

SSAIS CURRENTS

Retirement of “Mr. International Studies”

By Ron Hayashida



Professor Clifford E. Peterson

Professor **Clifford E. Peterson**, after 40 years of service to Ramapo College, will be retiring after this semester ends. Often called “Mr. International Studies” and fondly known for his tireless mentoring of both American and international students, he leaves behind a treasured legacy of invaluable contributions to International Studies and Political Science as well as memories of a caring pedagogy for his students.

A native of Nutley, New Jersey (his high school classmate was Martha Stewart), Professor Peterson attended Rutgers University in the late 1950s for his B.A. and gained attention for his game on the Scarlet Knight Basketball team. *continued on page 2*

Letter from the Dean

By Hassan Nejad



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring

We have had an exciting and productive year. The School received a gift of three million dollars from Lawrence and Theresa

Salameno, and we are grateful to the Salamenos for their generosity. Out of this gift two million dollars will be spent toward the renovation of classrooms and offices in the A and B wings with a new student *continued on page 3*

This issue of *AIS CURRENTS* was produced and edited by Professors Todd Barnes, Keisha Haywood, Rebecca Root, and Natalia Santamaria Laorden.

Photo courtesy of Raven Clarke-Lucas



Alt Break Ecuador group inside the Basilica del Voto Nacional, Quito, Ecuador

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Mr. International Studies*continued from page 1*

At Rutgers, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Thereafter, he pursued his interest in international relations at Johns Hopkins University, where he was also a teaching assistant for a number of years, and where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. After a short two years as Assistant Professor of Government at St. Lawrence University in up-state New York, he transferred to Ramapo in the Fall of 1972 as a Professor of International Politics.

In the Fall of 1972, Ramapo College had just begun its second year of operation, and this gave Peterson the opportunity to lay the foundations for one of the College's "pillars," international studies and study abroad. He established himself as one of the core members of the then School of Intercultural Studies' Political Science program. He also served as the School's Director for a short period before its merger with the School of American Studies. Professor Peterson taught over a dozen different courses throughout his 40-year career but concentrated on offering his basic courses on International Politics, Introduction to International Studies, United Nations, United Nations Seminar, Contemporary Problems in International Relations, Terrorism, and Senior Seminars on Problems of World Order. His annual classes on the United Nations were popularly associated with students' participation in the Model UN Conferences, which benefitted from Professor Peterson's oversight, guidance and encouragement.

Hundreds if not thousands of students streamed through his classes throughout the years; but he always found time to advise and help each of them on an individual basis. It was not an uncommon sight

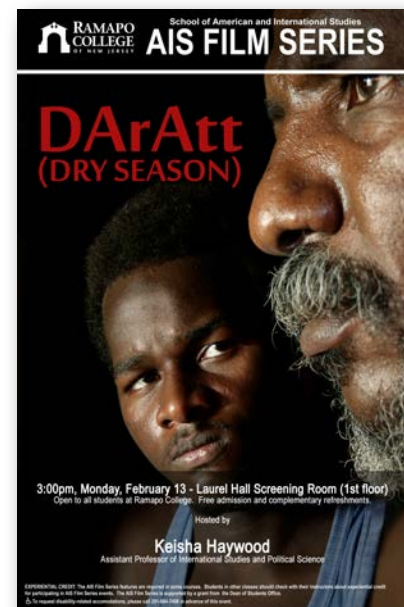
to see a line of students on the second floor of the B-Wing, crowding the corridors, waiting to see him. Not too long ago, among many other honors that he received, he was awarded "New Jersey Global Educator of the Year" in recognition of his devotion to students. He along with the late Professor **Walter T. Brown** and with the assistance of Professor **Kathy Sunshine** of Contemporary Arts, applied for a grant 1986-89 called "Toward Global and Multicultural Literacy: Education for the 21st Century." Commonly called the Governor's Challenge Grant, it awarded Ramapo \$3.4 million to internationalize the College's curriculum. These three educators were at the forefront in undertaking the strengthening of this pillar of the College's mission.

In other College-related activities, throughout the years Prof. Peterson was involved with the Master Lecture Series, the Great Decisions program, the STAIRS summer seminar that brought high school students on campus, various study abroad programs, CBS Sunrise Semester, and talks and presentations too numerous to cite. In his community, he served for a period on the Harrington Park Board of Education, on the Northern Valley Regional High School Board of Education, of which he was president for a number of years, and on the Board of the Council of New Jersey Consortium for International/Global Education.

Cliff Peterson also closely followed the fortunes of Ramapo College's Men's Basketball team and was known for uninhibitedly shouting encouragement to the team and shouting at referees "That's a Mugging!! Did You Swallow Your Whistle!!" He frequently followed the team to off-campus venues. He also attended soccer games when he had a chance. He himself continued

to play basketball in the senior leagues and was able to win championships in two successive age-group divisions. His senior team also won a gold medal at the Senior Olympics held at Stanford University several years ago. His medals and trophies are proudly displayed in his office. It became a common sight to see Professor Peterson, after a rough weekend of games, with bruises, gashes, stitches on his head, limping along on campus.

Upon retirement, Cliff Peterson and his wife Myra, a retired attorney, will move to Westfield, New Jersey, where he promises to keep up his close association with Ramapo College, and of course with its basketball team. □

**SSAIS Film Series****SSAIS FILM SERIES**

The SSAIS Film Series during the Spring of 2012 featured Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's *DARAtt (Dry Season)* (2006), Assia Djebbar's *La Noubia des Femmes du Mount Chenoua* (1979), and Ralph Arlyck's *Following Sean* (2005). □

SSAIS FACULTY UPDATES

On April 12, 2011, Professor **Patricia Ard** gave a lecture to students and faculty at the University of Leon in Leon, Spain. The title of the lecture was "The American Graphic Novel."

Professor **Iraida H. López** presented her research on Ana Mendieta at the Cuba Futures International Conference sponsored by the Bildner Center for Hemispheric Studies, CUNY Graduate School, March 31-April 2, 2011. Her article on Mendieta's legacy in Cuba has been accepted for publication in *La Gaceta de Cuba*. In January, also at the Bildner, she participated in a panel discussion with critic Luisa Campuzano on contemporary Cuban literature and culture. Additionally, she presented her annotated editions of Ena Lucía Portela's fiction at McNally Jackson Books in Soho in February.

During her sabbatical leave from Ramapo in the spring, Professor **Lopez** was a visiting scholar at New York University, where she worked on a manuscript tentatively titled "Myriad Returns: The Poetics and Politics of 'Volver' in Narratives of the Cuban Diaspora." She was invited to be a keynote speaker at an International Colloquium on women's networks and associations at Casa de las Américas in Havana in February, and drew from the manuscript for her presentation.

Professor **Stephen Rice** contributed one of the short essays appearing in *Hidden Treasure: The National Library of Medicine*, published by

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Letter from the Dean

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lounge, expanded office space for the adjunct faculty, and a conference room. Half a million dollars will be dedicated to a British Studies Center. And another half a million will be used for dean's scholarships.

The name of the School has been changed to the Salameno School of American and International Studies. Faculty and students have continued joint scholarship in different fields of knowledge. Over 15 students have conducted collaborative research with the faculty and more than 20 students have presented papers at professional meetings here and abroad.

We have an excellent record of graduating students who understand and are prepared for the challenges of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Last year, several of our graduates were accepted to some of the best law and graduate schools in the country. This year promises to be the same.

More than two-thirds of the School's faculty presented papers at professional conferences and a dozen received acceptances for the publication of their works in refereed journals. Four faculty members have signed contracts to publish their books.

We planned and offered more than 30 co-curricular events each semester. Our alumni/student networking event in March was one of the most successful since its inception three years ago.

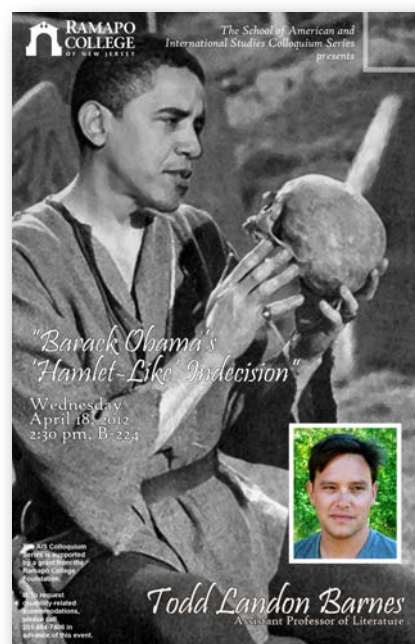
Finally, 3 of our faculty members were awarded tenure and, because our search for a new faculty member with expertise on China and East Asia was successful, we will welcome Dr. Dean Chen in the Fall. □

STUDENT NEWS

Senior **Brendan Flanagan** will participate in the International Studies Association's "Conference on Protecting Human Rights: Duties and Responsibilities of States and Non-state Actors" in Glasgow, Scotland in June. He will present his Senior Honors Project entitled "Applying Insights from Recent Transitional Justice Scholarship to the Northern Irish Case." Flanagan, a triple major in Literature, International Studies, and a Liberal Studies contract major, developed his project under the guidance of his Faculty Mentor, Dr. **Rebecca Root**, and Faculty Readers Dr. **Clifford Peterson** and Dr. **Keisha Haywood**. He received a grant from the Ramapo Foundation.

Congratulations to **Chris McKenna, Maral Varjabedian, Al Martins, and Kelli Ward** for being recognized for their outstanding

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SSAIS Colloquium Series

SSAIS FACULTY UPDATES
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Blast Books in 2012. The book provides illustrated interpretive essays on items in the collection of the National Library of Medicine outside Washington, D.C. Professor Rice's piece offers a brief history and analysis of an international eye test chart published and sold by a San Francisco optometrist in 1907. Information on the book may be found at http://www.blastbooks.com/hidden_treasure.html.

Professor **Natalia Santamaría Laorden** participated in the 6th International Conference on Transatlantic Studies held at Brown University from April 10 to 14, 2012. There, she moderated a panel entitled "Circuitos de la Infomación Transatlántica" ("Circuits of Transatlantic Information"). She also presented a paper entitled "El papel regenerador del indiano en la prensa y literatura finisecular" (The Role of the Emigrant to the Americas in the Fin-de-siècle Press and Literature).

Professors **Jennefer Mazza** and **Michael Unger** presented a paper on the capstone experience at Midwest Political Science Organization conference held in Chicago from April 12 to 15, 2012. The paper was entitled "Assessing the Impact of Incorporating Service Learning/Field Experiences Into the Capstone Political Science Course".

Professor **Yvette Kisor**'s entry on "Saxo Grammaticus" for the Gale series on *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism* will be published in May 2012 (Volume 141). Also in May 2012 she will present her paper "Words, Deeds, Gender, and Genre" as part of the session on Words and Deeds in Anglo-Saxon England at the Forty-seventh International Congress on



Francesca Baratta, Sarah Galo, Stefanie Mauro, Brendan Flanagan, Kimberly Eskin, Lauren Santaniello, Robert Texel, Danielle Reed, Katie Attinello, Lauren Heatwole, and Ashley Rockhill at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention

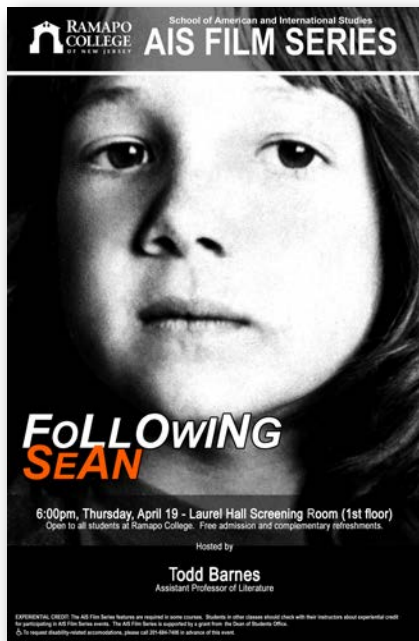
Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

Professor **Todd Landon Barnes** presented his paper "Karaoke as Historiography: Richard Burton's 'Ghost Tape' and The Wooster Group's *Hamlet*" at the 2012 Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium at Villanova University, where the theme was "The Avant Garde, Textual Intervention, Ensemble and Experimental Theatre Collectives." He also shared his paper "*The Tempest*'s 'Standing Water': Recycling Early Modern Cosmographies in *Lost*" in a seminar entitled "Oceanic Shakespeares," part of the 40th Annual Shakespeare Association of America conference in Boston.

In March 2012 Professor **Paul Elovitz** published "Election 2012 Free Associations and Psychohistorical Questions," "Remembering Andrew Brink's Search for Knowledge," and "The Psychoanalytic Life of Elisabeth Young-Bruehl," all in *Clio's Psyche*.

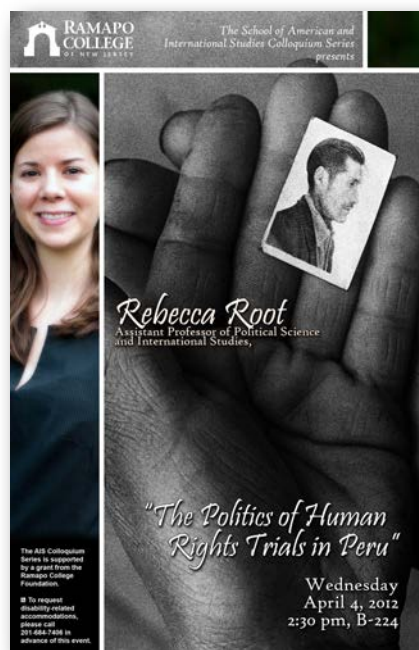
His submission for publication in June, "Dimensions of the Animal-Human Connection" and "Honoring the Accomplishments of the Living: Festschrifts in Clio's Psyche" are being anonymously refereed. He continues to work on two invited articles for the *Journal of Psychohistory*, one with sections written by three Ramapo students (Caitlin Adams, Ben Figueroa, and Amy Jarvis) who will receive author credit.

On January 28, 2012, in Manhattan, Professor **Elovitz** presented "Rhetoric, Fantasies, and Personalities in the Republican Nominating Contest in a panel with professors from Rutgers and UConn. At the June 6-8, 2012 International Psychohistorical Association convention at NYU, he will present "A Psychohistorical Comparison of Obama and His Republican Rival" and "Rudolph Binion as an Extraordinary Historian and Psychohistorian." □



SSAIS Film Series

This and other issues of AIS CURRENTS are now archived online at <http://www2.ramapo.edu/ais/newsletter.aspx>



SSAIS Colloquium Series

STUDENT NEWS
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position paper at the 2012 National Model United Nations Europe Conference in Lille France. Over 70 universities from around the world attended the conference which ran from January 31 to February 6.



Chris McKenna, Maral Varjabedian, Al Martins, and Kelli Ward at the 2012 National Model United Nations Europe Conference

On December 3, 2011 five students from the Literature program presented papers at the Sixth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Jacqueline Thomas presented her paper on "Incest and the Distorted Role of Father, Lord, and Lover in Hagiography and Romance," **Kim Eskin** presented on "Cynewulf's Elene as an Active Medieval Woman," **Christina Sielski** presented "Female Autonomy in Christian Literature," **Delia DeLorenzo** presented "Behind Every Strong Medieval Woman, There's a Man," and **Brendan Flanagan** presented "The Evolution of Sir Gawain: Conflicts Between Nations and Gods." The first four of these papers were developed in Prof. Kisor's British Medieval Literature course;

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American History Textbook Project

By Steve Rice

The American History Textbook Project (AHTP) received two grants from the College this year, one from the Ramapo College Foundation to support a spring 2012 project intern, and the other from SSAIS to support a student-faculty research project that makes use of the textbook collection. The AHTP gathers U.S. history textbooks published from the nineteenth century through the 1980s and adds them to a special collection in the Potter Library. These textbooks provide students with unique insight into how the teaching of American history in schools has changed over time. Since it was established in 2009 the project has placed more than 75 books in the collection, including several published before the Civil War.

The intern for spring 2012 is **Ruthann Inserra**, a junior History major who is in the Teacher Education program and who plans to become a high school social studies teacher. Ruthann is identifying books to be considered for the collection, coordinating the student meetings in which final decisions are made about which books to acquire from an on-line consortium of book dealers, and working with the library to have the books catalogued as they come in and added to the collection. "When I saw the opportunity for the internship, I knew it was something I had to try for," Ruthann states. "I think this is a topic that everyone should be aware of, especially since textbooks are being phased out so quickly now." By mid-semester the

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Noted Art Historian Deconstructs Architecture of Auschwitz

By Michael Riff



On March 30, 2012, under the auspices of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the History Club, Dr. **Paul Jaskot**, Professor of the History of Art and Architectural History at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, discussed “The Architecture of Auschwitz.” He showed how the very architecture of Auschwitz underscored its simultaneous and interlocking roles as concentration camp (Auschwitz I), killing center (Auschwitz II-Birkenau), and a site for industrial production based on slave/forced labor (essentially located Auschwitz III-Buna/Monowitz, but also in sections of Auschwitz I and II).

As Jaskot pointed out, it was additionally the home for all the personnel who operated the site’s facilities. Included were not only the SS personnel in charge of the killing, exploiting, tormenting and guarding prisoners, but also their families and a bevy of civilian employees.

Auschwitz thus assumed the character of an ever-expanding and changing city that required its own

architectural office that included, in addition to SS and civilian architects and other personnel, prisoners put to work as draftsmen. Through the failure of the SS to destroy the papers of the office ahead of the Red Army advance, scholars have been able to draw a detailed picture of the installation’s design and operation as a concentration camp, killing center, industrial complex and municipality.

Working with a team of experts from various disciplines has allowed Jaskot to construct an analytical framework that brings into sharper focus how Auschwitz embodied and intertwined Nazi Germany’s goals and priorities in pursuing racial genocide and imperial expansion with cultural policy and total war. In revealing that the site included landscaped everyday buildings such as a sauna and an SS family apartment complex,

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History Textbook Project *continued from page 5*

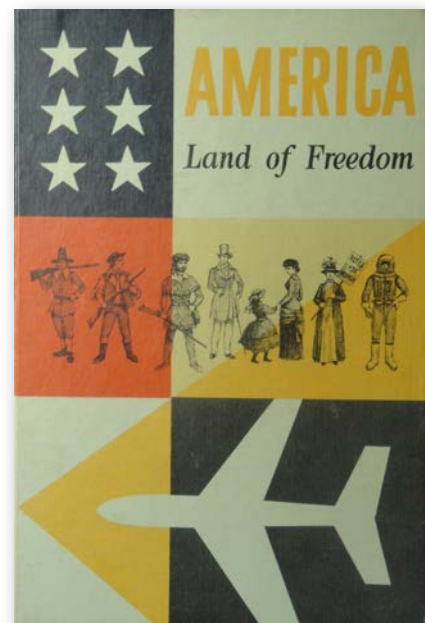
group had acquired nearly thirty additional books for the collection, with more than half the funding still available.

The student-faculty research project is being undertaken by **Ashley Wood**, a junior double major in History and International Studies. Ashley is working with **Stephen Rice** (Professor of American Studies) to study how the textbook treatment of Native Americans changes over the century and a half between the 1820s and the 1970s, focusing both on the discussions in the textbooks and on their illustrations. “Many of these books contradict each other and tell

blatant lies,” she notes, “yet many readers believed what they read to be fact. I think this project is fascinating because it reminds us to constantly question the information we are given and think critically in order to come to conclusions, ideas central to a liberal arts education.”

The AHTP is co-directed by **Stephen Rice** and **Alexander Urbiel**, who is Professor of History and Teacher Education in the School of Social Science and Human Services.

Christina Connor, Instruction and Emerging Technologies Librarian in the Potter Library, serves as the library liaison. Students involved in the project will host an evening showcase event at the end of the semester where all of the newly acquired books will be available to look at. **Ashley Wood** will also present her research findings, and planning will begin for next year’s work. □



Front cover to Gertrude Hartman’s **America: Land of Freedom (1961)**, acquired this semester for the AHTP collection.

MALS Graduates Present Theses

By Missy Kupfer



MALS students presented their theses on December 5 in the Student Center. Left to Right: MALS Director Dr. Anthony T. Padovano; Krista Vancophsky; Dr. Hassan Nejad, SSAIS Dean; Michael Kassan; Natalie Vazquez.

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program (MALS) in SSAIS held a Thesis Presentation Night on December 5, 2011 in the Student Center. January Graduates **Krista Vancophsky**, **Michael Kassan** and **Natalie Vazquez** presented their theses to Provost **Beth Barnett**, Dean **Hassan Nejad**, and MALS Director Dr. **Anthony T. Padovano**, along with assembled students, prospective students and guests.

MALS was the first Masters 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 SSAIS. 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. Theses may be in the form of a written work, or a creative project such as a series of paintings or other artwork, an original play, poetry collection, musical composition, photographs on a focused topic, or the like, accompanied by a shorter process paper.

January MALS graduate **Krista Vancophsky** chose a creative project. Her fascination with literature of the Victorian era and the emergence of women detectives prompted her to write her own book, *Intrigue and Innuendo: The Case File of a Victorian Lady Detective*, a detective story involving time travel to the

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Student News

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Brendan Flanagan's presentation was developed in the Senior Seminar on Arthurian Literature.



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring

Nora Dougherty

throughout her college career, organizing Invisible Children events, working in the Community Service Center, and dazzling us with her intellect and compassion. She also recently won Pi Sigma

Nora Dougherty, a graduating Senior majoring in International Studies, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright to Spain. Nora has been a major force on campus

Alpha's essay competition. We wish her great success in Spain.

From February 29 to March 3, eleven members of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, got the opportunity to attend the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in New Orleans. While at the convention, students attended workshops and discussions about organizational management, writing, and literature. Literature students **Francesca Baratta**, **Sarah Galo**, **Stefanie Mauro**, **Brendan Flanagan**, **Kimberly Eskin** and **Lauren Santaniello** presented critical and creative works at the convention. **Robert Texel**, **Danielle Reed**, **Katie Attinello**, **Lauren Heatwole**, and **Ashley Rockhill** (Psychology) also attended the convention.

Kristopher Zajkowski, a Spanish major and Latino/a and Latin American Studies minor was featured in the Catalan newspaper *Centrencada* while he studied at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona last Fall. The article focused on the value of a conversational exchange he did with a Catalán student while on his second study abroad experience in Spain. During the summer of 2011,

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Kim Eskin, **Brendan Flanagan**, **Christina Sielski**, **Jacqueline Thomas** and **Delia DeLorenzo** at the Sixth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Deconstructing Auschwitz *continued from page 6*

Jaskot and his colleagues have made it abundantly clear that the perpetrators at Auschwitz, while carrying out genocide and implementing slave labor, experienced a world that was radically different from that of their defenseless victims.

As a scholar, Paul Jaskot has focused on art and politics in the Nazi period as well as the postwar cultural impact of the Nazi past. He is the author of *The Architecture of Oppression: The SS, Forced Labor and the Nazi Monumental Building Economy* (Taylor and Francis, 2000) and *The Nazi Perpetrator: Postwar German Art and the Politics of the Right* (forthcoming 2012) as well as the co-editor (with Gavriel Rosenfeld) of *Beyond Berlin: Twelve German Cities Confront the Nazi Past* (U of Michigan Press, 2008).

Jaskot has published and spoken widely on these and related topics. In March 2011 he was the Miller Visiting Distinguished Professorship in Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, Burlington and in fall 2011 he was a Visiting Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center. In addition to his scholarly work, Jaskot is also the Director of the Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. From 2008-2010, he was President of the College Art Association, the nation's largest professional group for artists and art historians. Professor Paul Jaskot holds a doctorate and a Masters of Art in Art History from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Arts in history and English from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. □

MALS Graduates *continued from page 6*

Victorian era of a modern day female detective. Krista read excerpts and showed illustrations from her book, to enthusiastic applause. Dr. **Ellen Dolgin**, adjunct professor of Literature, was Krista's faculty mentor.

Michael Kassin teaches history in middle school, and feels that the MALS program "greatly augmented" his content knowledge for his world cultures curriculum. A visit to Urbino, Italy, and guidance from MALS mentor Dr. **Rosetta D'Angelo**, resulted in Mike's unique analysis of Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*. His findings have added a new perspective to Dr. D'Angelo's teaching on the works of Machiavelli. Michael plans to submit a summary of his paper for publication in *Confluence*, the national journal of MALS programs, which is supported by Ramapo College.

Natalie Vazquez is a high school English teacher and adjunct professor at Ramapo College. She has a B.A. and M.Ed. from Rutgers University, and a great love of learning, culture and the arts. Her thesis was titled "Student Motivation: Motivation Theory and Pedagogy for the Practical Teacher." Natalie's interest in helping her students be motivated to reach their potential prompted her research and thesis, which provides evidence-based practical suggestions and strategies for teachers to employ. Her mentors were Dr. **Kay Fowler**, Professor of Geriatrics, and Dr. **Jennefer Mazza**, Associate Professor of Political Science. □

SSAIS Colloquium Series

The Spring 2012 AIS Colloquium Series featured four lectures. On March 28, Ramapo Prof. of Political Science **Jeremy Teigen** presented his talk "Teaching American Elections in the Caucasus: Stories (and Facts) from a Fulbright in Tbilisi." On April 4, a lecture on "The Politics of Human Rights Trials in Peru" was delivered by Ramapo Professor of Political Science and International Studies **Rebecca Root**. On April 18, Ramapo Professor of Literature **Todd Landon Barnes** presented his talk, "Barack Obama's 'Hamlet-Like Indecision'." □



SSAIS Colloquium Series

Ramapo in Tbilisi

By Jeremy Teigen



Through the bleary-eyed haze from the prior night’s wine horns and nine time zones of clock displacement, I began a semester teaching in the Caucasus last August on a bright Tbilisi morning. While the jet lag receded, the amazement with life in Georgia never did. For five months, I was a Fulbright Scholar based on Tbilisi, teaching graduate students in American Studies and Political Science centers at three institutions, including the flagship, Tbilisi State University. Fulbrighters wear many hats: teaching, serving on dissertation oral defense panels, attending faculty meetings, participating in curriculum development, and chairing several conferences. In and outside of academia, the US Embassy, my titular employer, found myriad ways to deploy Fulbrighters both in Tbilisi and in the rural regions. I spoke to party organizations and student groups about developing democracy inside of political parties. Georgia treads unevenly but hopefully on a path toward democracy after its rebirth from the ashes of the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991 and bloody convulsions of civil war in the 1990s. In this environment, it was richly rewarding to help even in a small way by engaging youth activists and talk about American party development, warts and all. While Georgia’s electoral structures are reasonably sound, one of the hard victories in a democratic consolidation is developing stable political parties that are responsive to public opinion and provide a path for preferences to manifest in government. In this way, I found the Fulbright program to be a great foreign policy tool for the United States, one that was deeply appreciated by the Georgians.

Georgia, or Sakartvelo as it is known by its citizens, is a jewel between the Black and Caspian seas and hemmed in by two mountain ranges. Known for wine, song, and poetry, Georgian culture echoes in the

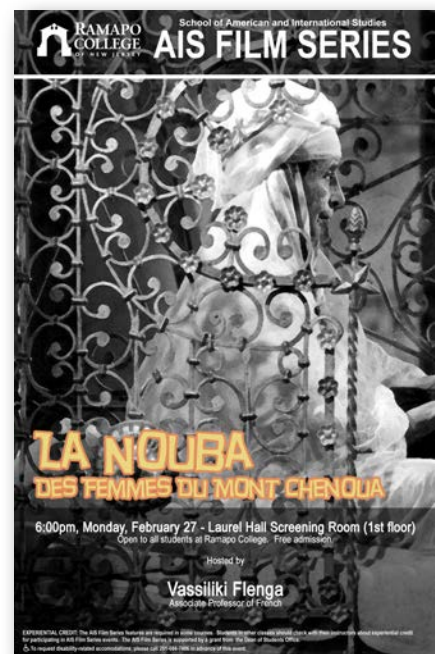
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Kristopher Zajkowski featured in *Centrecada*



Ramapo Students Volunteer with *Invisible Children*: Brian Okeny Funk, Boni Akena, Gabby Mooney, Nora Dougherty, Kristin Wilson, Lauren MacDonald, and Madeline Macdonald



SSAIS Film Series

Ramapo in Tbilisi*continued from page 9*

mountain gorges and across the vineyards dotting its river valleys. It is a host culture, and no visitor could claim a complete visit to Georgia without a “supra,” or formalized banquet with highly regimented toasting rituals in which honored guests play an important role. Food staples include wonderful options such as khachapuri, a flattened disc of fresh bread with ample cheese baked inside, and khinkali, unique pork dumplings with at least twenty precise folds. I traveled with my wife and four-year-old, and while our weeks were packed, we spent many of our weekends traveling to beautiful and less developed corners of Georgia. One such excursion was to an ancient cave city called Vardzia (pictured), an important religious spot founded in the twelfth century. Near the intersection of the Georgian, Turkish, and Armenian borders, it still contains a working monastery for Georgian Orthodox Church monks who were quite pleased to open a thousand year old church and show chipped but sacred frescoes to an American toddler. The Georgian language is notoriously impenetrable, but I picked up a couple favorite words. “Zeg,” is the day after tomorrow, and “Mazeg” is the day after that. We are hoping for an opportunity to return to Tbilisi after a few mazegs. □



Vardzia, Georgia

Guest Speaker from Freedom House

On April 9, 2012, JJ Emru gave two talks on campus. Emru works for Freedom House, an NGO dedicated to promoting human rights and democratization, where he serves as a Program Officer for the Middle East and North Africa. His first talk focused on the Arab Spring and his experiences working on the ground in Tunisia in recent years. His second talk provided career advice for those hoping to work in the human rights and NGO sector. This timely, well-attended, and engaging event was organized by **Josh Gargano**, a senior International Studies major, and supported by the Roukema Center for International Education and Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies honor society. □



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring

JJ Emru and Josh Gargano at the event sponsored by the Roukema Center Sigma Iota Rho

Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus: Still Looking Forward

By Emily Halter, a senior Liberal Studies Major in Italian

Approximately 5,465 miles away from Ramapo College of New Jersey I stood atop Saint Hilarion Castle, in the mountains of Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus. As the Eastern Mediterranean wind tousled my hair, I blinked my eyes a hundred times to attempt to etch within my memory every tangible and intangible detail of that moment. For what seemed like an eternity, I stood still and breathed so deeply I thought my heart would break, and leak out all the worldly concerns I carried with me. Atop the ancient walls of Saint Hilarion, the very same walls which supported the Holy Roman Empire during the 11th century, I opened my eyes and whispered in amazement to the setting sun, “How did I get here and where am I going!?” As if responding to my inaudible inquiry, Dr. **Rosetta D’Angelo** called from the stairs below me, “Emily! Please don’t fall from up there! I’d really hate to tell your parents that you fell off a mountain during the Global Education Conference!” I smiled, and was reminded that I had traveled so far as a result of those who had mentored me and invested in my education and future. I turned to the sun, and laid my cheek on the warm castle stone, realizing, “I know what I want from life and I have the skills to achieve those desires. So it’s okay if I don’t know exactly where I’m going to be in six months.”

This past November, Professor Rosetta D’Angelo and I had the opportunity to travel to Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus in order to present

research at the Global Education Conference. The research we presented addressed the connection between the Italian-American community and the “institution”, for example the relationship between the Ramapo College of New Jersey Italian Studies Program and the community which actively takes part in the program’s events. As we worked to establish relationships with the other esteemed intellectuals, it seemed as though our research was being echoed through our shared and intercultural encounters. Much like myself, many of the intellectuals were discovering Cypriote culture for the first time. In this novel and temporary environment, it was both comforting and exciting to reach out and make friendships with Maajdt the architect from Jordan, Youssef the engineer from Egypt, mathematicians from Lebanon, sociologists from Oman, and doctoral candidates from Indonesia. Although we all came from dramatically different origins and disciplines we were uniform in our awe of Kyrenian culture and community.

As Kyrenia becomes further behind me and graduation day becomes nearer, I find myself asking many questions and working harder than ever before. When frustration mounts and I begin to fear unknown destinations, I remind myself of what it felt like to be on top of Saint Hilarion Castle, and I remember that it is okay to be unsure of the “next” destination, provided that we know what we want out of life and we remember the people and the communities that have helped us to achieve all that we have done so far. Oh, and of course that we are prepared to work towards those goals. I may not return to Kyrenia, Cyprus but the experiences I had there have made

an indelible mark upon my professional, cultural, and spiritual growth. Without the mentorship of Dr. **Rosetta D’Angelo** and the sponsorship of the Coccia Foundation, such growth would not have been possible.

“Spesso, siamo troppo preoccupati con la destinazione che dimentichiamo il viaggio.”

Too often, we are so preoccupied with the destination that we forget the journey.

- anonymous

Student News
continued from page 7

he also attended Deusto University in Bilbao.

Lauren MacDonald (Senior, AIS) and Prof. **Rebecca Root** (AIS) led an Alternative Spring Break trip to Quito, Ecuador. Students **Tom Boswick** (Junior, AIS), **Rick Caban** (Senior, TAS), **Raven Clarke-Lucas** (Junior, CA), **Maeve Kirwan** (Sophomore, SSS), **Kaitlin McGuinness** (Junior, AIS), **Amanda Morse** (Junior, AIS), **Yazlynn Vasquez** (Sophomore, AIS), and **Matthew Wilson** (Junior, CA) spent the week living and volunteering at the Centro del Muchacho Trabajador, an NGO that provides education and other services to impoverished families. Highlights included playing with the children at the Center, exploring the historic center of the city, participating in a “minga” (work gang), and hiking in a hail storm in the Andes! ☐

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring



“Mr. International Studies,” Clifford Peterson, with Ramapo’s Model UN Club

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring



Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society, and Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honor Society, inducted new members at a joint event and dinner on April 18.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Ard



2012 Literature Forum: Prof. Vassiliki Flenga, Dr. Michael Alcee, Steven Reis, Prof. Yvette Kisor, Prof. Peter Scheckner, Caitlin Vogel, Prof. Edward Shannon, Jacqueline Thomas, Prof. Todd Barnes, Kim Eskin, and Prof. Lisa Williams

Deans' Lecture Series
THE POLITICS OF 2012

- February 29 5:00-6:15
MEDIA and THE ELECTIONS
Prof. Danny Hayes, American University
Sasha Isenberg, State.com
W-Wing Auditorium (H-125)
- March 14 3:00-5:00
RACE, LAW, and POLITICS
Prof. Randall Kennedy, Harvard Law School
Phoenix Hall (JC-215)
- April 11 5:00-6:15
OCCUPY WALL STREET and CLASS DIVIDES
Prof. Todd Gitlin, Columbia University
W-Wing Auditorium (H-125)

Contact: Michael Orger at ext. 7163
or email: orger.m@ramapo.edu
for accommodations.

PUSHING>BOUNDARIES

SSAIS Dean’s Lecture Series



Sigma Tau Delta, the Literature Honor Society, inducted new members at a luncheon on April 11.

The AIS Literature Committee OF THE SALAMENO SCHOOL OF AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

is organizing its first mini-conference of students and faculty to present papers, projects, new ideas and to discuss questions about what we are writing.

Our objective is to share in a non-lecture manner, in an informal and friendly atmosphere, what literature students and faculty are doing or would like to do.

Students and faculty: Please join us and submit your proposals: creative and non-fiction writing, poetry, research projects of your own or with faculty. Ideas about projects you would like to discuss. [Click here to submit your proposal to the organizers.](#)

Submit your proposals by Tuesday, March 20 to Peter Scheckner: pscheckn@ramapo.edu or call 201.684.7556

Students: Speak with your professor about applying participation in this conference to CEC credits.

Wednesday, March 28 3-4:30 p.m.
York Room in the Birch Mansion

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

COMPOSITION

I LIKE MY CAT.

“The narrative seems combined.”

For disabilities accommodations, contact: pscheckn@ramapo.edu

PUSHING>BOUNDARIES

2012 Literature Forum