The Cultural Journal
Spring 2016

The Culture Club, The Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, and The Africana Studies Program

The Cultural Journal is a non-profit magazine devoted to sharing experiences with an emphasis on culture. Contributions of prose, poetry, literary criticism, short stories, essays, poems, anecdotes, drawings, photos, recipes concerning culture, perceptions and interactions of people from different countries are accepted. Submissions can be in any language provided they are accompanied by an English translation. Text should be typed and if possible submitted on a flash drive along with a printout. We also accept online submissions.*

Editors:
Niza Fabre
Karl Johnson
Joe Moncada

Consultants:
José Hernández
Karl Johnson

Layout and Graphic Design:
Joe Moncada
Giuseppe Sorrentino

Culture Club Executive Board

President:
Andrew Herrera

Vice President:
Cecile Carty

Treasurer:
Austin Lasko

Secretary:
Danielle Cruickshank

Ambassador:
Troy Reyes

Advisors:
Niza Fabre
Karl Johnson

Publicists: Cecile Carty, David Colman, Niza Fabre, Virginia Gonsalves-Domond, Andrew Herrera, Karl Johnson, Austin Lasko, Joe Moncada, Troy Reyes.

*From the editors: Accepted submissions will be published in the order received as space permits. Articles will be edited at the editors’ discretion. Opinions expressed by contributors do not reflect the editors’ points of view.
Contents
Ramapo at Night and Early in the Morning. Photos: Carrie Callahan '17 ........................................... Front Cover
About the Magazine ................................................................................................................................. Front Cover
Dr. Peter P. Mercer, “President’s Speech.” Photo: Alexandra Simone ................................................ 2
Dr. Stephen Rice, “Letter from the Dean.” Photo: Carolyn Herring ..................................................... 3
MALs Student Thesis Presentations Dinner. Photo: Carolyn Herring .................................................... 3
Mary Ciottla’s Thesis Presentation. Photo: Niza Fabre ....................................................................... 3
Mary Ciotta and Lizabeth Murphy Kloak. Arching Photo: Angela Moore ............................................. 4
Dr. David Colman, “The Haiti and the Politics of Development.” Photo: Niza Fabre .......................... 5
Dr. Karl Johnson’s presentation on Selma. Photo: Niza Fabre ................................................................. 5
Aaron B. Sanders, “The Civil Rights Movement.” Photo: Niza Fabre ...................................................... 6
José Pérez Salgueiro, “Ayer,” “Yesterday.” Poems ........................................................................... 7
Mario Andino, “Self-Portrait,” “Auto-Retrato.” Poems ........................................................................ 8
Robert Doyle, “From a Top Mt. Sinai.” Poem ....................................................................................... 10
Dr. Uzodinma Iweala conversation. Photo: Niza Fabre ....................................................................... 9
Hugh Sheehy, “Iconoclasts, 1993.” Photo: Niza Fabre ....................................................................... 9
Dr. Gerardo Piña-Ros, Marcelo Mayor Marsán. Photos: Niza Fabre ......................................................... 11
Marcel Mayor Marsán, “Bi-culturalism. Feminism and the experience latina en, en Dolores Prida.” 11
Austin Lasko. Photo: Niza Fabre.......................................................................................................... 11
Cecile Carty and Austin Lasko Club Fair. Photo: Niza Fabre ................................................................. 11
Michael Svechin ’19, End of Semester Party. Photo: Austin Lasko ......................................................... 12
Drs. Kathy Zeno and Henry Davis. Photo: Niza Fabre ........................................................................ 12
Dr. Gerardo Piña-Rosales, “Por el Valle del Rio Hudson”. ................................................................. 13
Dr. Martihelma Costa, “Poetry Reading.” Photos: Niza Fabre ............................................................... 13
Tamika Quick and President Peter P. Mercer, “Proclamation Ceremony.” Photo: Carolyn Herring 14
Proclamation Ceremony. Luncheon Group. Photo: Niza Fabre ............................................................ 14
Troy Retes, Multicultural Exhibit. Photos: Niza Fabre ....................................................................... 15
Jerard Guevara ’18. Photo: Niza Fabre ................................................................................................. 16
Neriko Doerr, “Minority Immigrant Students’ Experience.” Photo: Niza Fabre ............................. 16
Patricia Bergamasco, “Minority Students’ Experience, Trip to Dominican Republic.” 16
† Nicola Tanelli’s poems. Photo: Orazio Tanelli ....................................................................................... 17
Dr. Orazio Tanelli and Cav. Mattia Cipriano. Photo: Orazio Tanelli .................................................... 17
Anna Marie Yenidemic Year Celebration. Photo: Gary Restaurant Staff ............................................ 17
José Carmona, “In Twilight.” Poem .................................................................................................... 19
Alan Britt, “Wooden Gate,” “Twilight,” “Green Mask.” Poems ............................................................. 15, 19
Brothers Making a Difference. African American Entertainment.” Photos: Niza Fabre ................. 20
Cav. Mattia Cipriano, “The Light House.” Painting ............................................................................ 19
Teresinka Pereira, “Your Silence.” Poem .............................................................................................. 21
Matthew Alexander Milian and Dr. Yolanda Prieto. Photo: Yolanda Prieto ........................................... 22
African Exhibit. Photos: Niza fabre ....................................................................................................... 23
Silvia Scheibl & Alan Britt. Good – Night Birds. Poem ...................................................................... 23
Rebeca B. Sanders, “The Philanthype.” Photo: Ralph Fernández ....................................................... 28
Nida Cepeiro, “Casa Blanca Mon Amour.” Poem .................................................................................. 24
Maria Mazzocchi, “Poetry Reading.” Photo: Giuseppe Serronino ...................................................... 28
Jarrad Garcia ’19, “Upstate.” Poem ..................................................................................................... 27
James Suess ‘16, “Waves.” Poem ......................................................................................................... 27
René León, “Mujer,” “Woman.” Poems ................................................................................................ 28
Lucia Argentina Chiriboga, “No fue pura coincidencia.” Poem. English Translation: Niza Fabre .... 29
Joe Moncada ’15. Photos: Laura Moncada ............................................................................................ 30
Olivia Evans ’12. Photo: Niza Fabre ...................................................................................................... 31
Eric Montgomery and Princep Shah ’17. Photo: Niza Fabre ................................................................. 31
† G. Amenado Bastos, “At Long Last.” Poem ....................................................................................... 32
Cesarelia E. Hotar, “Special 3.” Poem ................................................................................................. 33
Cultural and Academic Activities ....................................................................................................... 34
Javen Jones ’16, “Banana Fritters.” Recipe .......................................................................................... 35
Correctors and Books and Magazines Received .................................................................................. 35
Animal Corner ........................................................................................................................................ 35 & Inside back Cover
World Expo. Photos: Stephen Rosado ’18 and Niza Fabre .................................................................. 35
Back Cover

President’s Speech
For the past decade it has been a privilege for me to preside over the College’s Commencement Ceremony and this year was no exception. The Ramapo College Class of 2016 was a determined group of 1,509 students and it was a proud moment for me and members of the Board of Trustees to shake their hands as they crossed the stage on May 13. The Class of 2016 included 65 Educational Opportunity Fund Program participants, 15 Veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well as New Jersey Air and Army National Guard, and 99 graduates who have affiliated with our Office of Specialized Services. Further, the class also included international students from Bulgaria, China, Azerbaijan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey & Vietnam. In addition, several of our graduates studied or completed internships abroad in Argentina, Australia, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Nepal, Netherlands, Peru, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Tanzania, Turks & Caicos, and the United Kingdom.

During their time at Ramapo, members of the class invested their energies in myriad activities. They participated in undergraduate research, Relay for Life fundraising for Cancer, a 5K Color Run that supported Ramapo scholarships, awareness campaigns dedicated to the prevention of全校性 violence, suicide, police brutality, and programs to generate Hurricane Sandy and Nepal relief.

The Commencement Ceremony celebrating these individuals was a memorable one with insightful remarks delivered by thoughtful people. Award of Merit recipient Dr. Joseph Barone ’83 encouraged graduates to embrace the “excellent mistakes” they will make in life. Distinguished Professor Dr. Anthony Padovano shared with the graduates, “We were privileged that we came to know you, stood by your side and, today, watched you walk into your future. How foolish it is to believe that America has lost its way and to imagine that you will walk into a blighted world or that the past was so much better than the present. You are the future of this nation and of our world. You will give this nation and the world few regrets; you will make both of them aware of how much more the future holds for all of us.” Student speaker Lindsey Hughes ’16 noted, “As we entered this institution we all walked under the Arch, some of us bright eyed and ambitious—others timid and scared of what our future at Ramapo would hold.

For the complete Commencement speech go to President’s Speeches. Post #93: class of 2016

Photo: Alexandra Simone, Ramapo College
Center: Dr. Peter P. Mercer, Ramapo College president. Right: Dr. Edward I. Salif, professor of biology, dean, School of Theoretical and Applied Science, at the 2016 Commencement Ceremony, Prudential Center, Newark, May 13, 2016.
Dr. Stephen P. Rice, Dean of SSHGS

Letter from the Dean

Ramapo College continues to be a vibrant and dynamic place to study and work, and once again these are exciting new developments to share from the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. First, I am very happy to report that the Africana Studies program—which offers both a major and a minor—has moved from the School of Social Science and Human Service to SSHGS. This is exciting because it broadens the school’s offerings in global studies and in American history and culture, it helps us to more fully engage with some of the most pressing issues of our times, and brings to SSHGS two faculty members whom we’ve known for years and worked closely with professors David Colman and Karl Johnson. We’re thrilled to have them join us, and we look forward to helping the program grow and prosper. We also now have with us in SSHGS one of the great and long standing historical papers publication initiatives, the Jane Addams Papers Project (JAPP). Jane Addams was a leading social reformer and peace activist from the late nineteenth century through the first few decades of the twentieth century. Her letters, speeches and other writings are being collected and published in a multivolume series that for many years was affiliated with Duke University. The complete “Letter of the Dean” is in SSHGS Perspectives, the newsletter of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. pp. 1-2.

Photo: Carolyn Herring

Left to right: Cathleen Davey, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the Ramapo College Foundation, Dr. Anthony Padovano, distinguished professor of literature and philosophy, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, Dr. Beth E. Barnett, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, Mark Thatcher, and Lizabeth Murphy Kloak, thesis presenters, Dr. Peter P. Mercer, Ramapo president, Mary Cicitta, director of publications, and Joseph M. Niclas, thesis presenters, Dr. Stephen P. Rice, dean, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. Dr. Rosetta D’Angelo, professor of Italian, faculty mentor and thesis director, graduate program, MALS, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. This picture was taken at the MALS Student Thesis Presentation Dinner on May 2, 2016.

Photo: Niza Fabre

Mary Cicitta, director of publications at Ramapo College, recently completed her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at Ramapo. Her thesis title is “Hidden In Plain Sight: Unmasking the Patriarchal Values in American Advertising.” This research exposes common trends—used subliminally and blatantly—by advertisers that show how and why American ads reflect a patriarchal view of society, in which women are objectified. Ms. Cicitta also has a Master’s of Science in Educational Technology from Ramapo College in 2007 and an almost completed Master’s of Teaching (MAT) from William Paterson University. She also teaches at Ramapo in the School of Contemporary Arts since 2002. Her undergraduate degree is from Lehman College in English and Journalism. Mary’s thesis presentation took place on May 2, 2016.

Photo: Angela Moore, Ramapo College

Dr. David Colman, associate professor of African American history, SSHGS, presented: "Haiti and the Politics of Development." The lecture focused on the ways Haiti went from one of the wealthiest colonies in the Americas during the 18th century to the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere in our present times. The wealth that Haiti had during its colonial period "was produced by the labor of over half a million African slaves, who were often overworked and suffered from diseases." This environment of oppression provided the backdrop to the most successful slave rebellion in human history, spreading like wildfire from the Northern sugar plantations to encompass the rest of Haiti in 1792.

Amidst the revolution, a major instigator of the rebellion Toussaint Louverture rose to power with the desire to modernize the country. This included trading with other nations and the creation of a large-scale agricultural industry. This plan carried on past his death in 1802. "It was the first successful slave revolt that set up a potential model for a black republic, and with slaves in such countries as the United States organizing slave revolts inspired by the Haitian Revolution. The countries of the world didn’t want to fuel this fire." Dr. Colman said, referring to the period after Haitians achieved independence in 1804, making it clear that other nations were willing to have relations with Haiti at that time.

With the embargo of other nations, Haiti fell into an economic decline. Therefore, the Haitian republic decided to enter into trade relations with France in 1825 and fell quickly into debt due to France requiring Haiti to pay 150 million francs in five annual payments which was four times their budget at the time. Looking back to 1915, Professor Colman discussed Haiti in economic stagnation due to past decisions. He explained that Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, decided to invade and occupy Haiti, which lasted until 1934.

"The United States took control of the nation’s monetary reserves and whilst in conflict with Haitian guerrilla fighters, the US armed forces managed to destroy much of the agricultural sector in an effort to have the population submitted to US authority," Colman said, explaining what it was like under occupation. In addition to the occupation, the US enforced forced labor onto the population and created industrial farming operations despite the population's wishes as well as enforcing other neoliberal economic policies. Even when the US left Haiti, its will was still enforced via proxy dictators set up by the nation until 1986. "Tariff pertaining to foreign goods were slashed significantly, devastating the nations own domestic production of these same goods." Taken the recent earthquake into consideration, these trends could be further expedited, according to Prof. Colman.

After the lecture, attendees were able to ask questions. Sophomore Andrew Herrera looked into the historiography of the subject with the following question: "Why aren't the actions of the United States in Haiti widely explored in our current curriculum of history?" Dr. Colman's clear response was: "Two of the many sources of this ignorance stem from a lack of regard to racial disparity in our own country as well as the tendency to view poor countries as beset in their poverty." The Ramapo News, XLVI, No. 16, 03.03.16, p.3. Donald Irons, staff writer. This event took place on February 29, 2016. It was sponsored by the Culture Club, the African Ancestry Month Committee, and Africana Studies.

Dr. Karl Johnson, associate professor of African American Studies, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, presented a viewing of the movie Selma (2014). The film is "a historical drama portraying the events of the 1965 civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama." After the film, Dr. Johnson gave a lecture on, "The Civil Rights Movement and Today's Concern like Black Lives Matter Now." This activity took place on February 25, 2016. It was sponsored by Africana Studies and the African Ancestry Month Committee.

Aaron B. Sanders, associate investigator, office of Affirmative Action and Workplace Compliance, shared first hand experiences during the civil rights movement, after the film Selma. This activity took place on February 25, 2016. It was sponsored by the African Ancestry Month Committee and Africana Studies.
Ayer

Estás aquí, Ayer, a golpe de alborada, desde un rincón del mundo. Tuyo y Mío

Estás aquí, Ayer, ausencia inventariada, con la valija llena de recuerdos.

Estás aquí, Ayer, vestida de inocencia, en sueño desvelado, sin salida ni tiempo.

Estás aquí, Ayer, en transfiguración, con la valija llena de recuerdos.

Estás aquí, Ayer, vestida de inocencia, en sueño desvelado, sin salida ni tiempo.

Estás aquí. Ayer, en transcendencia, como una Rosa en una sin sepulcro de piedra.

Estás aquí, Ayer, ¡Ayer! ¡Rosa primera!


Self-Portrait

A dense beard, my eyelids almost closed my eyes as if I knew the value of a real world, of what is visible. I remain in silence when proper for a poet who learned that the human heart contains more than speeches. I left my country, my home, and a commercial office, searching for adventure and fortune. My common face, with Sephardic nose, a resemblance to a fiscal collector, a professor or rabbi, make of me one more among a crowd. I don’t refuse either paying homage to the local gods, or to eat what others do. About me this should suffice. My motto: Passion and compassion.


Auto–Retrato

A barba gruesa, mis parpados semidormidos, tal si supieran el valor del mundo real, de lo visible. Continúo en silencio, cuando propio para poeta quien aprendió que el corazón humano contiene más que discursos. Abandoné mi patria, casa y oficina comercial, para buscar fortuna y aventuras. Un rostro común, nariz sefardita, cara de esbirro fiscal, profesor o rabino, me hacen uno más entre la muchedumbre. Tampoco rehúso pagar debido homenaje a los dioses locales y a comer lo que otros comen. Acerca de mí, esto es suficiente. Mi lema: Pasión y Compasión.


From a Top Mt. Sinai

I think our time spent has been real swell But I could not head back down the well You see I’ve had too many pennies thrown in my direction And I’ve heard too many stories about the resurrection So I’ll pack up my things and head down the road And I’ll try to manage with my heavy load But I soon find out I need to settle down On the runaway streets of a dead-end town So I buy some new clothes and I buy some new kicks And the deadbeats in town teach me about politics And no sooner have I fallen from grace That I settle in and find my place Though the kicker is you’re on my mind As I sit around the hands of time So I try to reach out and imagine us But all my dreams soon turn to dust So here I am, the end is Nigh This my view, from A top Mt. Sinai

Robert Doyle ’17, history major

The Journey to Charlotte

We started out at four a.m. wondering what the day would bring. We loaded up all of our stuff in the trunk of the car, because we knew the journey to Charlotte would be quite far.

We started out in the dark, as we tried to beat the rush hour traffic in Washington D.C. We could not take a chance, of being in standstill, traffic jam.

We gassed up the vehicle, and used the rest room.

So, we can get to our destination real soon.

We traveled through Delaware, Maryland, and Washington D.C.

As we head straight to our destiny.

Leroy Blash, assistant chief
Ramapo Public Safety

Leroy Blash, Public Safety, Ramapo College.

Photo: Courtesy of Mario Andino

Photo: Niza Fabre
Maricel Mayor Marsán, author, poet, playwright, and rector of Baguiana Literary Magazine, became a member of number of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE), and therefore correspondent member of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language (RAE). Maricel presented the discourse of reception on “Ana Rosa Núñez: un pilar cultural del exilio cubano.”

This event took place on June 2, 2016 at the Centro Rey Juan Carlos 1 de España, New York University.

Hugh Sheehy, assistant professor of creative writing and literature, presented “An Hour of Fiction,” in which he discussed some of his literary creations, among them “Iconoclasts, 1993,” a short story from one of several projects he is currently working on. “Iconoclasts” is about working class Catholic school kids in Toledo, Ohio, and the ways errors in childhood can have far-reaching effects. This presentation took place on February 10, 2016. It was sponsored by the visiting Writers Series and the Schomburg Distinguished Visiting Scholars Grant.

Maricel Mayor Marsán, member of number, North American Academy of the Spanish language, ANLE, made a presentation on “Bi-culturalismo, feminismo y la experiencia latina en los Estados Unidos en las obras teatrales de Dolores Prida,” (Biculturalism, Feminism and the Latino experience in the United States in Dolores Prida’s Plays.) Maricel’s presentation was part of Voces Trasatlanticas Session of the XXXVI General Assembly and International Congress of the Asociación de Licenciados y Doctores Españoles en los Estados Unidos, ALDEEU. This event took place at the Instituto Cervantes, New York, June 3-5, 2016.
Austin Lasko ’19, accounting major, treasurer of the Culture Club, displayed the flyer of the Culture Club contribution to the “Give a SEAT” event, held on April 27th, 2016. It was sponsored by the Building Tomorrow Club.

Left: Cecile Carty ’17, political science major, vice president of the Culture Club. Right: Austin Lasko ’19, accounting major, treasurer of the Culture Club, represented the Culture Club at the Student Involvement Fair, held on September 2, 2015. This activity was sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement.

Michael Svechin ’19, contemporary arts major, concentration music performance, played a solo concert at the “End of Semester Party.” Michael sang popular songs in Spanish, English and Russian. This festivity was enhanced with ethnic food from different regions of China and Italy. The event took place on April 25, 2016. It was sponsored by the Culture Club.

Left: Dr. Kathy Zeno, assistant professor of marketing, Anisfield School of Business. Right: Dr. Henry Davis, professor of art history in the Social and Behavior Sciences Department, Medgar Evers College, CUNY. Dr. Davis spoke about the role of MFSA. He was a guest speaker at the Minority Faculty and Staff Association meeting, held on April 13, 2016.
Dr. Gerardo Piña-Rosales, director of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language, ANLE, professor Graduate School and Lehman College, CUNY, made a special presentation entitled, “Por el Valle del Hudson 2.” He was also the recipient of the ALDEEU Medal of Honor at the XXXVI General Assembly and International Congress of the Asociación de Licenciados y Doctores Españoles en los Estados Unidos, ALDEEU, at the Instituto Cervantes, New York, June 3-5, 2016. In June 7, Dr. Piña-Rosales presented his book El secreto de Artemisa y otras historias, España/México: Editorial Vaso Roto, 2016.

Dr. Marithelma Costa, author, poet and professor of medieval Spanish literature, fifteenth century, cancionero and romancerio, in the Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Literatures and Languages Department, Graduate School, of CUNY and professor of medieval Spanish and modern Latin American literature, Romance Languages Department, Hunter College, City University of New York, CUNY. Dr. Costa participated in the panel “Poetas de Nueva York,” where she read her most recent poetry creation, at the XXXVI General Assembly and International Congress of the Asociación de Licenciados y Doctores Españoles en los Estados Unidos, ALDEEU, at the Instituto Cervantes, New York, June 3, 2016.

Left: Tamika Quick ’03, assistant director of Equity & Diversity Programs. Right: Dr. Peter P. Mercer, Ramapo College president. Dr. Mercer opened the Proclamation Ceremony at the Luncheon in celebration of the Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The Proclamation took place on April 4th, 2016. It was sponsored by the Equity & Diversity Programs.

Left to right: Christian Ocampo ’17, nursing major, Dr. Peter P. Mercer, Ramapo College president, Dr. Rosetta D’Angelo, professor of Italian, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, Cody Lucinario ’17, biology major, and Shannon Rebadio ’18, nursing major, posed at the Luncheon Proclamation Ceremony in celebration of the Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This event took place on April 4th, 2016. It was sponsored by the Equity and Diversity Programs.
Troy Reyes-Caldwell ’20 contemporary arts major, music minor, Culture Club ambassador, posed at the Puerto Rico’s and Dominican Republic’s display at the “Multicultural Exhibit” event, held on April 11, 2016. This activity was sponsored by The Culture Club.

A group of students admired The Ecuadorian’s artifacts on display at the “Multicultural Exhibit” event. Artifacts representing Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Russia, Spain, Vietnam, and U.S.A were on exhibit. The exhibit was enhanced with food from different regions of China and Italy. This activity took place on April 11, 2016. It was sponsored by The Culture Club.

Green Mask
My hands appear to be wearing The green mask of a Buddha. Palms reflect a friendly smile. I would like the key, I say. She tells me that I already have it.


Jerard Guevarra ’18, marketing major and emo music player, posed with his guitar at a United Asian Association event. The UAA aims for an understanding of Asian people and their communities, through cultural experiences of food, games and music. This event took place on April 29, 2016. It was sponsored by the United Asian Association.

Left to right: Patricia Bergamasco ’20, major international studies, minors anthropology and Spanish language studies, Neriko Doerr, professor of anthropology, SSHGS, made a presentation consisting of two parts. The first part was a paper by Neriko Doerr about “Minority immigrant students’ experience of studying abroad.” From her ethnographic research on study abroad in five different locations since 2011, she talked about experiences of two students with Bangladesh background studying abroad in Sierra Leone in May 2012 and two students with Guatemalan and Colombian backgrounds studying abroad in Spain in 2011 and 2013, respectively. Noticing the ways they drew on their own heritage and multicultural experience to understand and connect to people in their study abroad destinations that differed from other students, Doerr discussed how minority immigrant students already have global competence, which is rarely acknowledged, and how that became useful during their study abroad experience. Doerr also suggested how we could acknowledge and celebrate such minority immigrant students’ global competence.

The second part of the presentation was a paper by Patricia Bergamasco ’20, about “Minority students’ experience of an alternative break trip in Dominican Republic in March 2014.” She discussed how privilege or lack of privilege in varying levels stimulated different responses in cross-cultural interactions during the service trip. Bergamasco’s research explored the process of learning through border crossing and discussed how students of minority backgrounds learned differently. She emphasized the importance of providing such students with the right tools to place what they experience into a larger context. She also focused on how generalizations in higher education curriculum often predetermined borders and ultimately impeded students from learning. Patricia has been conducting research and writing papers under Doerr’s guidance since Spring 2014 and has presented an earlier version of this presentation at Tristate Best Practices Conference in March 2015. This presentation took place on March 2, 2016 as part of the SSHGS Colloquium Series, chaired by Dr. Stacie Taranto, professor of history.
Nicola Tanelli
(1963-2013)

Nicola Tanelli, son of Dr. Orazio Tanelli. Dr. Tanelli, professor of Italian, founder and director, Il Ponte italo-Americano International Magazine of art, poetry and culture.

Photo: Orazio Tanelli

* A Better Life Than Mine

Spring begins with a beautiful day.
Depressing thoughts must not take sway.
I realize I don't miss you anymore.
Anyway I consider it your terrible loss.
Oh to be me,
to rule over kingdoms
laughing at everyone's tremendous faults.
Nicola Tanelli

* Time Waits for No Fools

Time plays a vicious joke
on those who sit and wait.
A moment is here and then disappears.
The fools come to realize too late.
What happened yesterday?
What could have been done?
The fools sit and wonder
while another moment is gone.
Nicola Tanelli

* The Giant

Hear the pitter patter,
it sounds like the child
taking his first steps.
Little did the victim know . . .
It's the Giant.
He sneaks up behind him,
with his arms outstretched,
ready to tear the victim by the neck.
It's the Giant.
Nicola Tanelli

* Il Ponte italo-Americano, 26th Anniversary, Anno XXVII No.1, Spring 2016, p.25.
In Twilight
We rushed to capture the last
ray of the sun
admired seagulls dissipating
at the horizon
danced to the touch
of a gentle breeze
sensed the haunting aroma
of the sea
Baffled and for a moment
we were both dressed in red
eclipsed by the only envious light
shining on your long
obsidian hair.
In twilight we silently embraced
offered each other a kiss
which never came
love approached with the brush
of two bare bodies
but returned to the ocean
with the tide.

José A. Carmona. Pasco-Hernández State College,
University of Central Florida.

Alan Britt, professor of English
and creative writing, Towson
University.

Wooden Gate
June opens
her lusty mouth.
A white cayenne pepper blossom trembles
between the green shoulders
of narrow leaves.
A wooden gate rattles the latch,
its cool handcuffs
of insomnia.


Twilight
Twilight
Leaves rustle
like dense silk
discarded
by a nude lover.
Green lover,
blue-grey eyes
the breeze
against my legs.

The Light House


Your Silence

Bitter is the silence, like arrows making me bleed inside my throat of who goes, and who leaves, and who stays to listen.

Bugs sting like a whiplash so small an invisible can promote a vigil during the night that makes the day break postpone its light.

If you believe I am guilty of a lack of love, please, asphyxiate me mercifully and give me death! Don’t use the labyrinth of silence to make me crazy for you.


Left: Matthew Alexander Milian, a 10 year-old fourth grade grammar school student. Right: Dr. Yolanda Prieto, professor emerita of sociology, School of Social Science and Human Service, Ramapo College. Matthew and Yolanda posed the day Matthew received his first communion at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church and School, Miami, April 23, 2016. Matthew is the greatnephew of Dr. Yolanda Prieto. After her retirement, Yolanda has been very active academically. She publishes articles, attends and participates in conferences, mainly at Florida International University, where she participates in panels and presents papers. Yolanda joined Ramapo faculty in 1978. She received emeritus status the semester before her retirement in June 2007, after 29 years of service.

Photo: Courtesy of Yolanda Prieto

Essence

We are as we are known, but to ourselves, changelings Nodal resonances darkly bemused by sparklings Estranged and lost, now waiting to be found Residing within emptiness, we are bound.

An aphoristic Buddha has taught That all you are is what you have thought Within these neurotransmitters we are caught Provided that such fantasies we have bought

If celestial mechanics do resound Then the truth of our essence is so profound.


Love For Lyz

We are breathing, thinking peace loving companions Watch our grateful movement dancing with the Spirit of love which fills us and all flowers growing.

Left to right: Dr. David Colman, associate professor of African American History, James Hoch, professor of creative writing, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, posed at the “African Exhibit” event, held on February 29, 2016 as part of Dr. Colman’s presentation on “Haiti and the Politics of Development.” This activity was sponsored by The Culture Club, Africana Studies and the African Ancestry Month Committee.

Left to right: Cecile Carty ’17, Andrew Herrera ’18, and Austin Lasko ’19, vice president, president, and treasurer, respectively, of the Culture Club, posed at the “African Exhibit,” held on February 29, 2016. Andrew Herrera made an audiovisual presentation on his “Experiences in Costa Rica.” His presentation took place on March 28, 2016. It was sponsored by The Culture Club.


Good-Night Bird

Listen to the golden eye whistle from the casita roof,
Or is she in the twin palm now?
Too dark to see.
I imitate her voice.
The high-pitched sound makes me real.


Casa Blanca Mon Amour

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drowned it.
Ours was no Casa Blanca
— Rick on the runway
Ilisa flying away for a just cause —
Ideals you had
but always hedonistic
we could never be like them.
To flower children, who debit love
and romance life this side of devotion
Paris is not enough
and prudence is a millennium throwaway
You see, I biked from morning lights
at Marblehead to indulge the side
of sunset at Walden Pond
laid out at the Charles
on golden leaves in an autumn night
—Thoreau rejoicing—

That last scene at the airport
still carries me.
It ceaselessly
Rushes the heading as
the plane clears the ground
No, I could never walk away

Coral Gables, winter

Mansión del Viento  
(A mi sobrina Loreny Holguín)

En la mansión del viento vive una mariposa
En sus alas, hay colores del cosmos,
quiejas de marineros ebrios de amor,
auroras boreales incandescentes.

En la casa del viento vive una alondra
que peregrina a oscuras en las mañanas.

En la casa del viento, hay un reloj, una ventana
y dos copas de Ajenjo, a medio consumir.

En la mansión del viento, do reina la soledad,
vivo yo apegado a un recuerdo.

Vive el pasado con todos los tiempos
girando en el ático, buhardilla y refugio
millonario en memoria de cuerpos
conjugándose en silencio. Póstumo encuentro.

Sí, en la casa del viento vive una mariposa
y yo asido al recuerdo de tu rostro.

En la mansión del viento hay mil puertas
de entradas y salidas, un reloj detenido
y silenciado para siempre, dando la misma hora.

¡Ay mariposa del viento!
No te escapes, no huyas hacia el misterio de la nada.

Mariposa de color transparente
Yo vivo en tus alas.

viento que vives en mi casa.

Juan Rivero, Brooklyn, New York
(English translation on p. 31)

Cambio de Rumbo
Fui a navegar al olvido
por esquivar la tormenta
y me dijo alguien querido:
“El amor no toma en cuenta
lejanías ni años,
no consulta al corazón,
jamás repara en los daños
pues carece de razón.”

No llegué al puerto del olvido,
me enfrenté con la tormenta
mía, interna y sedienta
de aquel gran amor perdido.

Blanca Segarra, Miami, Florida.

Translation: Niza Fabre

Change of Course
I went to navigate to oblivion
to dodge the storm
and someone I loved said:
“Love does not consult the heart
for it is not concerned
with distances neither with years.
Love is never aware of the pain it
causes because it lacks reasoning.”

I did not get to the harbor of oblivion,
I faced my own storm,
the one inside me,
longing for that great lost love.

Blanca Segarra, author, poet and prolific writer.
Jarrod García ’19

Upstate
They go there every summer.
To Woodstock. To Phoenicia.
To Kingston.
The father drives, always.
The mother – she was alive then – sits beside him.
The country air will be good
for her. The boy sits in the
backseat next to a nervous
dog.
They listen to music
on
 cassette. The father drives
too fast.
The mother whispers a
prayer. The boy gets car sick,
she says. They stop for food somewhere along the thruway. They continue and the
world goes green. The father does out history lessons and stories. This was all
wilderness, he says. They arrive and have a look around town. The father buys the
boy a knife. A deer is engraved on the leather sheath. The next morning,
the father goes fly fishing. In the rushing water, he finds stillness.

Jarrod García ’19, literature major, concentration, creative writing, Ramapo College.

James Suess ‘16

Waves
There are waves breaking
on the shore.
When faith is lost and
purpose unfinished,
we desire something more.
Are we defined by our
failures?
Can our sins be atoned?
Times like this we must
become our own savior.
But always remember,
we are nothing less and
nothing more
than waves crashing on the
shore.
James Suess ’16, history
major, Ramapo College.

One More Magical Place
this is the earth, a sacred mother
this is the night, a good friend
this is the dream, enchanted lover
this is the down, the evening’s end
and a new life begins


René León

¡Mujer...!
Fui todo ojos para ti, ¡Mujer!
plenas mis pupilas de tus carnes
invadiendo las fibras de mi mente
y obedeciendo al instinto milenario.
Sus velas desplegó el deseo
por la roja corriente de mi sangre...
!Y me deshice en un todo perdido en la nada!
!Sólo ojos fui para ti, mujer...!
René León, Tampa, Florida.

Woman...!
I had eyes only for you, Woman!
My eyes awash with your flesh
Invading the fibbers of my mind
and obeying to the old instinct.
Its veil
the desire unfurled
over my red bloodstream...
And I was rendered asunder as a whole lost in the void!
I had eyes only for you, woman...!

René León, Tampa, Florida.

Winged White Horses
Winged white horses
we rode
as we made our way
’round Mars
I held out my hand
in the darkness
full of stars
I held out my hand
and you took hold of it.

Luz Argentina Chiriboga
Luz Argentina Chiriboga is an essayist, fiction and non-fiction writer, and poet. Among other recognitions, she has been recently nominated for the Alba de las Letras Award, Ecuador, and for the National Espejo Prize of Culture. In March 2015, Luz Argentina was recipient of the “Matilda Hidalgo de Procer Medal of Honor,” the highest distinction delivered by the Asamblea Nacional.

No fue pura coincidencia
En principio fue simplemente una llama que me iluminaba las noches agitando su nombre.
Reconozco que desde aquellos días empezó a meter su leña al fuego, de buena fe, avió la hoguera, hasta conseguir lo que quería.
Se multiplicó en llamarada y pasó a ser luz adherida a mí misma.
No fue pura coincidencia fue cosa de Yemayá que edificó marejadas sin esperar riberas.
Se hizo fuego vertical con rumbo hacia el firmamento, necesariamente indispensable, necesariamente inconfundible, imperioso alegremente marimbero.
Después, se transformó por arte de alquimia en sol, en pan de cada día, en verso, en verso y navegaron sangre adentro.

It Was not Just a Coincidence
At first it was merely a flame that lighted up my nights. waving his name. I am aware that since those days it began to add its fuel to the fire, in good faith, it stoked the fire until get what it wanted. It flared up into a blaze and became to be a light within myself.
It was not just a coincidence it came from Yemayá who built sea waves with no shores. It turned into a vertical fire pointing toward the skies, necessarily essential, necessarily unmistakable, imperious cheerfully marimbero.
Then, it transformed itself if by alchemy in a sun, in everyday bread, in verse, in verse and they sailed into the bloodstream.

Luz Argentina Chiriboga, Quito, Ecuador. Translation, Niza Fabre.
Olivia Evans ’12, graduate assistant for student activities, Center for Student Involvement. Olivia graduated from Ramapo in 2012 with a major in psychology. Currently she is pursuing an MED in counseling from William Paterson University. She will finish her degree in May 2017. Olivia’s graduate assistant contract ended in June 2016. She posed at the farewell reception held in her honor in recognition of her excellent professional service to the College. This activity took place on June 9, 2016. It was sponsored by the Center for Student involvement.

Left: Eric Montgomery, financial and technological advisor for clubs and organizations, Center for Student Involvement. Eric holds two degrees from the University of Delaware and the Coastal Carolina University. Right: Princep Shah ’17, international Student from Nepal, major business administration and concentration finance, minor mathematics and computer science. Among other things, Princep is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta honor society; he is on the Dean’s List and is a 2015 recipient of the Parekh and Mehta Scholarship for international students in good academic standing. Eric and Princep posed on June 9, 2016 after the reception in honor of Olivia Evans.

Haiku
Look! The stars! The stars!
The moon is just a street lamp.
Sing cicada, sing!

The Judgment of Crows
Crows huddle like the dead
even as I know they’re not.
All the dreary things amount
to birds on a branch.
I look up and watch them
slowly speed the world
as if it’s three in the afternoon
and night already.
I’m pondering futility.
They have their grip.
Work, relationships-
it’s amazing what the crows know.
Peering down,
they fill in for judges,
lined up and pondering my case.
They’re one caw away
from ‘guilty as charged.’
Then suddenly,
they rise as one,
flap their way toward the sun.
It’s like the hood comes off
before the hangman has a chance
to pass sentence.
So it’s not all hopeless.
They’re heavy dark birds
who take nothing lightly.

John Grey, RI., USA

At Long Last
What if she is a beautiful executive,
In adventure and romance imaginative?
She never walks down the ladder of despair,
She raises up the steps of a tinsel fair.
She is well protected on her merry-go-round,
She is not embroiled, her senses are sound.
She is in my book, the story in ever way,
She is a deity of today, free to travel, play.
She is an academic scholar on Wall Stree,
She and all of them, today, are a real treat.
She climbed to the top, where she belongs,
Neatly out smarting, the stubborn acorns.

In the mansion of the wind, a butterfly lives. Her wings have the colors of the cosmos, complaints of sailors drunk of love, incandescent auroras borealis.

In the house of the wind, a lark lives that peregrinates in the mornings, in the dark.

In the mansion of the wind, where solitude prevails, I live attached to a memory. The past is alive all times, revolving around in the attic, the loft, the millionaire refuge in memory of bodies melting in silence. Posthumous encounter.

Yes, in the house of the wind lives a butterfly. And I am attached to the memory of your face.

In the mansion of the wind, there are thousand doors, for access and exits, and a clock that has been stopped and silenced forever in a fixed time.

Wow! butterfly of the wind! Don’t escape; don’t flee toward the mystery of nothingness. Come butterfly; don’t go into the unforeseeable cosmos, in the night.

In the house of the wind, I die waiting for your return. Butterfly of transparent color, I live in your wings. Don’t stop singing wind, you live in my house.


Special 3
How could it be that I say I love you how could it be that he says I love you, too then turns around and disappears a world apart, on the other side.

The side he knows I couldn’t follow, the side he knows I don’t belong.
the side where unquestionably only he chose.

Cesarelia E. Hotar ’00, Ramapo College

RAMAPO COLLEGE
Spring 2016
CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Civil Rights, Caffeine & Twitter, February 9
Theme: The Mental Health Connection: Stress, Depression, etc.
Speaker: Dr. Sheila Kiss
Sponsors: The Health and Counseling Services

Your Name is what? February 18
Theme: Facing discrimination and taking ownership of our names
Discussion: Can your name affect your interview?
Sponsors: Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc, & BSU

Diversity Convocation, February 24
Theme: Building Community in an Hour of Chaos: Progress in the Age of Obama
Speaker: Dr. Marc Lamont Hill
Sponsor: Diversity Action Committee

Diversity, State of the Student Address, March 3
Themes: Students’ Life, Racial inclusion, Higher Education Awareness
Speaker: Alec Weissman
Sponsor: Anisfield School of Business

Lunar New Year, March 4
Event: Lunar New Year Festival
Activity: Celebration of the Year of the Monkey
Sponsor: United Asian Association

D3’ Got Talent, March 12
Activity: Charity Competition for Gowad Kalinga
Performance: $2 admission. Free for performers
Sponsors: FAST of Stevens and FASA of Ramapo

Zumba, April 12
Event: Dining and three styles Zumba dancing
Performers: Ramapo students
Sponsors: American Studies, Italian, and Spanish Clubs

Identity and Stereotypes, April 20
Theme: “Perpetual Foreigner,” and “Model Minority”
Sponsors: Asian-American Federation and Equity & Diversity Programs
Speakers: Leaders in the Asian community

BSU Banquet, April 29
Event: Black Student Union Annual Banquet
Activities: Acknowledgement of organizations, students, faculty, and staff
Sponsor: The Black Student Union

Biology and Chemistry, End of Semester Party, May 2
Event: Food and refreshments
Activity: Celebration of End of Semester
Sponsor: The Chemistry and Biochemistry Clubs

Baquiana, Revista Literaria. Director Ejecutivo: Patricio E. Palacios. Directora de Redacción: Maricel Mayor Marsán. Ediciones Baquiana, P.O. Box 521108. Miami, Florida, 33152-1108, info@baquiana.com
Raven Jones ‘16

Recipe

Banana Fritters

Ingredients:
3 ripe bananas
1 egg
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
1/2 cup of sugar
2 cups of all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon of baking powder
3 cups of vegetable oil for frying
(confectioners sugar, optional, but nice finishing touch)

Instructions: In a large bowl peel and cut the ripe bananas into chunks. Using a fork, mash them to smooth consistence. Whip the egg, add the sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Whip some more until the sugar breaks down. Add that to the bowl with the mashed bananas. Slowly add the flour and baking powder. Mix until it is a smooth batter, without any lumps. Set aside. Heat the oil on a medium / high flame and add spoonful (tablespoon) of the batter into the hot oil. It will take about 1 minute to get golden brown. Flip and cook for another minute until that side is also golden brown. Once cooked you will notice that it will start floating in the oil. Remove and drain on paper towels. Place the fritters on a plate. Dust with confectioners sugar. Serve warm. Good with vanilla ice cream on the side as well.

Raven Jones ‘16, international studies major.

Books and Magazines Received

Spring / Summer, 2016.
All Animals. March, April, May, June, 2016.
PMLA. Volume 130, October 2015, No. 5. Volume 131, January 2016, No 1.
SSHGS Perspectives, Spring, 2016.

Corrections

The Cultural Journal. Fall 2015, p.7. Line 23, should have been written “live dancing,” not “life dancing.”

Animal Corner

Buddy

Buddy is a green wing macaw. He is eight years old. Buddy was given to us by neighbors who were moving and unfortunately couldn’t take their bird with them. He was two years old at the time. We were supposed to watch him until he found a new home, but we decided to keep him. He loves to dance to music by bopping his head up and down or moving his body from side to side. His most popular phrases are “Hi Buddy,” “Hello,” and “Pretty Bird.” Also if someone starts laughing around him he will laugh also. His favorite food is peanuts. He speaks English.

Northern Cardinal

The northern cardinal is a mid-sized songbird with a body length of 21–23 cm (8.3–9.1 in). It has a distinctive crest on the head and a mask on the face which is black in the male and gray in the female. The mail is a vibrant red, while the female is a dull reddish olive. The northern cardinal is mainly granivorous, but also feeds on insects and fruit. The male behaves territorially, marking out his territory with song. During courtship, the male feeds seed to the female beak-to-beak. Its sale as a cage bird was banned in the United States by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Information taken from Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia.
Little Daphna was rescued by a PETA staffer whose neighbors had moved away and callously left the hen and another bird, both of whom were being used for their eggs, behind to fend for themselves. Little Daphna’s friend was mauled to death immediately by a dog, and the PETA staffer quickly stepped in to save Little Daphna and find her a safe home. Today, this gorgeous calendar girl lives on a sprawling farm, where she enjoys pecking around in the woods and stretching out on a large sunny patch of grass with her boyfriend—a rescued rooster.

Published with permission of PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Camila

Camila is a tabby shorthair cat. She was adopted seven years ago when she was around two years old. Now, she must be eight or nine, according to the vet. In reality, she ‘adopted me’ instead of the other way around. But she wanted to come in. Eventually she did.

Shortly after I moved to Miami, she would come to my door, and ‘meow.’ I gave her food and water. She joined Esmeralda and Santiago, my other two cats. I brought from NY. Camila still acts like a kitten. She has a lot of energy, is very curious, and mischievous. She was the last one in, but she definitely owns the house now.