



SSHGS

PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies

Letter from the Dean

By Stephen Rice



Dean Stephen Rice
Photo: Carolyn Herring

The spring semester was another one filled with activity here in the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning more about the great work of our faculty and students. Here, I want to highlight just a couple of things.

First, we learned this past semester that two of our colleagues who were founding members of the Ramapo faculty, Donald Fucci and Anthony Padovano, would be retiring after the end of the spring semester. Dr. Fucci, who served as Professor of Literature, taught a whole range of courses in our Literature program, was a driving force behind the College's Critical Reading and Writing program,

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Thirteen Students Represent SSHGS at the 2016 Scholars' Day

By Carter Jones Meyer

Thirteen students, from Creative Writing, History, International Studies, Italian, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science and Spanish Language Studies, represented the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies at the fourth annual Scholars' Day, held April 26. 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 41 posters exhibited, the event featured oral presentations by students representing all five of the College's schools. They were selected by the dean of their respective school from all the posters submitted. Kevin Hurtado, an International Studies major mentored by Professor Susan Hangen, represented SSHGS. His project, "Constructing Chicano Identity: Political Empowerment and the Chicano Youth Movement of the 1960s," examines "El Movimiento" as a radical form of political empowerment for marginalized Mexican-American students. Hurtado argues that Chicano identity, as expressed through "El Movimiento," is inherently

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SSHGS Perspectives

Fall 2016

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Eight of the 13 students who presented at Scholar's Day
Photo: Carter Meyer

Letter from the Dean

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and served for many years as the academic convener of the summer Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program, where he also taught since 1971.

Dr. Padovano was Distinguished Professor of Literature and Philosophy whose Bible as literature courses were mainstays of the Literature course offerings. He was one of the founders and for many years the director of the College's first graduate program in Liberal Studies. He was a prolific scholar, having published more than 20 books and delivered lectures all over the world (including the commencement address at this spring's graduation ceremony). Don and Anthony inspired

generations of Ramapo students, and they modeled a spirit of service and collegiality for the faculty who followed. They will be missed, but they are leaving a lasting legacy.

Also, we once again recognized our outstanding students at the Academic Achievement Ceremony in April. Our outstanding graduating seniors were David J. Ward, for American Studies; Jonathan Lancaster, for History; Dana Molinari, for International Studies; Rosa E. Javier, for Liberal Studies; Bryan R. Potts, for Literature; David G. Ermann, for Political Science; and Cristina Cutri, for Spanish Language Studies. In addition, Cassandra R. Fenton received the SSHGS Book Prize, and Rosa E. Javier received the Faculty-Student Research Award. Congratulations to them, and to all our 2016 graduates.

Faculty and Student Updates

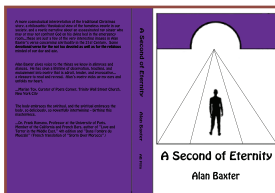


Associate Professor **Todd Barnes** published an essay commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. The essay, "Shakespeare in 2016," was published by *Public Books*, the online multimedia site affiliated with the print journal *Public Culture* (Duke

University Press). *Public Books* is an initiative of the Institute of Public Knowledge at New York University. On February 19, Professor Barnes discussed *Twelfth Night* and moderated Filter Theatre/Royal Shakespeare Company's post-show discussion at NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. On June 20, Professor Barnes gave a lecture at the Shakespeare Garden in New York's Central Park. The lecture, on Shakespeare and ecology, will be hosted by members of the Central Park Conservancy.

Alan Baxter's play "Love Complexities" was performed at the Alchemical Workshop in New York City. Reviews

were positive, and there is hope to move the production to the uptown Theater District. Baxter's second poetry book *A Second of Eternity* will come out at the end of this summer. It is published by AB Film Publishing, a small American division of L'Hamilton Publishing in France.



On Wednesday, March 9 the **Salameno Center for British Studies** sponsored a talk by noted Tolkien scholar Janet Brennan Croft (editor of *Mythlore*, author of *War and the Works of J. R. R. Tolkien*, and editor of numerous collections including *Baptism of Fire: The Birth of the Modern British Fantastic in WWI and Perilous and Fair: Women in the Works and Life of J. R. R. Tolkien*). Croft's talk, titled "Barrel-Rides and She-Elves: Audience and Anticipation in Peter Jackson's Hobbit Trilogy," explored audience expectations, the difficulties of filming a "prequel" after a "sequel," and

issues of "anticipation" in relation to character development in Peter Jackson's Hobbit films.

Assistant Professor **Lisa Cassidy** travelled to the 108th Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology in Louisville, Kentucky to present her paper "The Seal of Liberation: Remembering Nietzsche on Shame in the Era of Social Media." This project will continue this summer, as Professor Cassidy finalizes the paper for inclusion in a proposed upcoming volume on philosophy and shame. In June, she traveled to the Teaching Professor Conference in Washington, D.C., generously funded by the Provost's Office.

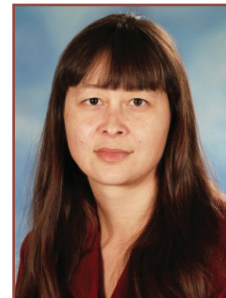


As advisor of Sigma Iota Rho, Assistant Professor **Dean Chen** was pleased to announce that, on April 6, the honor society inducted five outstanding International Studies major students, Patricia Bergamasco, Sarah Corrado, Megan Denecour, Robert Piper, and Christopher Self. Associate Professor Rebecca Root, the Convener of International Studies, also recognized several student awards winners and nominees. Kevin Hurtado is the SSHGS Scholars Day presenter; Megan Denecour is the Aronsohn Scholarship winner and nominee for the Book Prize; Chris Self is nominee for the Hackett Award; Dana Molinari is the winner of the International Studies Major Award and nominee for Faculty Student Research Award; and Altondra Williams is the winner of Lee Senish Award.

Neriko Doerr acted as the guest editor of the Journal of Cultural Geography (volume 33, issue 1). The special issue is entitled "Time and the Other: Politics of Cultural Others, Study 'Abroad,' and Going Home (Eventually)". She also wrote the introduction to the special issue as well as an article for the special issue above. The article is entitled "Chronotopes of Study Abroad: The Cultural Other, Immersion, and Compartmentalized Space-Time. Journal of Cultural Geography." Professors **Susan Hangen** and **Ruma Sen** are also writing an

article for the special issue. An article Doerr co-authored (as the first author; the second author is Kiri Lee of Lehigh University) came out from the journal, *Diaspora, Indigenism, and Migrant Education*. The title of the article is "Heritage Language Education without Inheriting Hegemonic Ideologies: Shifting Perspectives on 'Korea' in a Weekend Japanese Language School in the United States." It appeared in its volume 10, issue 2. She also gave a keynote speech at the NAFSA Strategic Retreat for Education Abroad Leaders organized by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The retreat was held on February 3-4 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Professor **Yvette Kisor** presented her paper "Queer Tolkien: The State of the Field" at the 13th Annual Tolkien at UVM Conference on April 9. On May 12 she presented her paper "Tolkien's *Beowulf*: A Translation of Scholar and Poet" at the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her co-authored book with Michael D. C. Drout, *Beowulf Unlocked: New Evidence from Lexomic Analysis* which was published by Palgrave in May.



On March 2-5, five literature students attended the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota accompanied by Professor **Yvette Kisor**: Bryan Potts, Corbin Hirschhorn, Misha Choudhry, Angelica Barile, and Hayley Bruning. Corbin Hirschhorn presented "The Big Man Downstairs," Bryan Potts read his "Insights into ABQ," Hayley Bruning shared her original poetry "Thoughts from the Eighth Floor," Misha Choudhry presented "#BlackLivesMatter: A Collaborative Text," and Bryan Potts and Angelica Barile participated in a roundtable on "Medieval Literature and 'Finding Home'" (moderated by Professor Kisor). The students represented Ramapo College and the literature program admirably.

Faculty and Student Updates

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Tom Kitchen, Susan Auger, and Priscilla Van Aulen gave a conference presentation at the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Spring Conference on March 18. The presentation was titled “Structuring College Reading and Writing Activities for Optimal Student Performance: Three Models of Active Learning.” All three teach in the Critical Reading and Writing program and hold professional staff positions in the Center for Reading and Writing.



Over the course of the academic year, Professor **Iraida H. López** presented her new book, *Impossible Returns: Narratives of the Cuban Diaspora* (University Press of Florida) at several venues: at Casa de las Américas in Havana, at Books & Books in Miami, at the New School in New York, and at Ramapo College. She was invited to participate in a

panel, *The Cultural Identities of Cuban-American Youth: Language, Literature, Music, and the Arts*, organized by the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University in February. Her article, “La vuelta que se repite: representaciones cubanas del retorno en el periodo revolucionario y el postsoviético,” on the representation of Cuban émigrés in the literature and cinema of the island was published in *Revista ZAMA* (University of Buenos Aires), 7.7 (2015): 43-53.

The Philosophy Club hosted three events this spring. The first discussion was “Oscars So White: How much does race matter in entertainment?” The second topic was “Feeling lucky? Does anyone get what he deserves?” The final meeting addressed the prompt “PC Life: Should we bother being politically correct?” The Philosophy Club is open to all Ramapo College community members and will begin meeting again in fall 2016.

Professor **Edward Shannon** delivered two conference papers: “‘You won’t have your names’: Politics, Poetics, and Naming the Dead in Woody Guthrie’s ‘Plane Wreck At Los Gatos (Deportee).’” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Durham, NC. November 13-15, 2015 and “Listening is Literature: Audio Podcasts and the Literature Classroom.” Northeast Modern Language Association. Toronto, Canada. April 30 – May 3, 2015. Shannon also attended the Faculty Resource Network Winter Seminar: Critical Thinking at the University of the Sacred Heart; San Juan, Puerto Rico in January. He was sponsored by the Faculty Resource Network.

Les editions Albin Michel published a French translation of Assistant Professor **Hugh Sheehy’s** short story collection, “Les Invisibles,” in Spring 2016. Sheehy has a series of short stories forthcoming in *Great Jones Street* and another in *Guernica*.

Professor **Jeremy Teigen’s** research with a co-author on the “Politics of Place” was recently published on the *Washington Post’s* politics section. It explored the geography of Donald Trump’s support in the 2016 primaries, especially as it relates to white ethnicity in the United States. He also co-authored a forthcoming article in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, “The New Blue: Northern In-Migration in Southern Presidential Elections,” which analyzed how internal population shifts in the U.S. alter the election landscape.



(L-R): Corbin Hirschorn, Misha Choudry, Bryan Potts, Hayley Bruning, Angelica Barile



Students in Professor López’s New York Latino class went on a walking tour of El Barrio, where they visited several landmarks and enjoyed the street art on display in the neighborhood. Photo: Iraida Lopez



On April 13, Ramapo’s Xi Epsilon chapter of the National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, inducted three new life members. The Honorable Assemblyman and Ramapo alumnus, Tim Eustace (D-38) came to celebrate and spoke to the assembled inductees and their parents, members, and faculty. (L-R): Tim Eustace, new inductees Sydney Beson, Zach Stavros, and Sara Barsky Photo: Courtney Grub

Students Serve Refugees Through Their Experiences at the International Rescue Committee

By Megan Denecour



IRC Logo
Photo: Megan Denecour

The International Rescue Committee is a non-governmental organization that operates in more than forty countries across the globe, and has done so since 1933. The IRC has aided refugees from South Vietnam, Hungary, Chile, Uganda, Afghanistan, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and many more countries. In the United States, the IRC operates out of 26 regional offices where it helps to resettle refugees, but also provides educational programs for both adults and children, aids clients with various employment services, and assists clients with the process of applying for permanent residency and citizenship.

Over the last three years, at least six students from SSGHS have had the opportunity to work with the IRC through various internship and volunteer programs. Those students, Sasha Lopez, Amelia Morgenstern, Brianne Kennedy, Andreina Santamaria, Patricia Bergamasco and I were able to perform hands-on work with the IRC. The irreplaceable experience of working with such a highly esteemed non-profit organization also helped to deepen our understanding of course materials that we had encountered while at Ramapo.

Brianne Kennedy '15 spoke highly of her experience as an intern with the IRC, where she worked directly with refugee students. This experience helped the course material that she had learned while studying at Ramapo College “come to life,” and also helped to transform her thoughts on humanitarian work.

Now a senior at Ramapo College, Andreina was able to work with the IRC during her freshman year of College as a mentor for the IRC’s Refugee Youth Project’s Soccer without Borders program. While working as a mentor, Andreina found her passion for international studies and felt a change of perspective. After being inspired by those experiences, Andreina studied abroad in India, completed an internship with Amnesty International, and will be starting her service with the Peace Corps in Morocco this coming September.

My personal experiences as an intern with the IRC have been extremely positive thus far. Like Brianne, I have found that working directly with refugees and asylees at the IRC has helped me to better understand my own course work. Taking Professor Yaghmaian’s course on International Migration and Human Rights has helped me to understand both the macro and micro levels of migration. By working directly with the populations that we have discussed during the course, I have found that I feel more connected to the course materials and am able to understand them on a completely different level. At the same time, I have met people from all over the globe and have gained knowledge about other cultures in a way that would have never occurred in such a short period of time. I would definitely recommend the IRC as a place for other Ramapo College students to do internships or co-ops because of its strong values, flexibility, and overall open and friendly environment.



RCNJ student Brianne Kennedy '15 abroad for the IRC
Photo: Brianne Kennedy

Anthony Padovano

By Ira Spar



Anthony Padovano
Photo: Carolyn Herring

For more than four decades it has been my honor and privilege to serve on the faculty with such a kind, gentle, humble and compassionate colleague. Teacher, scholar, theologian, author, Tony has led us all with his wise judgment, loving-kindness, care, humility and wisdom. As Bob Dylan would have said one could search high or search low, search everywhere we know, have we ever known a person like Tony Padovano?

For students learning is often like a thicket; those who enter can easily become discouraged. Tony as Distinguished Professor of Literature and Philosophy slices through the maze, cutting down as many obstacles as necessary until he finds those who had become lost. Through his brilliance, patience and encouragement, he has opened a path for thousands of students to enable them to reflect and grasp the wisdom of those they studied and in the process brought them to the love of learning. The Talmud relates that a great teacher can

bring life to new grain so that students can blossom as the vine (see Hos. 14:8).

On campus, more than just a teacher, Tony has always sought to help others, whether they be students, colleagues or strangers. For as Rabbi Hillel said, “he who does good is a man of true piety.” Through their generous donation to the Salameno Spiritual Center, Tony and his lovely wife Theresa, have brought a place for peace and reflection to the Ramapo community.

Throughout his many years of service to the College, community and church Tony has been accompanied by his wife Theresa. The sages say that a man is paired with a woman in keeping with the kind of person he is. Ever since their life choice in marriage, Theresa has always been at his side. During the last few years as he battled injury and rehabilitation, her help and support have been inspiring. For as Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai would have said, “the pairing of this man and woman is as miraculous as the splitting of the Red Sea.”

Tony has long offered his wisdom and we have learned from it. He has met the challenge brought by the interpretation of literature and scripture. He has brought care and charity to students, community and church. In the Talmud it is said that “the adornment of knowledge is wisdom, the adornment of wisdom is humility.” We have all benefited from the presence of his humility. May he continue to teach, offer loving kindness and depart wisdom to countless others in his retirement.

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program (MALS) in SSHGS held a Thesis Presentation Night on May 2. May graduates Mary Cicitta, Lizabeth Kloak, Joseph Niclas and Mark Thatcher presented their theses to President Peter P. Mercer, MALS Director and Distinguished Professor Dr. Anthony T. Padovano, Provost Beth Barnett, Dean Stephen Rice, Vice President Cathleen Davey, Professor and mentor Rosetta D’Angelo, Professor Karl Johnson, and Dean Eddie Saiff, along with MALS students, families and their guests. MALS was the first Master’s program at Ramapo College in 1995. It is a broad-based program shaped by the traditions of the College and the focus on the Humanities in SSHGS. Students in the program hone their analytical, writing and presentation skills while taking courses in literature, history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, and the intersection of the arts and science.

The final six credits in the program are reserved for researching and writing a thesis, which is bound for the Potter Library archives, the MALS Office, and each student’s home library.



(L-R): Cathy Davey, Anthony T. Padovano, Beth Barnett, Mark Thatcher, Liz Kloak, President Mercer, Mary Cicitta, Joe Niclas, Stephen Rice and Rosetta D’Angelo

Thesis topics presented by the May graduates were Mary Cicitta, “Hidden In Plain Sight: Unmasking the Patriarchal Values in American Advertising,” Lizabeth Kloak, “Russia Through the Eyes of the American History Textbook Project,” Joseph Niclas “Making a Case for Test-Optional Admissions at a Public Liberal Arts College,” and Mark Thatcher, “La Malinche: An Historical Figure Appropriated, Deconstructed and Reconstructed into a Paradigm of Patriotism, Patriarchy and Misogyny.”

Tribute to Professor Donald Fucci

By Lisa Williams



Donald Fucci
Photo: Carolyn Herring

It's hard to believe that after 44 years at Ramapo College, Don Fucci, one of Ramapo's founding pioneers, is actually retiring. How will we all get along without him? Don has been my mentor, role model, colleague and friend. When I first arrived at Ramapo 20 years ago, Don set the tone, through his example, for what it meant to be a great teacher. His courses were

known to be hard. And yet every time I walked by his office, he was tirelessly working with students, taking the time to bring each one of them up to the high intellectual bar he set. In addition to freshmen writing, Don taught courses on James Joyce, Modern Drama, Milton Shakespeare, and Surveys of British Literature, among others. Don has also been effective and hugely talented in any administrative work he took on, especially when he was Dean of Basic

Studies. But first and foremost, Don is one of the most gifted teachers Ramapo has had the fortune to employ. He never stopped being excited about stepping into the classroom. I still remember him saying on the way to his first class of the day, "I can't wait to teach the heck out of it." As a master teacher, Don has influenced the lives of thousands of students. His James Joyce seminar literally transformed those who took it. There was a confidence to their walk that had never been there before. When I met his students in my own classes, they spoke lovingly about that course as one of the most important experiences they had at Ramapo. Don also devoted himself to our EOF students and for many years ran the EOF summer writing program. He gave them a course that introduced them to the rigors of critical thinking and writing. Our present CRWT courses are the result of his vision. To say that he will be sorely missed is an understatement. Somehow all we can do is try as hard as possible to meet the standards of excellence he has modeled to us over all of these years.



International Studies Honors Society Sigma Iota Rho inducted five students. (L-R): Professors Dean Chen and Susan Hangen, Kevin Hurtado, Professor Rebecca Root, Altondra Williams, Dana Molinari, Megan Denecour, Christopher Self, Dean of SSHGS Stephen Rice, and Professor Erick Castellanos
Photo: Dean Chen



Professor Peter Scheckner reads a tribute to Don Fucci (center) at Don's farewell lunch.
Photo: Ed Shannon

Padovano and Fucci: a Personal Reflection

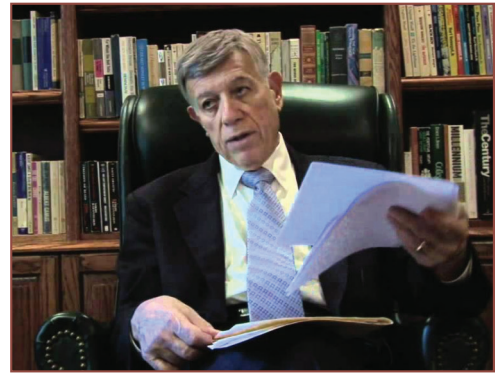
By Ed Shannon

This summer, Anthony Padovano and Don Fucci, two longtime members of the Literature faculty, will be retiring. For the Literature program, this is a huge loss, but of course, we are all happy that both are moving on to a new period of their lives. They have earned the reward of the leisure time with family and friends. This will be time free of papers to grade, assessment reports to write, and committee meetings in which to remain awake.

Literature, Critical Reading and Writing, and Readings In the Humanities will have to figure out how to move forward without these two (dare I say) pillars. As Convener of the Literature Major, I'll have a lot to think about—schedules to make and courses to staff. But, more than that, for me, this transition brings up other feelings. Anthony Padovano and Don Fucci were my professors when I was a student here at Ramapo. In fact, in September 1981, on my very first day as a Ramapo student, I took my very first Ramapo course, Survey of American Literature. That course was taught by Anthony Padovano. He was my first college professor. I met one of my closest, oldest friends in that course on that day. I went on to earn my degree in American Literature. I teach that course today.

But my relationship with Anthony Padovano actually began weeks before that first day of class. When my grandfather found out I was going to Ramapo, he warned me, "Watch out for that Padovano fellow." Perhaps my grandfather worried that exposure to a sterling example of intellectual prowess and professorial decorum would scare me away from an academic career. More likely, grandpa Shannon had theological concerns. Either way, the warning did not take, and "that Padovano fellow" remained an especially vibrant presence in my life for years after leaving

Ramapo. Several of my fellow Ramapo graduates and I would confer in the years after graduation, comparing notes about our graduate school professors. My friend Mike measured all of his professors against Anthony Padovano. For



Anthony Padovano in 2010, discussing the reasoning for an American Catholic Bill of Rights.
Photo: American Catholic Council

him, any literature professor who could not trace a Bible passage from Aramaic to Greek to Latin to English and back across the millennia was not a real professor.

Don Fucci entered my life later. He taught my Teaching English on the Secondary Level course while I was pursuing my teaching certification. My grandfather did not warn me against his pernicious influence, but Don had (and continues to have) an impact on my teaching. My classmates and I met him at a very vulnerable point in our careers. Teaching had so far been an abstract concept, but now we were in the schools observing. Soon we would be writing lesson plans and doing our best to convince New Jersey teenagers to read whatever we asked them to, to write something intelligible about these readings, and to treat us like respectable adults. And to sit still. After all, we would be almost five years older than some of our students.

Padovano exuded a serene, ethereal air in the classroom, making Jonathan Edwards' 18th century sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" seem unquestionably necessary early 1980s reading material. Fucci offered a group of intimidated and overwhelmed proto-teachers the sense that teaching was a series of problems to be defined, addressed, and solved. In a Fucci course, you learned discipline, organization, and the value of hard work. You learned how much of that hard work it took to write a competent sentence, and you learned how rewarding it was to finally write something Fucci deemed worthy.

Returning to Ramapo after 12 years, I found myself in the awkward position of not just working alongside many of my former professors, but eventually taking over as convener of the major. The previous convener, Anthony Padovano, had handled the job for about 30 years. No intimidation there.

Anthony Padovano and Donald Fucci offered me not only the grace of pretending to remember me (greatly appreciated!), but of welcoming me with respect, and giving me a chance to make my own mistakes. We came together as a team, ironing out mistakes with pure Padovano grace and working with the Literature faculty and student body in the disciplined, methodical Fucci style. It had been an honor and a pleasure to be their student and has been a singular reward to be their colleague. I know they are both going to enjoy a well-earned retirement. We'll just have to figure out how to manage without them.

Author Discusses Muslims in Germany's War

By Michael Riff

On April 19, the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies hosted Dr. David Motadel, who discussed his recent critically acclaimed and important book, *Islam and Nazi Germany's War*, published by Harvard University Press in 2014. The program was supported by the Clara and Morton Richmond Endowment.

In outlining Nazi Germany's dealings with the Muslim populations of North Africa, the Balkans and the Caucasus, Motadel made it clear that inherent and self-imposed impediments made for limited success. Early in the war, Nazi racial policy had difficulty in distinguishing Jews from Muslims. Echoing the conflicts that arose after the break-up of Yugoslavia, enmity between the Muslim Bosnians and their Croatian and Serbian neighbors that arose on national as well as political assured that the Germans' only accomplishment was recruiting a fairly large number of Muslims to serve in the Wehrmacht and the S.S.

In North Africa, Motadel explained, the German occupation was too fragmented and did not last that long. Somewhat similar conditions prevailed on Soviet territory occupied by the Germans, but there they managed to entice an assortment of Kalmyks, Turkmen, Tatars, Azeris and other adherents of Islam to serve under the swastika. Although approximately 300,000 soldiers from the Islamic world served in German ranks during the war, many more Muslims served in the Allied armies.

The Third Reich's attempts to win over Muslims, however, only met with limited success. In the end, as Motadel explained, not only a host of external circumstances, but a German lack of sincerity and consistency made for a string of short-lasting

and less far-reaching gains. For the Soviet citizens who served under the Nazi flag, retribution came quickly with Stalin having even initiated population "transfers" even before the war ended and exile to the gulags of Siberia afterwards. If less harsh, retribution also followed in Tito's Yugoslavia.



Dr. David Motadel
Photo: Michael Riff

In point of fact, Motadel explained, many of the Muslim volunteers from the Soviet Union who joined the Nazi cause did so from prisoner of war camps, where, where in their minds fighting on the German side was a tactic of survival. The calculation in the Balkans and the Crimea was different where protection from partisan attacks and anti-Bolshevism were frequent motivators.

Currently, the Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, this summer, Dr. Motadel will take up an Assistant Professorship in International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London. He completed his M.Phil. (2006) and Ph.D. (2010) in history at the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Scholar. He subsequently took up a Research Fellowship in History at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge (2010-15).

In addition to *Islam and Nazi Germany's War*, he was the editor of *Islam and the European Empires* (Oxford University Press, 2014). Otherwise a prolific scholar and commentator, Motadel's articles have been published in a number of journals and periodicals, including "Past & Present, the Journal of Contemporary History," and "The New York Times."



Egypt, 1943.
AP Photo/U.S. Army
from www.theatlantic.com

History Club Continues Its Active Presence on Campus

By Stacie Taranto



Back row: Nicole Picinich '16, History Club vice president; Francesca Simone '16, History Club secretary; Benjamin Olex '17, History Club treasurer; Joanna Sadej '16, History Club president. Front row: Maria Kheyman '12, Ruthann Inserra '13, Daniel London '08, Tom Ng '10, and Jesse Bender '11. Not pictured: Gregory Elfers '08.
Photo: Stacie Taranto

In the spring of 2016, the History Club—led by student officers Joanna Sadej, Francesca Simone, Nicole Picinich, and Ben Olex, and advised by Professor Stacie Taranto—had another full semester of events. On February 3, the club hosted a talk by Dr. Marc Kesselhaut, an internist in Bergen County and father of Ramapo student Gregory Kesselhaut '18. Dr. Kesselhaut was a medical student in Grenada at the time of President Ronald Reagan's military invasion in 1983. He spoke about his experience in an engaging presentation that included several contemporary photographs.

In March, the club welcomed back six alumni who graduated from Ramapo with history degrees in the past eight years to discuss their diverse education and career paths since leaving campus. The alumni offered current history majors and students tips for making plans after graduation and spoke about how valuable their time at Ramapo had been in preparing them for their future endeavors. The alumni included: Jesse Bender,

Ramapo History '11, who graduated from Stetson University College of Law in 2015 and is currently a law clerk with the Superior Court of New Jersey; Gregory Elfers, Ramapo History '08, who has worked at the Metropolitan Opera for the past four years and is an Associate Director of Tele-fundraising; Ruthann Inserra, Ramapo History '13, who teaches 10th and 11th grade U.S. history at Northern Valley High School and is working on a Master's degree in Educational Technology at Ramapo; Maria Kheyman, Ramapo History '12, who works in publishing at John Wiley and Sons, where she manages the society website redesign project for scientific journals; Daniel London, Ramapo History '08, a Ph.D. candidate in history at New York University who received an M.A. in American History at the CUNY Graduate Center; and Tom Ng, Ramapo History '10, who is a 12th grade social studies teacher at a school in Brooklyn and earned a Master's degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. The club looks forward to hosting an event like this annually, and was especially grateful to Dean Stephen Rice and history professor and convener, Tae Kwak, for attending the event, the latter with his senior history seminar students.

Spring 2016 SSHGS Colloquium Series Showcases the Work of Several Scholars and SSHGS Students

By Stacie Taranto

In spring 2016, the SSHGS Colloquium Series—coordinated by Stacie Taranto, Associate Professor of History at Ramapo—helped highlight the work of a diverse line up of scholars. In January, the series hosted its fourth annual student colloquium, which is an opportunity for the Ramapo community to hear excerpts from some of the excellent student work that is produced in SSHGS classes. The students included: Ann Lau, a junior literature major, who presented, "Perception and Reception in 'The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket' and 'A Pair of Tickets'" written for Professor Patricia Ard's Methods of Literary Study class in the fall of 2015; Christopher Self, a senior international studies major, who presented a paper entitled, "Post-9/11 Transformation of al-Qaeda," written for Professor Susan Hangen's Global Issues seminar in the fall of 2015; and Kurtis Tuohy, a sophomore music industry major, who read his paper entitled, "Alias Grace and Dissociative Personality Disorder," written for Professor Maria Molinari's Readings in Humanities class in fall 2015.

Events in February and March rounded out the spring series. In February, Hugh Sheehy, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Literature, presented an excerpt from some of his new work in an event entitled, "An Hour of Fiction." In March, Professor Neriko Doerr (anthropology) and her student from the fall semester of 2015, Patricia Bergamasco, jointly presented: "Minority Immigrant Students Already Have 'Global Competence': Acknowledging and Enhancing Overlooked Skills in Study Abroad and Alternative Break Abroad Experiences."

The events were well attended, and the series plans to put together a similar program in fall 2016.

Readings at Ramapo, Spring 2016

By Hugh Sheehy



Uzodinma Iweala spoke about his work.

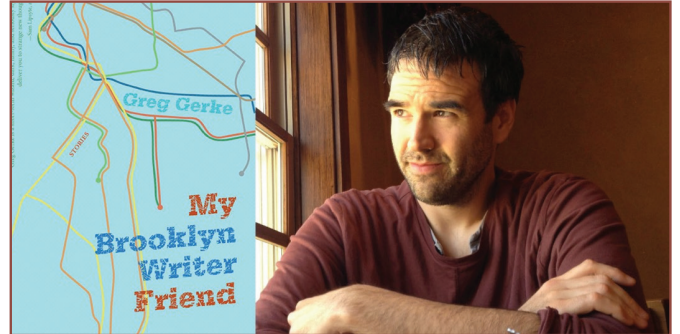
Readings at Ramapo has had another knockout semester. Visiting authors this semester included the novelist-publisher-entrepreneur Uzodinma Iweala (*Beasts of No Nation*, an award-winning novel and later an award-winning film), the poet Eduardo Corral (*Slow Lightning*, Yale Younger Poets-winner), and the prose writer Greg Gerke (*My Brooklyn Writer Friend*, various uncollected essays and short fiction).

Visiting authors read from their work, engaged faculty members in public discussions of their work and issues related to literary writing, answered student questions, and gave master classes dedicated to teaching advanced writing techniques. There were also a number of student readings, the first of which took place in March and featured poets Hayley Bruning and Ann Lau and fiction writer Erik Abdallah. Two more took place at the end of the semester, one celebrating the accomplishments of James Hoch's Creative Writing Capstone course and the other marking another successful production of the undergraduate arts-and-literature magazine *Trillium*. All this amounted to a very busy semester, and there were hurdles along the way, including a cancellation by poet Rick Barot and an emergency postponement of Greg Gerke's visit.

At times it seemed like the reading series' indispensable aides Hayley Bruning and Ann Lau were hanging new posters every week. It was an exciting few months, and James Hoch and I are grateful to all who helped make it happen, especially Provost Beth Barnett, Dean Stephen Rice, and the Schomburg Program. It is difficult to overstate how fortunate we are to be able to bring such exciting authors to our campus, and we look forward to keeping the show going in the fall.



Eduardo Corral read his poetry in the Salameño Spiritual Center. Photo: Giancarlo Sepulveda



Greg Gerke Photo: Greg Gerke

Phi Alpha Theta Inducts New History Majors into Honor Society

By Stacie Taranto



(L-R): Ramapo Phi Alpha Theta President Nicole Picinich, Ceremony Liaison Francesca Simone, Faculty Advisor Stacie Taranto, Vice President Samantha Sproviero, Treasurer Sara Barsky Photo: Stacie Taranto

Theta faculty advisor, Stacie Taranto, and faculty liaison, John Gronbeck-Tedesco, were on hand to preside over the ceremony. The Ramapo chapter's Phi Alpha Theta student officers—President Nicole Picinich, a senior; Vice President Samantha Sproviero, a junior, Treasurer Sara Barsky, a senior, and Ceremony Liaison Francesca Simone, a senior—spoke about their experiences at Ramapo as history majors and Phi Alpha Theta members. The highlight of the induction ceremony was a keynote address that put the 2016 U.S. presidential election in historical context, highlighting the origins of current conversations about wealth inequality in America. The address was delivered by Dr. Derek Seidman, Assistant Professor of History at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York.

On February 20, Phi Alpha Theta—the international honor society for history majors, of which Ramapo has a chapter—inducted 15 students in a morning ceremony attended by friends and family. The students inducted into the honor society included Karlito Almeda, Carrie Callahan, Emily M. Condal, Alexander Cordaro, Julia Cuddy, Renee DeLora, Christopher J. DeRosa, Kevin Thomas Hughes, Emily Rose Inserra, Sara Catherine Lichon, Cristina S. Macari, Meghan Mudrick, Michael Ryan (Verdon), Emily Wirt, and Jennifer Ashley Zgola. The 15 new inductees all met rigorous criteria for selection, earning at least a 3.5 GPA in the history major and at least a 3.0 GPA overall, after taking at least four history courses at Ramapo. Phi Alpha



Shakespeare Cupcakes
Photo: Todd Landon Barnes

Shakespeare Day Events

By Patricia Ard

2016 marks the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. The Salameo Center for British Studies, housed in the Salameo School of Humanities and Global Studies, sponsored a number of events surrounding the April 23 birth and death date of this great playwright and poet.

Actor Stephan Wolfert's acting workshop and one man show, "Cry Havoc," which played in the Sharp Theater, was one such event. Wolfert, a veteran, combined his own war experiences with scenes from Shakespeare's plays to dramatize the continuity of the war experience. Another event brought together students from Theater Professor Terra Vandergaw's "Voice and Movement" and "Advanced Acting" classes, and Professor Todd Barnes's "Shakespeare's Plays" class for performances of sonnets, soliloquies and scenes from the plays. Cupcakes with Shakespeare's image provided some of the energy needed for these casual but impassioned student performances.



Students perform at Shakespeare Day events.
Photo: Todd Landon Barnes

Gregory Mulroy Becomes Fourth Ramapo History Major to Receive Prestigious Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award

By Carter Jones Meyer

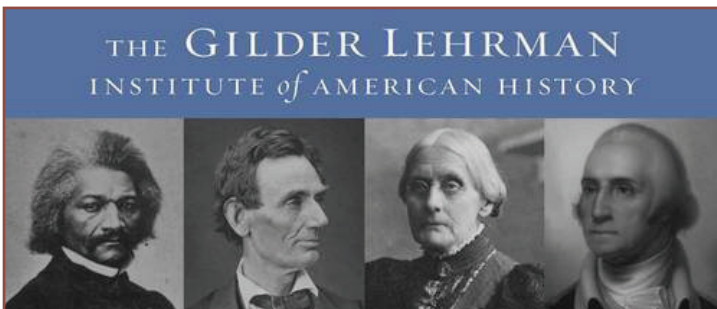


Photo: Carter Meyer

History major Gregory Mulroy '16 is the recipient of a 2016 Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City. The Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award recognizes outstanding college juniors and seniors who have demonstrated academic and extracurricular excellence in American history or American studies as well as a commitment to public service and community involvement. Only 15 top American history college juniors and seniors are selected from across the nation each year as History Scholar Award winners. Greg shares the 2016 award with students from such institutions as Yale, Harvard, Amherst, Columbia, NYU, University of North Carolina, St. Olaf, Franklin and Marshall and DePaul, among others.

Gilder Lehrman award winners are invited to spend five days in New York City, where they participate in a program of special presentations, including meetings with eminent scholars, experience exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of historic archives, and receive the Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award at a celebratory dinner.

Greg is the fourth Ramapo College history major over the past 10 years to receive this prestigious, highly competitive award. Previous recipients include Devin McGinley '11, Daniel London '07 and Megan Knowlton '06.

Thirteen Students Represent SSHGS at the 2016 Scholars' Day

(continued from cover)

radical. "It signifies a resistance to the respectability politics of 'Mexican-American' identity. Chicanos, unlike Mexican-Americans, choose to reject European heritage and embrace their Indio/mestizo roots; these roots can be historically traced to the U.S. military conquest of Mexico's northern territory through the authorized signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848." Mexican-Americans were initially inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, and in the 1950s believed acceptance of their people as first-class citizens would come from promoting Mexican Americans as a "white" ethnic group with little in common with African Americans. A decade later, however, little progress had been made in this direction, and Mexican American students "began to notice that The War on Poverty programs created by the Johnson administration did not address poverty in the barrios of the South and Midwest." They turned to the epic poem "I am Joaquin," authored by Chicano leader Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, as a framework for their own search for identity in the midst of American assimilation. Hurtado argues that Chicano identity is an asserted identity; its emergence alongside a Mexican American identity in the turbulent 1960s "illustrates that ethnic identities are produced within specific historical contexts and signal various political positions."

Congratulations to these SSHGS students, and their faculty mentors, who participated in the 2016 Scholars' Day:

Karlito Almeda, History (Tae Yang Kwak): *Tiles and Suits: An Inquiry into American Interventionism in Laos in the Wake of the Second Indochina War, 1954-1962*

Cassandra Fenton, Political Science (Jeremy Teigen): *Do Your Neighbors Like You? The Home-County Advantage of New Jersey Governors (1925-2013)*

Rebecca Galarza, Literature (Todd Barnes): *Pregame Rituals in Men's Professional Soccer as a Performance of Everyday Life*

Alexandra Grinkevich, Philosophy (Lisa Cassidy): *Buddhism and Happiness*

Kevin Hurtado, International Studies (Susan Hangen): *Constructing Chicano Identity: Political Empowerment and the Chicano Youth Movement of the 1960s*

Rosa Javier, Italian (Giuseppe Sorrentino): *Italian Expatriate Poetry in Latin America*

Stephanie Manzanares, Spanish Language Studies (Iraida Lopez): *Santeria and Catholicism: A Critical Comparison*

Keri Race, Spanish Language Studies (Natalia Santamaria-Laorden): *The Role of Language in Health Care in the United States: The Defense of Bilingualism*

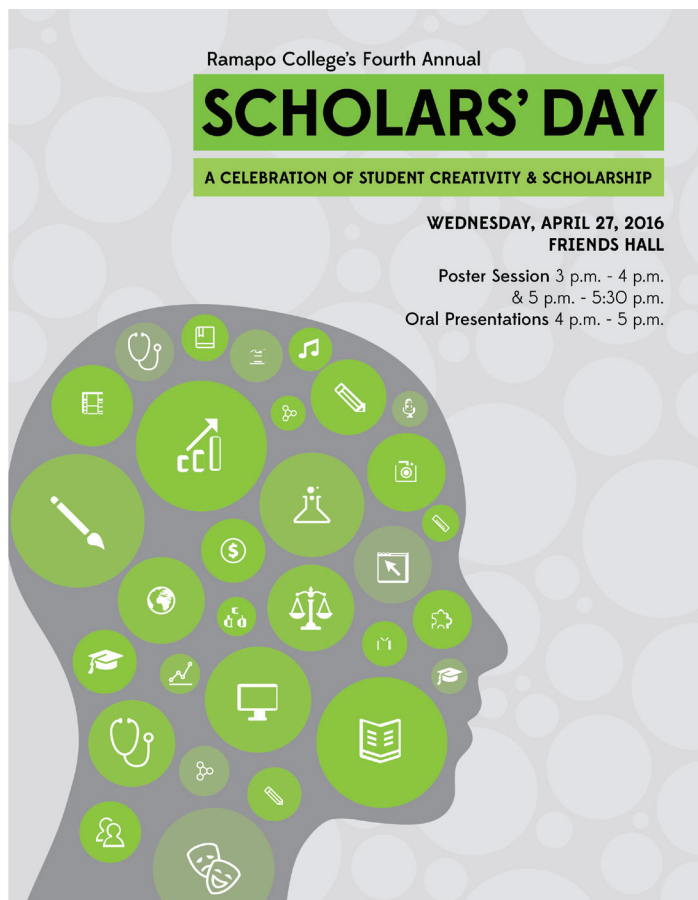
Brian Rocha, Creative Writing (Hugh Sheehy): *Peril: Stories*

Brandon Rodriguez, Literature (Todd Barnes): *The Obsolete Man*

Francesca Simone, History (Carter Jones Meyer): *The American Indian Movement (as Portrayed by the Media)*

Samantha Sproviero, History (Sam Mustafa): *The Personification of a Nation: Marianne*

Zachary Stavros, Political Science (Jeremy Teigen): *Trading Obama: 2008 Democratic Primary Delegates and Election Markets*



2016 Scholars Day Poster

Designer: Renan Scheffer '17

Annual Literature Luncheon

By Patricia Ard

On April 13, the Literature Faculty hosted approximately 80 students, parents, faculty, and administrators at the Annual Literature Luncheon. Twenty-six members of the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society were inducted and program alumni Robert Texel and Douglas Oswin, both high school English teachers, spoke about their professional path through the Literature program to their current jobs. Students in the Honor Society also spoke on their presentation of scholarly papers at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention for undergraduates. Students who presented were as follows: Angelica Barile, Hayley Bruning, Misha Choudhry, Corbin Hirschhorn and Bryan Potts.