Furthering Our Promise: $40 Million Goal Reached

At Friday's launch of the public phase of the Ramapo College Foundation’s Capital Campaign, the College announced a $3 million gift from Allendale residents Lawrence C. and Theresa Salameno. The gift helped the “Further Our Promise” campaign reach its $40 million goal.

The gift will support renovation of the A and B Wings of the Academic Complex, endow a Center of Excellence in British Studies and a Dean’s Scholarship Fund in the School of American and International Studies. In recognition of the gift, it will be recommended to the Board that the school be renamed the Salameno School of American and International Studies.

In 2006, the Salamenos made a $500,000 challenge grant to name the Salameno Spiritual Center. The Salameno’s initial gift led to a succession of others that ultimately funded the 1,525-square-foot facility.

In 2007, the Salamenos were honored at the College’s Distinguished Citizens Dinner for their support of higher education.

More Information >

Bully for You, Ramapo!

Inside Higher Ed highlighted Ramapo College in its November article “Bullying and the Law.” Many consider the new law, which went into effect in September, to be the nation’s toughest anti-bullying statute.

Ramapo was a natural choice for Inside Higher Ed, given the College’s collective expertise on the subject of bullying. In 2010, Dominique E. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Law and Society, authored “In Schools We Trust? Leadership in loco parentis and the Failure to Protect Students from Bullying and Harassment.”

In 2011, the School of Social Science and Human Services hosted the “Understanding & Preventing Bullying Conference” for members of the College and surrounding community. The Conference featured
presentations by Johnson and fellow faculty members Emily Abbey, Naseem Choudhury, Kay Fowler, Shaziela Ishak, Kathryn Krase, Julie Norflus-Good, Lysandra Perez-Strumolo, and Maya Poran.

Under the leadership of Miki Cammarata, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, and Melissa Van Der Wall, Director of Judicial Affairs, the College’s Code of Conduct was revised to include language prohibiting bullying, including physical acts, speech, writing, and the electronic invasion of privacy. Professional development/training was also delivered across campus.

In order to combat incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, the College offers support to students through various channels including, but not limited to, Public Safety, the Anonymous Complaint Form, Counseling, You Are Not Alone: Anti-Bullying Club, the Safe Zone, and the Women’s Center.

Inside Higher Ed>

Roger that, Founders’ Day: Go For Launch

As part of Founders’ Day festivities, the College enjoyed a birthday celebration and a series of activities hosted by the Student Government Association. In addition, the College gathered for the formal launch of “Pushing Boundaries”--- Ramapo’s integrated marketing communication plan. The new Pushing Boundaries brand promise, four brand attributes, viewbook, video, marketing graphics, and a selection of Web page redesigns and capital campaign materials were unveiled.

President Peter Mercer shared how the integrated plan will serve as a driving force in strategic planning. Vice President Cathy Davey commented on how the plan aligns with the College's comprehensive campaign to "Further Our Promise." Associate Vice President Chris Romano discussed the plan’s alignment with the enrollment plan and further outlined the College's new direct recruitment and image marketing campaign. Student Brendan Flanagan shared his personal perspective on how Ramapo has encouraged him to push boundaries.

Pushing Boundaries Admissions Site>

Real Roadrunner: Steven Vargas ’06

Steven Vargas ’06 is currently employed with the USIS (United States Investigation Services, Inc.) as a federal investigator. Vargas conducts background investigations on candidates seeking to be employed by the US Government. He earned his BA in Law and Society from the School of Social Science and Human Services.

Vargas noted his involvement in the Educational Opportunity Fund program, “The EOF program helped guide me towards a successful career by providing me with the support I needed to enhance my leadership skills.”
News from the Capitol: President Obama’s Student Loan Plan

About 67 percent of Ramapo students receive more than $40 million in aid. This aid includes grants – funds which students are awarded but don’t have to pay back – and loans, which must be repaid. In late October, the Obama Administration announced it is taking steps to increase college affordability by making it easier to manage student loan debt.

President Obama’s Student Loan Plan will accelerate a law passed by Congress last year that lowers the maximum required payment on student loans from 15 percent of discretionary income annually to 10 percent for eligible borrowers.

The plan will now go into effect in 2012, rather than 2014. In addition, remaining debt will be forgiven after 20 years of repayment, rather than 25. The plan also now allows borrowers who have a loan from the government (direct) to consolidate at an interest rate of up to ½ percentage point less.

More Information >

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Have you visited the President’s Post lately?