



# **Academic Achievement Ceremony**

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Wednesday, May 10, 2017

3 p.m.

Sharp Theater, Berrie Center





*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 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](http://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 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 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*

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 – Edward Petkus  
School of Contemporary Arts – Steven Perry  
Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies – Stephen Rice  
School of Social Science and Human Services – Aaron Lorenz  
School of Theoretical and Applied Science – Edward Saiff

### *American Federation of Teachers Graduate School Scholarship Award*

#### *Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship Award*

Presented by Kathleen Shannon, of AFT Local 2274

### *Lee Sennish Prize*

Presented by Peter P. Mercer, President  
and  
Ebony Jackson, Coordinator of the Women's Center

### *Closing Remarks*

Peter P. Mercer, President

### *Alma Mater*

Music 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**, Edward Petkus, Dean

Edward Kreger	Accounting
Karen Bassil	Accounting
John Spatidol	Economics
Elaina Rizzuto	Finance
James Dygos	Information Technology Management
John Di Stefano	International Business
Bianka Arumutcu	Management
Nichole Francisco	Marketing
Erin McKenna	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
William Sperduto	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Murray Sabrin
	Title: <i>Prices, Interest Rates and Production: The Quest for Sustainable Prosperity</i>

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

Janine McCaffrey	Communication Arts, Digital Filmmaking
Matthew Searfoss	Communication Arts, Global Communication & Media
Grace Elliott	Communication Arts, Journalism
Gwendolyn Lee	Communication Arts, Visual Communication Design
Jessica Santulli	Communication Arts, Writing
Michelle Santucci	Contemporary Arts
Nathaniel Moon	Music
Christina Gallego	Theater
Kelsey Brentnall	Visual Arts
Alissa Paulison	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
James Warren	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Ben Neill
	Title: <i>Fathom; Hudson River Data as Music</i>

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

Briana Gomez	American Studies
Michael Verdon	History
Robert Piper	International Studies
Sean Dabney	Liberal Studies
Ann Lau	Literature
Sydney Beson	Political Science
Maria Garcia	Spanish Language Studies
Christopher Dernbach	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Samantha Sproviero	Faculty-Student Research Award
	Faculty: Stacie Taranto
	Title: <i>Kitchen Table Politics: Conservative Women and Family Values in New York &amp; The Political Education of Liberal Feminists</i>

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

Veronica LaBrie	Environmental Studies
Samer Abulebda	Law and Society
Nicole Amada	Psychology
Janna Appelstein	Psychology
Valerie Pino	Social Science
Charli Neibart	Social Work
Courtney Zuccola	Sociology
Candace Beboe	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Casey Ramos & Janelle Leyva	Faculty-Student Research Award Faculty: Donna Crawley Title: <i>Factors Influencing the Perception of Criminal Defendants</i>
Terri Grenot	Social Work Student Conference Scholarship Award
Andrew Herrera	Herbert Wortreich Award
Eric Alimoh	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Kelli Hackett	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Isabel Martinez	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Graciela Montero	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award
Chelece Brown	Carol Schaefer Human Services Award

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

Soo Jin Koo	Biochemistry
Safal Shrestha	Bioinformatics
Brianna Roomer	Biology
Candance Morales-Wilde	Biology
Thanuka Udmulla - Arachchilage	Chemistry
Branden Babcock	Computer Science
Nathaniel Birrer	Engineering Physics
Michael Flood	Environmental Science
Nathaniel Kolo	Mathematics
Gabrielle Rojo	Nursing
Maria Villada	Nursing
Lindsey Gray	Ramapo Undergraduate Book Prize
Aleksandar Goranov	Faculty-Student Research Award Faculty: Loraine Tan Title: <i>Fluorescent Spectroscopy Method Development for Characterization of Novel Fluorescent Probes</i>



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
LOCAL 2274**

**AFT Graduate School Scholarship Award**  
Janna Appelstein

**Henry J. Frundt Memorial Scholarship Award**  
Berlyann Rivera

**LEE SENNISH PRIZE**  
Ebony Saxton

*The 2017 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)*

# *2017 Academic Achievement Ceremony*

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **ANISFIELD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **The first outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is EDWARD KREGER.**

Edward completed an internship at the Wurth Group of North America, and is a member of several honor societies. Edward will begin his career as a staff accountant at RotenbergMeril and work on obtaining his CPA license.

#### **The second outstanding student in ACCOUNTING is KAREN BASSIL.**

Karen is a member of the Anisfield School of Business Dean's Student Advisory Council. She has completed internships at Merrill Lynch and the Bergen County Executive Freeholder's Office. Karen's goals are to become a Certified Public Accountant, obtain an MBA, and give back to the community.

#### **The outstanding student in ECONOMICS is JOHN SPATIDOL.**

John is President of the Etymology Club, and a member of several honor societies. After graduation, John plans to live out of a van and drive across the country.

#### **The outstanding student in FINANCE is ELAINA RIZZUTO.**

Elaina has completed an internship at Tiffany and Company, and she is currently working at Berkeley Research Group as a Research Intern. Elaina hopes to continue working in Finance as either an analyst or in research, and plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Finance.

#### **The outstanding student in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT is JIMMY DYGOS.**

Jimmy is a Ramapo admissions student ambassador, a member of Transfer Connection, and he received NJAC All-Conference Honors in track and field. After graduation, Jimmy plans to work in information technology as a systems analyst, with a particular interest in cybersecurity.

#### **The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS is JOHN DISTEFANO.**

John is a member of the Anisfield School of Business Dean's Advisory Council, and the Ramapo College Honors Program. He was a Northeast Regional Honors Council conference presenter. He has completed internships with Euromedia Group Primerica, and Clean Water Action. John plans to go to graduate school and eventually find a career where he can have a positive influence on organizations and on people's lives.

#### **The outstanding student in MANAGEMENT is BIANKA ARUMUTCU.**

Bianka is co-president of the Society for Human Resources Management. She has also done extensive volunteer work at Camp Snowflake/Camp Sunshine and The Allendale Community for Senior Living. Bianka plans to pursue a paralegal certificate through the Center for Legal Studies, and hopes to work in a Fortune 500 company as a Human Resource Director.

**The outstanding student in BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION/MARKETING is NICHOLE FRANCISCO.**

Nicole has completed internships with CNBC and USA & Syfy (Division of Comcast NBC Universal). She is currently interning with Bleecker Street Media. Nicole has participated in main stage theater productions at Ramapo (*Spring Awakening*, *Bottle House*, and *Candide*). Nichole's post-graduation plans are open-ended at this time.

**The 2017 ASB RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to ERIN MCKENNA.**

Erin, a marketing major, has been a Student Government Association Senator at Large (2014 -2015), Vice President (2015-2016), and current President (2016-17). She is also the student representative on the Library/Learning Commons Task Force. She won the award for Outstanding Leadership by a First Year Student (2014), and Outstanding Leadership by a sophomore (2016). Erin plans to have a full-time marketing job upon her graduation.

**The 2017 ASB FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to WILLIAM SPERDUTO.**

Will has worked extensively as a research assistant with Professor of Finance Murray Sabrin on two book manuscripts: *Prices, Interest Rates and Production: The Quest for Sustainable Prosperity* and *The Next Revolution, Personal Social Responsibility and Financial Independence*. Will is also a member of ENACTUS, an organization that applies business concepts in the service of social good, the Roadrunner Financial Group student investment club. After graduation, Will plans to engage his interest in operations/supply chain management working with companies that sell consumer and business-to-business products.

## **SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS**

**The outstanding student in DIGITAL FILMMAKING is JANINE McCAFFREY.**

Janine has held internships with Stonestreet Studios, Viacom, and Nickelodeon, working on several film projects in New York City. She is President of the Technological Studies Club and the Sci-Fi Club, and has held several other positions in those clubs as well as in the Technology/Animation Study Club. She has belonged to two National Honor Societies and received several scholarships while a student. After graduation, Janine plans to work in post-production in the film industry.

**The outstanding student in GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA is MATTHEW SEARFOSS.**

Matthew has served as Vice President of College Republicans, as a Consultant at the Center for Reading and Writing, and has been a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honor society. In 2016 and 2017, he presented research papers at the student conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, and presented his research at Ramapo's Scholars' Day in 2016, for which he received the award for Top Paper from the School of Contemporary Arts. Matthew plans to pursue a career in advertising or public relations in the entertainment/media industry.

**The outstanding student in JOURNALISM is GRACE ELLIOTT.**

Grace was captain of the Ramapo women's basketball team, earning all-conference honors. In addition to serving as Co-President of Chi Alpha Sigma athletic honor society, she has been a member of Lambda Pi Eta. She held a content management internship with Sporttalk, a sports social media company, and a Creative Development internship with Bray Entertainment, a production company for reality television. Grace plans to pursue a Master's in Business Administration.

**The outstanding student in VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN is GWENDOLYN LEE.**

Gwendolyn has been a member of Lamba Pi Eta, Sophomores Advancing in Leadership, has served as Publicist for International Justice Mission, and as Treasurer for the Creative Media Club. She has held design internships with the Ramapo College Publications department and with the organization Super Healthy Children. Gwendolyn aspires to be a graphic designer for a non-profit organization.

**The outstanding student in Communication Arts, Writing is JESSICA SANTULLI**

Jessica is a member of the Newman Catholic Club and Lambda Pi Eta. While a student, she published an article titled "10 Christian Lessons We Can Learn from Frozen" on the website "Project Inspired," an online community for young Christian women, and an article titled "Bethany Hamilton Woman of Faith" on "Femnista," an art, literature, history, and film webzine. As an intern at Super Healthy Children Publishing. Jessica is thankful for all the knowledge and experiences that she acquired over the years and is proud to be graduating from Ramapo College.

**The outstanding student in CONTEMPORARY ARTS is MICHELLE SANTUCCI.**

Michelle served as the CA School Senator on the Student Government Association, the Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook for four years, the Publicist and Business Manager for Alpha Psi Omega, the Creative Director of the *Ramapo News*, and as a Ramapo Student Ambassador. She studied abroad in Italy, and went on international business trips to China and Peru. Additionally, she belonged to the Fooligans comedy troupe and was involved in many theater productions. Michelle plans to pursue a career in international marketing.

**The outstanding student in MUSIC is NATHANIEL MOON.**

A double major in Music and Computer Science, Nate was President of Alpha Lambda Delta National First Year Honor Society, President of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, Google Student Ambassador, and Secretary of Academic Affairs for the Student Government Association. He won awards at several Major League Hacking competitions, and was Meritorious Winner at the International Mathematical Contest in Modeling, placing among the top eight percent in the world. He worked as a studio intern at Pulse Music and completed an Application Development Co-op with United Parcel Service. Upon graduation, Nate is going to be a Software and Big Data Engineering Consultant at Knowledgegent, where he will be building Big Data systems and solutions for healthcare institutions around the world, making medicine and critical care more accessible and effective.

**The outstanding student in THEATER is CHRISTINA GALLEGRO.**

Christina performed in four Ramapo main stage theater productions, and was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Competition at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Additionally, her directing work on the main stage production of “Keely and Du” received a Certificate of Merit for Directing from the Kennedy Center Festival. She was Co-President of the Ramapo a cappella singing group 4Gotten Suit Case and was the founder of the professional a *cappella* group The Gold Dynamic. Christina plans to pursue an MFA, and to continue to combine theater and a *cappella* performance in her own studio.

**The outstanding student in VISUAL ARTS is KELSEY BRENTNALL.**

A double major in Visual Arts and Biology, Kelsey is a member of the Honors Executive Board, the Golden Key Honour Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society. She studied drawing in Rome, Italy in the summer of 2016, and works at the Ridgewood Art Institute as a teacher’s assistant. Kelsey plans to pursue a master’s degree in education and to teach biology at the high school level.

**The 2017 CA - RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to ALISSA PAULISON.**

Alissa, a Visual Arts major, is active in several honor societies, and will serve as President of Psi Chi Honor Society next year. Her artwork was included in the “Communities for Healthy Living” exhibition at NJIT in Newark, and in the “Salon de Eros” exhibition at the Greenpoint Gallery in Brooklyn. She is currently employed as a studio assistant with a professional sculptor, as a social skills facilitator at Alpine Learning Group, and as a student aide in the Ramapo sculpture studios and art galleries. Alissa plans to pursue a master’s degree in counseling with a specialization in art therapy, and then to earn a doctorate.

**The 2017 CA- FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to JAMES WARREN.**

Jimmy worked with Professor Ben Neill on *Fathom*, a new multimedia piece commissioned by the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries of Clarkson University through a New Music USA grant. According to Professor Neill, Jimmy’s task was to assist with the translation of environmental data drawn from the Hudson River into sound, and then to produce a large library of sound and video clips that he catalogued and organized into an online library to facilitate the composition of the piece.

## **SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES**

**The outstanding student in AMERICAN STUDIES is Briana Gomez.**

Briana Gomez is completing her teacher certification program for Elementary Education and has been student teaching first grade this semester. She has served as a student ambassador for the American Studies program and is active in the Present Future Teachers of America. For three years in a row she was the recipient of the Marina and William Topken Scholarship, and this year she received the Dominick Palazzotto Scholarship. Briana enjoys traveling, with

France as her favorite destination overseas, and San Francisco as her favorite U.S. city. During her time at Ramapo, she has developed a special interest in Spanish poetry. After graduation she plans to obtain a position as an elementary school teacher before pursuing a graduate degree in education.

**The outstanding student in HISTORY is MICHAEL VERDON.**

Michael is also completing the teacher education program for secondary certification in social studies. He is a past recipient of the Garvin Lally Writer's Scholarship and this year's recipient of the Louise and Luciano Cicitta Teaching Scholarship. Michael has been involved with teaching students in many different capacities. In addition to substitute teaching and serving as a catechist in his local community, he also tutors underprivileged learners, teaching them to read and write. Michael plans to teach high school social studies and earn a master's degree in educational leadership so that he can eventually pursue a position in education administration.

**The outstanding student in INTERNATIONAL STUDIES is ROBERT PIPER.**

Robert Piper is also completing his minors in Theater and Africana Studies. In addition to serving on the E Board for the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society, he is also a Student Ambassador for the International Studies program. He served as an intern with the International Rescue Committee where he helped resettle refugees during their first months in the United States. He will be traveling to London, England and Dakar, Senegal to study. He has a passion for tap dancing and dances professionally with the New Jersey Tap Ensemble. Robert plans to attend law school with the hope of one day running a study abroad office at a university.

**The outstanding student in LIBERAL STUDIES is SEAN DABNEY.**

Sean Dabney is completing a minor in Philosophy and has conducted two independent research projects: "Tolstoy's Philosophy of Free Will" and "A Fresh Look at Dream Consciousness." He serves as a Student Ambassador for the Liberal Studies program. Last year he participated in the Alternative Spring Break program in New Mexico. He has also performed in seven different theater productions on campus, including *Of Mice and Men* (in which he had the lead role of George) and *Macbeth*. After graduating, Sean will be working with a team of medical researchers on a randomized clinical trial through the Nurture Science Program at Columbia University Medical Center.

**The outstanding student in LITERATURE is ANN LAU.**

Ann Lau has a concentration in Creative Writing and presently serves as a Student Ambassador for the Literature program. She also works as a consultant for the Center for Reading and Writing, as a student aid for the Creative Writing program, and as Vice President to the Literature Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta. She has presented her work at the Sigma Tau Delta International Conference and was a participant at the New York State Summer Writers Institute, and she is the recipient of the Dr. Ernest Simon Book Award. Ann plans to work in publishing before attending graduate school for an MFA degree.

**The outstanding student in POLITICAL SCIENCE is SYDNEY BESON.**

Sydney Beson is currently the President of the Ramapo College Democrats and is active in two honor societies. She completed an internship as a social media coordinator for Guide Strategies. After graduation she hopes to work in politics or for a non-profit.

**The outstanding student in SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDIES is MARIA GARCIA.**

Maria Garcia is completing the Teacher Certification Program as well as a second major in History. She is active in the Spanish Club, History Club, and Book Club and was the recipient of the Sykes Family Scholarship. After graduating, Maria plans to finish the teacher certification program and become a teacher.

**The 2017 SSHGS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to CHRISTOPHER DERNBACH.**

Christopher Dernbach is a Political Science major with a minor in Public Policy. His nominating letter states, "*Christopher is an excellent and diligent student who is always respectful and open to comments, suggestions and criticisms from his instructor and classmates.*" Christopher is president of the Ramapo College Rock Climbing Club and active in the Ramapo College Republicans, the Bergen County Republican Committee, and the Knights of Columbus. He served as an intern with Chris Christie for President and as a field associate with Americans for Prosperity. Christopher plans to attend law school and would one day like to work in politics or government.

**The 2017 SSHGS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to SAMANTHA SPROVIERO.**

Samantha Sproviero is completing a major in History and a minor in Literature. She worked with Professor Stacie Taranto on the final stages of Professor Taranto's recently published book *Kitchen Table Politics: Conservative Women and Family Values in New York*, as well as on a scholarly article, and on the beginning stages of a new book about the history of daycare in modern America. Samantha has participated in the *Ramapo News*—starting as a staff writer and moving through copy editor, news editor, and now editor-in-chief. She sang in the Ramapo Chorale, was vice president of the History Club and served as president of the Ramapo chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. She has presented her research at a number of academic conferences including: Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Conference, COPLAC Northeast Regional Undergraduate conference and the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference. Next year Samantha will begin an MA program in history at West Virginia University. She plans eventually to obtain a Ph.D. and become a history professor.

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

**The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES is VERONICA LABRIE.**

Veronica is an active member in 1STEP, a participant in Alternative Spring Break, and a volunteer at Natuwa, an animal sanctuary in Cost Rica. She is working on her environmental assessment which entails completing an Environmental Impact Statement on the cumulative impacts of development on the Ramapo River water basin. She interned for AmeriCorps at the Teton Science Schools in Jackson, WY. Veronica is the 2017 recipient of the Landsberger Scholarship. She plans to return to the Teton Science Schools this summer as a full time instructor.

**The outstanding student in LAW AND SOCIETY is SAMER ABULEBDA.**

Samer is a member of the Muslim Student Association and had internships with the Bergen County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit as well as the law firm of Bakmazian & Associates. Samer was invited to present his work for Law & Society at this year's Scholars' Day. Upon graduation Samer intends to pursue a career in the New Jersey State Police's investigations Branch and attend law school for a juris doctorate degree in the practice of law.

**The first outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is NICOLE AMADA.**

Nicole is a psychology major with a minor in neuroscience. She is a member of psi chi and phi beta delta. She was the founding president of the Mindfulness Club here at Ramapo College. Nicole studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark last spring where she conducted a research study on implicit learning. She is also a research assistant to Professors Christian Reich and Naseem Choudhury. Nicole is enrolled in City University of New York's Ph.D. program: "Cognition, Language and Development" in the fall of 2017.

**The second outstanding student in PSYCHOLOGY is JANNA APPELSTEIN.**

Janna is a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda, Psi Chi, Golden Key, and American Women in Society. She has presented her work at numerous undergraduate conferences including her recent work at the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston on "How People React to Being Mislabeled as Crying." Janna was also an intern at West Bergen Mental Health. After graduation, Janna plans to attend La Verne University in California and complete a doctorate program in Clinical Psychology.

**The outstanding student in SOCIAL SCIENCE is VALERIE PINO.**

Valerie is the President of the Society for Human Resource Management and a member of Golden Key International Honour Society. She has interned at BMW of North America and Insight Strategies. Valerie has accepted employment with Pinnacle Foods in their Human Resources Department. Valerie plans to pursue a graduate degree in Human Resources.

**The outstanding student in SOCIAL WORK is CHARLI NEIBART.**

Charli is a member of Golden Key International Honour Society as well as a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society. During Charli's internships and field experiences, she focused on training associated with addiction as a crisis, borderline personality disorder, crisis survival skills, and mental health first aid training. She also completed a one-year internship at a domestic violence agency as well as in a state senator's office. Charli is attending NYU's Silver School of Social Work in the fall as an advanced standing student.

**The outstanding student in SOCIOLOGY is COURTNEY ZUCCOLA.**

Courtney is a constant presence on campus having done research on gun control and sexual assault, stemming from her intellectual curiosity to learn more about social issues and the community. Courtney interned at the Social Service Association in Ridgewood, N.J. with the intention of helping others and improving the community. After graduation Courtney plans to pursue a graduate degree.



**The 2017 SSHS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to CANDACE BEBOE.**

Candace is president of the Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. She is also the Volunteering Chair, Step Mistress, and Social Chair of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. She held the esteemed position of civil liberties intern for the American Civil Liberties of New Jersey. During the summer of 2016, she completed the Pre-Legal Studies Program at Seton Hall Law School. After her undergraduate studies, Candace plans to attend law school and become a civil rights attorney.

**The 2017 SSHS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to JANELE LEYVA AND CASEY RAMOS.**

Janelle is a member of Delta Phi Epsilon, Psi Chi Honor Society, and Order of Omega Honor Society. Casey is the Psi Chi Treasurer and peer facilitator at the College. Janelle and Casey conducted research with Professors Donna Crawley and Leah Warner which led to presenting their research at undergraduate conferences at: *The Association of Psychological Science* Conference in Chicago, *The New England Psychological Association of Psychological Science* Conference in Chicago, *The New England Psychological Association* Conference in Boston and the *Association for Women in Psychology* Conference in Wisconsin. After graduation, Janelle plans to earn her Ph.D. and Casey is currently applying to various graduate programs.

**The 2017 SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to TERRI GRENOT.**

Terri is Vice President of the Social Work Club, Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work Treasurer, and member of Golden Key International Honor Society. Terri interned at Ginnie's House Sussex County Child Advocacy Center, which provides therapeutic services to children who have been sexually abused or been witnesses to a violent crime. Upon graduation, Terri will attend Fordham University to pursue her Master's of Social Work in the advanced standing program.

**The 2017 HERBERT WORTREICH AWARD goes to ANDREW HERRERA.**

Andrew is a member of Alpha Psi Omega Theater Honor Society, Ramapo College Culture Club (President) and Student Ambassador of the 1STEP Environment Club. Andrew has presented his work at the *National Collegiate Honors Council Conference* in Seattle and Pittsburgh as well as at the Scholar's Day event. He also participated in the Alternative Spring Break program in Costa Rica. Andrew plans to complete a fellowship after graduation and is considering graduate school in Environmental Policy.

**The first CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to ERIC ALIMOH.**

Eric is a fulltime student earning his Bachelor of Social Work degree at Ramapo College. He works part-time as an intake counselor at Spectrum for Living, a non-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities. Eric is looking to pursue a Masters of Social Work degree in hopes to one day establish a nonprofit organization in Ghana, West Africa for the elderly, blind and disabled.

**The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to KELLI HACKETT.**

Kelli is currently interning at a partial hospitalization program for adults with severe mental illness. Upon completion of graduating, Kellie intends to pursue a Master of Social Work degree and a career in the mental health field. Her long term goal is to earn a clinical social work license and serve underprivileged families coping with mental illnesses and/or substance abuse disorders.

**The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to ISABEL MARTINEZ.**

Isabel is senior at Ramapo College looking to graduate in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She has worked on research projects for Cultural and Ethnic minorities studies and has an internship at Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County. She is eager to begin her graduate program at Ramapo College and anticipates it to be demanding, challenging and ultimately fulfilling.

**The next CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to GRACIELA MONTERO.**

Graciela is a senior at Ramapo College graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She is an advocate for the LGBTQA community and is looking to become a licensed social worker to help people diagnosed with chronic mental illness such as schizophrenia. Graciela is continuing her education as an advanced standing student in the Master of Social Work program.

**The last CAROL SCHAEFER AWARD goes to CHELECE BROWN**

Chelece is a member of the Phi Alpha Honors Society and is a fulltime student. She works fulltime at the Paper Source in Nanuet, NY.

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

**The outstanding student in BIOCHEMISTRY is SOO JIN KOO.**

Soo Jin is on the E-Boards of the Biology and Pre-Med Clubs. He has engaged in biochemical research with Dr. Seung-sup Kim. Soo Jin took second place in the Biochemistry component at *William Paterson University's Undergraduate Research Symposium* in 2016. He also presented at the *American Chemical Society Conference* in San Francisco. Soo Jin looks forward to studying at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University.

**The outstanding student in BIOINFORMATICS is SAFAL SHRESTHA.**

Safal is a member of the E-Board for the International Student Organization and a player on Ramapo College - Soccer Club. He is an active student researcher working with Dr. Yan Xu. He has presented his research at Scholars Day and at the TAS Research Symposium. Safal is preparing a manuscript on his research for publication and will begin studying for his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia soon after graduation

**The first outstanding student in BIOLOGY is BRIANNA ROOMER.**

Brianna belongs to the Ramapo College Track and Field Team. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Sigma Xi Research Honor Society. Brianna has presented her research at the *Metropolitan Association*

of College and University Biologists Conference and the Ramapo TAS Research Symposium. Brianna has been accepted to several Doctorate Programs in Molecular and Cell Biology and will be attending graduate school at Princeton University.

**The second outstanding student in BIOLOGY is CANDANCE MORALES-WILDE.**

Candace is President of the Biology Club and Secretary of the PreMed/PreHealth Professions Club. She belongs to many honor societies. She has worked with Dr. Tom Owen on the research of bone biology and has presented their studies at the *MACUB Conference* and the *TAS Student Research Symposium*. This research is expected to be published in a professional journal in the near future. Candace also participated in a Student Exchange Program in Japan. She enjoys hiking, gardening, biking and swimming and her goal is to one day become a MD/PHD in cardiovascular surgery.

**The outstanding student in Chemistry is THANUKA UDMULLA ARACHCHILAGE**

Thanuka is president of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Club, Resident Hall Association and a former president of the Resident Hall Committee and belongs to several honor societies. Thanuka has presented at *The Green Chemistry National Conference*, *William Patterson Science Symposium*, *Steven's Institute of Technology Sustainability Symposium*, *The American Chemical Society National Conference* and our own *TAS Research Symposium*. Thanuka won an Outstanding Leadership Award for Organic Chemistry, ACS award for Inorganic Chemistry and Resident Life Rookie of the Year. Thanuka is enrolled in NYU for fall 2017 in the Ph.D. in Material Science program and hopes to go into a career in research.

**The outstanding student in COMPUTER SCIENCE is BRANDON BABCOCK**

Brandon is a member of the Golden Key International Honors Society. Immediately upon graduation Brandon will begin working for the Jeffries Investment Banking Corporation in New York City.

**The outstanding student in ENGINEERING PHYSICS is NATHANIEL BIRRER.**

Nathaniel has served as president of the Math Club and has achieved heights as a four year member of the RCNJ Rock Climbing team. He has participated in summer research programs at the College of William and Mary funded and at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under a Homeland Security program. After graduation he will spend the summer back at the Livermore Laboratory and in September will begin his Ph.D. study in Optical Science at either Rochester Institute of Technology or the University of Arizona.

**The outstanding student in ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE is MICHAEL FLOOD.**

Michael is an Eagle Scout and belongs to many honor societies and has won numerous scholarships. Michael follows a long standing family tradition of valuing the environment. He monitors the water quality at Lake Owassa and has done research on the impacts of native insect defoliators on Chestnut Oak trees. In September Michael will begin studies for his masters in Earth and Environmental Science at Montclair State University.

**The outstanding student in MATHEMATICS is NATHANIEL KOLO.**

Nathaniel is president and founder of the Chess Club, belongs to three honor societies and is a member of the Mathematics Club. He placed second in the

individual section of the New Jersey Undergraduate Mathematics Competition (2015) and his team was meritorious winner (top10%) for their submission to the (2016) Mathematical competition in Modeling. His team got 11<sup>th</sup> place in the Greater New York Region International Collegiate Programming Contest run by the Association for Computing Machinery. Nathaniel's future plans include pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics.

**The first outstanding student in NURSING is GABRIELLE ROJO.**

Gabrielle is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and was recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society. She worked as a Patient Care Associate at The Valley Hospital providing care to patients on various units. She is a recipient of the Provost Scholarship and the Adler Endowed Scholarship. Upon graduation, Gabrielle hopes to work as a nurse on a cardiac unit or in the operating room. Once she has acquired more experience, she looks forward to working in critical care unit.

**The second outstanding student in NURSING is MARIA VILLADA.**

Maria is a high achieving student with a deep interest in traveling to learn about other cultures. She is fluent in Spanish but would like to learn other languages. Her favorite areas of nursing are gerontology, cardiology, critical care and anesthesia. In the future Maria plans to go back to school to become an advanced practice nurse.

**The 2017 TAS RAMAPO BOOK PRIZE goes to LINDSEY GRAY**

Lindsey is President of Females in STEM Society, Vice President of the Engineering Physics Club and Secretary of the Bass Fishing Club. She was a NJIT Biophysics Research Assistant and NJIT Solar Terrestrial Physics Research Assistant. Lindsey is looking forward to her internship this summer with the Department of Homeland Security STEM program and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Applied Physics or Biophysics.

**The 2017 TAS FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD goes to ALEKSANDAR GORANOV.**

Alek belongs to 16 campus organizations including being on 5 executive boards and 8 honors societies. He has presented at nine conferences and was nominated for the Faculty Student Research award by Dr. Lorraine Tan. One of Alex's projects is *Fluorescent Spectroscopy method Development for characterization of novel fluorescent probes*. He designed, developed and executed the experiments and in doing so optimized the instrumentation parameters in order to analyze the data. His research is expected to be presented in the journal: *Limnology and Oceanography Methods*. Alex is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Old Dominion University where he will be continuing his Ramapo studies on dissolved organic matter using sophisticated instrumentation.

## **AFT GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

### **The 2017 AFT GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP goes to JANNA APPELSTEIN**

Janna is a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda, Golden Key, Psi Chi and American Women in Society Member. She will be presenting her poster (*Resilient yogi: can temporary sadness enhance creativity?*) at the Psychology Symposium in April, 2017 and previously presented it at conference in Milwaukee, WI. Janna has also participated in research with Dr. Warner for the past two semesters and the research was presented at the EPA in March. Janna also started her own jewelry business and was awarded a US Design Patent for jewelry design, 2011. She has been accepted and plans to continue her education at La Verne University in California to receive her doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

### **The 2017 HENRY J. FRUNDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD goes to BERLYANN RIVERA**

Berlyann has participated on various boards and clubs including: Board of Trustees, Educational Opportunity Fund, Student Peer Mentor, Emerging Greek Leader, Student Government Association, Sigma Sigma Sigma and the Student Government Association. She has also been busy attending conferences for the *National Conference on Trusteeship*, *African American Student Leadership Experience* and the *National Student Leadership Diversity Convocation*. Berlyann has been involved in special accomplishments and activities which include attending the historic Women's March on Washington as well as putting together two Women's Herstory Theme months and attending a meeting of the Task Force on Sexual Assaults at Drew University. After graduation Berylyann plans to attend Graduate School and pursue a degree in Public Administration and work in a non-profit organization which caters to the advancement of women's rights.

### **The 2017 LEE SENNISH PRIZE WINNER is EBONY SAXTON.**

This year's Lee Sennish award goes to Ebony Saxton. Ebony has been active in EOF and the Black Student Union. Her future goals after graduation are to work in the field of Physical Therapy.

## 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.*

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