



SHGS

PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter of the School of Humanities and Global Studies

Message from the Dean

by Susan Hangen



Dean Susan Hangen

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

At the end of my second year as Dean, I am proud of the excellent programs we are delivering at the School of Humanities and Global Studies, the core of Ramapo College's Liberal Arts mission. There is growing interest in our new Philosophy major which offers students a solid foundation

in preparing for graduate school entrance exams such as the GRE, GMAT, LSAT and MCAT. Our new Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare and Human Services attracts students in social work and nursing who recognize the importance of cross-cultural and

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Pinar Kayaalp on Ottoman Politics

by Patricia Ard



Pinar Kayaalp

Photo Credit: Pinar Kayaalp

Associate Professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern History Pinar Kayaalp recently published *The Empress Nurbanu and Ottoman Politics in the Sixteenth Century: Building the Atik Valide*, with Routledge Press's Studies in the Middle Eastern History series. I interviewed Professor Kayaalp about her book, asking her to explain its intriguing subtitle, among other issues.

1. First, can you give us a little of your background, including your education and courses you regularly teach.

I went to a small, all-girls liberal arts college as an undergraduate and majored in History with a concentration in Women's Studies. For my master's I studied Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and was very interested in Literature, in particular women's voices from the region. It wasn't until I went on to my Ph.D. program that I began researching and writing about powerful women in Middle Eastern History. I regularly teach courses on Women in Middle Eastern Societies, Islamic Art and Architecture, and World Civilizations.

2. Your book's subtitle is "Building the Atik Valide." The subtitle does not seem to "go" with the title, but of course it does. Could you please explain who the Empress Nurbanu was and what the subtitle means in relation to her?

Nurbanu was one of the most powerful Sultanas (Queens) of the Ottoman Dynasty, yet very little was written about her. I wished to bring to light the political influence of this remarkable figure in world history. Nurbanu's meteoric rise from a low-ranking concubine

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SHGS Perspectives

Spring 2019

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Letter from the Dean

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bilingual skills in working with the growing population of Spanish speakers in our region. A new minor in Civic and Community Leadership next year will offer students more extensive ways to engage in community-based learning.

Among the many events we held this year was a student photo competition in the spring for the Topken World Language Lab. Four students won this award and their photos of their study abroad experiences in Cuba, Denmark, Japan and Italy are now decorating the walls of the lab. Our language offerings are expanding again. Next year, we will offer Arabic, Chinese and German along with French, Italian and Spanish.

Our engagement with the Fulbright Commission continues to grow. Professor Iraida López received a Fulbright award to spend fall 2019 teaching and conducting research in Chile. Christina Dwyer, who graduated with a Literature degree in May 2019, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to spend the next year teaching in South Korea. We will host three Fulbright FLTAs to teach Arabic, Chinese and Italian next year.

At our second annual Alumni Student Networking Roundtable on March 7, 2019, twelve alumni who work in diverse fields, such as law, cyber security, state government, publishing, and education, shared their career experiences and advice with more than 60 current students. John Tomaszewski '02 (Political Science major), also returned to campus to deliver a lecture on his career in promoting democratization in Africa with the International Republican Institute.

We have launched an initiative to Advance Digital Humanities at Ramapo College. In order to compete in the job market, today's students need digital skills and digital literacy. This initiative will provide humanities' students with digital tools to create, analyze, interpret, and present their work, giving them a competitive edge as they enter the workforce. We recognize that our faculty need to strengthen their skillset in this area in order for us to incorporate digital tools into the humanities curriculum.

To kick off this initiative, we will hold our first faculty development workshop on May 20. Professor Cathy Moran Hajo '84, the Director of the Jane Addams Papers Project, who teaches HGS's sole digital humanities course, *Discovering Digital History*, will lead the workshop, assisted by a Seton Hall University instructor and Trish Williams from Ramapo College's Instructional Design Center (IDC). Supported by grants from *Bringing Theory to Practice* and from Ramapo's TLTR, five faculty members will receive seed grants to develop digital humanities' assignments for their courses. Three faculty members will also participate in the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria B.C., thanks to support from the Ramapo College Foundation. During these week-long classes at the Institute, faculty will learn to use digital platforms and create assignments for their own classes. Through these assignments, students will build a portfolio of digital work, and will graduate with marketable skills in website design, databases and data visualization.

Congratulations to all of our graduates who are moving on to an exciting array of opportunities including graduate school, international experiences and new careers!

Faculty and Student Updates

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Amanda Roberti** has received an Honorable Mention in the 2018 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research in Women and Politics, from the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University. The prize comes with money for research on a project on conservative women state lawmakers and abortion regulations.



Professor Neriko Doerr
Photo Credit: Neriko Doerr

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies **Neriko Doerr** has been involved in the following scholarly activities:

1) A book she co-edited (with Debra

Occhi), *Augmented Reality of Pokémon Go: Chronotopes, Moral Panic, and Other Complexities*, was published in February from Lexington Books. She wrote a chapter in it and also co-wrote (with Debra Occhi) the introductory chapter.

2) A journal article called "Sleepless in Albuquerque: Diversity, Learning through Service, and Pedagogy of Exploration" was published in the journal, *Pedagogies: An International Journal*.

3) She presented a paper, "Global Education as Fetish: Cultural Politics of Higher Education" at the meeting of Eastern Psychological Association in New York in March.

4) She organized a session called "Regimes of Mobility and Border Play in Japan: Unlikely Borders and their Hidden

Efficacy" and presented a paper, "English, the Global, and Not Studying 'Abroad': Border Subversions in Japan's English-Medium Campus" (co-authored with Greg Poole and Roy Hedrick III), as part of the session at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Denver in March.

5) She presented a paper, "Revisiting 'Community Involvement in Japanese Language Education': Possibilities of 'Civic Engagement' through Language Education" (co-authored with Yuri Kumagai) at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese in Denver in March.

6) She presented a paper, "'Hesitant Response' and 'Refueling Japanese': Toward Inclusive Japanese Language

Education)" at the Princeton Japanese Pedagogy Forum in Princeton in early May.

Karl Johnson, Associate Professor of African-American Studies, won an Educational Opportunity Fund Champion award this April.



Professor Iraida López
Photo Credit: Iraida López

The recipient of a Fulbright award, Professor of Spanish **Iraida H. López** will spend the fall semester teaching a postgraduate course on Caribbean literature at the Catholic University

and the University of Chile, as well as conducting research in Santiago in fall 2019. She secured support from the Social Science Research Council and the Ford Foundation to bring four participants from abroad to present at a workshop, "Dictadura, insurgencia e infancia: niños de nuestra América en la Cuba revolucionaria" (Dictatorship, Insurgency, and Childhood: Children of Our America in Revolutionary Cuba), at the LASA Congress in Boston in May 2019. She organized a panel and presented on the poetry of Adrian Castro at the Cuban Research Institute Conference at FIU in February 2019. Iraida's publications this spring include:

--"Los niños tienen la palabra: apreciaciones intergeneracionales del exilio argentino y chileno en Cuba" (The Children Speak: Intergenerational Perspectives on Argentinian and Chilean Exile in Cuba), in *La experiencia del exilio y el exilio como experiencia*, edited by M. C. Avila and B. Rojas (Ediciones Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez, 2019). 113-127.

--"Avatares cubanos del retorno en los tiempos de la cólera" (Cuban Displays of Return during the Cold War), in *Volver: Culturas e imaginarios del retorno a y desde América Latina*, edited by A. López-Labourdette et al (Linkgua, 2018). 52-71.

Professor **Yvette Kisor** delivered the keynote address "The Horror of the Unnarrated: Implications for Tolkien's Reader" at the 16th Annual Tolkien in Vermont Conference at the University of Vermont in April as part of the 2019

focus on "Tolkien and Horror." In addition, she participated in a roundtable on "Queer Tolkien" at the New York Tolkien Conference 2019 in March. In May, she will deliver her paper "Queer Hobbits: Language for the Strange, the Odd, and the Peculiar in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*" at the Tolkien Symposium held in conjunction with the 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Cathy Hajo with student Katherine McNellis

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

Cathy Moran Hajo '84 (History) worked with Rebecca Dierking, a professor of English Education at Truman State University to teach a second iteration of a COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) Digital course, "A Burning Idea: Challenging and Censoring Books." These courses meet in real-time online, with teams of students from COPLAC colleges around the nation. Each team researched and built a website about a local case of censorship. This year's sites can be found at <http://burn.coplacdigital.org/>

This year, Creative Writing Professor **James Hoch's** poems have appeared or been accepted in a number of journals including *Harvard Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Blackbird*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Scoundrel Time*, *Thrush* and *Los Angeles Review*. A few of these poems were nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize, and his poem "Sunflowers" which appeared in the *American Poetry Review* was selected for inclusion in the 2019 edition of *Best American Poetry*.

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

Professor **Patricia Ard's** article "Dashing in Persuasion: The Effects of a Pause," was published in the latest volume of the *Jane Austen Journal Persuasions* (v. 40, 2019). Jane Austen frequently uses the dash throughout her works and letters; why and how she uses it is the focus of the essay.

Senior Literature major **Christina Dwyer** won an English Teaching Assistant Fulbright in South Korea for the 2019/2020 academic year. Stating she is "ready for this journey," Ms. Dwyer is the second Ramapo College student to be so honored by the prestigious grant.

Kelan C. Yalong, a junior Literature major, has received an internship from the Louis Carr Internship Foundation (LCIF) and will be interning at William Morris Endeavor Agency in New York City. The Louis Carr



Kelan C. Yalong

Foundation provides 12 paid internships in communications to undergraduate students of color during the summer immediately following their freshman, sophomore or junior year of college. Louis Carr, head of BET Networks, established the non-profit Foundation in 2003 to increase multiculturalism and diversity in the communications industry. The Foundation provides a platform for students of color to gain practical experience with paid internships.

Some HGS seniors who are headed for graduate school upon graduation are as follows:

Riley Cox will attend Florida Atlantic University for a Master's Degree in History;



Sabrina Santamaria

Photo Credit:
Carolyn Herring

Sabrina Santamaria will be attending Seton Hall Law School;

Angely Montilla will attend New York University for a Master's Degree in International Relations with a concentration in Latin

American and Caribbean Studies, and 2018 Literature major **Roxanne Gouldner** was admitted to the MAT Adolescent education (7-12) English program at SUNY, New Paltz. She will begin in the fall.

HGS Student and Alumni Roundtable

by Dian Schons

HGS and the Alumni Association co-sponsored an evening Roundtable for students on March 7, 2019. The Roundtable provided students an opportunity to meet and interface directly with alumni to learn how humanities degrees and skillsets transfer to the work world. Alumni shared exciting career stories from international entrepreneurship, finance, publishing, government, library science, Internet investigative and security services, legal, museology and social work fields.

The event was particularly special as one alumni guest, Rajeem Brockington '06 (African Studies major) traveled from Zanzibar, Tanzania to meet with HGS students to share his experiences of working globally with Nike, setting up ice cream franchises in China and working towards improving educational opportunities for students in Zanzibar. As the evening concluded one student commented on his way out the door – “Thank you for doing this. I learned so much and I am so excited! I wish it could go on longer.”



Dean Susan Hangen speaks at Network Event

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

Digital Humanities Initiatives at Ramapo

by Cathy Hajo '84



Senior student workers at the Jane Addams Papers. Left to right: Cathy Moran Hajo, Emma Lucier-Keller (History/American Studies), Patricia Marino (History), Alexandra Davis (Literature), Christina Dwyer (Literature), Jillian Topolski (Literature), Justice Levine (Communication Arts), and Assistant Editor Victoria Sciancalepore.

Photo Credit: Charlie Leppert

into their classes and fund seed grants for faculty to create innovative assignments. We recently received funding from the College's Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable to expand this program. After the workshops, faculty will meet regularly with Seton Hall faculty to explore new ideas and technologies.

Ramapo College hosted a meeting of the New Jersey Digital Humanities Consortium in December, 2018 where I and Christina Connor presented work done at the Jane Addams Papers Project and the American History Textbook Collection. Inspired by the Consortium's work, Dean of HGS Susan Hangen began an initiative to integrate digital humanities work into the curriculum at the College to better prepare students for life after graduation. In collaboration with Seton Hall University, we secured a grant from Bringing Theory Into Practice to run summer workshops to help faculty integrate digital tools

Children's Book Author and Illustrator Visits Literature Class

Trinka Hakes Noble, an author/illustrator of more than twenty children's books, visited Professor Patricia Ard's "Children's and Young Adult Literature" class in October to discuss the art of the picture book. Ms. Noble's visit was supported by a Platinum Grant.

Over a long career, New Jersey-based Noble has written different types of picture books. Her best-selling book *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, part of a series, was illustrated by Steven Kellogg and is frequently used to teach the concept of cause and effect to young children. Noble has also written longer historically-based picture books such as *The Scarlett Stockings Spy*, set during the American Revolutionary War, and *The Last Brother: A Civil War Tale*, about an eleven-year-old bugler in the Union army. Her board books for the very young include *Little New Jersey* and *Little Pennsylvania*.



Trinka Hakes Noble and "Children's and Young Adult Literature" students
Photo Credit: Patricia Ard

While many believe writing a picture book is simple, Noble discussed with the class the lengthy process of "how ideas become stories." She confirmed children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak's statement that much of his work writing picture books concerned ruthlessly eliminating text to achieve the spareness necessary for the genre. A lively question and answer period included queries concerning the publication process, how author/illustrator "marriages" are made, and where Noble gets her ideas for her many books.

Pinar Kayaalp on Ottoman Politics

(continued from page 1)

to Harem Favorite to Queen and ultimately Queen Mother (Mother of the reigning Sultan) remained a mystery. I wanted to examine how she managed to rise up to the highest rank of Ottoman Society. What I discovered was that she created an image for herself through architectural patronage. Her buildings reflect the image that she wished to portray to Ottoman society. In the end, her questionable origins were "forgotten" while her pious, powerful and politically-astute identity was established.

3. Was being a concubine to a powerful prince--as Nurbanu was--one of the only ways for a woman to gain power in the sixteenth century Ottoman dynasty? I was reminded of Barbara Bush when reading the book, who also gained status only through her relation to two powerful men--her husband and son George W. Or, is that an unfair or inappropriate comparison?

Coming into the Ottoman harem as a concubine was only a starting point. There were many ways in which a woman could establish herself as useful and climb ranks. She could carve out a role for herself

as an informant, a messenger, a musician, a healer or any number of ways. The most enterprising and most strategic women made themselves the most indispensable.

4. Can you explain how much the architecture of Nurbanu's mosque both followed and departed from classic Ottoman architectural tradition?

Nurbanu's mosque complex was built in the grandest style reserved solely for Sultans. However, both her son and husband were mediocre kings. Nurbanu stepped in to support the lackluster rulers and so she was credited with upholding the empire. Contemporaneous sources attest to her pivotal role in securing peace, running the State and making important fiscal decisions. Her grand mosque is a testament to her central place in Ottoman polity and society.

5. Is there anything in Nurbanu's story that speaks to issues in the Middle East today for you?

Never underestimate the role of women in Middle Eastern Societies!

American Textbook Project Advances

The renovations to the Potter Library and the temporary relocation of the library's collection to Linden Hall have not slowed the ongoing work with the American History Textbook Project (AHTP). Established in 2009 as a collaborative project among faculty in the Library, HGS, and SSHS, the AHTP collection now contains close to 350 American history textbooks published in the United States beginning in the 1820s. Each subsequent decade up to the 2010s is represented in the collection, with particular strength in the twentieth century through the 1960s. The collection has become an important resource for Ramapo students—especially in History, American Studies, and Teacher Education—but also for researchers beyond campus.

Several notable developments have occurred over the past year. First, with the library's relocation to Linden Hall, the collection is now housed in a dedicated room that includes ample space for researchers, including—for the first time—room enough for students to work in groups. The collection's coordinator, Christina Connor, has her office immediately adjacent to this new workspace, providing for easier access to the collection, and for greater security.

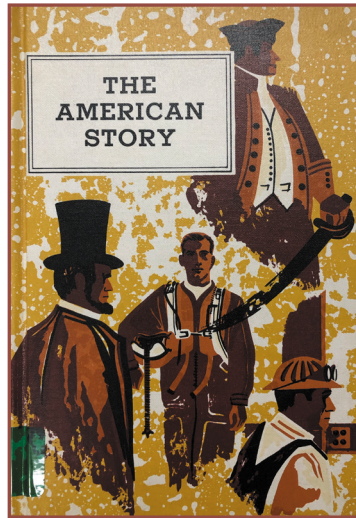
Connor has found that researchers are more likely to come to her with questions, which has been gratifying. "I have also been able to get a clearer sense of how students are using the collection," she said, "which has been very helpful for the presentations I've developed for my textbooks sessions related to AHTP classroom assignments." Hundreds of students used the collection over the year, and Connor conducted more than a dozen AHTP sessions for classes.

In addition, Connor received a TLTR grant this past year to purchase new equipment for the collection. The room is now equipped with a scanner, a laptop computer for researchers to use, and a high-quality digital camera. Future plans for the collection include digitizing portions of selected textbooks to develop theme-based resources for students and teachers.

Especially exciting is a donation to the collection from the American Historical Association (AHA), the premier professional society for historians in the United States. AHA representatives learned about AHTP early in 2018 when Jordan Reed—a Ph.D. student at Drew University and adjunct faculty member in HGS—presented a paper at the AHA annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Through that connection, the AHA offered to donate close to 100 textbooks to the collection, which the Potter Library gladly accepted. The new books came to Ramapo in the fall and are in the process of being catalogued. Thanks to this generous donation, the collection is now much stronger in holdings from the 1980s to the 2010s.

Jordan Reed and Christina Connor, who is also pursuing a Ph.D. at Drew, have collaborated on several projects related to the AHTP collection. These include an article they co-authored titled "Re-Reading the American History Textbook in the Global Age," published in 2017 in *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*. This article is now available on JSTOR.



Cover of *The American Story* textbook, published 1957.

Photo Credit: Stephen Rice

During the spring 2019 semester AHTP had funding to hire a student intern, sophomore History major Kayla O'Neill. Working with Connor and with Alexander Urbiel in SSHS, O'Neill helped to maintain and preserve the collection by assisting in keeping the books in order, and by measuring some books for preservation boxes and wrapping others with protective coverings.

In addition, she launched a new initiative to begin identifying where books were used, and by whom. For that she searched for stamps or other markings indicating a town, or school district, or school, and for names that seemed to indicate an owner or user. Working with the books in the collection was a real joy for her. "I always got giddy just being able to hold these books that were over one hundred years old," she said. "I would think about the saying 'if these walls could talk, the stories they would tell.'"

Also, in the spring Stephen Rice in HGS received funding to work with two students—Danielle DeAngelis, a first-year student in Communications, and Kate Gavin, a first-year Political Science major—at increasing the collection's digital presence. Using the catalog of AHTP books, DeAngelis and Gavin were able to identify dozens of books in the collection that are available electronically through the Internet Archive.

They were able to add to the collection as well by identify digital copies of books that currently are not included. This digital enhancement work will continue in the fall with additional searching for new volumes, and with the creation of an AHTP website that will include annotations on and links to all the digital copies that have been located.

The fall will also mark the ten-year anniversary of the American History Textbook project. Connor, Rice, and Urbiel are planning several commemorative activities—look for more about those events in the next newsletter.

Readings at Ramapo, Spring 2019

by Hugh Sheehy

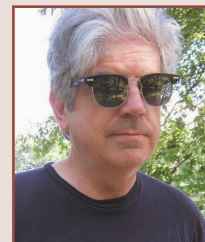


Poet Nomi Stone
Photo Credit:

Spring 2019 was a mostly successful semester for Readings at Ramapo. Things got off to a strong start, with poet and anthropologist **Nomi Stone** who took time out of her postdoc at Princeton to give a reading to a standing room-only audience in the York Room. Stone's work at the intersection of anthropology and poetry showcases an exciting example of interdisciplinarity in contemporary literary writing.

Her visit was followed, a few weeks later, by the arrival of fiction writer and essayist **Michael Martone**, who is widely recognized as one of the leading innovators in short prose forms. Martone delivered an energetic performance in the Student Center and then hung around to talk to students for nearly an hour about their interests, writing practices, and ambitions. Later that afternoon, he gave a 90-minute class on the history, limitations, and problems of framing the task of writing as a problem in need of a solution. Unfortunately, our third visiting author, the poet Tim Seibles, was unable to make his scheduled reading in April, at which point there was insufficient time to find a replacement.

Fortunately, our students were able to provide a sense of closure to a productive semester. On the final day of classes, my students in the Magazine Workshop class unveiled images from the forthcoming edition of Ramapo's literary magazine *Trillium* and hosted a reading that featured several new *Trillium* authors. And that night, James Hoch's Capstone students gave a moving reading in the York Room to mark the completion of their concentrations in Creative Writing.



Michael Martone
Photo Credit:



John Tomaszewski '02

John G. Tomaszewski '02, Speaks to Students

"From Global Education at Ramapo to Supporting Democratic Development on the African Continent" was the title of the speech delivered on April 5, 2019 by John G. Tomaszewski '02 (Political Science major). John returned to Ramapo to share his extensive knowledge of African politics and his career in leading democratization activities in 17 African countries. Political Science and Philosophy students, who asked many thoughtful questions, enthusiastically received his stories and anecdotes. After ten years with the International Republic Institute, John Tomaszewski ("JT") now leads the African

policy portfolio as a professional staff member supporting the Chairman Jim Risch (R-ID) of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Literature Class Visits Tolkien Exhibit

On Wednesday, 13 March Professor Yvette Kisor escorted a group of students to the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City to tour the special exhibit "Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth." The exhibit features documents, photographs, and memorabilia. Of particular interest are the draft manuscripts of Tolkien's fiction and his artwork, including his many illustrations of his created world of Middle-earth. Students in Kisor's LITR 354 The Medieval and Modern in Tolkien's Middle-earth course made up the bulk of the group of literature students. Funding was provided through the Platinum Series.



J. R. R. Tolkien (1892-1973),
Conversation with Smaug, July 1937,
MS. Tolkien Drawings 30. © The
Tolkien Estate Limited 1937.

Holocaust Center Spring Events

by Michael Riff

The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies opened its spring program on February 14 with the screening of the acclaimed documentary "From Swastika to Jim Crow," that explores the similarities between Nazism in Germany (the Swastika) and racism in the American south (Jim Crow) through the experience of expelled Jewish scholars from German universities who found positions at historically black colleges in the southern U.S. Steven Fischler, co-director and producer introduced the film and led a Q&A afterwards.

The program continued with Dr. Monika Rice, Director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Programs at Gratz College in Philadelphia, who spoke on February 28 about her recently published book, "What! Still Alive?!" *Jewish Survivors in Poland and Israel Remember Homecoming*, published by Syracuse University Press in 2017. Rice examines the complex memories of Jewish survivors returning to their homes in Poland after the Holocaust.

On March 7, Dr. Paul Hanebrink, associate professor of History and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, discussed his book, *A Specter Haunting Europe: The Myth of Judeo-Bolshevism* (Harvard University Press, 2018). Although a contrived paranoid fantasy that took hold during the Russian Revolution, the canard of a Jewish plot to foment Communism across the globe, as Hanebrink explained, became a potent political weapon of fascists, Nazis, and conservative Christians in confronting modernity that persists on both sides of the Atlantic until today.

After two previous attempts that had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a screening of the extremely poignant and haunting film, "1945," was held on Thursday, April 4. Directed by Ferenc Török and based on the acclaimed short story *Homecoming*

by Gábor T. Szántó, the film "1945" tells the story of the return of an observant Jew and his son to a village in Hungary right after the end of WWII, whose inhabitants greet their arrival with guilt and fear that the crimes they committed against their former Jewish neighbors will be revealed and the property they misappropriated would have to be returned. Originally, the film was supposed to be shown in connection with a memorial for deceased Gross Center Advisory Board member, John Gunzler.

As part of a new initiative to have the offspring of Holocaust survivors tell their families' stories, Dr. Victor Borden, a retired ob/gyn specialist from Bergen County, spoke on the transcontinental escape of his parents, "A Flight from German Oppression: Lodz, Arkhangelsk, Teheran, Tel-Aviv, & Paterson." In recounting how they fared through various stages of involuntary resettlement and forced labor to find a home in

New Jersey via Israel, Borden kept his audience of students and community members on the edge of their seats.

In addition to a joint commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) with Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom of Mahwah, the semester's programming ended with a teachers' workshop on May 22 on "Ethnic Cleansing: When Does it become Genocide." Although the term gained currency after its use by the media to describe Serb initiatives to remove non-Serbs, especially Muslim Bosnians, from its territories during the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the phenomenon of forcibly removing unwanted populations has been with us for much longer and persists into the present. The goal of this workshop is to assist teachers in learning about its occurrence and how to bring a meaningful discussion of the topic into their classrooms.



Dr. Monika Rice
Photo Credit: Michael Riff

Shakespeare at Ramapo Festivities!

by Patricia Ard

Shakespeare at Ramapo was created in 2013 to celebrate the work of William Shakespeare and enrich the intellectual life of students and the Community. Various events are held on a date close to his April 23 birth/death date.

The 2019 Shakespeare at Ramapo was held on April 25. Students had two events to choose from; both involved Professor Terra Vandergaw's Acting students. First, her "Voice and Movement" class was opened up to all. After many warm up exercises, Shakespeare sonnets were performed in front of an encouraging audience.

Following up the open classroom, about 40 students joined Professor Vandergaw's "Introductory Acting" students in the York Room to perform any Shakespearean soliloquies, scenes or sonnets that they wished. First, the Acting students performed the Prologue from *Henry V*. Then, a few scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* were performed by students who had recently had roles in the College production of same. Soon student spectators turned into actors, as they read from their phone Shakespearean scenes that were particularly meaningful to them. Pizza and chocolate contributed to a relaxed, celebratory Shakespeare at Ramapo for 2019.



Acting students perform Henry V prologue

Photo Credit: Patricia Ard

Professor at British Columbia Philosophy Conference

by Lisa Cassidy



Professor Lisa Cassidy

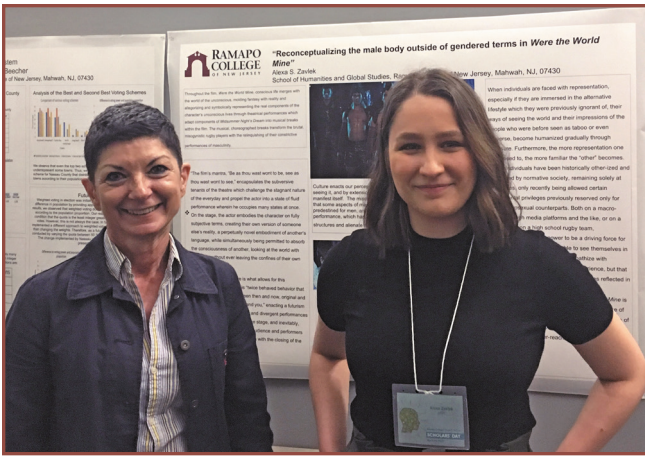
Photo: Lisa Cassidy

In October 2018, I was pleased to receive a Deans' Council/Provost Teaching and Learning grant to travel to Vancouver, British Columbia to attend a conference on teaching Philosophy. I just returned from that very damp but lovely city. The conference I attended was called *The Teaching Hub*, and it was part of the larger American Philosophical Association's Annual Pacific Division meeting. The best part of any APA meeting is walking up to a complete stranger, asking "What are you thinking about?" and being awarded with a shy smile and very long, very interesting answer!

The sessions I attended were really well-attended and lively. My favorite sessions included a "syllabus makeover competition" and a session on public philosophy. The ideas I found there might be relevant to a wider audience:

- The "syllabus makeover competition" followed the format of a television makeover show, but instead of leaving the participants with a new living room, they were left with new syllabi! The point of the panel was to show how standard-fare introductory courses could be made more inclusive, particularly with an eye to Asian philosophy and works by Asian-American philosophers. This panel was an excellent lesson in not being satisfied with "the canon" as we were taught it in graduate school. Now I have to get to work to makeover some of my own syllabi.
- Philosopher Barry Lam of Vassar has a remarkable side hustle as a podcaster with his Hi-Phi Nation podcast. Lam reported that he was inspired by popular journalism's use of narrative hooks to explore topics that might otherwise be intimidating for a general audience (for example, how the book *Money Ball* popularized statistical reasoning). Lam's podcast now reaches audiences of up to 100,000 people by consciously modeling itself on *This American Life*. He is adding a new depth to the podcast genre by including serious philosophy alongside the addictive storytelling. Lam's talk also reminded us philosophers that while we are fascinated by arguments, nearly everyone else in the human race is fascinated by stories, and this is a shift we have to make if we are to have more prominence in the public eye.

The APA Teaching Hub was a terrific experience, and I was grateful to be there.



Literature convener Val Flenga and Alexa Zavlek in front of Zavlek's poster
Photo Credit: Ed Shannon

Scholars' Day at Ramapo

Scholars' Day is a celebration of student creativity and scholarship in April of each academic year; the seventh Scholars' Day was held this year on April 24.

Students who had worked on faculty-mentored research projects and were selected by the Scholars' Day committee as having done exceptional work produced posters explaining their project. The School of Humanities and Global Studies had 14 student scholars, with eight of those projects Literature-based.

HGS student projects ranged across nations and time periods. Angely Montilla, who worked with Associate Professor of International Studies Erick Castellanos, had a

project titled "De Eso No Se Habla: The Quiet Oppression of Domestic Workers in the Dominican Republic." Montilla was chosen to represent HGS in the oral talks given by one student from each school. She analyzed how poor and often uneducated, mostly female domestic workers were abused in various ways, and how that abuse was "not publicly discussed" in the Dominican Republic. Montilla plans to become an attorney and work in this area, attempting to gain rights for these marginalized workers.

Gunnar Hopson examined the "uncomfortable ambiguity," and "existential dread" present in the ending of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. His faculty mentor, Literature Professor Lisa Williams, commented on the originality of Hopson's research in this area. Caleb Herbst discussed his work titled "School's Out: The New Jersey Funding Formula and Its Educational Outcomes"; his faculty mentor was Professor of Political Science Jeremy Teigen. Scholars' Day applications can be made for group projects. Four students (Julia Connelly, Katherine Kisor, Jared Berberabe, Brandon Calvert) combined to analyze the "Postmodern Presence" of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein*, including film, TV and comic book adaptations of the monster and "mad" scientist tropes. Their work, done in Professor Patricia Ard's "Methods of Literary Study" class, was part of a world-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Shelley's classic novel.

The poster sessions allowed students to explain their research to any interested attendees in the large space of Friends Hall where the 33 student presenters from around the College collectively fostered an intellectual community.

2019 Literature Luncheon



Jessica Bowman

The annual Literature Luncheon was held on April 17 and included the induction of Literature Honors Society members into Sigma Tau Delta. Literature faculty, majors, minors and their family members convened over spring-colored, mint green table linens to celebrate the inductees, as well as another year almost completed. Provost Stefan Becker attended and 2018 Literature graduate Jessica Bowman gave the luncheon's traditional job-related talk.

In addition to her Literature major, Ms. Bowman completed the Creative Writing concentration and earned a Business Essentials Certificate while at Ramapo. In the summer after her junior year she was selected for a competitive internship program at Wiley and Sons Publishing Company in Hoboken, N.J. Upon graduation she was hired full-time at Wiley, and is now an Associate Demand Generation Manager, working on global programs to promote Wiley journals. Jessica spoke about how her education at Ramapo helped her get her current job, as well as do it confidently. She noted that her work in the Creative Writing classes, in particular, impressed her prospective employer since they needed someone to write copy for many diverse projects. The luncheon wrapped up with Jessica answering individual student questions about resume formats and jobs in publishing.

EOF Students Visit Ghana

by Karl Johnson

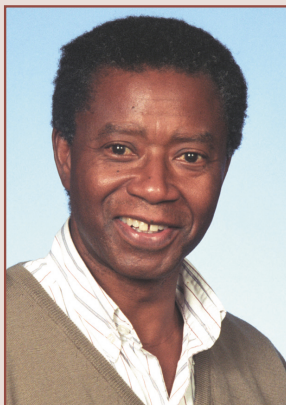
The Ghana Travel Abroad Spring 2019 trip was a great success! This Travel Abroad experience was led by myself and Deirdre Foreman, assistant Director of EOF and adjunct professor, who coordinated educational, cultural and community service opportunities for Ramapo College students. The ten students who attended benefited greatly from the experience, as they explored Ghana with all its wonders, history, beauty and cultural adventures. The Ramapo College students loved it because it was a positive and memorable trip. The program included both academic and non-academic activities for our students, where they had in-class and out-of-class learning experiences including interaction with the native Ghanaian community, such as visiting Jamestown, a child Day Care facility for the homeless and one of the largest in Africa, the Kumasi outdoor market. Our Ramapo Travel Abroad Group also coordinated events with our sister institution, the KNUST university faculty, staff and students.

There were many highlights of the trip; however, one of the main features was the African American Relations with Ghana Student Leadership Conference 2019, sponsored by Ramapo College of New Jersey and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. This event benefited both the Ramapo College students, and the KNUST University students as this endeavor led to a cooperative relationship between both Ramapo College and KNUST faculty, staff and students. This program encapsulated what we wanted to achieve with our travel abroad program, as it was both a positive cultural and intellectual experience. I hope that this can serve as a model for future travel abroad experiences moving forward.



Left to right: Michael (Jamestown resident & tour guide), Deirdre Foreman (assistant Director of EOF), Shania Thomas (EOF student), Kaurin Cuello (EOF Student), Al-Shakinah Campbell (EOF Student), In center back -Albert (KNUST Graduate Student), Jessi Pelaez (EOF Student), Marlin Marte (EOF), Brian Enriquez (EOF Student), Sapphire Allen-Scruggs (EOF Student), Keila Castro (EOF Student), in back-Christian Martinez-Gonzalez (EOF Student), Alexa Sena (EOF Student)

Photo Credit: Karl Johnson



Joe Johnson

Photo Credit: Carolyn Herring

Founding Faculty Member Joe Johnson Remembered

by Ed Shannon

As a small tribute to our late colleague Joe Johnson, several colleagues from HGS and elsewhere on campus collected funds to purchase books in Joe's memory. These books will include bookplates with the following text memorializing Joe:

Bookplate text:

In memory of Joe Johnson, his colleagues donate this book, hopeful many readers will follow the journey Joe began long ago. Joe Johnson, Associate Professor of Literature at Ramapo College, taught from 1971 to his retirement in 2017. Sadly, Joe passed away a mere two years later. Professor Johnson was a unique and inspirational presence on campus and in the classroom. A writer and poet, Joe taught poetry, creative writing, and African American literature and other subjects at Ramapo from the College's founding to the twenty-first century. He is missed.