Alumni Spotlight

Daniel G. Walsh '00

“There's something in the air at Ramapo; a different way of doing things compared to other schools,” says Dan Walsh '00, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Government. His then girlfriend, now wife and fellow alum, Michelle '98 introduced him to Ramapo College where the teachers, students, and the campus itself appealed to him.

At Ramapo, Walsh had opportunities most college students never get the chance to experience. Walsh recalls in-depth discussions with Professor Steven Arianas in and outside of class. “Arianas encouraged me to expand upon the topics we would discuss in his office by leading class discussions.” Teaching a class encouraged Walsh to push his boundaries and gave him the opportunity to develop his public speaking skills. With Arianas' guidance, Walsh was not only a student at a desk, but also a student-leader teaching classes at the front of the room. Walsh advises, "If a professor gives you the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, take it. It will pay off not only while you're a student, but also later in life. The sooner you start doing that, the better off you will be.”

Walsh's Ramapo experiences, including in-depth and engaging discussions, teaching opportunities, and law courses ultimately prepared him for his work in the courtroom. Walsh is a founding partner in a successful law firm, Belowich & Walsh LLP, located in White Plains, New York. He is a commercial litigator focusing on real estate and complex commercial cases.

Walsh enjoyed Ramapo's small class sizes and discussion-based classes, especially those led by Professor Jennefer Mazza. "Jennefer would engage students. She had honest and candid conversations with the students in class as opposed to lecturing us.” Ramapo's campus and intimate setting made Walsh feel comfortable and at home. His Ramapo experiences went beyond the campus, extending into his personal life. Walsh explains, "Because Ramapo College is a Northern New Jersey institution, the Ramapo community extended beyond the campus walls.” Walsh worked at the Mahwah Bar and Grill while attending Ramapo to help support himself. There he built friendships with fellow employees, many of whom were also Ramapo students.

With his foundation from Ramapo and his degree in political science, Walsh had the opportunity to pursue a variety of careers. Walsh advises students, "It's important to sit down and decide what works for you. There's no limit to what you can do. Take on an internship in a field you may be interested in. Your experience interning will help you decide whether to pursue a career in that field or not. Even if you decide the field isn't for you, you've still made progress because now you know something about yourself.”

Walsh seeks opportunities to mentor students through their academic, personal, and professional growth. Walsh recently participated in the Salameno School of American and International Studies Alumni-Student Networking Roundtable, where he met with students in search of more information about internships and employment options. Walsh mesmerized students with his personal stories and career advice. "Take advantage of the opportunities, facilities, the staff and everything Ramapo College has to offer. It's there for a reason, and it can really help you. Try new things and all the different opportunities the college has to offer.”

After graduating from Ramapo College Walsh obtained his law degree from Seton Hall University. His wife, Michelle, obtained a Master of Education degree from Fordham University and is a middle school counselor in Clifton, New Jersey. The family resides in Warwick, New York.