



SSHGS

PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies

Message from the Dean

by Susan Hangen



Dean Susan Hangen
Photo: Carolyn Herring

My first year as Dean of SSHGS was fast-paced and fruitful. We have made a lot of progress with initiatives that will bring new opportunities for students. Several new academic programs will be available for students in the upcoming year, including a minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies and a Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare and Human Services. Our new Philosophy major awaits final approval from the New Jersey Presidents' Council. The Topken World Languages Lab renovations are complete and the lab will feature a full assortment of language classes and language learning activities in the fall. Without the hard work of our faculty, these projects would not have been completed.

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Professor Carter Jones Meyer, center, with Dean Susan Hangen, left and Provost Beth Barnett
Photo: Patricia Ard

Carter Jones Meyer Receives the Thomases Award

by Patricia Ard

Professor of History Carter Jones Meyer received the 2018 Fred and Florence Thomases Award. The award is given each year to the professor who has demonstrated "significant and ongoing contributions to the development of the College. This can be expressed through teaching, scholarship, service to committees and outstanding fulfillment of professional responsibility." A former chair of both the History and American studies programs, Professor Meyer has taught at the College for 27 years and retired this spring.

In her acceptance talk, Professor Meyer discussed how her interest in "Native American Indian art, particularly the art of Southwestern Native peoples," influenced her scholarship, teaching, work with Ramapo students and collecting hobbies. Beginning with her doctoral dissertation at Brown University, the role of archaeologist Edgar Hewett in American Indian policy and his promotion of a Southwest regional identity became a focal point of interest. As a promoter of Santa Fe, New Mexico as a gateway into Southwest culture, Hewett "wanted to include Indians" in an early twentieth century era of "Anglocentrist tendencies." Despite this foresight, Meyer explained that Hewett's vision also "relegated the Indians

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Spring 2018

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Letter from the Dean

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We are looking forward to welcoming several new faculty members in the fall. We received a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) grant for 2018-19. Jun Xang, our FLTA visiting scholar from China, who holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Hong Kong Baptist University, will offer Chinese language courses and contribute to our college-wide Year of Asia and the Pacific activities. Kimberly Welch recently completed her Ph.D. at UCLA, and will teach African American Literature and other literature courses. Sarah Koenig, who will teach Native American History and other History courses, holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and taught at Kalamazoo College for the past three years.

Every spring, we celebrate the academic achievements of our students. Outstanding students were inducted into honor societies for History, Literature, Spanish, Political Science and International Studies. Many students presented research at the Annual Scholars' Day symposium. Top seniors in each of the majors received awards at the Academic Achievement ceremony:

Emily Konopka, American Studies; Sara Catherine Lichon, History; Jacqueline Basile, International Studies; Wesley May, Liberal Studies; Jessica Bowman, Literature; Cassandra Fenton, Political Science and John Klalo, Spanish. Sabrina Santamaria, a junior Political Science major, received the Student-Faculty Research award, and Francesca Evans, a junior majoring in American Studies and Political Science, received the SSHGS Book Prize. Nicole Ammirato and Rosalexa Liriano received the Lee Sennish award.

The value and versatility of Humanities and Global Studies majors is evident in the many paths taken by the students who graduated in May 2018. Graduates have been accepted at top graduate schools in Public Policy, Creative Writing, Law and Business. Other graduates are embarking on careers in diverse fields, in teaching, publishing, media and business. We are proud of our graduates and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments after Ramapo.

Faculty and Student Updates



Neriko Doerr,

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, was involved in the following scholarly activities: 1) An article entitled "Moon, Mud, and Cell Phones:

Geographies of Race and Construction of Difference through Normalization" came out in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*.

2) An article entitled "'Global Competence' of Minority Immigrant Students: Hierarchy of Experience and Ideology of Global Competence in Study Abroad" came out in a journal called *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*.

3) Presented (though *in absentia* due to snow) a paper called "Changing Linguistic Landscape as Class Project: Practice and Analyses" at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese in Washington, D.C. on March 22, 2018.

4) Created an activity for study abroad students to be done before, during, and after their study abroad trips for the Ramapo College Roukema Center. The activity is called "Border Crossing

Checklist" and was created with a graduate student intern from Montclair State University, Monica Cuello '16. It will be posted on the Roukema Center website shortly.

5) Organized and ran a workshop called "Global Competence Workshop" on April 4, which was designed together with students, Jon Hernandez, Eddie (Aditya) Anand, Jarett Carlington, and Malanie Rose Intal and run by them along with Adeline Tao and Erica Coslop.

Paul Elovitz' book, *The Making of Psychohistory: Origins, Controversies, and Pioneering Contributors*, was published in April by Routledge.

Included in this first comprehensive history of psychohistory is a memoir of Elovitz' over four-and-a-half decades as a psychohistorical author, editor, leader, networker, and scholar. During the IPA's (International Psychohistorical Association) meeting on May 30-June 1, professors from Harvard, CUNY Graduate School, and SUNY offered comment on his book.



Paul H. Elovitz

American Studies professor **John Gronbeck-Tedesco** published an article in the *Journal of Literature, Language, and Culture* titled "Culture and Crisis in the Age of Tolerance" in February.

Professor **Yvette Kisor** presented her paper "Development of Imagery from "The Lay of Aotrou and Itroun" in *The Lord of the Rings*" at the 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May. In addition, she will present her paper "Tolkien's *The Lay of Aotrou and Itroun* and *The Lay of Leithian*" at the International Medieval Congress at Leeds University as part of the session "'New' Tolkien: Expanding the Canon" in July 2018.



Yvette Kisor

Lisa Williams, Professor of Literature, read from her newest poetry chapbook, *In the Early Morning Calling*, at The Great Writing Conference, at Imperial College in London, June 23-24.

Faculty and Student Updates

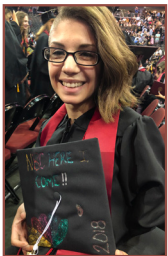
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Literature major **Jessica Bowman** will join other Ramapo Literature alumni at Wiley Publishing in Hoboken, New Jersey. Jessica, who interned at Wiley while in her senior year, will be working in the Research division of the firm on the Society Marketing Services team. In addition to her daily role in the office, she will have the opportunity to represent the company at conferences, such as the 2018 International Literacy Association Conference this summer. Jessica is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the Literature Honors society.



Jessica Bowman

Krystin Bruno, Literature major and former student president of Ramapo's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the Literature honors society, will be working at NBC as a Screener. Screeners get a first-look at television shows, noting important information during each segment.



Krystin Bruno

Misha Choudhry graduated with a degree in Literature in 2016. She will be attending the University of California at Riverside's English Ph.D. program in the fall. As a graduate student, she is interested in exploring the relationships between religion, race, and empire in the United States through studying representations of Islamic terrorism in popular culture and literature written about the Muslim American experience. Through her research, she hopes to contribute to a genealogical study of the "racing" of Islam in the United States.



Misha Choudhry



Alexander Cordaro

Alexander Cordaro graduated with degrees in Political Science and History and will attend the University of Chicago's Master's in Public Policy program, with a scholarship. This is one of the top four public policy programs in the country. He was a member of three honor societies and held numerous internships, including at Senator Cory Booker's office where he worked on policy development. He has presented

his research at Scholars' Day and at the Phi Alpha Theta Northeastern History Conference. He conducted student faculty research with Professor Jeremy Teigen. He started a chapter of Democracy Matters at Ramapo College.

Max Lasky, a Literature/Creative Writing major, will attend the MFA program at the University of Maryland with a full scholarship.

Marwan Nemri graduated with a degree in Political Science. He will attend the Southern Methodist University graduate school of Business. He has had several finance internships and is on the eboard of the Ramapo College Finance club. He also worked as a chemistry tutor. He is a true example of the interdisciplinary spirit of Ramapo.



Marwan Nemri

American Studies major, **Michael Romano**, presented his paper "The Myth of the Hero and the Frontier: The Mythologizing of American History" at the annual meeting of the Eastern American Studies Association, this year held at Central Penn College.



Professor Lisa Cassidy
Photo: Lisa Cassidy

Teaching Descartes by iPhone

by Lisa Cassidy

In October 2017, I was pleased to receive a Deans' Council Teaching and Learning grant to travel to San Diego to attend a conference on teaching philosophy. At the end of March, I dipped my toes in the Pacific (metaphorically speaking ... the water is very chilly). The conference I attended was called The Teaching Hub, and it was part of the larger American Philosophical Association's annual Pacific Division meeting. This meant that there were thousands of philosophers taking over the Westin Hotel, where the conference was held. The elevators were simply jammed with puzzled people all talking to themselves. I felt wonderfully at home. It's quite an atmosphere!

The sessions I participated in were really well attended and lively. My favorite sessions were on teaching logic, Descartes, and online teaching. Here are a few ideas I picked up, many of which might apply to subjects outside of philosophy:

- Make abstract concepts real (even in logic class) by having students make videos with their phones that demonstrate how 'truth tables,' 'modus ponens,' and the like work in

everyday life. Students upload the videos to Moodle or an anonymous class Youtube channel so that everyone can enjoy a virtual logic community together. In a three year-long study, this video assignment remarkably increased both test scores and student enjoyment of the class, according to Vadim Keyser of Fresno State.

- For Descartes, rather than teach his meditations, teach only his letters. Descartes (and his collaborator Princess Elizabeth) struggled to understand the mind-body relationship in a series of letters. By reading only the letters, students are put in the role of detectives, trying to figure out what the problems are that need to be solved and the pair's evolving solutions to them. In the final paper, students write a letter to Descartes or Elizabeth. The "epistle investigation" comes from Ryan Johnson of Elon University.
- When teaching online, spend the first few days doing simple community building and then have the more serious class work assigned over the weekend, which is when most students will actually get to it. Professors who structure online classes to "feel" more like friendly face-to-face class see better results, with less withdrawals and higher grades at the end of the term, according to Danney Ursery of St. Edwards University.

The APA Teaching Hub was a terrific experience, and I was grateful to be there. I hope to implement some of these ideas in my upcoming courses.

Honors Symposium

History major Sara Catherine Lichon, Literature major Jessica Bowman and Political Science major Cassandra Fenton presented their Honors theses at the Tenth Annual College Honors Symposium on April 4. The Honors Symposium allows Honors students to publicly present their year-long research project done in collaboration with three faculty mentors.

Ms. Lichon's talk was titled "Scottish Independence in the Age of Brexit," and provided deep historical background on the Scottish movement toward independence from England and its differing response to the recent Brexit vote. Ms. Lichon's interest in this topic originated from a 2017 study abroad trip to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jessica Bowman analyzed the censorship history of four books by the young adult author Judy Bloom. Ms. Bowman explained that American censorship of books for children began with the Puritans, but that the 1980s movement towards conservative politics initiated a sustained attack on the sexual issues dealt with forthrightly in these four 1970s books. Cassandra Fenton's research concerned methodologies for advocating for students with exceptional needs in the public school system. She showed that the elections in which voters have the most direct say because of school districts' small size suffer from the lowest election turnout rates. She cogently combined analysis with advocacy for citizen engagement.



Sara Catherine Lichon discusses contemporary Scotland.
Photo: Patricia Ard

Literature Luncheon Spotlights Jobs in Tech Field



Students, faculty and parents at annual Literature luncheon
Photo: Todd Barnes

An alumna whose job is in the tech start-up industry spoke to Literature majors at the annual luncheon about how their literature-based skills can translate into "a place for them in the tech industry."

Stefanie Mauro, a 2012 graduate who majored in Literature, did a Creative Writing concentration and was active in the Literature honors society, spoke on April 4 about her job as a business intelligence analyst at a New York-based online marketplace for digital designers to sell their art. She was previously the company's community manager. She explained that these jobs require many different skills such as "community building, customer service, sales and marketing, and digital media." Mauro stated that her humanities education was "invaluable" in her workplace, and that many employees in the tech industry are Humanities majors, including Literature and Theater.

The luncheon also saw the induction of the most recent students into the international Literature honors society Sigma Tau Delta. Faculty and family of the students also attended the annual event which mixes socializing with a career talk.

Phi Alpha Theta Inducts Eighteen New Members into History Honor Society

On April 28, *Phi Alpha Theta* – the international honor society for History majors, of which Ramapo has a chapter – inducted 18 students in a morning ceremony in the York Room attended by friends and family.

The students inducted into the honor society included Nicole Lynn Ammirato, Christopher A. Brizek, Julia Christine Connelly, Reilly Delos Cox, Thomas DiGregorio, William J. Frederick, Jr., Zachary Henderson, Steven Daniel Henry, Evan M. Kolinsky, Ivan Kvesic, Domenica LaRocco, Leah Lindstrom, Emma Lucier-Keller, Patricia Marino, Paige Merle, Katherine Neary, Lauren Romano, and Alanna M. Simpson.

The highlight of the induction ceremony was a very timely keynote address by Dr. Robyn C. Spencer, Associate Professor of History at Lehman College, City University of New York. Dr. Spencer spoke about "Anita Hill and the Origins of the #MeToo Movement," a topic that led to a very productive and interactive discussion among those gathered during the question-and-answer portion.



Lehman College's Dr. Robin Spencer gathered with Ramapo faculty advisors, Tae Yang Kwak and Stacie Taranto, and several new Phi Alpha Theta inductees at the honor society's induction ceremony on April 28.
Photo: Stacie Taranto

History Club Continues Its Active Presence on Campus

This spring, the History Club—led by student officers Dara McGuinness, Sarah Gallapo, Sadie Sciarrello, and Kelsey Cloughley, and advised by Professor Stacie Taranto—had another full semester of events. In addition to hosting several study breaks, the History Club sponsored two speakers: Dr. Lana Povitz, who gave a timely talk about the history of the current #MeToo movement on March 28, and Alicia Carter Johnson, the author of a new archeology textbook who excavated in Greece for over a decade gave a talk titled, "Digging Deep – Constructing Truth with Archaeology," on April 4.



(L-R): Vicent Sanz Rozalén, Oriol Regué Sendros, Albert García-Balañà, Josep María Fadrera, Lisa Surwillo and Adrian Shubert Photo: Carolyn Herring

Ramapo College Hosts Prestigious Nineteenth Century Hispanistas Network Conference, May 2-3

by Natalia Santamaría Laorden

Previously held in universities such as York University (Toronto), University of Kent (Paris campus) and Ludwig Maximilian University (Munich), the scholars' network chose Ramapo College of New Jersey for their first gathering in the United States. The exquisite presentations by historians and literary critics from Stanford, John Hopkins, Birmingham or Pompeu Fabra were followed by insightful debates ranging from the Chinese migration to Cuba to the portrait of gender challenging characters by Galdós. As a participant in the conference, I was completely immersed in these conversations when a call from "Alert Ramapo" brought me back to the present moment: The powerful nor'easter and the blizzard conditions had forced the College to close down.

As the conference organizer, I found myself

trotting from the Roukema Center, to the offices of events and conferences as well as catering. It had taken over a year to put this conference together, it was going delightfully and I had to try my best so that it could continue. Thanks to the support of Public Safety, we were allowed to finish off all the sessions for that day and the next.

Although Ramapo faculty, students and staff could not join the conversations on the Friday afternoon panels, some had attended the morning panels and joined for the Saturday sessions, too. As we were discussing some of the students' favorite conference presentations in class the following week, one student referred to the dynamics among scholars during the coffee breaks. It was marvelous to hear the heated discussions on the need to incorporate the emigration to colonies as part of Spanish

historiography. But it was the constant switch between languages that stuck with this student: the fact that all these scholars would just alternate languages as they were rooting for historiographic redefinition.

As a member of the International Education Committee at Ramapo, I am indebted to Ben Levy for his enthusiasm and support in helping me make this conference happen. Inspired by the Conference on Liberia, as we celebrated the Year of Africa last year, holding the Nineteenth Century Hispanistas Network Conference at Ramapo in 2018 was a great opportunity to join in the Year of Europe events, as well as to defy the limits of histories and cartographies. May this celebration of "in-betweenness," transatlantic approaches and constant questioning of given narratives and languages guide our curriculum and events.



Spanish professor Paula Straille-Costa converses with students. Photo: Carolyn Herring

Celebrating Spanish Week

The Spanish program, with the support of the Roukema Center, the Spanish club and Sigma Delta Pi National Hispanic honor society, hosted an exciting event-filled Spanish Language Week, February 26-March 3. There were open classes at all levels every day during the week including one that met in the Berrie Center Gallery to discuss in Spanish the exhibit of Latin American paintings.

On one evening, Ramapo graduates and professors had a lively and inspiring conversation about how they use Spanish in their work and lives in the "Spanish in the Careers" Panel. Approximately 40 students and members of the community attended. Latin food was served. Panelists included Ramapo

graduate Spanish majors Christine McCarthy '08, attorney at Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito, and Frost in Denville, N.J. and Jasmín Sánchez, '07, Spanish teacher, Hackensack Public School. Ramapo faculty and administrators were Erick Castellanos, Associate Professor of International Studies; Ben Levy, Director of International Education; Edna Negrón, Professor of Journalism; Cristina Pérez, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Professor of International Business; and Eric Wiener, Associate Professor of Environmental Science.

Peter Campbell organized the panel "A Close Look at Puerto Rico's Tough Recovery: Voices from the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria" where Schomburg Scholar, Ms. Sylvia Bofill, Ramapo Professors Edna Negrón, Lysandra Perez-Strumolo and Gladys Torres-Baumgarten discussed the current situation on the island from various points of view. Two films were shown, "Strawberry and Chocolate" and "Mambo Kings," which depict Cuban and Cuban American realities. The Spanish club hosted Spanish conversation hour and the Spanish language game called "De dónde eres?" The capstone of the week was the College hosting the two-day prestigious international conference, the Eighth Annual Meeting of the 19th Century Hispanistas Network organized by Natalia Santamaría Laorden.

Topken Language Lab Opens

The long process of turning a former HGS computer classroom into a state-of-the-art language lab was officially completed in April. Calling language study “indispensable to what we do as a liberal arts college,” Ramapo President Peter Mercer formally initiated the lab along with HGS Dean Susan Hangen and the lab’s sponsors Marina (’87) and William Topken. The Topken World Language Lab, its official title, will provide students with language software and an optimally designed space for language study.

Marina Topken’s study of language and American studies at Ramapo inspired she and her husband to work for decades with The Friends of Ramapo, helping to endow countless student scholarships. The designated space will allow HGS to add to its language offerings.



Students using Topken language lab. Photo: Carolyn Herring

Carter Jones Meyer Wins Thomases Award

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and Hispanics to the past so that Anglo accomplishments could bask more fully in the light of the present.”

Professor Meyer’s interest in Southwest culture led her to start attending the annual Santa Fe Indian Market, the “largest juried Indian art show in the world,” and to become a collector herself. Connections made with Native artists led to them acting as research sources for students in Professor Meyer’s classes. During her talk, she included photos of her office and home spaces overflowing with colorful Indian art, illustrating the intersection of work and art that Meyer forged into a rich academic career as a scholar, administrator and teacher.

I interviewed my colleague about her time at Ramapo, influences on her teaching, and her retirement to Maine.

1. Do you have a teaching mentor who influenced your career?

There are two, actually. First is my adviser and thesis director at Skidmore, Bruce Ronda. He turned me on to American cultural history, and I loved the intellectual passion he brought to the classroom. He also is the one I credit for my academic career, as it was he who first suggested that I pursue a Ph.D. in American Studies. The second is my dissertation adviser and mentor at Brown, William G. McLoughlin. He was a leading scholar of American religious history, and also wrote a number of top notch studies of the Cherokee during the era of Indian Removal. He was a legend on the Brown campus, both for the rigor of his courses, and for his exacting standards on research papers and doctoral dissertations. I served two years as his teaching assistant in U.S. Social and Intellectual History. It was infamous among undergrads for the heavy amount of reading it required and the difficulty of the interpretive analysis papers he assigned. There’s no question that I internalized some of his teaching methods in that course and his demands for excellence on written assignments. And the lengthy, detailed comments I tend to write on student papers now are a direct reflection of the lengthy, detailed comments I used to get from him.

2. What are some of the changes at the College over your career that particularly resonate with you?

Whew boy, that’s a tough one because there’s so much I *could* write about (!). But on the positive side, one thing that stands out to me is the level of commitment to experiential learning. It has gotten more formalized since my first days at the College, and it’s very gratifying to see our students getting so many great internships, or developing new skills right on campus through such fabulous opportunities as the Jane Addams Papers Project.

The Pathways Program has been a wonderful addition, and I think it will continue to prepare our students well for eventual careers. I love seeing how many of our students nowadays are becoming involved in regional and national academic conferences, or publishing papers in academic journals. It’s also impressive to see more scholarly outlets for students here on campus. The growing popularity of Scholars’ Day is a case in point. Ramapo needs to cultivate a more intellectual environment, and these are excellent ways by which to do so.

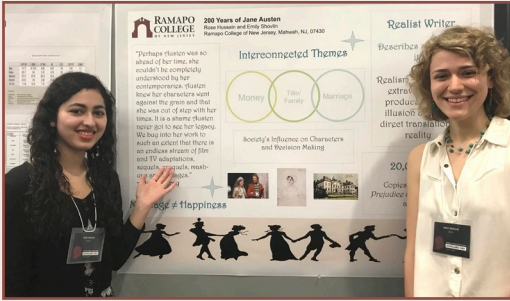
3. You’ve had your home base in the school of Humanities and Global Studies. How would you characterize the school?

I see HGS as the heart and soul of Ramapo; without it, Ramapo’s claim as a public liberal arts College is compromised. Through the academic programs offered, the courses taught and the special events hosted (Readings at Ramapo is one very good example, but there are so many more), HGS keeps the humanities vibrant, alive, and relevant. I also think our faculty are outstanding teachers and scholars and extraordinarily dedicated to our students. They impress me to no end, and are the single greatest reason why I would recommend Ramapo to potential students.

4. You’re retiring to Maine, where I know you’ve vacationed for decades. What about the state draws you? Does it have anything to do with lobsters or blueberries?

Ha ha, lobsters and blueberries for sure! My husband and I are retiring to Camden, Maine, that is true, but we also will maintain our home in the little village of Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, just outside Taos. I bring this up because although these two places are seemingly so different, they have some things in common, and these are what attract us, ultimately. They are both incomparably beautiful. Camden, nestled as it is under Mt. Battie (famous for having inspired Edna St. Vincent Millay’s poem “Renaissance”), looks out over the vast waters and islands of Penobscot Bay. Arroyo Seco, nestled as it is under the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, looks west across the vast stretch of mesas of the Rio Grande Valley. The views at each place are spectacular and seem to stretch to infinity. They also seem off the grid, a little removed from the hubbub of urban centers, and they tend to attract individualists as a result, among them artists and writers. The connections between Maine and New Mexico have been known to writers and artists since at least the early twentieth century. I like to think we’re following in that tradition, and seeking inspiration in much the same way they have. And yes, among other things, that means lobster and blueberries in Maine, and green chile in New Mexico. It doesn’t get much better than that.

Nine HGS Scholars Present Research



Rose Hussain and Emily Shovlin showcase Jane Austen.
Photo: Patricia Ard

Western states." One student scholar was chosen from each school to orally present their work and Grissman gave the presentation for HGS.

Other HGS student presenters included Zachary Henderson, who analyzed the complex legacy of Edward S. Curtis, whose photographs of American Indians are artistically significant but whose techniques were at times unethical; Leah Lindstrom, who argued that atrocities committed by the Japanese during WWII were not punished as severely as those committed by the Germans; and Jennifer Wankmuller, who examined the use by Chile's Augusto Pinochet of writer Gabriela Mistral for propaganda purposes. Finally, Rose Hussain and Emily Shovlin presented research done together in a Literature class on Jane Austen's legacy at 200 years from her death in 1817.

On April 11, nine students from HGS presented their scholarly research at the annual Scholars' Day celebration. The event "showcases some of the finest faculty-mentored student creativity and scholarly activities" undertaken in a given academic year. Students prepare a large poster representing their research in text and images, and discuss their work with attendees.

Rebecca McNeil discussed research done with History professor Stacie Taranto on the often hidden role of women in the Revolutionary War. Three students mentored by Professor Erick Castellanos presented: Nicky Vasquez, on how the trauma experienced by Holocaust survivors impacts their offspring; Anastasia Caulfield, on the struggles of Dalit women in India; and James Grissman analyzed the Islamic State's digital media practices. Grissman argued that his research "demonstrates how the Islamic State has been transformed into spectacle and political theater in

HGS Networking Alumni Roundtable

On March 1, HGS held a roundtable of alumni talking with junior and senior students about professional paths. The event was co-sponsored by the Ramapo Alumni Association and the Career Center. Thirteen alumni from the school met with students in a format based on speed dating, to share their career experiences and to allow students to try out interview skills. Students dressed professionally, brought along copies of their resumes and were encouraged to network. At the end of the evening, students were commended by the alumni for their thoughtful questions.

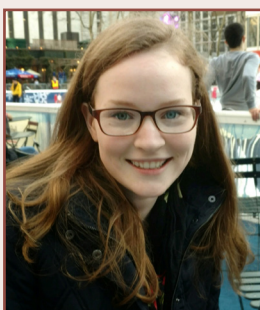
Dian Schons, the HGS dedicated Pathways program coordinator, along with Joanne Favata and Debra Stark, organized the event she termed a "career conversation," and explained it was one of many ways the school allowed students to realize how their HGS degree "fit in with the real work world." The Pathways Program assists students with transitioning from college to a career. Alumni had careers in a multitude of fields including finance, publishing, market research, teaching, library science and law. As a result of the networking contacts created at this event, one HGS student has already accepted an internship opportunity at Wiley and Sons upon graduation.

The event was well received by students and alumni, and some alumni have already agreed to come again next year. A date in early March 2019 has been reserved on the calendar.



David McGinley, Class of 2012 History major, conversing with HGS students.

Dara McGuinness Becomes Fifth Ramapo History Major to Receive Prestigious Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award



Award Winner Dara McGuinness

by Carter Jones Meyer

History major Dara McGuinness '18 is the recipient of a 2018 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.

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.

Dara is the fifth Ramapo College History major over the past twelve years to receive this prestigious, highly competitive award. Previous recipients are Gregory Mulroy '16, Devin McGinley '11, Daniel London '07 and Megan Knowlton '06.

Shakespeare Takes Over Campus

On April 23, which is both the birth and death day of the British playwright William Shakespeare, the Center for British Studies (CBS) put on a number of Shakespeare related events on campus. 2018 is the fifth year of "Shakespeare at Ramapo" or "Shakespeare Day," an annual celebration of the author, sponsored by the CBS. The four different events were free and open to all.

The day's festivities began with a "Performing Shakespeare" workshop in the Rehearsal Hall led by CBS board member Professor Terra Vandergaw. Following the workshop, audience members observed a working rehearsal with students from "Voice and Movement" sharing their Shakespeare sonnet performance projects. Performances continued in the afternoon, with students from Professor Vandergaw's "Advanced Acting" and Ken Nicholas' "Stage Combat" classes performing scenes from *The Winter's Tale* and the sword fight between Tybalt and Romeo from *Romeo and Juliet* to the delight of their nearby audience. Particularly impressive was the enactment of the famous stage direction from *The Winter's Tale*, "Exit, pursued by a bear." The audience was then led outdoors to the blossoming magnolia garden on the side of the mansion to view a further scene from *The Winter's Tale* as well as one from *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Between these two performances, Shakespeare scholar Professor Todd Barnes gave a talk on the relationship between garden references in the plays and their representation in actual gardens in Europe and America. Titled "Cultivating Shakespeare's Gardens," Barnes first noted the connection between the early modern garden space and theatrical stages. He then discussed how late nineteenth century readers on both sides of the Atlantic witnessed a flourishing of books illustrating and cataloguing Shakespeare's references to flowers. These paper gardens became real gardens in the early twentieth century and were planted throughout the U.S., as is the case with the Shakespeare Garden in N.Y.C.'s Central Park. Three of Professor Vandergaw's Acting students performed soliloquies of Juliet, Iago, and Oberon, underscoring the floral and garden references from Professor Barnes' talk.

In the evening, a casual open mic event took place in the Sharp Theater during which students performed and read various bits of text and the Rockland Shakespeare Company entertained the audience with stories of their own experiences performing Shakespeare, followed by rollicking excerpts from *The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged*, all under the direction of Professor Vandergaw.

For the fall, the CBS is pairing with Professor Eric Daffron to put on a marathon reading of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein*. It will, appropriately for a horror story, take place on Halloween.



Shakespeare in the garden



Vanilla and chocolate Shakespeare cupcakes
Photo: Patricia Ard

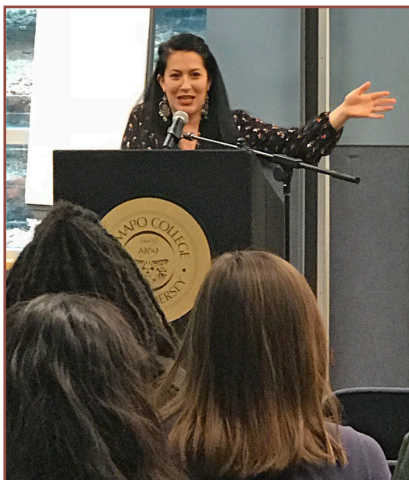


Center for British Studies board members Terra Vandergaw, Todd Barnes, and Yvette Kisor participate in Shakespeare Day.

Photo: Patricia Ard

Spring 2018 Brings Poets and Short Story Writers to Ramapo

by Hugh Sheehy



Poet Ada Limón

Photo: Hugh Sheehy

Readings at Ramapo was honored to host a bevy of highly regarded authors this past semester. The series kicked off with a major event in late January, when National Book Award finalist Ada Limón came to campus to give a reading of her poetry. In February, the College hosted Kirstin Valdez Quade, a "5 Under 35" honoree who authored the story collection NIGHT AT THE FIESTAS. Her fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker* and elsewhere. March and April brought the poet John Hoppenthaler and the short story writer Susan Steinberg, who gave outstanding readings and then mingled with our enthusiastic creative writing students. These events featuring visiting authors were followed by student events, one featuring undergraduates who attended last summer's New York State Writer's Institute at Skidmore College, and another showcasing the work of James Hoch's Creative Writing Capstone class and some of the authors appearing in the 2018-2019 edition of *Trillium*. It was a busy, productive, and highly memorable semester.



Creative writing students Danny Landers, Eric Christiansen, Max Lasky, Paul Brennan

Photo: Hugh Sheehy