Alumni Spotlight

Jeffrey Davis ’78

Jeffrey Davis ’78 flourished and realized who he wanted to become while at Ramapo College. Meeting Dr. Edward Saiff, now dean of School of Theoretical and Applied Science, was a turning point in his life. He gave Jeffrey the opportunity to assist him in researching a particular blood vessel in the middle ear of 19-day-old chick embryos. In the lab, Jeffrey discovered his love of hands-on research and, even better, the love of his life, Stephanie Davis. “At Ramapo, my whole life came together. It was a very good experience for me. I grew and matured there, and, I met my wife. In retrospect, Ramapo is where I found myself.”

Under Saiff’s guidance, Jeffrey studied and photographed the microscopic structures of chicken embryos, learning methodology and how to think more creatively and critically. Jeffrey also had the opportunity to work for Dr. Joseph Richardson, and fondly recalls his experiences working for Professor Susan Bernard in the biology prep room. There, Jeffrey prepared materials and equipment for lessons, forming strong bonds with the other student lab assistants.

“The work I did for Drs. Saiff, Richardson and Bernard helped me make the step into the professional world. Ramapo taught me the basics and provided me with the tools needed to move forward professionally, even though my career path wasn’t pre-determined.”

Jeffrey’s stellar lab work at Ramapo College resulted in faculty recommendations that led to employment at Lehn & Fink, now Reckitt & Colman. Jeffrey gained experience in aerosol technology, resulting in a permanent position at Boyle Midway Inc. Jeffrey’s aerosol expertise allowed him to pursue a more challenging situation in the world of cosmetics.

Jeffrey developed cosmetics while at Avon, located in Suffern, NY, then created formulas for L’Oreal. Jeffrey later moved into contract manufacturing at Medicia Corporation. Jeffrey also held positions at Matrix Essentials, now L’Oreal and vice president at RMJ Laboratories.

For the last three years, Jeffrey has served as vice president of Research & Development at ChemAid Laboratories, Inc. The company manufactures skin care and hair care products, fine fragrance ancillaries and bath and body treatments. Jeffrey invented and owns a patent for an alpha hydroxy acid system. This product breakthrough uses quick foaming technology now used for spa regimens.

Jeffrey’s product development success can be attributed to both his science and business acumen. He stresses, “It’s important to be business savvy, and to understand what it takes to make up a business... know the finances, and how to budget, especially in a fast paced, quick turn-around environment.”