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AFRICAN ANCESTRY MONTH CELEBRATION AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) – In celebration of African Ancestry Month, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sponsoring an **Opening Banquet Thursday, February 1 at 5 p.m. in the Robert A. Scott Student Center**. The event is free and open to the public. The evening features the banquet, viewing an art exhibit, **An Apparently Unimportant Event: Self-Taught From the Centre D's Art in the 1940s and 50s** in the Kresge and Pascal Galleries and a lecture, "Winds of the Spirit: Haitian Vodun Art," presented by Dr. Robert Farris Thompson, a Yale University professor and art historian at 8 p.m. in the Sharp Theater. For further information, please call the Women's Center, 201.684.7468.

Ramapo College also will be sponsoring other events open to the public:

Black Maria Film Festival, Thursday, February 8, 2 – 5 p.m., Sharp Theater

A unique selection of this year's winning entries will be screened. The selections are part of the festival's 2007 cross-country tour. Festival founder John Columbus will offer commentary on the documentary, animated, experimental and fictional short films and videos.

Book Discussion: *The Dew Breaker*, by Haitian-American Edwidge Danticat, Monday, February 12, 12:45 p.m., York Room in the Birch Mansion

The novel explores the difficult conditions faced by Haitians in the U.S. and at home and raises the question, can Haitians reconcile themselves with those who collaborated with repressive dictators.

(more)

Black Art Auction and Tea, Friday, February 16, 7 p.m., Trustees Pavilion
An evening of drinking tea and bidding on artwork.

Book Reading and Signing, Friday, February 23, 1 p.m., Sharp Theater
Edwidge Danticat, author of *Krik? Krak!* and other titles, is a National Book Award finalist and American Book Award winner. She has been hailed as the literary voice of a silenced Haiti.

Faces of America, Sunday, February 25, 8 p.m., Sharp Theater
This one-person show, written from interviews conducted across the country, has been described as a multicultural portrayal of Americans.

Empowerment through Art, Media, and Business: A Local and Global Look at African Americans Who Have Changed the World, Tuesday, February 27, 5 p.m., Alumni Lounges (This is the month's closing event.)

The panelists, drawn from an array of professions, will provide a blueprint on how to make individual and collective change.

African Ancestry Month events will be coordinated by the Women's Center, the Office of Student Activities/Platinum Series and Ramapo College clubs and administrative offices. The month celebrates the culture and traditions of those of African ancestry. For information about any of the events, please call the Women's Center, 201.684.7468.

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