

AIS OCCURRENCES

Dean Inks Accord with Deusto in Spain



Photo: Jon Franco, CIDE (Centro Internacional "Deusto" de España).

Dean Nejad (right) with Dr. Angel María Ormaechea Hernáiz in Bilbao, Spain

BILBAO—During the week of November 10, Dean Hassan Nejad traveled to Bilbao, Spain to finalize the affiliation agreement between Ramapo College of New Jersey and Universidad of Deusto (CIDE). On November 13, the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters at Deusto, Dr. Angel M. Ormaechea Hernaez, signed the agreement which will enable Ramapo students to study at the Bilbao campus. This agreement represents the final step of a process initiated by the Spanish faculty of AIS to expand the international opportunities available to Ramapo students in Spain. An alumnus of Deusto University, Prof. Natalia Santamaria Laorden, held an information session on Study Abroad In Spain on December 11, in which she talked about the University of Deusto and the Summer and Fall programs offered now to Ramapo students.. □

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Meet AIS's New Dean, Dr. Hassan M. Nejad

AIS's new dean, Dr. Hassan M. Nejad, was born in what was then a small, remote Iranian village where most of all three hundred residents were illiterate and poor. At age eight, Dr. Nejad's family moved to the city, hoping for a better life. His father worked long, hard hours as a laborer, often away on

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AIS FACULTY UPDATES

Patricia Ard will speak in April 2009 for Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Westwood (NJ) Public Library on "Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex."

Lisa Cassidy traveled with students Heather Kristian and Steve Vanderlinden to San Francisco State University in November. The trio presented their jointly authored paper "Teaching Students Aesthetics by Having Students Teach

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New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College



MEET THE NEW DEAN
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assignments for weeks at a time, while his mother cared for nine children. Despite these hardships, the city provided Dr. Nejad with an opportunity to set goals and try to attain them. From high school through college, he worked six to seven days a week doing odd jobs. He supported himself, paid for his education, and, after leaving home, sent money to his parents. He was the first from his family—and from the village—to go to school, to college, and to a foreign country.

He completed an undergraduate degree in Iran, but he dreamt of pursuing graduate study in the United States. The culture shock, language barrier, absence of family support, immigration issues, and economic hardship made his struggle here even harder, but he earned his M.A. from the California State University, Los Angeles, and his Ph.D. at Southern Illinois

University in the 1970s. He began his academic teaching career as an assistant professor and, through the years, has worked his way to becoming a leader in his field of Political Science and International Studies specializing in International Law, International Organizations, the Middle East and North Africa, Globalization, Islam & Politics.

Dr. Nejad has taught at four universities, both in the U.S. and abroad, including posts as the Associate Dean of Tehran University Law School and, most recently, the Executive Vice-President and Dean of Faculty at Antioch College in Ohio. The focus of his work has centered on international law, Middle East politics, international relations, and conflict resolution. While serving as an administrator, he has remained an active professor and looks forward to teaching students at Ramapo.

He is married to Behrokh; the couple has two daughters,

Bahareh, a doctor, and Leila, a television producer and documentarian. He credits his family to enriching his academic career and his life.

A strong commitment to the liberal arts, integration of theory and practice, cross-cultural learning, international education, interdisciplinary study, and participatory governance brought him to Ramapo College where he began his position as AIS Dean on July 1st, 2008. Ramapo's commitment to diversity, academic excellence, community service, and progressive social change are values that Dr. Nejad has always embraced and promoted. He looks forward to continuing the work he has begun with the College's high quality faculty and academic programs, on the undergraduate level and in the Master's of Liberal Studies graduate program. □

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Themselves" to an audience at the Radical Philosophy Association's biannual meeting. The paper describes the teaching and learning accomplished in last year's "Philosophy of Beauty" course. The trip was funded

This issue of *AIS Occurrences* was produced and edited by Professors Roark Atkinson, Risa Gorelick, Jeremy M. Teigen, and Michael Unger.

by Student Affairs, the Provost Office, and the Foundation.

Rosetta D'Angelo led a delegation of Italian Studies students to participate in the National Italian Foundation Convention in Washington, D.C., where they also met several prominent Italian-American public officials. She has also been invited by Clemson University to

participate in the Italian Studies Summit, Year II, to both present her book, *Resisting Bodies*, and to share her knowledge and perspectives on curriculum development in Italian Studies.

Paul Elovitz edited "*Appearance and Reality*," published in September. Since the spring semester

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AIS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Student and Faculty Events

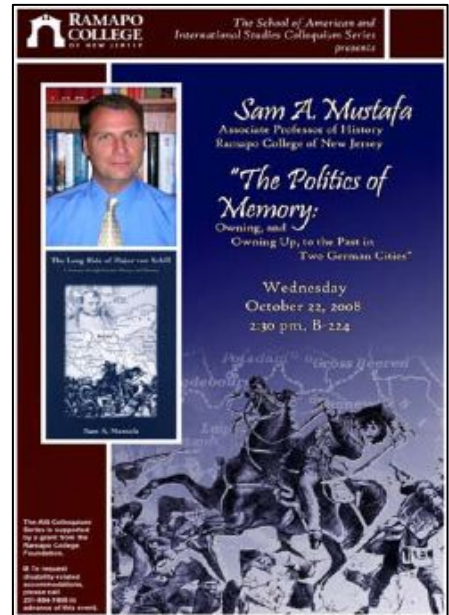
Professor Julie A. George (CUNY Queens) presented her research in a talk titled “The War in Georgia: Origins and

Implications” on September 24, 2008. Professor George discussed the historical and political origins of the recent war between Russia and Georgia. She also discussed the possible effects the conflict has on international relations and the United States.

Professor Sam A. Mustafa delivered a talk titled “The Politics of Memory: Owning, and Owning Up, to the Past in Two German Cities” on October 22, 2008. His presentation highlighted his new book, *The Long Ride of Major von Schill* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008).

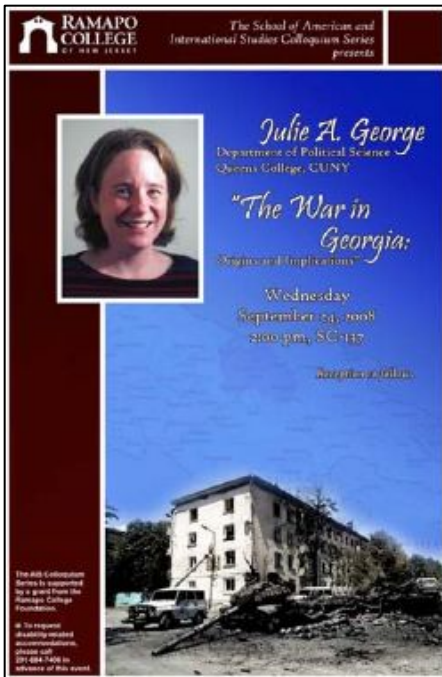
AMERICAN STUDIES CLUB

The American Studies Club sponsored a walking tour of the Times Square neighborhood of New York City on Saturday, October 25. The tour was led by



Big Onion Walking Tours and was attended by 11 students. The rain held off for the two hours of the tour, which focused on the history and architecture of the neighborhood. The club plans to sponsor a similar tour of another neighborhood in New York in the spring.

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History Tutors Fellows Program Helps Others

Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Student Coordinator for the History Tutoring Fellows

The History Tutoring Fellows was founded last year as a groundbreaking program for history students. The Fellows consist of five top Junior and Senior history majors who assist underclassmen with the coursework for their history classes. This assistance comes in many forms, including how to take organized

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Prof. Carter Jones Meyer (right) and the History Tutoring Fellows

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Elovitz published 12 articles in three journals. In the *Journal of Psychohistory* these included "A Comparative Psychohistory of McCain and Obama," and "Presidential Responses to National Trauma: Case Studies of G. W. Bush, Carter, and Nixon." In *Clio's Psyche*, his articles included "Obama's Dreams from and of His Father," "Grief and Loss in the Bush Family," "Thinking and Laughing about Biden and Palin," "Race in America and the 2008 Election," and "Fred I. Greenstein: Princeton Political Psychologist." His editorial leadership of *Clio's Psyche* included producing three special issues since the end of the spring semester. Seventeen authors of December's issue came from universities in New Zealand, UK, and US. He organized professional presentations with colleagues from UConn, the Univ. of Pittsburgh, SUNY, and the Merchant Marine Academy, presenting in Manhattan on Nov. 1, at Rutgers on Oct. 26, at the Sciences Po in Paris on July 5, and at Fordham Univ. on June 4 &

5. The last three papers were delivered to international conferences.

Niza Fabre published "Nuevo acercamiento al simbolismo del puente en Rayuela (1963) de Julio Cortázar" (Bridge's Symbolism in Julio Cortázar's Hopscotch, Revisited) in *Minerva Magazine, Publicación Literaria e Histórica*, Vol.III, Número 1, Junio 2008. Fabre also published "Semblanza Bio-Bibliográfica de Pío Baroja, Escritor Vasco (1872-1956) (Pío Baroja's Biographical Sketch) in two newspapers: *Diario La Informacion, De Houston*, 22-28 de Mayo del 2008, and in *Enfoque Metropolitano* Newspaper, Tampa, Florida, May 20, 2008. She presented that work previously at *Revista Caliope*, Murcia, Spain, December 2008. Other presentations include: "The Spiritual Life of the Garifuna" at the 16th Annual International Hispanic and Afro-Hispanic Literature and Culture Conference, English and Foreign Languages Department, Southern Arkansas University and Ocho Ríos, Jamaica, January 4-9, 2009; "La vida itinerante de la Monja Alférez," (The Itinerant Life

of the Nun Ensign) Annual Meeting of Studies of Women in Spain and the Americas 1700s and Before." California State Long Beach University, October 4-8, 2008; "Magic Realism In the Afro Ecuatorian Novel: Juyungo of Adalberto Ortiz." Fourth Meeting of the Section of Ecuatorianists FLACSO, Quito, Ecuador, July 17-19, 2008. She was also appointed Member of the Editorial Board of the *Baquiana Literary Magazine* of Miami.

On Friday, October 17, 2008, **Risa Gorelick** presented a paper, "Food for Thought: Argument Writing," at Hofstra University's "'Who Owns Writing?' Revisited" conference. The paper examined pedagogical implications of a theme-based first-year composition argument-based writing course which focused on Food and Society. Gorelick's paper, "Argument Writing in a Fast Food Nation" was accepted to appear on a panel, "Making Waves through Writing: Food Memoirs, Argument, and Recipes as Protest" at the annual Conference on

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AIS CLUBS*continued from page 3***CULTURE CLUB**

“Culture and Religion: A Hindu Wedding Ceremony in Rajasthan, India.” Audio visual presentation by Asha Mehta, Advisor Nursing Program, School of Theoretical and Applied Science. Monday, October 20, 2008. Ethnic Food and Refreshments Free.

“History of the Sikh Turban and Its Cultural Significance in Modern Sikhism.” Audiovisual presentation by Dr. Paramjeet S. Bagga, Professor of Biology, School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Monday, November 3, 2008. Ethnic Food and Refreshments Free.

“Women’s Voices in the Partisan Movement, in Italy: World War II, 1943-1945,” by Dr. Rosetta D’Angelo, Professor of Italian Studies and Literature, School of American and International Studies, Monday, November 17, 2008. Food and refreshments Free.

“Cultural Diversity Exhibit Representing”: Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Haiti, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam, etc. Monday, November 24, 2008. Food and Refreshments Free.

Cultural Dinner, Spanish Peninsular Cuisine at The Spanish Sangria Restaurant. December 5, 2008.

Culture Club Publication: The Cultural Journal, Vol.XVII, Issue I.

LITERATURE CLUB

The Literature Club continues to run Workshop Nights on Wednesdays at 10:00 p.m. in the Library, usually on the second floor.

Prof. Yvette Kisor led a group of students to the Dodge Poetry Festival in Waterloo Village on Friday, 26 September 2008. Hosted by the Platinum Series.

HISTORY CLUB

The History Club welcomed Prof. Carina Ray to campus on October 15th for a talk on Darfur entitled “Darfur in the African Press.” She is a professor of history at Fordham University.

Prof. Tae Yang Kwak had big shoes to fill this semester as he had inherited advisorship of the Ramapo College History Club from the 2006-2007 “Advisor of the Year,” Prof. Sam Mustafa. This semester, the History Club and co-sponsor Ramapo College Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies invited Fordham University Professor Carina Ray who spoke on “Darfur in the African Press,” examining how Darfur has been discussed in various African newspapers, and what the

African press can tell us about African understandings, opinions and concerns in relation to Darfur. The Club is organizing several events for next semester, including a field trip to Philadelphia in order to visit some of the historic sites and museums.

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY History Club presents

Carina Ray
Assistant Professor of History
Fordham University

"Darfur in the African Press"

Wednesday
October 15, 2008
3:30pm - 5:00pm
York Room

Free and open to the public.

The Ramapo College Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is pleased to host the African Press Series. This series will explore the role of the African press in the Darfur crisis. The series will be held in the York Room of the Ramapo College Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The series will be held on a first-come, first-served basis. The series will be held on a first-come, first-served basis. The series will be held on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prof. Kwak became the organizer of the AIS Film Series which is generously supported by the Dean of Students Office. Student attendance has been impressive. For the first film, “300” (2006), over seventy College students (and one baby) watched the film and many participated in the post-screening discussion. Other films featured this semester were “Beowulf” (2007) hosted by Prof. Yvette Kisor, “Cool Hand Luke” hosted by Prof. Jeremy Teigen, and foreign epic

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College Composition and Communication in San Francisco on March 12, 2009. Additionally, Gorelick will chair the Research Network Forum at CCCC, the largest research forum in the field of composition and rhetoric on March 11, 2009.

Susan Hangen presented two papers in Fall 2008. In October, she presented a paper called “The Changing Forms and Strategies of Nepal’s Indigenous Nationalities Movement” at the 38th Annual Conference on South Asia, held in Madison, Wisconsin. She also organized a series of panels on Nationalism and Ethnicity in Nepal for the conference. In September, she was invited to present a paper at a seminar called *Belonging and Globalization in the Himalayas*, held at CNRS, France. Her paper called “Global Gurungs: Ethnic Organizing Abroad,” drew on her ongoing research on Nepalis in New York City.

James Hoch’s poems are to appear in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Poetry International*, and *Luna*. The Readings at Ramapo Series

continues to offer diverse and intimate events. Sigma Tau Delta is marked by strong leadership and offers Literature majors wonderful opportunities to get involved in talks and field trips. His sons are growing.

Yvette Kisor’s review of *The Erotic in the Literature of Medieval Britain*, ed. Amanda Hopkins and Cory James Rushton (Woodbridge, Suffolk: D.S. Brewer, 2007) appeared in *The Medieval Review* 08.05.01 in May 2008. Her paper “Beowulf: A Tale of Blood, Heat, and Ashes: A Children’s Beowulf for the Tolkien Generation” has been accepted to the Beowulf as Children’s Literature session of the Forty-fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, May 2009. At the same conference she will be a panelist in the roundtable “In Honor of Tom Shippey II: J.R.R. Tolkien—Author of the Next Century?” as well as presiding over a second roundtable on “Teaching Tolkien.”

Tae Yang Kwak’s article “The Nixon Doctrine and the Yusin reforms: American Foreign Policy, the Vietnam

War, and the Rise of Authoritarianism in Korea, 1968-1973,” was published in the most recent issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*. His English translation of five poems by contemporary Korean poet Chang Chŏng-il was featured this fall in the second volume of *Azalea: A Journal of Korean Literature and Culture* published by the Harvard Korea Institute and the University of Hawaii Press. His review of Gregg Brazinsky’s *Koreans, Americans, and the Making of Democracy* (2007) was also published this fall in the peer-reviewed journal *Pacific Affairs*. Kwak has expanded the AIS Unit’s cyber-footprint with the creation of two new homepages: (1) the long overdue History Convening Group page <<http://phobos.ramapo.edu/majors/history>>, and (2) the Ramapo College History Club homepage <<http://phobos.ramapo.edu/~history>>. Kwak joined Profs. David Lewis-Colman (SSHS), Pat Keeton (CS), and Peter Scheckner, as well as nine student representatives in a college-wide Student-Faculty

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Roundtable titled “What’s it Like Being a Student When the World is Falling Apart?” The Alumni Lounge was packed with students and the open discussion ranged from current events including the presidential election, the economic meltdown, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to perennial issues of racism, classism, the military-industrial complex, and the iron triangle.

Steve Rice presented two papers this fall. The first, titled “Picturing the Machine in Nineteenth-Century America,” was given in September at a conference on print in science, technology, engineering, and medicine sponsored by the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The second, titled “Imagining the ‘Highlands of the Hudson’ in the Nineteenth Century” was given in October as part of the Evening Speaker Series sponsored by the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall, New York.

Ed Shannon is hosting a series of discussions as part of a grant through the American Library Association’s “Let’s Talk About it” series. His series is called “Modern Marvels: Jewish

Adventures in the Graphic Novel” and runs through December at the Fanwood library in Fanwood, NJ.

Natalia Santamaria Laorden presented a paper entitled “El Retorno de las Carabelas”: Debates Finiseculares entre Autores Españoles y Latinoamericanos sobre el Regeneracionismo Español” in the Transatlantic Project at Brown University last Spring.

Ira Spar contributed several articles on ancient Near East History and Literature in J. Sherman (ed.), *Storytelling: An Encyclopedia of Mythology and Folklore*, Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 2008: “Abzu,” “Adad,” “Adapa,” “An/Anu,” “Anzu,” “Bull of Heaven,” “Creation Stories,” “Dilmun,” “Dumuzi,” “Enki,” “Enkidu,” “Enlil,” “Enmerkar,” “Erra,” “Etana,” “Gilgamesh,” “Lugalbanda,” “Nanna-Suen,” “Nergal,” “Ninurta/Ningirsu,” “Utu/Shamash.” He also published articles on “The Amarna Letters,” “Cedars of Lebanon,” “An Old Assyrian Trial Deposition,” in J. Aruz (ed.), *Before Babylon*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2008. In addition, he published articles on: “The Origins of Writing,” “The Flood Story,” “Gilgamesh,” “Divine Kingship in Mesopotamia,” “Gods and Goddesses of Canaan,” “Enuma

Elish” in *The Timeline of History* www.metmuseum.org. (November 2008). He presented a paper on the Origins of Writing at the World History conference in London in June and one on Society and Writing in Early Uruk at the World History Mid-Atlantic Conference in October. Lastly, he served as consultant and writer for Antenna Audio a division of Discovery Channel: “Audio on Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade and Diplomacy in the Bronze Age” is in press and will accompany an exhibit of the same title at The Metropolitan Museum of Art opening.

Jeremy Teigen was appointed book review editor of *Armed Forces & Society*, an interdisciplinary journal focusing on the sociology and politics of militaries and military service. He also has a forthcoming publication, “NATO Enlargement and Institution Building: Military Personnel Policy Challenges in the Post-Soviet Context” in *European Security* with Julie George at CUNY Queens.

Lisa Williams published a book review of *A Life of One’s Own* by Ilana Simons in the Spring/Summer 2008 issue of the *Virginia Woolf Miscellany*.

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AIS CLUBS
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“Mongol” (2007) hosted by History Club member Kenny Linden.

RAMAPO REPUBLICANS

The college Republican club hosted a talk by former U.S. Senator and Virginia Governor, the Honorable George Allen, entitled “How We Can Break OPEC’s hold over America’s Energy Needs” October 8, in Friends Hall.

SPANISH CLUB

Prof. Natalia Santamaria Laorden took her Spanish Civilization class to the Joyce Theater in New York City to see the last version of the classic “Carmen” by Ballet Hispanico. The activity was funded by the office of Student Activities. □

History Tutors
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notes and how best to study for quizzes, tests, midterms and finals (i.e. how to study for tests with essays). The majority of students, though, have come in for assistance with papers. If a student comes in for help with a paper the Fellow who assists him or her may help with choosing topics, research difficulties, organizing the paper itself, and of course, how to correctly cite sources. The History Tutoring Fellows are now well into their second year and have made significant inroads and improvements upon the previous year. Working with fewer hours they were still able to provide coverage during the lunch hour every day of the week and the dinner hour almost every day. To help inform students of the

Ask about the Latino and Latin American Studies minor!



Contact Iraida H. López at ilopez@ramapo.edu

services available every 100-level class was visited by one of the Fellows. Over 75 students have come to the Tutoring Center this semester for help with classes ranging from Introduction to U.S. History II to Ancient Greece, so to keep professors informed of their students’ progress, a new form was instituted this semester that is sent out to both the professor and the director of the program, detailing the students who visit the Fellows and the assistance they were given. This semester, under the guidance of faculty advisor Professor Carter Jones Meyer, Brianna Davis-Kleppinger, Erica D’Elia, Marissa Dragone, Siobhan Fitzpatrick and Jim Penhaker have ably assisted students as the History Tutoring Fellows, and are looking forward to returning next semester. □



Prof. Natalia Santamaria Laorden (left) with the Spanish Club