

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**September 7, 2005**

### **AUTHOR AND PROFESSOR AZAR NAFISI TO SPEAK AT RAMAPO COLLEGE OPENING CONVOCATION**

(Mahwah) – Professor and author Azar Nafisi, who wrote the national bestseller *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, is the guest speaker at Ramapo College's Opening Convocation on Wednesday, September 21 at 2 p.m. The Convocation will be held in the Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center, located on campus. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free, however, reservations are requested. RSVP via e-mail to [scaruso@ramapo.edu](mailto:scaruso@ramapo.edu).

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* electrified its readers with a compassionate and often harrowing portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. The book, which spent over 70 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list to date, is an insightful exploration of the persuasive and transformative powers of fiction in a work of tyranny.

All incoming freshmen of Ramapo College's Class of 2009 have read and are discussing *Reading Lolita in Tehran* in their First Year Seminar Course (FYS). The course introduces students to college work and prepares them for the subsequent courses they will take. The book includes elements of social history, women's issues, religion and literary criticism and is consistent with Ramapo College's mission of international education.

Nafisi has written for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Her cover story, "The Veiled Threat: The Iranian Revolution's Woman Problem," published in *The New Republic* in 1999, has been translated into several languages. She is currently working on two books.