

The Newsletter of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies

Letter from the Dean By Stephen Rice



Dean Stephen Rice Photo: Carolyn Herring

academic year has come to a close. As you will see from the articles and announcements in this new issue of *SSHGS Perspectives*, much has been going on here in the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. We have such an engaged group of students and faculty here, and wonderful programming that really goes to the core of Ramapo's mission as a public liberal arts college. I hope

t's hard to believe that another

you will enjoy learning some of what we have been up to, and please always feel free to stop by the SSHGS main office when you are on campus.

Most recently, springtime is when we gather to honor our outstanding students in SSHGS. Over the last weeks of the semester we held a number of ceremonies inducting

(continues on page 2)

SSHGS Perspectives	Spring 2017
In This Issue	
Faculty Updates	2
Genocide Survivor Provides Update on Eve in Rwanda and Burundi	
Working with Students at the Mahwah Mu	seum5
Peter Balakian, 2016 Recipient of Pulitzer P Visits Ramapo College	
History Club Has Another Busy Semester	7
Literature Professor Takes Students to Performance of <i>Coriolanus</i>	7
Fall 2016 Reading Series	8
The Boy Who Continues to Live: Harry Potter Talk on Campus	8

Longtime SSHGS Professor Wins Bischoff Award

By Hugh Sheehy



n October of 2016, Donald Fucci, Professor of Literature, received the Henry Bischoff Award for Excellence in Teaching. Fucci, who retired from Ramapo in spring 2016 after fortyfour years of teaching, is the eighth faculty member from the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies to receive this College-wide honor in the last sixteen years. The Bischoff Excellence in Teaching Award is given annually to Ramapo College professors who have displayed an

Professor Donald Fucci Photo: Ramapo College of New Jersey

exemplary passion and skill in teaching their subject matter. Further, it awards professors who leave a lasting impact on their students' lives by stressing a focus on learning inside and outside of the classroom. Winners are selected by a committee of former award winners from the faculty through the Office of the Provost. Past recipients include Sam Mustafa (2015), James Hoch and Jeremy Teigen (2013), Paula D. Straile-Costa (2010), Carter Jones Meyer (2009), Ira Spar (2002), and Anthony Padovano (2000).

It would be difficult to overstate Professor Fucci's contributions to Ramapo. Over the decades, he set a standard in excellence for administrators, faculty, and student mentors. He taught such a wide variety of courses—in Joyce, Modern Drama, Milton, Shakespeare, and Irish Literature—that it has been all but impossible to staff them in the wake of his retirement. Fucci also served as Dean of Basic Studies and helped to shape the present General Education Curriculum, and he worked for years as a summer instructor in the EOF program. In addition to Fucci's outstanding record as an educator, there is also the unwritten history of his influence on his fellow teachers, both as a colleague and a mentor; I know he made me feel welcome in our corridor during my first years on campus. (continues on page 4)

> RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College

Letter from the Dean

(continued from cover)

students into the honor societies associated with our major programs: 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 60 students were honored in this way.

At our annual Academic Achievement Ceremony, Christopher Dernbach received the school's Book Prize (awarded for academic excellence to a student not yet graduating), and Samantha Sproviero received the Faculty-Student Research Award. We were also proud to honor the outstanding graduating seniors in our majors: Briana Gomez for American Studies, Michael Verdon for History, Robert Piper for International Studies, Sean Dabney for Liberal Studies, Ann Lau for Literature, Sydney Beson for Political Science, and Maria Garcia for Spanish Language Studies. Congratulations to these and all our new graduates.

On a final note, this will be my last "Letter from the Dean," as I am stepping down from this position and returning to the faculty after June 30. I have been honored to serve as Dean of the Salameno School for the past four years and happy to have had a chance to further Ramapo's commitment to the humanities and to global studies. More than ever, we recognize today the need for the kind of understanding and empathy that these areas of study lead us to. I look forward to many more years in the classroom engaged in this vital work.

Faculty and Student Updates

Natalia Santamaria-Laorden hosted well-known guest speaker, Mario Pisuelos, in her Spanish Civilization class. Prisuelos gave a lecture of the musical history of Spain on November 5, 2016. He particularly emphasized the relevance of the influence of Jewish and Arabic culture on Spanish music throughout history.



Caption: Mario Prisuelos plays for Professor Natalia Santamaria-Laorden's class. Photo: Natalia Santamaria-Laorden

The Philosophy Club has been reorganizing itself this semester! We are in the process of gaining funding and planning events for next term. **Lisa Cassidy** will continue to advise the club, while Liberal Studies major Jonathan Cedeno and Philosophy minor Joe Sammartino will take on leadership positions within the club. Please do email Professor Cassidy at **Icassidy@ramapo.edu** for more information about how to get involved!

Neriko Doerr published or will publish the following articles and chapters: "Space of Pedagogic

Imaginary: Interstice of Teacher's Intent and Students' Learning in Experiential Learning of Different Cultures" (Education and Society 34:1), "Learning as Othering: Narratives of Learning, Construction of Difference, and the Discourse of Immersion in Study Abroad" (Intercultural Education 17:6), "Beyond 'Mixed Race' and 'Unmixed Race': Being and Having Race in Aotearoa/New Zealand" in Mixed Race Identities in Australia. New Zealand and the Pacific Islands ed. McGavin and Fozdar (Routledge). She co-organized (with Dr. John Bodinger de Uriarte of Susquehanna University) a session titled "Rituals of Discovery: Study Away, Voluntourism, and Encounters with the Cultural Other" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 16-20. As part of the session, Professor Doerr presented a paper titled "Sanitized Intimacy that Dares: The Rituals of Discovering Alterity while Studying Abroad in Sierra Leone." She served as the discussant for the session titled "Language Ideologies, Race, Love, and Gender Roles in the Japanese Morning TV Drama 'Massan'" organized by Satoko Suzuki at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 16-20. Professor Doerr was also an invited lecturer for Dr. Satoko Suzuki's class, ASIA/JAPA/LING281-01 Dialects, Multilingualism, and

the Politics of Speaking Japanese at Macalester College, Minneapolis, Minnesota (November 18). Professor Doerr has also co-edited (with Dr. Hannah Taieb) a volume, titled *The Romance of Crossing Borders: Studying and Volunteering Abroad* (Berghahn Books, January, 2017).

The Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger, Volume 4: 'Round the World for Birth Control, 1920-1966 was published by the University of Illinois Press this fall. Cathy Moran Hajo '85 was the Associate Editor of the volume, and it marks the completion of the Margaret Sanger Papers Project.

As Editor of the Jane Addams Papers, Professor Hajo secured two major federal grants, one from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the other from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to fund staff and student salaries and research costs. The Addams Papers now employs thirteen Ramapo students who are transcribing and researching the papers of one of the Progressive-Era's best-known figures. The project's digital edition was launched this fall and is accessible at janeaddams.ramapo.edu.

Faculty and Student Updates

continues from page 2



Professor Susan Hangen presented a talk on her paper "The Momo Matrix: The Evolution of Nepali/ Himalayan Restaurants in New York, 2006-2016." Photo: Susan Hangen

Susan Hangen presented a talk at the South Asia Institute Seminar Series on Dec 1, 2016. The paper is called "The Momo Matrix: The Evolution of Nepali/Himalayan Restaurants in New York, 2006-2016." This paper is based on research funded by Ramapo College Faculty Development Funds in summer 2016.



Professor James Hoch (right), shown here with fellow poet Terrance Hayes, has new poems out. Photo: Facebook

James Hoch's poems appeared or are forthcoming from *Tin House, Kenyon Review, American Poetry Review, The Common, Horsethief, Thrush, Bennington Review, Oversound, Okey-Panky, The Collagist, Waxwing, Poetry Northwest, The ACCOUNT, New England Review,* and *Ploughshares.* In addition, he taught at the San Miguel Writers Conference and The Sarah Lawrence Poetry Festival for high school students, as well as performed at Kutztown University.

Karl Johnson's paper "The Current Status of African. Medieval Manuscripts & Historic Sites in Dienne and Timbuktu, Mali: Their Present Situation and the Future Prospects of the Protection of These Cultural Treasures for Scholarship & Posterity" was accepted for the 49th Conference of the African Studies Association (ASA). The Conference theme is Imagining Africa at the Center: Bridging Scholarship, Policy, and Representation in African Studies. Professor Johnson was also in Senegal in June 2016 to participate in the workshop "Innovation, Transformation and Sustainable Futures in Africa" at a joint conference of the American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association and hosted by Council for the **Development of Social Science** Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the West African Research Center (WARC). He also had a review of Tameka Bradley Hobbs's book Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida, accepted for 2017 in the prestigious Journal of African American History.

Yvette Kisor presented her paper "Children's Beowulfs for the New Tolkien Generation" at the Beowulf for Younger Readers Symposium on 22-23 September, 2016 at Texas A&M University. In May 2017 she presented her paper "Tolkien's Monsters: An Asterisk in His Translation of Beowulf" at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In July 2017 she will present her paper "Tolkien's Beowulf: Translating Knights" at the International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds, England. Her co-authored book with Michael D. C. Drout. Beowulf Unlocked: New Evidence from Lexomic Analysis, was published by Palgrave in 2016.

Iraida H. López was invited to present on returning to Cuba, the topic of her most recent book, at Denison University in October. She



Professor Iraida López gave a presentation at Denison University in October 2016. Here is Iraida (second from left) pictured with Natalia Santamaria-Laorden, John Gronbeck-Tedesco and Erick Castellanos. Photo: Iraida López

presented a paper on Lourdes Casal at the 21st Century Racisms in Latin America and the Caribbean at a conference organized by the University of Chile in December. Also on Casal, she edited a dossier that was accepted by the premier journal of Cuban studies in the US. The dossier, containing articles by Ramapo emeritus professor Yolanda Prieto, Ruth Behar, Laura Lomas, and Jenna Leving Jacobson, in addition to López, is forthcoming in the Cuban Studies/Estudios Cubanos 2018 volume. Professor López was elected co-chair of the Cuba Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

Hugh Sheehy published a book review in the *LA Review of Books* and short stories in *The Collagist* and *Guernica.*

Jeremy Teigen spoke about the 2016 presidential election at a Ramapo College outreach program at Brandywine Living in Wyckoff in October. This program brings faculty from the College to discuss topics of interest to the residents.



Professor Jeremy Teigen delivered a presentation on the 2016 Presidential race to residents at Brandywine Living in Wyckoff. Photo: Brianne Fuellhart

Genocide Survivor Provides Update on Events in Rwanda and Burundi



Eugenie Mukeshimana Photo: Michael Riff

n November 4, Eugenie Mukeshimana, Rwandan genocide survivor and founder of the Genocide Survivors Support Network, provided an update on developments in her native country and neighboring Burundi. The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies sponsored the event.

More than a quarter of a million people in Burundi have fled

in terror as opposition militias plot their return. Without international assistance, a humanitarian disaster looms. Like neighboring Rwanda, Burundi is made up mainly of the Hutu and Tutsi groups among whom an atmosphere of insipient violence and fear, fueled by the legacy of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, looms large. As Mukeshimana explained, the fact that a good number of the Hutu who instigated and carried out the Rwandan Genocide fled to Burundi has complicated the situation.

Eugenie Mukeshimana was a bride who had studied accounting in high school and lived in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. In 1994, when she was pregnant with her daughter, Mukeshimana's life turned upside down. An ethnic Tutsi, she and her husband went into hiding to stay alive as Hutu extremists began a campaign of genocide that would eventually claim a million lives.

Mukeshimana emphasized that, despite the outward calm, tensions emanating from the genocide and the year of

ethnic conflict still remain in Rwanda. She auestioned whether the informal gacaca courts convened to end the mass incarceration of Hutu perpetrators were an adequate judicial remedy. As she pointed out. the situation has resulted in survivors and their descendants being forced to live cheek-by jowl with perpetrators. It is one of the principle reasons she herself still



finds it too difficult to return, even for a visit.

When the genocide was over, Mikeshimana and her daughter survived, but she lost her husband, father, sister and many other family members. Over the years, Mukeshimana worked to rebuild her life and came to the United States in 2001 where she attended college and founded the Genocide Survivors Support Network. A resident of Baltimore, Maryland, she travels around the United States to educate people about the genocide in Rwanda and serves as executive director of the Network.

Longtime SSHGS Professor Wins Bischoff Award

(continued from cover)

As is the convention at the Bischoff Awards ceremony, Fucci gave a brief talk upon being recognized for his many achievements. He charmed the crowd with his usual warm-hearted loquacity, looking back on four and a half decades of teaching and working at RCNJ. He talked about the satisfactions of committing oneself to being a lifelong student and thereby unlocking the secret to an enduring passion for the classroom experience. Finally, he lamented the influence of smart phone culture on the American classroom and asked that we teachers try not to lose sight of our obligation to guide students toward an awareness of the rewards of learning. His words were well spoken and gladly received. Indeed, the only surprise was after the ceremony, when we returned to our offices to be reminded Fucci had retired.



Professor Fucci accepts the Bischoff Award. Photo: James Hoch

Working with Students at the Mahwah Museum

by Cathy Moran Hajo '85

he Mahwah Museum, a local history museum a scant five minutes from the Ramapo campus, puts on changing exhibits featuring different aspects of the region's history. The Museum has an archive of unique documents, photographs, books and video and audio files that serve as a wonderful resource for students interested in historical research, public history, and archives.

This past year I became the archives director at the Museum and gathered a group of Ramapo students and recent graduates who got hands-on experience doing archival processing with Museum collections. On Saturday mornings and some Wednesdays, Jennifer Zgola '16, Jeffrey Fischer '16, Matthew Hazel '16, and history major Cristina Macari worked on organizing and processing twelve boxes of Mahwah town historian John Bristow's papers, a photograph collection that document the Young family, and the papers of Frank McMahon, a recently retired local journalist. In the fall semester, History major Lee Herman signed up for a cooperative education course and together we worked to process the papers of Janet Brown, another of Mahwah's town historians.

Both the Brown and Bristow papers were disorganized, and the first step was to evaluate the kinds of materials in the collections--both collections contained old photographs, letters, organizational records, newspaper clippings, and ephemera. We then divided and organized the materials into groupings, created folders on topics, and wrote up descriptions that will be posted on the museum's website. These descriptions, called finding aids, allow



Professor Cathy Hajo at an exhibit at the Mahwah Museum Photo: Lauren Kidd Ferguson / Daily Voice



Professor Hajo with the students involved in the Jane Addams Papers Project Photo: Cathy Hajo

researchers to see the Museum's holdings and get in touch to either visit the Museum in person or ask for materials via e-mail.

I was also one of a Museum team that created an exhibit on Mahwah women's history, and Jennifer Zgola conducted research for the exhibit through Ramapo's Faculty-Student Research funding. Finding information on the lives of women in small towns like Mahwah. where there are no digitized newspapers, little secondary research, and limited primary source material, can be a challenge. Jennifer buried herself in the microfilmed Ramsey Journal, looking for the names of prominent women and trying to get a sense of how women's lives were affected by major events like World War I and the Depression. She also surveyed the minute books of the Woman's Club in order to get a sense of how women's charitable organizations helped build a community in Mahwah. Jennifer also helped research and wrote exhibit panels, located photographs for use in the exhibit in our archives, and attended planning meetings, giving her a good sense of how museums create content. The exhibit, "Mahwah's Herstory: The Changing Roles of Women in Mahwah's History," opened October 1, and will remain open at least until June 2017.

Peter Balakian, 2016 Recipient of Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, Visits Ramapo College

Prize in Poetry, presented a lecture and a reading on Thursday, October 6 in the Trustees Pavilion at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Reading@Ramapo Program of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, co-sponsored Balakian's visit, his third to Ramapo College. In addition to

his poetry that concerns a wide variety of topics, he discussed his prose work that chiefly deals with the Armenian Genocide.

At both events, Balakian emphasized his background in coming from a family of survivors and descendants of that tragedy as an enduring influence on his writing. As a child growing up in Tenafly, New Jersey, he heard scraps of his grandmother Nafina's past-Balakian credits his love of writing to her storytelling and imagerybut he didn't discover the Armenian genocide of the early 20th century until he read Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, the memoir of the U.S.



Peter Balakian Photo: Michael Riff

ambassador to Turkey during that period. Balakian's chronicle of his quest to learn more about his family's connection to the genocide and diaspora, *Black Dog of Fate*, won the PEN/Martha Albrand Prize for Memoir and was a *New York Times* Notable Book. *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* received the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize. He translated, with Nevart Yaghlian, the Armenian poet Siamanto's *Bloody News from My Friend*, a cycle of poems inspired by letters that Balakian's grandfather, a doctor, wrote to his parents while he tended to survivors in the wake of the 1909 Adana Massacre. Balakian also edited the Armenian Genocide section of the Norton anthology *Against Forgetting: Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness*.

Influenced by poets as diverse as Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Pablo Neruda and the 10th-century Armenian poet Gregory of Nareg, Balakian uses poetry to explore, in his own words, "the parameters of consciousness in our particular time." Acknowledging the challenge in writing poetry steeped in the political, Balakian notes that "it is always necessary to keep aesthetic issues free from polemics and simple politics. Poetry should never be editorial. Poetry must be faithful to the richness of language, poetic form, and the complexity of experience. But the political sphere should deepen a writer and make his or her work larger, richer, and morally resonant." Peter Balakian is the author of several collections of poetry,

including Ozone Journal (2015), winner of the Pulitzer Prize; Ziggurat (2010), which wrestles with the aftermath and reverberations of 9/11; and June-tree: New and Selected Poems 1974-2000. His poems have been widely anthologized, including in the 1985 Morrow Anthology of Younger American Poets, and have been translated into several languages. He has published essays on poetry, culture, and art in numerous journals, and is the author of Theodore Roethke's Far Fields (1989). He earned a B.A. from Bucknell University, a master's from New York University, and a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University

Reviewing Sad Days of Light,

James Dickey observed, "At last, poetry about genocide that is truly, in every thrust, pause and detail, real poetry. Mr. Balakian's bloodlines from Armenia are blazing here; the language is incandescent with rage, grief, helplessness and love. This is an extraordinary book, and Mr. Balakian's an extraordinary talent." The 2016 Pulitzer Prize citation remarked that *Ozone Journal* includes "poems that bear witness to the old losses and tragedies that undergird a global age of danger and uncertainty."

Balakian has won the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Book Award and an award from the Academy of American Poets, as well as fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He cofounded and coedited *The Graham House Review* with Bruce Smith from 1976 to 1996 and was awarded an editing grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

History Club Has Another Busy Semester

n the fall of 2016, the History Club-led by student officers Benjamin Olex, Samantha Sproviero, Dara McGuiness, and Karlito Almeda, and advised by Professor Stacie Taranto-had another full semester of events. In October, the club held its annual advisement event during the registration period, with faculty and students in attendance to discuss the requirements of the History major and minor. In October, a week before the presidential election, the club hosted an event in which Dr. Nicole Hemmer was telecasted in to discuss her recent book and the election. Hemmer holds many titles, as one of the leading public intellectuals in the discipline of Political History. Among her many roles, she is an Assistant Professor of Presidential Politics at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. In addition, she is a Contributing Editor at US News & World Report and regular political columnist at Vox; her work has been featured in





Photo: Ramapo College of New Jersey

podcast, *Past Present*. Hemmer began by speaking to the club about her recent book, *Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, September 2016). She then transitioned into discussing the role of the conservative media in the 2016 election, as well as the role that the media more generally played in Donald Trump's campaign. The History Club looks forward to an equally productive spring semester. Stay tuned!

Literature Professor Takes Students to Performance of Coriolanus

n November 5, on the weekend before the presidential election, Ramapo's Literature Program organized a trip to the Barrow Street Theatre in Manhattan to see the Red Bull Theater production of *Coriolanus*. Literature students from **Professor Todd Barnes'** "Shakespeare's Plays" course joined students from across the College to attend the performance, which was both topical and politically charged.



Ramapo students stand outside the Barrow Street Theatre in New York City. Photo: Todd Barnes

Red Bull describes the production, directed by Michael Sexton, as follows:

"The streets are full of protest. Economic inequality strains the social fabric. Debates rage throughout a nation riddled with dissension and distrust. It's election year in Rome, 493 B.C.E., and as unscrupulous politicians manipulate public opinion, the hypocrisy and humiliation of political campaigns drive away the country's finest. But beneath this political drama looms the personal tragedy of one principled man's emotional blindness."

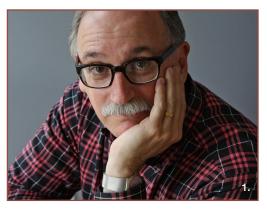
Professor Barnes commented, "It was the right play, performed perfectly, at the right time. So many of the issues explored in *Coriolanus* persist as serious problems today: economic inequality, the proper shape of political representation, the struggle between democracy and tyranny, extreme factionalism, violence and masculinity,

and more. I think all of the students really enjoyed the performance, which was intimate and intense." Twenty students attended the performance, accompanied by Literature Professors **Todd Barnes**, **Yvette Kisor**, and **Lisa Williams**. The trip, organized by Professor Barnes, was made possible by **Dean Stephen Rice**, the Center for Student Involvement, and Platinum Funding.

Fall 2016 Reading Series Brings More Literary Luminaries to Ramapo

By Hugh Sheehy

Readings at Ramapo enjoyed another round of notable visitors this semester, including Pulitzer



Prize-winning poet Peter Balakian, National Book Award-nominated novelist and short story writer Jim Shepard, and noted novelist David Hollander. In addition to giving a reading on campus, each visiting author gave a lecture, talk, or class, providing students with an opportunity to talk with and learn from writers whose works they had been studying for class. Each visitor was memorable in his own way—Hollander for his electrifying imagination and dynamic teaching style, Balakian for his erudition and powerful delivery, and Shepard for his trademark wit, verbal intensity, and knack for putting readers in the shoes of people who often go overlooked in the United States. All in all, it was an excellent series, and it was pure pleasure for my co-director James Hoch and I to see our students come out in droves to celebrate world-class fiction and poetry.

1. Novelist and short story writer Jim Shepard Photo: Jim Shepard

2. Fiction writer David Hollander brought his uniquely cerebral and mischievous style to campus for a lecture and reading. Photo: Facebook

3. Pulitzer Prize laureate Peter Balakian takes questions from students at his lecture and reading. Photo: Giancarlo Sepulveda





The Boy Who Continues to Live: Harry Potter Talk on Campus

By Patricia Ard



Melissa Anelli speaks on the Harry Potter series in the York Room. Photo: Patricia Ard

n Thursday, November 17, Melissa Anelli, webmistress of the popular Harry Potter website *The Leaky Cauldron*, as well as author of *The Story of a Boy Wizard*, *His Fans, and Life Inside the Harry Potter Phenomenon*, spoke on campus. The program was sponsored by the Salameno Center for British Studies which is housed in SSHGS, and supported by a generous grant from the Ramapo College Foundation.

Ms. Anelli discussed the publication history of the Harry Potter series, including early involvement of fans in

publicizing the books and their film adaptations. She also discussed the new Harry Potter play and movie, the role of fandom in extending the Potter story, and the role of *The Leaky Cauldron* when controversies arise concerning that story. Ms. Anelli answered questions from the audience on the more recent writing activities of J. K. Rowling, and other Potter related topics.