



SSHGS

PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter of the Salameo School of Humanities and Global Studies

Message from the Dean

by Susan Hangen



Dean Susan Hangen

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

This fall, at the start of my second year as Dean, it was rewarding to see that many of the projects we developed last year have come to fruition. We have several new academic programs including a Philosophy major, a minor in Museum and Exhibition Studies and a Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare and Human Services.

We were delighted to receive the news that we have received a \$157,794 grant from the United States Department of Education to develop new courses for the certificate, and to hold a symposium on the importance of Spanish for healthcare and human services practitioners.

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Jeremy Teigen Discusses Veterans in American Politics

by Patricia Ard

Professor of Political Science Jeremy Teigen's area of expertise is political candidates with military service backgrounds. Since we recently finished the 2018 midterm elections, it seemed the perfect time to interview him about his new book *Why Veterans Run: Military Service in American Presidential Elections*, published by Temple University Press. Although as its subtitle suggests, his focus is on the presidency, he includes many veterans in Congress in his analysis. Professor Teigen is also a veteran.



Jeremy Teigen

1. Your book is titled *Why Veterans Run*, but why do voters elect them? Just because you served does not necessarily mean you have the abilities needed to legislate successfully. Elections pivot on perceptions of competence rather than actual measures of fitness. Voters use shortcuts to make conclusions about candidates and "military service" is a cue that efficiently conjures several positive and easy-to-digest concepts, such as patriotism, selflessness, and teamwork. Candidates with military service are also not shy about sharing that fact with voters because the U.S. military is the most trusted institution in and out of government.
2. You write that "parties nominate veterans more frequently than the veterans' share in the electorate." Has this been an important factor in the relatively small numbers of women in Congress? The growing number of women in Congress, who went from two to 20 percent in the past fifty years, means that the share of military veterans in Congress declined because most vets are men. That's only a small part of the declining trendline for veterans in Congress. Almost 75 percent of members had military service experience in the early 1970s when the World War II generation dominated the corridors of power. Later

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Fall 2018

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Letter from the Dean

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The newly renovated Topken World Language Lab is fully operating and students throughout the College can meet with language tutors in the lab for assistance with independent language study. We are also offering Chinese for the first time in several years, thanks to Professor Jun Zhang, our Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant from China. Two new faculty members also joined our faculty: Professor Kimberly Welch, teaching courses in African American literature, and Professor Sarah Koenig, teaching courses in Native American history and religion.

The Jane Addams Papers Project continues to be a vibrant part of the humanities at Ramapo College. Cathy Hajo, the Director of the Project, received three new grants from the NEH, National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. The Project provides opportunities for dozens of Ramapo College students to gain experience in describing, indexing and transcribing

these archives, contributing to the overall goal of creating a digital edition of Jane Addams' Papers.

Spring events will include our second annual SSHGS Alumni Student Networking Roundtable on March 7. About ten alumni who work in diverse fields, such as law, business and education, will meet dozens of current students and field their questions about the transition from college to the workplace. The career paths of these alumni showcase the versatility of humanities majors, as the skills students learn can be applied to many different types of jobs.

We are looking forward to other spring traditions such as Scholars' Day on April 24, when many of our students will present their research. On the following day, April 25, the HGS British Studies Center will hold its annual Shakespeare Day, hosting a diverse array of Shakespeare related events. I hope to see you at one or all of these scholarly festivities.

Faculty Updates



Neriko Doerr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, participated in the following scholarly activities:

1) She was a visiting scholar at Doshisha University in Japan (June-July) and delivered two guest lectures titled "Politics of Representations in Museum Displays" and "Standardization and Its Discontents: Ideologies of Standardization and Paradoxical Highlighting of Linguistic Diversity in Japan."

2) She presented a paper titled "Responses to Unintelligible Languages in Linguistic Landscapes: Pedagogy toward Inclusive Communities" at the annual meeting of Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe in Venice, Italy (July).

3) She started a campus-wide project on Fair Trade to work with various professors, staff, and students to increase the awareness and presence of Fair Trade goods on campus.

4) She presented a poster titled "Neighborhood Global Spaces: A Linguistic Landscape Project" at the Association of American Colleges

& Universities meeting, "Global Engagement and Spaces of Practice: Exploring Global Challenges across Disciplinary Boundaries" in Seattle (October).

5) She organized a session titled "Translation and 'Incompetence': Interstices of 'Languages' and Politics of Resistance" for the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Jose, and also presented a paper in the session titled, "Refusals to Translate: Politics of Resistance in Aotearoa/New Zealand." (November).

6) A book chapter, "Rethinking the Immersion Concept: Challenging the 'Living Like a Native' Myth," in a book, *Teach and Learn in Intercultural Context*, (edited by Karina Felitti and Andrea Rizzotti) is coming out from Miño y Dávila in Argentina (translated into Spanish). It is co-authored with a former Ramapo student, Richard Suarez.

7) Her book, *Transforming Study Abroad: A Handbook*, was published by Berghahn Books in December.

The New Jersey Digital Humanities Consortium (<https://blogs.shu.edu/njdhc/>) held its general meeting at Ramapo College on November 30. Faculty and graduate students from N.J. colleges and universities interested in promoting digital humanities attended the

meeting, including members from Drew University, Montclair State University, Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, Rutgers University, and Seton Hall University. Cathy Hajo and Christina Connor gave presentations on The Jane Addams Papers Project and the American History Textbook project, the primary Digital Humanities projects at Ramapo College.



Professor Iraidia Lopez
Photo Credit: Iraidia Lopez

Spanish professor **Iraidia Lopez** was invited to present at "The Status of Cuban Studies in the United States" Workshop and the Latin American Studies Association XXXVI International Congress, both in Barcelona in May 2018, as well as the 8th Latin American and Caribbean Social Sciences Conference (CLACSO) in Buenos Aires in November 2018. The paper presented at the first of these venues, "La intersticial literatura cubanoamericana: un acápite inédito de los estudios cubanos" ("The Interstitial Nature of Cuban-American Literature: An Unpublished Chapter in Cuban Studies") came out in one of Cuba's foremost journals, *Temas: Cultura, ideología, sociedad* 91-92 (2017): 58-66.



NSCS chapter president Sundus Qureshi Presents award to Stephan Lally

Photo Credit: Mitchell Manansala



Ramapo NSCS Board at Induction Luncheon

Photo Credit: Patricia Ard

Political Science Major Inducted into Honors Society

Stephan Lally, a junior political science major in SSHGS, was appointed the “Distinguished Honorary Member” of Ramapo College’s chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). The Honors Society encourages its high achieving members to take leadership and service positions during college, and to pair with national philanthropies to raise money and awareness on issues of importance to college students. Ramapo College’s chapter is paired with the Active Minds organization, whose purpose is to foster a change in the way we talk about mental health.

Ramapo’s chapter of NSCS, advised by Literature Professor Patricia Ard, held its induction ceremony for new members on September 29, 2018. At this ceremony, NSCS chapter president Sundus Qureshi told the audience of new members and their families that Stephan Lally encompassed “the values of NSCS: to serve, to lead, and to pursue academic achievement.” Lally is president of the Ramapo Student Government Association and is serving a one-year term on the Board of Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. After inducting the new nine member board, Professor Ard also inducted the new NSCS Ramapo student members, who are majors in different disciplines from across the College.

Padovano Commons Opens

The Padovano College Commons, was officially opened on September 26 by Anthony and Theresa Padovano, their family, and Ramapo community members. The Commons was assisted greatly by a pledge in 2013 by Dr. and Mrs. Padovano. Dr. Padovano is a retired SSHGS Literature faculty member. The Commons is a repurposed space from a printing facility in a beautiful, historic stone building. While the Commons is for faculty, students are given full-time access to the shared space during finals period and in the evenings. Comfortable, soft furnishings, access to food services, and lots of window light are some of the amenities offered in the Commons.



Family and Ramapo community members join Anthony and Theresa Padovano to open the Commons

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring



Woody Guthrie and American Comics

Ed Shannon was featured on the August 24, 2018 installment of *The Academic Minute*, a public radio series produced by WAMC radio (Albany, N.Y.) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities. It is also available online at <https://academicminute.org/2018/08/edward-shannon-ramapo-college-woody-guthrie-charles-schulz-and-a-comic-book/> Shannon's piece, "Good Grief, Comrade Brown! Woody Guthrie, Charles Schulz and The 'Little Cartoon Book that was a Big Lie'" summarizes an essay he is preparing for a British comics studies journal and is the product of archival research done in the Woody Guthrie archives. Currently, the archives are housed in the

Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This research was begun some years ago when the archives were located in New York City.

In January 1948, Guthrie, author of "This Land is Your Land," composed a still-unpublished essay on one of the most notorious American comics of the era, *Is This Tomorrow: America Under Communism*, a post-apocalyptic, propagandistic warning on the evils the United States would suffer under communist rule. *Is This Tomorrow* was produced by Minnesota's Catechetical Guild Educational Society, which hired local cartoonists to produce the book. One of those cartoonists, young Charles Schulz, would in three years' time create *Peanuts* and become as significant a cultural figure as Guthrie himself.

"Good Grief, Comrade Brown!" traces the path of *Is This Tomorrow* from Schulz in Minnesota to the Guthrie household in Coney Island and considers his response to the book as well as Guthrie's surprising relationship with American comics, from Barney Google to Superman to Charlie Brown.



Jeremy Teigen Discusses Veterans in American Politics

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conflicts required fewer soldiers, and conscription ended in 1973. Now, roughly 20 percent of legislators are vets—but that's still high when compared to the fact that only 10 percent of adults are veterans. The

2018 midterms saw a stunning 14 women with military service run for Congress. Some, like NJ-11's Mickie Sherrill, ran in purple districts and won along with three others.

3. Why, as you write, is the United States more likely to initiate a conflict when there are fewer veterans in office?

They better understand the costs. That's an important point and one reason why the question my book answers is important: our nation's foreign policy is less belligerent when there are more veterans in power. This conclusion comes from Peter Feaver and Chris Gelpi, scholars who wrote a few articles and a book on the matter. They detail that the debates over whether and how to invade Iraq in 2003 divided those in uniform who were more hesitant to initiate the conflict from the more hawkish advocates whom were civilians who had never served. Hence, it matters if our electoral system somehow advantages those with military service: it may shape our national security and defense policy.

4. Can you explain why you see fewer veterans running for president now and in the foreseeable future?

While I still remain convinced that the political demand for military veterans will continue even with a diminished supply and veterans in politics will be numerically

overrepresented compared to their share of the electorate, there are simply fewer veterans compared to the past. Roughly three-quarters of men of the World War II generation joined the ranks: small wonder that among that cohort of presidential candidates, only Hubert Humphrey lacked military service. Since Vietnam, we've relied on a small, extremely professionalized and trained fighting force to contend with asymmetric conflicts. This means we have simply been making fewer veterans—and let's keep in mind that's a blessing that we do not require massive land armies to fight large wars anymore.

5. Since two-thirds of American presidential candidates have been veterans, you read a lot of presidential biographies for your book. Can you talk about one or two presidents who you found particularly interesting?

While I did rely on primary sources for some cases, most of the research relied on biographies and secondary sources, so yes, I've read a ton. While there are several that vie for second place for my favorite presidential candidate to read about, picking first is easy: Theodore Roosevelt. Some of his biographers bordered on hagiography, and I think I understand the reasons behind it: he's fascinating. Few of the other 45 presidential candidates with military service worked so hard or spoiled to be involved in battle more than TR. Everyone knows about his ambitious efforts to get into the fight during the Spanish-American War with the Rough Riders, but he also volunteered to create a volunteer unit to fight in World War I—after his presidency.

Certificate in Spanish for Health Care Professionals is Awarded a Department of Education grant

Natalia Santamaria Laorden, Associate Professor of Spanish, received an Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support the Certificate in Spanish for Health Care and Human Services Professionals. The award supports the development of four new courses for the certificate, as well as two annual symposiums on Diversity for Health Care Professionals. The four courses will be a result of a collaboration with different entities on campus to guarantee their interdisciplinary and international nature. Associate Professor Santamaria will work with the nursing faculty on the creation of a 100-level foundations course to entice students to pursue the certificate and three more Spanish advanced 300-level courses: one focused on the effects of trauma, to be designed with the help of psychology and social work faculty, an immersion health care and human services course in Latin America, in collaboration with the Roukema Center for International Education, and one internship course that will require the creation of a portfolio to reflect on students' communication experiences with their patients.

The approval of the certificate last spring by the Board of Trustees as well as the award were both the result of relentless work throughout the academic year and two full summers. The support of the Spanish convening group was key in this endeavor, as well as the intense work on the award application from Claudia Esker and Angela Cristini of the Ramapo Foundation, Director of



Spanish Professor Natalia Santamaria Laorden confers with nursing and psychology students

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

International Education Ben Levy, and SSHGS Dean Susan Hangen.

Although the certificate has only been available for four months, the number of students registered has outgrown the number of Spanish minors, thanks to the enthusiasm of peers in other schools like John McTighe, Stephanie Sarabia and Maya Poran. Associate Professor Santamaria is holding information sessions on campus and advising all students across campus on the right courses to take, as students' command of the language varies remarkably.

New Minor Program in Museum and Exhibition Studies



Museum and Exhibition Studies. Launched in SSHGS in the fall of 2018, this new program is the result of several years of collaboration between faculty in SSHGS and the School of Contemporary Arts (CA). Developed in response to student interest, the program is designed as well to help further the College's Strategic Plan, which seeks to increase student participation in experiential learning. The program offers a flexible course of study and is intended to appeal to students from across the

Students interested in museums, the history of art, or public history more generally, or who want to explore connections between their major fields of study and museum work, can now pursue a minor in

College. Co-Convening the minor are Meredith Davis, Associate Professor of Art History in CA, and Stephen Rice, Professor of American Studies in SSHGS.

The catalog description of the program states that "the Museum and Exhibition Studies Minor serves students interested in learning about the role that museums and other exhibition spaces serve in society. It is a first step for those interested in careers in museums, whether in education, research, design, development, or communications." The minor consists of five courses, including a culminating co-op, internship, or independent study project. Two of the five courses are required. The first, "Museums in America: History, Art and Society," is a new course cross-listed between Art History and American Studies that focuses on the rise of museums in the United States and the relation between public exhibition and nation building. The second required course is "Public History," offered through the History program and taught by Alexander Urbiel, Professor of History in the School of Social Science and Human Services (SSHS) and a member of the Museum and Exhibition Studies convening group.

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Jun Zhang

Photo Credit: Jun Zhang

Fulbright Chinese Teaching Assistant

By Patricia Ard

Jun Zhang, an SSHGS Fulbright Teaching Assistant who has adopted the name Felix, is teaching Chinese language courses during the 2018/2019 academic year. Felix is living in the College Park Apartments on campus and says residing at the college has allowed him to more easily meet faculty and students. He is from the city of Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province in the eastern-central region of China; Shanghai is about a three-hour train ride away. He likes the mix of “urban and rural features” in Hefei.

When asked to describe some differences between American and Chinese culture, he notes that Americans “tend to be more straightforward,” while Chinese are usually “more reserved.” A first-time visitor to the United States, Felix is also taking courses at the College to deepen his English language skills and to enrich his understanding of American culture.



Poet Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Readings at Ramapo, Fall 2018

By Hugh Sheehy

Another semester “put to bed” means another group of visiting prose writers and poets has come and gone. This semester’s visitors included memoirist, fiction writer, and playwright Saïd Sayrafiezadeh, a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, and poet Gabrielle Calvocoressi, a winner of multiple major prizes and awards who runs the sports desk for the Best American Poetry Blog. The Fall Reading Series also included a performance by Ramapo College’s own L.B. Williams, who had a new chapbook come out in 2018, and readings by students from James Hoch’s Poetry Workshop and Hugh Sheehy’s Creative Writing Capstone. Look out for events involving more exciting guests in spring 2019.



Saïd Sayrafiezadeh responds to questions after the talk

Photo Credit: Patricia Ard

New Minor Program in Museum and Exhibition Studies

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Students are then free to select from a number of elective courses, at least one from a list of eleven “Foundations Courses” that includes Introduction to American Studies, an anthropology course called World Cultures, an art history course on American Photography and Visual Culture, an education course titled Social Context of Education, and the Historiography course offered by history. A second elective is also required, taken either from the Foundations list or from an even longer list of options that extends to courses in communications (Design Theory and Criticism, for example) and a sociology course called Sociology of Culture.

Associate Professor Davis is teaching the new “Museums in America” course for the first time in the spring 2019 semester. “In the United States,” she points out, “museums are no longer storehouses for relics; the nickname ‘America’s attic’ for the Smithsonian no longer applies.” Her class is designed to expose students both to the past understanding of museums in America, and to their increasingly vital role. “Today, museums are tastemakers, interrupters, and they often challenge accepted ideas. Their role in contemporary civil and cultural life is only growing. I think that this is

why students are increasingly drawn to museums, both as audience members but also, more and more, with ambition to be a part of what they are doing. We are excited to offer Ramapo students a forum to develop these interests.” In addition to Professors Davis, Rice, and Urbiel, the convening group includes Neriko Doerr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies; Cathy Moran Hajo, Director of the Jane Addams Papers Project; and Michael Riff, Director of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Students will finish the minor by gaining “hands-on” experience through an internship or co-op in a museum or public history setting, or by engaging in a guided independent study on a practice-related topic of particular interest to them. Internship and co-op possibilities include area museum and historic sites as well as on-going initiatives on campus, including the Jane Addams Papers Project and the American History Textbook Project in the Potter Library.

Anyone interested in learning more about this program should feel free to contact either Meredith Davis at mdavis1@ramapo.edu, or Stephen Rice at srice@ramapo.edu

Gross Center Programs Expose Large Audiences to Varied Topics

By Michael Riff

The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies presented programs in the fall semester that ranged from “An Historic Evening with Anne Frank’s Step-Sister, Eva Schloss” to “Another Fine Mess: the U.S. Role in Africa’s Wars” and “Talaat Pasha: Father of Modern Turkey, Architect of Genocide.”

Not surprisingly, the most well-attended program, held on October 23 in cooperation with the Chabad of NW Bergen County and the Ramapo-Indian Hills High School District, was the evening with Eva Schloss, the stepsister of world famous Holocaust diarist Anne Frank. Attracting an audience of about 600 to the Ramapo High School auditorium in Franklin Lakes, it featured a conversation between Rabbi Chanoch Kaplan of the Chabad of NW Bergen County and Ms. Schloss that covered topics from her childhood in Vienna and her first encounters in Amsterdam with Anne to her survival in Auschwitz and eventual resettlement in London, where her widowed mother married Otto Frank, Anne’s father. Ms. Schloss seemed not in the least bitter and projected a positive attitude towards life tinged with a good sense of humor.

Addressing an entirely different subject, on September 14, Bard College faculty member and researcher Helen Epstein gave a talk based on her recently published book, *Another Fine Mess: America, Uganda, and the War on Terror*, that attracted a mostly student audience of about 100. Trained as a medical researcher, in 1993 Epstein moved to Uganda to join the search for an AIDS vaccine. In the process, she came to believe that the U.S. preoccupation with terrorism and its dealings with strongmen were at the root of much of the turmoil in eastern and central Africa.



Eva Schloss, Anne Frank’s stepsister, on left

Photo Credit: Michael Riff

On October 19, Dr. Azra Hromadžić, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University, covered another topic in the news in speaking about her book, *Citizens of an Empty Nation: Youth and State-Making in Postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina*, published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2017. Through examining the behavior of Croatian Catholic and Bosnian Muslim students at a high school in the town of Mostar, she showed how mandated power-sharing hardened the separation between the two Catholic and Muslim communities.

A November 13 program featured Dr. Hans-Lukas Kieser, an associate professor in the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle in Australia and adjunct professor of history at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, who spoke about his recently published book, *Talaat Pasha Father of Modern Turkey, Architect of Genocide* (Princeton University Press, 2018).



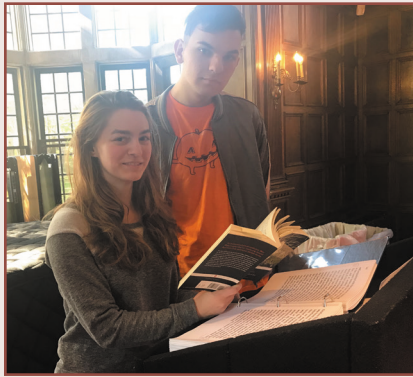
Dr. Azra Hromadžić, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Syracuse University

Photo Credit: Michael Riff

Ramapo Reads Frankenstein

On October 31, 2018, students, faculty and administrators of the College joined together for an all-day reading of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein*.

The Halloween event took place in the wood paneled York room of the Birch Mansion. Student Hannah Frascella observed that "the reading of a classic horror novel on Halloween, in the supposedly haunted Birch Mansion, was truly a one of a kind experience."



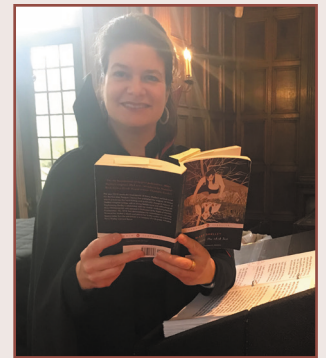
Students Noelle Gizzi and Damian Kacprzyk take turns reading

Photo Credit: Patricia Ard

The Ramapo reading was initiated by Literature Professor Eric Daffron, and sponsored by the British Studies Center and First-Year Seminar. The Ramapo community was joining with other national and international readings of the novel, all celebrating its 200th year of publication.

A teenager when she began writing the book, Shelley drew on her own life experiences to write a cautionary tale about an ambitious scientist named Victor Frankenstein who creates a "creature" that he immediately abandons and never names. The enduring after-life of the story and its characters—in film, cartoons, and television—is a testament to its theme that all knowledge is not necessarily good.

One of the student readers, Rachael Ruskowski, found she could "very quickly sink into imagining the scene and emotions" while listening to others read. The mostly student readers were joined by, among others, President Peter P. Mercer, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Christopher Romano, and SSHGS Dean Susan Hangen, who showed up in an appropriately witchy costume on a dare.



Dean Susan Hangen

Photo Credit: Patricia Ard



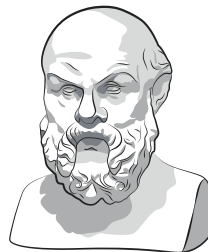
Professor Eric Daffron

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

A New Philosophy Major

By Lisa Cassidy

Ramapo College's Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies is very pleased to offer a new major in Philosophy. This important major has finally arrived, after years of planning by faculty, deans and administrators, as well as a complete vetting by the state. We also will continue to offer minors in Philosophy.



Philosophy, the love of wisdom, was the original "major" and is the foundation to all other academic disciplines (such as natural science, politics, history, literature, and art). Philosophy majors spend their college careers thinking about the big picture questions that are really interesting, such as: How should I treat other people? What makes life worth living? How can we tell what's real, or what's true? Our philosophy students venture beyond everyday assumptions, to cherish a sense of wonder.

Completing the Philosophy major requires 11 courses. This can include up to three elective courses from related disciplines, such as Africana studies, history, literature, and political science. All philosophy majors will also take a seminar on "Reality and Knowledge," as well as have the opportunity to do a work experience off-campus (co-op) or an independent study research project.

Studies show that philosophy majors are well prepared for a lifetime of achievement. *PayScale* showed that philosophy majors rank in the top 100 of all academic fields for average mid-career salary, at \$84,100. Philosophy majors, ranked 95th, bested graduates who studied business administration, pre-medicine, biology, psychology, and journalism. Overall, philosophy majors have the highest mean scores on the GRE (graduate school admissions test), highest mean scores on the LSAT (law school admissions test), and better mean scores on the GMAT (business school admissions test) than economics, statistics, finance, and accounting majors. Philosophy majors also have the best chance of admission into medical school.

Ramapo's new major has already attracted students. We are only one semester into the program and already have six students enrolled. Anyone interested in majoring or minoring in Philosophy should email Associate Professor Lisa Cassidy at lcassidy@ramapo.edu

The new Philosophy major also coincides with a re-launched Philosophy Club, led by philosophy major Joseph Sammartino. The Philosophy Club had three meetings last term, including one meeting to discuss the value of democracy and another on whether or not money really matters. More meetings are planned for the spring. Please contact Joe to get on the email list at jsammart@ramapo.edu