Commenting on Kevin's contributions, Professor Hecht stated that "Kevin required little or no supervision even though he occasionally had to make judgments about data quality issues and perform some complex calculations. To that extent, he combined his signature qualities of attention to detail, insight, and speed that were absolutely crucial for the completion of these studies." Professor Hecht and Kevin are currently coauthoring an article on the results of their study that they expect to submit to the Journal of Economics and Business.

**SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS**

**The outstanding student in DIGITAL FILMMAKING is ANTHONY J. SCALIA.**

Anthony, who is President of the Ramapo College Film Society, has participated in several film festivals in New Jersey, winning awards for "Best Fiction Film" and "Best Short Documentary." An active learner, Anthony completed two internships, with Z100 radio station and PBS American Masters, and studied abroad in Florence, Italy, in the fall of 2014. Anthony plans to relocate to Los Angeles to pursue film opportunities and to grow his own production company, Sharkbite Productions. He is an avid collector of vinyl recordings and is interested in the history and preservation of film.

**The outstanding student in GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA is BRANDON M. MOLINA.**

Brandon is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honors Society as well as a Provost's scholar. During his time at Ramapo, he served as the publicist for the "You're Not Alone" Anti-Bullying Club and as the public relations student aide for the Cinematheque Film Series. Brandon was a public relations intern for the New York City Economic Development Corporation and in the future hopes to work in the human resources department of a non-profit organization.

**The outstanding student in JOURNALISM is REBECCA A. KING.**

Rebecca, a member of the Lambda Pi Eta honors society, has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Ramapo News* this year after previously working as both the Arts and Entertainment Editor and News Editor. Rebecca studied abroad at the University of Westminster in London, England, for a semester and she interned at SDC Journal for the Stage Director and Choreographer's Society where she interviewed directors and choreographers and wrote feature articles. Additionally, Rebecca worked at the Center for Student Involvement for three years and is the manager of Roadrunner Central. After graduation, she hopes to work in the field of digital media.

**The outstanding student in VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN is EMILY ITS KOVITCH.**

Emily has represented Ramapo College over the years in the New Jersey Art Directors Guild's Design Derby, winning the award for "Best Public Information Design" in the 2015 competition. She has worked as a graphic designer at the Center for Student Involvement, helping clubs advertise events, while simultaneously interning at "Little Black Dress Paperie" in Morristown, New Jersey. Emily is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Lambda Pi Eta. Currently, Emily is in the interviewing process to begin her career in graphic design.

**The outstanding student in WRITING is MINDY A. GORIN.**

Mindy has served as Secretary of the Ramapo Atheists organization and as the Editor-in-Chief of the Ramapo chapter of "Odyssey," a digital publication. She interned at TAPinto.net as a news reporter and recently presented her research at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference. After graduation, Mindy hopes to have a career that will utilize both her Communication Arts and Social Science majors, as well as her love for reading and writing.

**The outstanding student in CONTEMPORARY ARTS is JESSICA L. MINZNER.**

For three years Jessica served as Vice President of the Ramapo Literature Club and for four years she was a member of three vocal music performance ensembles: the Ramapo Chorale, CantaNOVA and Skylark. The summer after her first year, Jessica assisted Professor Ed Shannon with his research on Windsor McCay, and later in her academic career, she interned with Cinema6, a technology start-up in Princeton. Eventually, that internship turned into a part-time job and subsequently into a full-time job offer after graduation.

**The outstanding student in MUSIC is EMMA R. MUNRO.**

Emma has served as President of the Ramapo Music Club and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Omicron Delta Kappa and the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association. She has also been the assistant to the general manager of the Ramapo Ice Hockey Team. Emma interned with Harry Frost Music, Butter. Music & Sound, and OK! Good Records doing market research and data management. Most recently, she interned in the loss prevention department at Party City Retail Group. Emma hopes to work in wealth management post-graduation, helping artists and other professionals manage their unique assets and income streams.

**The outstanding student in THEATER is ANGELINA TURRO.**

Angelina served as President of the Alpha Psi Omega theater honor society and for three years she was a peer facilitator for the College Honors Program. Angelina interned at "TADA!" Youth Theater in New York City, and worked as a Stage Manager for several Ramapo College Theater productions including "Miss Julie" in 2014 and "Macbeth" in 2016. In the fall, Angelina will be student teaching in preparation for a future in education.

**The outstanding student in VISUAL ARTS is JOAO Z. ZAGO.**

Juao, who is also known as Juno, was Vice President and later Co-President of the Visual Artists Society. He has volunteered on multiple occasions to assist the professional staff of the Kresge & Pascal Galleries as well as the Selden Rodman Gallery on campus. Juao interned with Gallery Aferro in Newark, New Jersey, where he was given a solo exhibition last year, and has maintained a close volunteer relationship with that gallery. He has also volunteered at the Brooklyn Museum. In addition to the show at Gallery Aferro, Juao's

artwork has been exhibited professionally in a group show, the "Big Draw Beacon," in Beacon, New York. In the future, Juao hopes to secure internships with major museums in New York and New Jersey and eventually plans to pursue Master's degrees in Visual Arts and Art History.

**The 2016 CA RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to MICHAEL J. PACHECO.**

Michael is a founding member and past President of the Ramapo College Concert Band as well as past President of the Ramapo College Chorale. He was a member of the Ramapo College Chamber Ensemble, Sophomores Advancing in Leadership (SAIL) group, Leaders in Service, and the ALD, NSCS and LPH Honors Societies. Michael's interests include photography, traveling and music, and he plans to expand his photography business after graduation.

**The 2016 CA FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to ROSA E. JAVIER.**

Working with Professor Marc Gidal, Rosa researched and interviewed Puerto Rican musicians who participated in improvisation-based musical interactions with a Brazilian woodwind player and New York bassist. Her research complements Professor Gidal's interviews with the musicians, and her ability to speak Spanish, French and Italian has been essential throughout the project. Rosa belongs to the Golden Honor Society and the Italian Club. She has studied abroad twice, in France and in Italy. Additionally Rosa interned at Ultra Music, a house-music label in New York City. In the future, Rosa plans to attend graduate school for Italian and French Studies.

**SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES**

**The outstanding student in AMERICAN STUDIES is DAVID J. WARD.**

David is also completing the Teacher Certification Program at Ramapo. He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the Education Honor Society, as well as Rho Alpha Sigma, the Residence Life Honor Society. He was Residence Life Rookie of the Year in 2013-2014, and in the summer of 2015 he served as an intern with a National Endowment for the Humanities summer workshop for teachers held at Ramapo. His future goals are to pursue either an M.A. in Special Education or a full-time teaching position.

**The outstanding student in HISTORY is JONATHAN L. LANCASTER.**

Jonathan is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and he has been invited to join the Golden Key Honour Society, Phi Alpha Theta History Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society. He is also a member of the Future Teachers of America Club at Ramapo. He studied abroad in Denmark, and he has worked as a tutor at Ramapo's Upward Bound Program since 2014. He intends to become a social studies teacher and attend graduate school to obtain a Master's degree in History or Educational Leadership and Administration.

**The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL STUDIES is DANA L. MOLINARI.**

A member of both Sigma Iota Rho, the National Honor Society for International Studies, and the Golden Key International Studies Honour Society, Dana has conducted two joint faculty-student research projects in the International Studies program. The first was on terrorism in the modern world, and the second was on the International Criminal Court. Dana studied abroad in Italy in 2014 and was the recipient of the Book Prize for SSHGS in 2015. She hopes to attend law school to study international law.

**The outstanding student in LIBERAL STUDIES is ROSA E. JAVIER.**

Rosa has a double major in Liberal Studies (Italian concentration) and Music with a minor in French. She is a member of The Golden Key International Studies Honour Society and the Italian Club. She has undertaken student/faculty research projects in both of her majors, including a study of musicians in Puerto Rico who explore the African Diaspora in the Americas, and another on Italian-Latin American poets. She has studied abroad in France and Italy and last fall presented her research at the International Conference of Caribbean Literature in Brazil. Her goal is to attend graduate school to become an interpreter.

**The outstanding student in LITERATURE is BRYAN R. POTTS.**

Bryan is treasurer of the Ramapo chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the National English Honor Society. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. He has presented papers and taken part in a roundtable at two Sigma Tau Delta international conferences and has presented a poster based on his research at Scholars' Day, and he has served a research assistant for a project based on alterity in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. He is the 2016 recipient of the Helen Burchell Memorial Scholarship. Bryan hopes to attend graduate school and then become a fiction editor at a publishing house.

**The outstanding student in POLITICAL SCIENCE is DAVID G. ERMANN.**

David is the President of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society; Senate Vice President and SSHGS School Senator of the Student Government Association; Vice President of Phi Alpha Delta, the Pre Law Fraternity; and an editor for the Ramapo Journal of Law and Society. He has presented his research at Scholars' Day, the SSHGS Colloquium, and the Ramapo College Honors Symposium. David has also participated on a team for Ramapo College in the Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling by the Consortium of Mathematics and its Applications. He will be attending law school in the fall.

**The outstanding student in SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDIES is CRISTINA CUTRI.**

Cristina is a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, and has served as both the Treasure and the Publicist of the Spanish Club. She studied abroad in Spain in 2014 and served last year as a copywriting and style blogging intern at Femmebot Clothing. She is seeking a career in social media advertising or copywriting.

**The 2016 SSHGS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to CASSANDRA R. FENTON.**

Cassandra is in the Ramapo College Honors Program and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honor Society. She currently serves as a Ramapo College Peer Facilitator and a Student Ambassador for Political Science, and she is Vice President of the French Club. She has presented her scholarship at the most recent Ramapo College Scholars' Day and at a Monmouth University Undergraduate Political Science Research Conference earlier this year. This summer she will be serving as an intern in the office of Senator Robert Gordon. She plans to become a Special Education teacher.

**The 2016 SSHGS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to ROSA E. JAVIER.**

Working with Professor Rosetta D'Angelo, Rosa is completing a research project on African women writers in contemporary Italy. This project engages the field of postcolonial studies by considering Italy's colonial past and multicultural present in the context of the current migration crisis in the Mediterranean and Europe. Rosa is focusing on the work of two authors, Igiaba Scego and Shirin Fazel, and on postcolonial literature more generally. She will be presenting this work with Professor D'Angelo at the International Conference of Women of the Mediterranean in Italy this summer. Rosa states that her most important

accomplishments at Ramapo include being able to double major in Music and Liberal Studies; being able to complete three concentrations in Music Performance, Music Industry, and Italian, as well as a minor in French; studying abroad twice; and attending two separate conferences about issues that harm the world today.

## **SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES is SARA J. DI VITO.**

Sara is a member of the Ramapo College Beekeeping Club, as well as Students Together for Environmental Progress, 1STEP. She interned with the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization during the summer of 2014 and was the recipient of the Marie and Francis J. Dwyer Memorial Scholarship for those who have a major in the social sciences and have an interest in effecting social change. Sara is currently interested in employment with the National Parks Service or a career involving horticulture, landscaping, etc.

### **The outstanding student in LAW AND SOCIETY is MOLLY C. HOPKINS.**

Molly is the Vice President of Philanthropy for Alpha Omicron Pi, Editor-in-chief of the Ramapo Journal of Law and Society, and a member of Order of Omega and Golden Key Honour Societies. She interned for attorney Linda Schwager of Oakland where she focused on wills, real estate and divorce. Molly's hard work has allowed her to graduate in three-and-a-half years. Molly has selected to attend Rutgers Law School in the fall on scholarship.

### **The first outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is ALANA L. ACCIARDI.**

Alana did an independent study on Ibogaine in the treatment of opioid dependence as well as CB1 receptors and sex differences in rat hippocampus with Dr. Reich. She also worked with Dr. Cataliotti studying the relationship between proprioception and mirror tracing. Additionally, she did research on group participation conducting Event Related Potentials (with EEG technology) with Dr. Choudhury. Alana studied abroad summer 2015 in Sorrento, Italy, which was offered by Golden Key Honour Society. She plans to attend graduate school for a Ph.D. in a neuroscience-related field. In the meantime, she is taking a gap year after graduation to accept a job offer at Advanced Housing, Inc.

### **The second outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is SARAH L. MURPHY.**

Sarah is a Peer Educator for the Health Awareness Team under the Center for Health and Counseling Services and served on a search committee for a Counseling Psychologist. She presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in 2016 with lab members of the Social Psychology of Emotions Lab (under Dr. Warner), presented her work at Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium at Ramapo, and presented her original advanced research project about memory, stress and emotion regulation at Scholars' Day in April. Sarah has an internship at Sage Day High School working with adolescents with mental illnesses and special needs and plans to attend graduate school, most likely for counseling psychology, in the near future.

### **The outstanding student in SOCIAL SCIENCE is JAIMIE A. TOWEY.**

Jaimie is the President of Chi Alpha Sigma Athletic Honor Society, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and a member of Student Athlete Advisory Committee. She has been a four-year member of the Ramapo College Women's Soccer team, and two-year captain. Jaimie plans to continue on to a graduate program in Occupational Therapy and ultimately become an occupational therapist.

**The outstanding student in SOCIAL WORK is JOHN L. BAXTON.**

John is part of the Social Work Club and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. John has had an intern position with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, emblematic of his mission to assist those most in need. In his work, John has learned about the different functions of Child Protective Services and participated in the DCP&P adolescent group. John will be working for Child Protective Services after graduation and plans to attend graduate school.

**The outstanding student in SOCIOLOGY is KATHRYN T. YOST.**

Kathryn is a member of G.E.A.R. as well as the Diversity Action Committee. Kathryn has presented her research on the issues of inequality, including at the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges Conference. She would like to focus on issues of structural inequality and alleviating them. As graduation approaches, Kathryn continues to consider a graduate degree either in LGBT issues or NGO work in a field related to LGBT and the periphery. Short term, Kathryn plans to work on LGBT and NGO issues.

**The 2016 SSHS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to VANESSA L. MIRASOLA.**

Vanessa is an active member of the Bianchi Law Group Legal Career Workshop, InQlusive, G.E.A.R, Diversity Action Committee, and a frequent attendee of Ramapo's SCOTUS discussions. She is currently employed as the assistant to the secretary of the Bergen County IIA and IIB Attorney Ethics Committees. She is the recipient of the 2014 New Jersey Spirit of a Hero Award, the 2016 Police Officer Michael J. Buczek Memorial Scholarship, the 2016 Harwood Lloyd Scholarship, and the 2016 Audrey Newman Scholarship. After completing her degree in Sociology, Vanessa would like to attend law school and begin a career as a civil litigation attorney.

**The 2016 SSHS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to JOHN D. STERN.**

John's senior capstone project was presented at the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges Conference. Under the guidance of Dr. Padhy and Dr. Serban, John refined his work and ultimately presented "The War on Drugs and Jim Crow's the Most Wanted: A Social and Historical Look at Mass Incarceration." He enjoys writing and publishing and recently had a piece published in The Record titled "No Bow Hunting in Saddle River" in December 2015. John is submitting his senior thesis for publication in the Ramapo Journal of Law & Society. He was accepted into Michigan State University College of Law where he will be attending this fall.

**The 2016 SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to JENNA D. COLABELLI.**

Jenna is a member of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority, Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, and has participated in Relay for Life, Ramapo College Day at the Statehouse in Trenton, and meeting with the leadership of NJASCU. Jenna has been accepted into Fordham University's MSW Program. Jenna would like to eventually work in a mental and physical health setting, and with the LGBT population.

**The 2016 HERBERT WORTREICH AWARD goes to BRIANNE D. BISHOP.**

Brianne is a member of the Sustainable Living Facilities, Peer Facilitator, Resident Assistant, Orientation Coordinator, and ambassador for the Center for Student Success. She completed research as part of The School for Field Studies program in Costa Rica and as part of the Alternative Break Costa Rica Trip as a leader. Brianne is pursuing a career in the National Park Service and plans to pursue a graduate degree. First, she plans on taking a gap year with the goal of participating in programs such as AmeriCorps, Student Conservation Association, American Conservation Experience and City Year.

### **The first CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to MELISSA ACEVEDO.**

Melissa is a member of Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. As part of the social work major curriculum, she completed 612 internship hours. These internship hours not only provided her with work experience but allowed her to begin shaping her professional career. She will be attending Fordham University to complete her MSW this fall.

### **The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to HEATHER L. DUNN.**

Heather is a member of the Social Work Club and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. She has presented at the Monmouth University Policy Symposium and the National Association of Social Work Day at the United Nations. She interned with Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services and NORWESCAP's Pathways to Prosperity program. She is graduating with high honors and will be attending Fordham University in the fall to obtain an MSW. Heather hopes to one day become a licensed clinical social worker in a hospital or day treatment facility.

### **The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to AMANDA L. GORITSKI.**

Amanda is a full-time BSW student, and mother of two young children, 4 and 9. She works at Barn Hill Center as a Certified Nurse's assistant while she interns at Ginnie's House, a local child advocacy center. She went back to school as a way of inspiring her children to pursue higher education and is motivated to make a better life for her family. She will be graduating from Ramapo in May with a 3.9 GPA and is attending the Ramapo MSW Advanced Standing program in the fall. Her goal is to start a foundation for foster children that are aging out of the system to enable them a chance for a bright future. She wants to add a new dimension for No Child Left Behind and help these children become part of a new family system that will build their hopes and resilience.

### **The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to MEDEUM NAISSANT.**

Medeum is a member of Social Work Club. In the fall of 2015, he participated in a visit to the New Jersey State House, demonstrating his passion for the political process and effecting change. He has interned at the Children's Center in Haverstraw, at Bergen Regional Medical Center (Evergreen Program/Substance Abuse Dept.), and at the Rockland Independent Living Center. His future goals include becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in hopes that he can provide educational and counseling services to at-risk youth.

### **The final CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to JENNIFER SCHOEMER.**

Jennifer has been part of the Student Advisory Board, Social Work Club, and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society. Since her arrival at Ramapo, Jennifer has excelled. Jennifer will be attending Ramapo's MSW, Advanced Standing, this fall, and was placed at a juvenile correctional facility for her field work.

## **SCHOOL OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE**

### **The outstanding student in BIOCHEMISTRY is RYAN P. LUDVIGSEN.**

Ryan has won the ACS Organic Chemistry Award, Elaine Winshell Biochemistry Award, Frank and Lillian Mutter Scholarship and the Beck Scholarship. He is a member of Sigma Xi Research Honor Society, Phi Lambda Upsilon Chemistry Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society and Chi Alpha Sigma Student Athlete Honor Society. Ryan is a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field teams and is a chemistry tutor. He is in the TAS Research Honors Program and has presented at the TAS Research Symposium, Scholars' Day, COPLAC Research Conference and the Mid-Hudson ACS Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ryan plans to attend dental school.



**The outstanding student in BIOINFORMATICS is MELISSA K. MAYBERRY.**

Beekeeping Club president and member of 1STEP (Students Together for Environmental Progress), Melissa spent four semesters of TAS Research Honors studying G-quadruplexes in mRNA and presented at the 2014 MACUB conference. She also made a web app called QGRS Ontology, which determines the prevalence of mRNAs containing cis-regulatory G-quadruplex motifs in sets of genes grouped by ontology. The findings will also be presented at the international RNA Society 2016 conference in Kyoto, Japan. Melissa will be presenting A Native Wildflower Meadow at Ramapo College: Establishment, Maintenance and Data from the First Two Years at the NJHEPS Student Sustainability Symposium, the 2016 MA-ESA Conference and the Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference Student Summit.

**The first outstanding student in BIOLOGY is NICOLE C. BARATTA.**

Nicole served as president of Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed community service fraternity, and is also a member of the Professional Fraternity Council. She belongs to Phi Delta Epsilon, the pre-medical fraternity, and the Alpha Lambda Delta and Beta Beta Beta honor societies. Her combined love of sports and science led her to present about concussions in soccer at the Honors Symposium. She was a social media intern for the ABCCL summer collegiate baseball league. Currently, she works in a physical therapy office and plans to apply to graduate school and enter the health care field after graduation.

**The second outstanding student in BIOLOGY is LAUREN E. SCHMIDT.**

Lauren is an Honors Student and her project was "An Interdisciplinary, Kinesthetic Unit Plan Incorporates Argumentation and Literacy Skills into a High School Biology Class." She has been on five alternate spring break programs. She belongs to the Ramapo College Chorale and the Newman Catholic Music Ministry. She also belongs to the following honor societies: Sigma Xi, Beta Beta Beta (Biology), Kappa Delta Pi (Education), Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership), Alpha Lambda Delta, Chi Alpha Sigma (Athlete) and Golden Key International. In August Lauren will be a 9th grade biology teacher at North Star Academy College Preparatory High School, Newark.

**The outstanding student in COMPUTER SCIENCE is MINGZHAO LIU.**

Mingzhao belongs to the Golden Key, Alpha Lambda Delta, Summer Reading Committee and was a supplemental instruction leader for EOF. He has presented on RNA regulatory elements research for MACUB and Ramapo SRS. He is currently aiming to present this research at the RNA Society conference in Kyoto. He also presented on antibody modeling techniques at RosettaCOM in Seattle. He had a Research Internship with Rosetta Commons at Vanderbilt University. Rosetta Commons develops, maintains, and distributes Rosetta, a software suite for protein folding prediction. Mingzhao helped plant the Ramapo Meadow by the Sustainability Center. He is seeking a job in financial technologies.

**The outstanding student in ENGINEERING PHYSICS is STEVEN O. HOFMANN.**

Steven is a high achieving student who belongs to the Engineering Physics Club and is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. He is a recipient of both the Philip M. Anderson Memorial Endowment and the Fred and Florence Thomases Scholarship. Steven's goal is to become an engineer. He is currently leaning toward electrical engineering.

**The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE is MICHAEL A. FINOCCHIO.**

Michael belongs to Golden Key International Honor Society, 1STEP (Students Together for Environmental Progress) and is a writer for Ramapo Green Online Publication. He has presented research at the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Educators Conference

(ANJEE) on "Building a Nature Trail as a Pedagogical Tool: Student and Teacher Perspectives" and at the 2016 Mid Atlantic Chapter of The Ecological Society of America as well as at the TAS Student Research Symposium on "Tree Mortality, Canopy Openings and Plant Species Composition in a Hardwood Forest of the New Jersey Highlands." Future goals include continuing education in graduate school and pursuing a career in environmental consulting.

**The outstanding student in INTEGRATED SCIENCE STUDIES is EDITH J. CARPIO.**

Edith was awarded a merit scholarship on behalf of Novartis, a global pharmaceutical company and the Research and Development Council of New Jersey. This summer she will be interning at NYU Langone Medical Center as part of its Health Career Opportunity Program where she will be learning directly from physical therapists. She plans to continue her studies to receive a doctorate in physical therapy. She hopes to specialize in pediatric physical therapy and work in a hospital setting, treating and caring for children with neurological, physical and other disabilities.

**The outstanding student in MATHEMATICS is KEVIN NG.**

Kevin has been a Student Trustee, SGA Senator, and Secretary of Delegate Affairs. He served on the Strategic Planning Task Force. He has been a math tutor and an Admissions Student Ambassador. He recently presented an Honors Symposium Paper- "Analyzing Major League Baseball Player Performance Based on Age and Experience." Kevin belongs to Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi Teacher Education Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. He is in Who's Who Among Students. He received the Ramapo College Pillars Award. He plans to earn a Ph.D. in economics at Cornell University.

**The first outstanding student in NURSING is CHELSEA L. JOHNSON.**

Chelsea is a Presidential Scholar. She has completed an Honors Senior Thesis Project on ADHD. She has been a Nursing Assistant at Valley Hospital and a Nurse Extern at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Hamilton, New Jersey. Chelsea belongs to the Ramapo College Chorale. She was recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society. Chelsea hopes to become a hospice nurse after gaining a few years of nursing experience.

**The second outstanding student in NURSING is JENNIFER MOON.**

Jennifer is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, American Nurses Association, New Jersey Nursing Students Association and Emergency Nurses Association [ENA]. She is currently working in Emergency Department and Medical-Surgical Telemetry. Future goals include transitioning into critical care and advanced practice with the aim of a career as Nurse Practitioner or working on a Ph.D. in Nursing Research.

**The 2016 TAS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to BISHAL REGMI.**

Bishal is from Nepal. He is a Presidential Scholar, member of International Students Organization, Computers and Technology Club - Vice President, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society and Association of Computational Machinery. He is an awardee team member for Best Use of API at HACKRU, 2014 at Rutgers University, achieved 11th position at Greater New York ACM ICPC, 2015 at Queens College, and participated in COMAP's Mathematical Contest in Modeling 2016. Aspiring toward working for a Silicon Valley tech company, Bishal also wants to make a significant change and/or develop a product in the field of software engineering through his independent efforts.

**The 2016 TAS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to SOPHIA M. LAZAR.**

Sophia is Co-President of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society & Treasurer of Phi Delta Epsilon pre-medical fraternity. She has won the ACS advanced inorganic chemistry award. The project that Sophia worked on in Dr. Tom Owen's lab focuses on determining the differences in induction of osteoblasts in rat stem cells through the action of two naturally occurring ligands on the same prostaglandin receptor on the stem cells. Assays included the induction of alkaline phosphatase enzyme activity and the induction of mineralized nodule formation. The results of this work have implications for both furthering our understanding of the basic mechanisms of bone formation as well as for potentially forming the basis for therapeutic treatment of low bone mass in humans. Sophia did most of the technical work, from cell isolation through treatment and care for more than a dozen experiments, and analysis of the results. She quickly reached a point where she was able to design and execute her experimental work on her own. Sophia will participate in the Ph.D. program at Temple University.

**The 2016 AFT GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP goes to AMANDA L. GORITSKI.**

Amanda is a member of Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society and did an internship for three semesters at Ginnie's House Child Advocacy Center. Amanda will be attending the Ramapo College Advance Standing Master of Social Work program.

**The 2016 HENRY J. FRUNDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to GRACE E. MAUTE.**

Grace served on the Eboard for Active Minds and Feminists United. She presented at several conferences including Title IX Summit, NEW Leadership NJ, and NCORE, the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education. Grace has also been in the process of a 40-hour volunteer training for HealingSPACE, Bergen County's sexual violence resource center. This summer, she will be living in Spain with a young family as an au pair while also travelling and becoming more fluent in Spanish. Grace hopes to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in policy and one day work in the fields of social justice and advocacy.

**The 2016 LEE SENNISH PRIZE WINNER is ALTONDRA J. WILLIAMS.**

This award is given annually to a graduating female student who demonstrates outstanding or visibly improved academic performance over her period of enrollment. Altondra is a returning student who worked full-time in a hair salon throughout her college career. In addition to her majoring in International Studies, she has completed minors in Human Rights and Genocide Studies and East Asian Studies. She belongs to Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society, studied abroad in Shanghai, and participated in several United Nations conferences. She also participated in the Black Student Union Fashion Show and Lunni Lenape Indian Sweat Lodge fundraiser. Altondra is interested in pursuing her Ph.D. in Political Science and hopes to work at the United Nations.

# 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.*