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Contact: Bonnie Franklin: [bfrankli@ramapo.edu](mailto:bfrankli@ramapo.edu) or Rosa Diaz-Mulryan: [rmulryan@ramapo.edu](mailto:rmulryan@ramapo.edu)

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## **INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY EXTENDS RAMAPO COLLEGE'S INTERNATIONAL FOCUS**

(Mahwah) – Ramapo College of New Jersey recently was selected to form the Zeta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the International Honor Society. Phi Beta Delta honors those who serve internationalism – the idea of a world connected, of respect for different traditions and of the need for education to enhance knowledge of the many cultures that are part of the world.

The College's first induction ceremony took place on April 19 and included 70 Ramapo students, faculty and staff. Also inducted as an honorary member was Mahwah resident Judy Grief. She is affectionately known on campus as "Flag Lady" because she sews all of the flags used at international and intercultural events such as the College's food festival and United Nations dinner.

"Even though we pride ourselves on Ramapo College's international emphasis, we struggle with how to bring students, faculty and staff together more than once or twice a year," said Susi Rachouh, director of international education. "Phi Beta Delta is ideal for celebrating international education and the international endeavors of our community throughout the year." Activities may include guest speakers, readings of Nobel laureate books, ethnic dinner outings and visits to cultural festivals, international film screenings or musical events. Rachouh expressed hope that the formation of the International Honor Society at Ramapo College will help keep the international connection and augment enthusiasm for other cultures throughout the year.

(more)

Members of Phi Beta Delta include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Mr. J. William Fulbright and Mrs. Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, and scholars such as Seymour Martin Lipset and Larry Diamond.

The formation of the Honor Society complements Ramapo College's international offerings. In addition, the College recently joined the New Jersey State Consortium for International Studies (NJSCIS), a consortium of New Jersey colleges and universities whose members have developed a wide range of study abroad and student exchange links with institutions in over 50 countries. The consortium provides undergraduate students of NJSCIS member institutions with academically challenging and personally rewarding cross-cultural experiences in an overseas collegiate setting. Other consortium members include Montclair State University, The College of New Jersey, Rowan University, William Paterson University, Kean University, Richard Stockton University and New Jersey City University.

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