

SSHGSCURRENTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES

Letter from the Dean

by Stephen Rice



It's hard to believe that we're coming to the end of another semester, and another academic year. Once again there's a lot of exciting news to report.

First, I'm very happy to announce that we will be launching a new program in SSHGS to help our students embark upon the path they want to take when they graduate and leave Ramapo. Thanks to a generous donation from long-time supporters of the College, the SSHGS Pathways Program will be established in order to provide students with the information, resources, and guidance they need to prepare for a career, graduate school, participation in a service organization, or for a transitional year of exploration and enrichment. In the coming months we will be working closely with the Cahill Center for Career Development to develop and implement this program, which we're certain will be a great benefit to our students.

Also thanks to a generous donation, we have established an Archaeology Field School Preparation Program that will support up to three students taking part in an archaeological dig during the summer of 2015. Field schools are established throughout the world and enable students to learn and do the work of an archaeologist while earning college credit. We know there is interest in this kind of work among our students, and we've long wanted to be able to support that interest. Students selected for the program will enroll in specific courses in preparation for their field work and will receive support and guidance in applying to specific programs that interest them.

Most of us in SSHGS are about to vacate our offices for the summer for the planned renovations to the B-Wing. When we return in August, it will be to a new configuration of classroom and office space, with the addition of a large student lounge and workspace, an office for the Salameno Center for British Studies,

and a new Mac computer lab. We'll be holding inaugural activities in the fall and hope you'll stop by if you're on campus.

Finally, this is the time of year when we get to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our students. In the last several weeks we have held induction ceremonies for the Honor Societies associated with our major programs, including Phi Alpha Theta for History, Sigma Iota Rho for International Studies, Sigma Tau Delta for Literature, Pi Sigma Alpha for Political Science, and Sigma Delta Pi for Spanish Language Studies. In all, more than 50 SSHGS student were honored in this way.

We are also noting the outstanding graduating seniors for each of our majors: **Emily Moore** in American Studies, **Thomas Colella** in History, **Tracy Harrsch** in International Studies, **Laura Sancic** in Liberal Studies, **Jacqueline Thomas** in Literature, **Catherine Morris** in Political Science, and **Victoria Grey** in Spanish Language Studies. Congratulations to them, and to all our spring and summer graduates.

THE SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES

SSHGS Currents

Spring 2014

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The American History Textbook Project Showcase Event

By Stacie Taranto

The American History Textbook Project (AHTP) is an on-going initiative at the College that was started in 2009. The collection contains U.S. history textbooks that have been used in K-12 classrooms since the late 19th century. The AHTP is housed at Potter Library as a special collection for students to use and currently contains close to 150 textbooks. It is a growing project, and three out of the last four academic years, the Ramapo Foundation has awarded SSHGS with a student intern and budget to purchase more books. In the spring of 2014, professors **Alex Urbiel** (SSHS) and **Stacie Taranto** (SSHGS) worked with a student intern, **Mary DiPasquale**, who is a junior majoring in history, as she

acquired nearly 50 additional books for the collection. On Wednesday, April 16, 2014, Professors Taranto and Urbiel joined Mary for a showcase event open to the College, where they talked about the AHTP and displayed some of the collection's new acquisitions. This semester, Mary focused on acquiring older editions of textbooks already in the collection, as well as those used in southern states (particularly during the Jim Crow era) and in Christian and Catholic parochial schools. We hope to have another intern in the spring of 2015 so that we can continue to grow the collection, and possibly even begin to digitize it in some capacity.

Phi Alpha Theta Eastern Regional Conference for History Majors

By Stacie Taranto

On Saturday, April 5, 2014, five of our history majors were invited to present some of their recent classroom work at the annual Phi Alpha Theta East Regional Conference that took place at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Phi Alpha Theta is the international honor society for history majors, and Ramapo has an active chapter that sends students to this conference every year. Students must apply and be accepted to present their work. The faculty in the history convening group were thrilled that all five students from Ramapo who applied to the conference were accepted. Junior **John Sorrentino** presented a paper entitled "Urban Sprawl and the Brooklyn Dodgers." Sophomore **Joanna Sadej** presented "The Polish Government-in-Exile and the Soviet Response to the Polish Home Army." Senior **Robert Andresen** read a paper on "The Experiences of Prisoners of War Taken in the American-Indian Wars." Seniors **Erin Mulligan** and **Alex Johnson** also had papers that were accepted to the conference, but they were unable to attend.

Sigma Tau Delta Students Present Work in Savannah

By Todd Barnes

On February 27, **Professor Barnes** and four Ramapo College literature majors flew to Savannah, GA to attend the three-day Sigma Tau Delta International English conference. **Audrey Zabohonski**, a current senior, presented her creative nonfiction essay, "Revelations from Behind the Counter," a piece about dealing with the frustrations of working in retail and customer service. Zabohonski recalls that at the conference "it was just really great to see that reading and writing is still really important for so many people." **Julia Horniacek**, also a current senior, presented an academic essay on Jane Austen, which she wrote in **Professor Ard's** course. In her paper, Horniacek compared the construction of Austen's characters in *Sense and Sensibility* with their depiction in two recent film adaptations. Senior **Monika Lasocha** participated in a panel on literary theory and contemporary fiction. Current students were joined by two recent alumnae. **Francesca Baratta** ('13), who is currently an editorial assistant at John Wiley and Sons, presented a series of poems entitled "In Lieu of an Anniversary." The poems humorously mixed stories of love with themes drawn from popular culture. Recent graduate **Sarah Galo** ('13) presented poems from "Lacuna," the poetry collection she completed in the capstone course she took with **Professor Hoch**.



Sarah Galo, winner of the Alumni Epsilon Award for Creative Writing

The quality of Galo's work earned her the Alumni Epsilon Award for Creative Writing, which was presented to her at the awards gala. This is the second year in a row that Ramapo has won this award

(last year **Stefanie Mauro** won). Galo comments, "It's really exciting to bring recognition to our school again and our literature program. It not only reflects on our work but also on the wonderful contributions of our professors to our education."

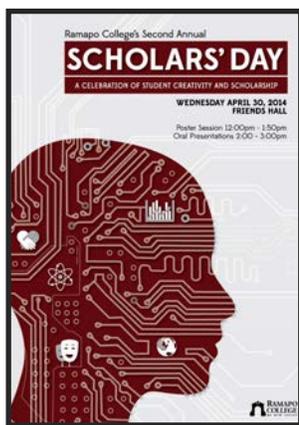


Students, alumni, and Professor Barnes at the Sigma Tau Delta International English conference in Savannah, GA.

Students enjoyed the gothic sights and southern tastes of Savannah, spending their downtime dining and touring the city's many public squares and parks. All of the students reported that their favorite part of the conference was the keynote speech by graphic memoirist and cartoonist **Alison Bechdel**, famous for her syndicated comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* and her graphic memoir *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Baratta recalls: "[the students and Professor Barnes] would have dinner together, and we would all discuss the day's events, including Alison Bechtel, any of the other speakers, and the other presentations we went to that day. It was really this combining of ideas between professors, undergrad students, and alums. That's great because we as alumni like to be able to connect to the students and our professors. The conference is a really great way to do that, as well as to present our creative writing or academic writing." You can hear more of these students' thoughts on the conference by visiting the Literature Program's podcast at <http://www.ramapo.edu/major-literature/rama-podcast/>

Ten Students Represent SSHGS at Scholars' Day

By Carter Jones Meyer



Ten students, from History, International Studies, Liberal Studies (Italian Studies), Literature, Political Science and Spanish Language Studies, represented the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies at the second annual Scholars' Day, held April 30. This was the single largest showing by any of the schools participating in the event. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Scholars' Day is an opportunity for the entire Ramapo community to celebrate the creative and scholarly achievements of our students. Participants and their faculty-mentored projects were chosen on the basis of their merits by individual convening groups. In addition to a poster session, with a total of 27 posters exhibited, this year's event featured oral presentations by students representing four of the College's five schools. They were selected by the dean of their respective school from all the posters submitted. **Rachel Wood**, a student in International Studies, represented SSHGS. Her talk, "The Corrosive Effect of the Senkaku-Diaoyu Dispute on U.S.-China Relations," skillfully examined the sources of the East China Sea territorial dispute between Japan and the People's Republic of China (PRC). As she stated, this dispute, involving not only Japan and the PRC, but also the United States, "is probably one of the most contentious flashpoints in international politics today."

Congratulations to these SSHGS students, and their faculty mentors, who participated in the 2014 Scholars' Day:

Robert Andresen, History (**Carter Jones Meyer**):

"Chained Courage: Self-Expression, Perseverance, and Accommodation by the Dakota and Apache as Prisoners of War."

Giselle Arce, International Studies (**Susan Hangen**): "Colombian Immigrants and Political Asylum in the U.S."

Jillian N. Cene, Liberal Studies (Italian Studies) (**Rosetta D'Angelo**): "Relationships and Modernity in Michelangelo Antonioni's Films."

Danielle Corcione, Literature (**Vassiliki Flenga**): "Literary Analysis of Pussy Riot in the Mainstream and Alternative News."

Victoria Grey, Spanish Language Studies (**Natalia Santamaria Laorden**): "'I Feel Robbed': An Exploration of the Causes of the Loss and Maintenance of Spanish in Latin American Children of the Second Generation."

Jonathan B. Mangel, Political Science (**Michael A. Unger**): "Putting the Problem in the Crosshairs: Perceptions of the Causes of Gun Violence."

Kenny Moncayo, Literature (**Vassiliki Flenga**): "A Body on the Catafalque: Deconstruction of Race in Jean Genet's *The Blacks: A Clown Show*."



Erin Mulligan, History (**Carter Jones Meyer**):

"Alice C. Fletcher and Zitkala-Ša: The Indian Home in Turn of the Century Civilization Debates."

Erik Topp, Political Science (**Jeremy M. Teigen, Michael A. Unger**): "The Partisanship of State Supreme Court Justices: Do Elections Matter?"

Rachel Wood, International Studies (**Dean P. Chen**): "The Corrosive Effect of the Senkaku-Diaoyu Dispute on U.S.-China Relations."

Readings at Ramapo

By Hugh Sheehy

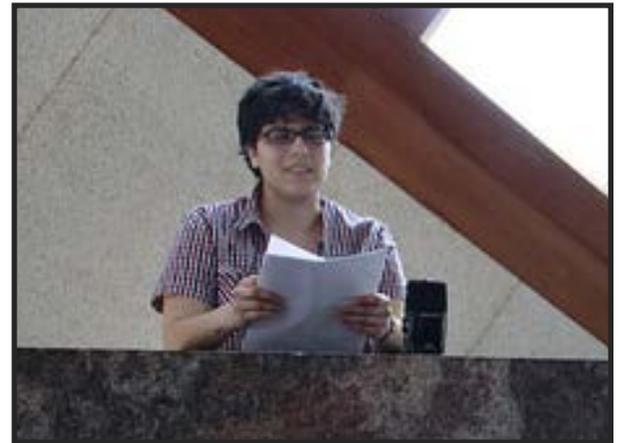


Hugh Sheehy with Anthony Grooms

Spring 2014 was a busy semester for Readings at Ramapo. Even with one of our scheduled visiting authors canceling at the last moment, we still put on five readings and held three supplemental meetings in which students either received instruction from a visiting author or discussed a guest writer's work.

In February, the author **Anthony Grooms** brought his new novel and his expertise with writing about history and intercultural experience to campus. After meeting with my Introduction to Creative Writing and Fiction Workshop classes, and teaching a packed-to-the-gills master class on how he uses historical figures and how he creates a sense of zeitgeist—the session had to be cut short with hands in the air so that students could get to two o'clock classes—Grooms read in a cozily crowded York Room and then entertained questions about

his new book about a Vietnam draft dodger seeking a new life in Sweden. A professor of English at Kennesaw State University near Atlanta, Grooms found Mahwah a chilly place to winter but was nonetheless impressed by the strength of community, the passion, and the savvy he observed among our student writers.



Mary DiPasquale

In April, the poet **Nicholas Samaras** read from his new book, *American Psalm, World Psalm*, in the Padovano Peace Pavilion.

Currently adjunct faculty at Ramapo, Samaras was familiar with the students and comfortable enough to invite them to interrupt his reading with reactions and questions. A few took him up on the offer, creating a surprisingly (pleasantly so, I should add) conversational atmosphere for the poetry reading. As the title of his book suggests, Samaras's work borrows heavily from classical text, but his poems have the power to reach a broad audience, a power increased by his hospitable presentation.

The semester also occasioned three student readings—in February, March, and April—at which ten of our poets, fiction writers, and nonfiction writers read original work. Each event took place in the Peace Pavilion, and each attracted a large crowd of students and faculty members. It was pleasure to mark the seasonal changes and advances in the semester by these celebrations of student talent and accomplishment. Poets included **Mary DiPasquale** and **Jacqueline Thomas**; the fiction writers included **Marina Bisha**, **Ryan Dykstra**, **Corbin Hirschhorn**, and **Ben Reinhardt**; the nonfiction writers were **Janine Horber**, **Monika Lasocha**, **Kenny Moncayo**, and **Dylan Sprayberry**.



Marina Bisha

Readings at Ramapo is looking forward to next year; we are already in the process of contacting readers for the Fall semester. We are deeply grateful to Ramapo College for its support, especially **Dean Rice** and SSHGS, the Literature faculty (doubly so to **Ed Shannon** and **Monika Giacoppe** for their generosity in discussing visiting authors' work with students ahead of these readings), and, of course, our wonderful creative writing students.



(L-R): Professor Stacie Taranto, Samantha Carollo, Christine Cioletti, and John Donnelly

Student Colloquium

On Wednesday, February 12, the Second Annual SSHGS Student Colloquium was held. Four students presented papers. **Samantha Carollo**, senior history major, presented “The Queen and the War: The First World War’s Impact on Agatha Christie.” **Christine Cioletti**, sophomore biology major, presented “Writing: A Useful Tool in Coping with Disaster.” **John Donnelly**, junior literature major, presented “The Degradation of Romantic Communication and the Rise of Connected Loneliness.” **Kenny Moncayo**, sophomore literature major, presented “Time Destroys Everything: An Examination of Gaspar Noe’s Irreversible.”

Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Induction Ceremony

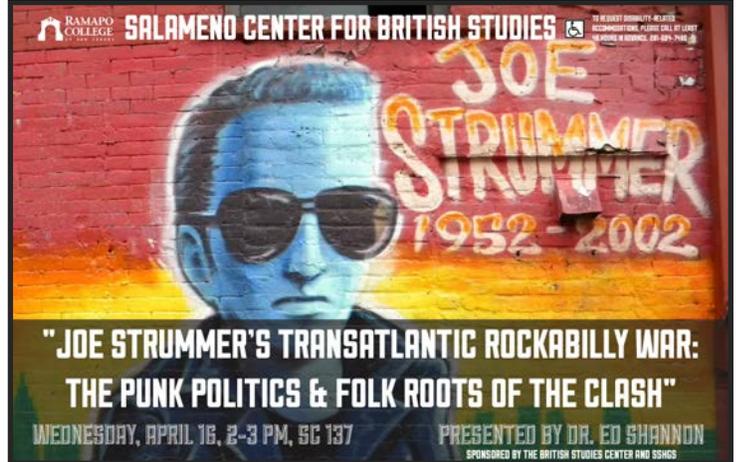
By Stacie Taranto

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, Ramapo’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international honor society for history majors, inducted twelve new members in a ceremony for friends and family that was held in the York Room. The induction ceremony was planned by SSHGS professors **Stacie Taranto**, the Phi Alpha Theta adviser at Ramapo, and **John Gronbeck-Tedesco**. In order to be accepted into this prestigious honor society, a student must take at least four history classes at Ramapo and have at least a 3.5 GPA in them; alternately, a student is invited to be inducted if he or she has presented a paper at the annual Phi Alpha Theta Eastern Regional Conference. This spring we were thrilled to induct the following students: **Joshua Bastin, Samantha Carollo, Gianna Casola, Julia Clinton, Jennifer Confortini, Victor Conti, Cassandra DiMartino, Alex Johnson, Brendan Keating, Patrick Rochford, Rob Shalihar, and Danielle Wankmuller**. The induction ceremony featured two student speakers—**Mary DiPasquale** and **Erin Mulligan**—who spoke about their experiences as history majors and Phi Alpha Theta members. Dr. **Seth Fein**, a historian who has taught at Yale, Barnard, and Columbia, where he is currently a visiting fellow in the Center for the Study of Social Difference, gave a keynote address, entitled “History as Architecture.” His provocative address incorporated his work in international and transnational histories, film, and American and Latin American studies.

Salameno Center for British Studies

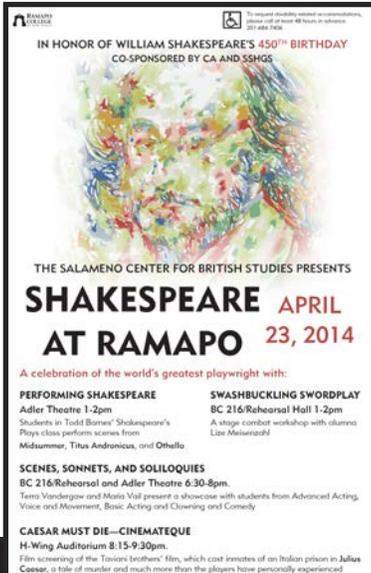
By Todd Barnes

This semester, the Center sponsored three major events on campus. On April 16, the Center hosted Professor **Ed Shannon's** presentation on "Joe Strummer's Transatlantic Rockabilly War: The Punk Politics and Folk Roots of The Clash." This well attended lecture, based on one of Professor Shannon's recent publications, drew fascinating connections between the life and work of



Joe Strummer and folk traditions embodied by Woody Guthrie. The Center

also hosted a *Harry Potter* Film Series. Throughout the semester, Professor **Yvette Kisor** hosted screenings and discussions for all of the films. On April 23, on the occasion of Shakespeare's 450th birthday, the Center once again sponsored a series of events to celebrate "Shakespeare at Ramapo." The daylong celebration included performances by students in Professor **Todd Barnes'** "Shakespeare's Plays" course; scenes, sonnets, and soliloquies performed by students in Professors **Vandergaw's** and **Vail's** acting classes; a screening and discussion of the new film *Caesar Must Die*; and a stage combat workshop hosted by alumna **Lize Meisenzahl**. The Center hopes to host more exciting events in the fall.



Jenn Mazza's Retirement

By Mike Fluhr

Start with a smidgeon of Sicily, add a dollop of Brooklyn, mix generously with brains and moxie and you have the recipe for Jennefer Verdini Mazza!

Jennefer Mazza came of age during the 1960s, and was fully engaged as student; as activist; as vibrant human being. From the shores of Bensonhurst's Lafayette High School (class of 1964), to the halls of Brooklyn (BA 1967) and Hunter College (MA 1968), she advanced to the banks of the Raritan, completing her Ph.D. (Rutgers 1978).

The stars were fortuitously aligned, and she joined Ramapo, a young, evolving Ramapo, in 1975. From the start, it was a good fit. Her energy, intelligence, and courage found support, challenge, and space to help the young college define itself, and mature into the outstanding institution it is today.

Integral to this journey are husband Bob, and their kids, Matthew and Jessica.

Needless to say, Jenn has been an active participant in the affairs of their community, Ho-Ho-Kus. Always curious and committed to continued learning, Jennefer successfully completed rigorous training as a psychoanalyst at the N.J. Institute for Psychoanalysis (certified 1990). In 2000, she downsized her practice as she assumed the role of Dean of the School of American and International Studies (now the Salameo School of Humanities and Global Studies).

It is with feelings of joy and sadness that we accept the end of her tenure here at Ramapo. Sadness at her departure. Sadness that her counsel will not be so readily available. Sadness that our colleague and friend will no longer be with us.



But the joy is greater. She and Bob will not be far away. They are seeking a new home in Bucks County where Jenn will engage her interest in photography, gardening, and cooking. They will travel, and I look forward to perusing the blog she promises to launch.

As always there will be a yapping in the background. Dog yapping of course, but probably some "grand" brats, too.

Go well, dear friend.

Literature Professor Yvette Kisor Awarded Fred and Florence Thomases Award

By Ed Shannon

On March 12, the College awarded the Fred and Florence Thomases Award, given annually to one or two members of the faculty who demonstrate significant and ongoing contributions to the development of the College. This year, the award went to only one recipient: Professor **Yvette Kisor**, who works as hard as two faculty members.

Professor Kisor's presentation focused on the relationship between her scholarship and teaching. Discussing her work on medieval British literature and the fiction of J. R. R. Tolkien, Professor Kisor reminded all present how the serious research of a dedicated scholar opens up the classroom to new investigations, new possibilities, and new questions for students to ask. She gave a brief explanation concerning some of her assignments, offering those present a mini-semester in some of her most popular classes.

During the Q & A, Professor **James Hoch**, one of her colleagues in Literature, spoke for the rest of the room when he praised Professor Kisor for her professionalism, her dedication to her students and the major, her sharp intellect, and her strong sense of community. SSHGS and Literature are lucky to have Yvette Kisor.

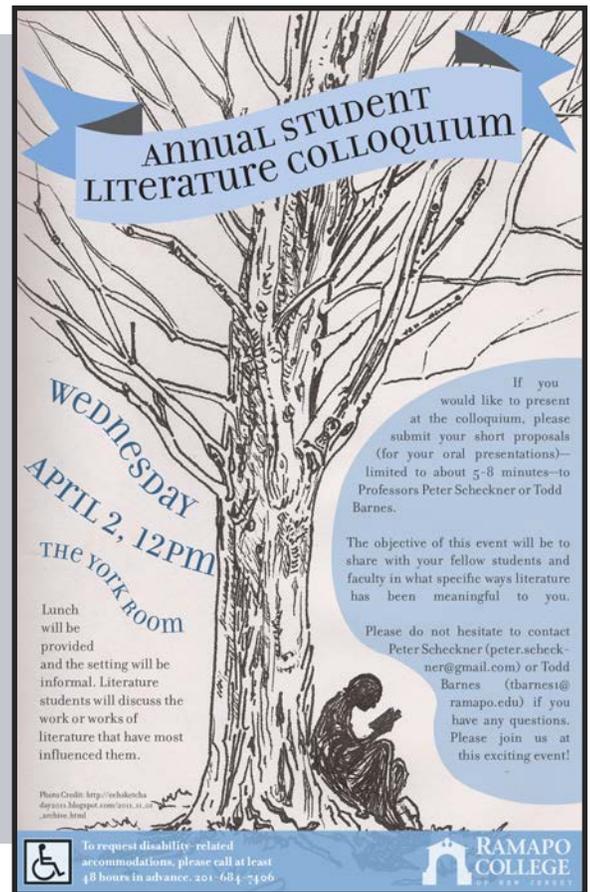


(L-R): Dean Steve Rice, Provost Beth Barnett, Professor Yvette Kisor, President Peter P. Mercer

Fourth Annual Literature Colloquium

By Todd Barnes

On April 2, Professors **Peter Scheckner** and **Todd Barnes** hosted the fourth annual Literature Colloquium in the York Room. This year's colloquium asked students to discuss works of literature that had inspired them. Over a sumptuous lunch, seven students presented reflections on the influence of a variety of works on their lives. They discussed influences from writers of classics like Jane Austen to those of science fiction including H.P. Lovecraft and J.R.R. Tolkien, to children's and young adult stories by Shel Silverstein and John Green, to the gritty stage drama of Sarah Kane, to Joseph Campbell's work in comparative mythology. Listening to students discuss their inspiration across these genres was in itself an inspiration for all who attended.



Annual Student Literature Colloquium

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 2, 12PM
THE YORK ROOM**

If you would like to present at the colloquium, please submit your short proposals (for your oral presentations)—limited to about 5-8 minutes—to Professors Peter Scheckner or Todd Barnes.

The objective of this event will be to share with your fellow students and faculty in what specific ways literature has been meaningful to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Scheckner (peter.scheckner@gmail.com) or Todd Barnes (tbarnes@ramapo.edu) if you have any questions. Please join us at this exciting event!

Lunch will be provided and the setting will be informal. Literature students will discuss the work or works of literature that have most influenced them.

Photo Credit: <http://schuberts.de/ramapo.com/2011/11/07/schubert.html>

To request disability-related accommodations, please call at least 48 hours in advance: 201-684-7106

RAMAPO COLLEGE
OF NEW JERSEY



(L-R): Hayley Bruning, Christopher De Rosa, and Rebecca Gokberk, participants in the Literature Colloquium.

Sigma Tau Delta Luncheon

By **Todd Barnes**

This semester was a busy one for Ramapo's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society. On April 16, the Literature faculty and members of Sigma Tau Delta hosted their annual Literature Luncheon, where twelve new members were inducted into the society.

The luncheon featured alumna **Emily Kozak**, who spoke about life and career options beyond Ramapo. While members, inductees, and their families enjoyed the delicious lunch, Professor **Barnes** spoke about the recent Sigma Tau Delta International English Conference in Savannah, GA. Professors **Ard**, **Williams**, and **D'Angelo** organized the event, and it was hosted by Literature's convener, Professor **Shannon**.

Best Essay Contest Winners

By **Yvette Kisor**

Three SSHGS students were honored at the final unit council of the year for their winning essays in the Sixth Annual Best Essay Contest in the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. The contest is intended to recognize outstanding writing by students in the school of SSHGS and is open to all disciplines and inter-disciplines of SSHGS. Individual faculty members of SSHGS nominate student essays written for their courses that demonstrate excellence in writing, and all nominated essays are judged by a professor of writing from outside Ramapo College.



This year's winners were:

First Place (\$200): **Alexandra Leahaf** for "Informal Adoption Practices in Haiti and Peru: A Comparative Analysis of Child Circulation and the Restavek Systems" (Professor **Root**, INTL 283, Fall 2013)

Second Place (\$150): **Erin Mulligan** for "Alice C. Fletcher and Zitkala-Ša: The Indian Home in Turn of the Century Civilization Debates" (Professor **Meyer**, HIST 410, Fall 2013)

Third Place (\$100): **Dylan Sprayberry** for "The Wife of Bath's Martian Sexuality" (Professor **Kisor**, LITR 319, Fall 2013)

Congratulations to all the winners!

Student and Alumni News

The Philosophy Club hosted three meetings this term, each with a different theme. All meetings are the first Tuesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. in A-100, and everyone is welcome. March 4: Who is an American? April 1: The Ethics of the Heinz Dilemma, and May 6: Music Ethics. We offer a special thanks to graduating seniors **Allison Goodman** (Literature) and **John Lucchesi** (Liberal Studies) for leading the club this academic year.

Alum **Edwin Zambrano-Acosta** (Spanish major, class of 2005) recently contributed a piece featured in *The Huffington Post*. He writes about his experiences as an immigrant from Venezuela, an after-school program that changed his life, and how his acceptance to Ramapo College with a scholarship made him feel that "for the first time that somebody disregarded my status and saw me for who I was." He now works as a case manager at New York City Hospital. Read his piece here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/globalkids/global_kids_safe_haven-_b_5044553.html

Faculty Updates

Michael Unger (with Fairleigh Dickinson University's **Peter J. Woolley** and **Bruce Peabody**) presented a paper titled, "Public Opinion, Constitutional Issues, and the Supreme Court's 2013 Term" at the April 2014 Midwest Political Science Conference.

John Gronbeck-Tedesco's book is newly under contract with Cambridge University Press. It is tentatively titled *Cuba, the United States, and the Culture of the Transnational Left, 1933-1970*. It examines the transnational cultural interactions of U.S. and Cuban citizens around themes of revolution.



Prof. **John Gronbeck-Tedesco** took Honors students on a trip to Storm King Arts Center, an open-air museum in Mountainville, NY.

Lisa Williams had two chapbooks of poetry accepted for publication. "The Eighth Phrase" will be published by Porkbelly Press, and "Sky Studies" will be published by Finishing Line Press.

In November, Professor **Todd Barnes'** essay "Obama's Hamlet-like Indecision," was circulated as part of the "Shakespeare and Performance Research Group" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research. In March, Professor Barnes' essay "Hamlet on the Potomac: Anti-Intellectualism Before and After the 'Decider'," was published in *Hamlet Handbuch: Stoffe, Aneignungen, Deutungen (Hamlet Handbook: Subject Matter, Adaptations, Interpretations)*, an international collection of essays on *Hamlet* edited by Peter W. Marx. In February, Professor Barnes taught a graduate seminar on Friedrich Nietzsche, Michel Foucault, and Media Ecology at Stony Brook University; he was invited by the Graduate Program in Media and Cultural Analysis, and on April 11, he presented his essay "The White Christian

Shakespeare Complex; or, Why Neoliberal Redemption Dramas Are an Emotional Drain," as part of the "Living Labor: Marxism and Performance Studies" conference, which was hosted by the New York University Department of Performance Studies. A video of the talk has been archived by *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*, and can be found on the journal's website at <http://www.womenandperformance.org/>

Over the course of 2013-2014, **Iraida Lopez** has presented on her manuscript-in-progress, "Homing Desire: Narratives of Return from the Cuban Diaspora," at four different venues: St. Petersburg State University in Russia, the Bildner Center for Hemispheric Studies/CUNY Graduate School, the Latin American Studies Association congress in Chicago, and last but not least, as part of the SSHGS Colloquium Series. Her essay, "El fin de la utopía a través de la novela negra: *Cien botellas en una pared*, de Ena Lucía Portela," was included in *La utopía posible: reflexiones y acercamientos III. América Latina* (México: Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, 2013). Another essay, "A Case of Mistaken Coordinates: The Notion of Return in Gustavo Pérez Firmat's *Next Year in Cuba*" is forthcoming in the next issue of the *South Atlantic Review*, and her book review of Odette Casamayor Cisneros's *Utopía, distopía e ingravidez: reconfiguraciones cosmológicas en la narrativa postsoviética cubana* (Madrid: Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2013) will be published in the summer 2014 issue of *Letras femeninas*.



Professor **Iraida Lopez** took SSHGS students to Teatro Repertorio Español to see the production of "In the Time of the Butterflies," based on Julia Alvarez's novel, April 20, 2014.