Congratulations to the 1,497 New Ramapo College Alumni

More than 10,000 family members and friends gathered at the IZOD Center on May 17 to congratulate Ramapo College’s Class of 2013, with a celebration of alumni – new and old.

New Jersey State Assemblyman Timothy Eustace (D-38), and a member of the Class of 1978 delivered the commencement address. Eustace, a chiropractor who received a scholarship to attend the College, urged graduates to be compassionate. Eustace, and his partner, became the first openly gay couple to adopt from the State of New Jersey, when they adopted children impacted by the HIV and crack epidemics.

Following a trip to Africa, the family established a charity and raised $341,000 to build one school and begin building a second. Each year the family returns to work on the school.

"There is an old saying in Africa," he said. "If you want to go somewhere fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, take everyone with you. When all of you graduates go out there into the world, for the rest of your life, go far."

Among the 1,497 graduates, 373 received Latin Honors and 21 completed the College’s Honors Program. Another 250 were recognized by the more than 40 academic honor societies.

President Peter P. Mercer told the gathering that the graduates were uniquely prepared by Ramapo College for the future.

"Thoughtful solutions will emerge from thoughtful people – people who have learned to look at problems from many perspectives and analyze them critically," said Mercer. "That, at one level, is what you have learned to do...to push the boundaries."

President Mercer, and George C. Ruotolo Jr., chair of the College’s Board of Trustees shook each graduate’s hand as they walked across the stage.

The ceremony honored alumni achievement throughout the program. As new graduates processed into the Center, they were joined by members of the Ramapo College Class of 1973 – the College’s first class – who celebrated their 40th graduation anniversary on Friday. Ruotolo asked the group to stand for applause during his remarks.
Strategic Plan 2014-2018 Moves to Implementation

The Strategic Plan 2014-2018 is the product of over 18 months of deliberation by a 25-member Task Force. It is a thoughtful, aggressive, and highly measurable blueprint for the College’s future.

The Plan’s four goals include:
(1) Advance Academic Excellence and Engagement
(2) Enhance Financial Strength and Institutional Sustainability
(3) Improve Internal and External Relations and Communications
(4) Cultivate and Support Diversity and Inclusiveness

Implementation of the plan is underway as divisional, unit, program, and personnel goals are developed to align with the Plan’s several objectives and targets.

The Plan is available at www.ramapo.edu/stratplan

Roadrunner Tapped by Major League Baseball

Former Ramapo College baseball standout, PJ Cerreto, of Paramus, was drafted by Major League Baseball in June.

Cerreto, who completed his collegiate career this past spring, was drafted in the 40th round of the Major League Baseball draft by the Cincinnati Reds.

As a right handed pitcher, Cerreto finished his senior season with a 2-1 record on the mound. He recorded a 2.72 ERA in six appearances. He recorded 60 strikeouts in 39.2 innings pitched.

Cerreto becomes the 40th player coached by Ramapo Head Coach Rich Martin to sign a professional contract. Most recently, after the 2002 season, Shaun Burstein signed a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals and Jason Valloni with the New Jersey Jackals.

Ramapo to Partner with Association of Governing Boards

As part of its retreat in May, Chairman George C. Ruotolo led the Board of Trustees through a discussion of the Association of Governing Board’s "Guiding Principles of Board Responsibility for Institutional Governance." Among the nine principles, the Board specifically noted two:

- From time to time, boards should examine their membership, structure, policies, and performance. Boards and their individual members should engage in periodic evaluations of their effectiveness
and commitment to the institution or public system that they serve.

- The selection, assessment, and support of the president are the most important exercises of strategic responsibility by the board. A board must clearly convey the responsibilities it expects the president to fulfill and hold the president accountable, but it also must establish conditions that generate success for the president.

The RCNJ Board of Trustees has contracted with the Association of Governing Boards to conduct a Board Performance Assessment (BPA) this summer and into the fall. The BPA is designed to assist boards in improving performance through a process of orderly self-assessment and goal setting.

While reviewing and discussing governance topics related to board structure, operations, and priorities, the board will consider key factors that promote or hinder its effectiveness.

In addition, the Board of Trustees will begin work with Dr. Darrell Greer this summer to conduct a formal evaluation of the President and the Office of the President.

A full listing of institutional, state, and national resources for Boards of Trustees in higher education is available at www.ramapo.edu/board/trustee-resources/

**Save the Dates!**

- New Student Arching Ceremony: September 1 at 5:30pm
- Opening Convocation: September 3 at 2:00pm
- First Day of Classes: September 4
- President’s State of the College Address: September 18 at Noon
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting: September 30 at 5:30pm

**Contact Details**

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Have you visited the President’s Post lately?