

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu or Cynthia Burns: cyburns@ramapo.edu

February 25, 2009

EARLY NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS WILL BE TOPIC OF TALK

MAHWAH - Dr. Joseph Robert White, a research assistant at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, will talk about early Nazi concentration camps in March at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The presentation is free and open to the public.

White will discuss his research on the early development of Nazi concentration camps. He will discuss how the Third Reich did not invent the camp system, but revolutionized the concept of protective custody. As a measure allowed under German law, prior to 1933 selective political persecution through mass arrests was permitted. White will explain how the Nazis transformed protective custody or, in German, *Schutzhaft*, into unlimited detention and more, including the targeting of Jews for persecution and homicide.

White has contributed 90 articles to the forthcoming, seven-volume "*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos.*" Volume I of the encyclopedia, which concerns Nazi concentration camps, will be published by Indiana University Press later this year.

A specialist on the history of Nazi concentration camps, he also works with related projects, including the recently opened International Tracing Service and the donated photographic album of Auschwitz SS officers.

(more)

The presentation will be held Tuesday, March 10 at 1 p.m. in SC-136 of the Robert A. Scott Student Center. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

The talk will be sponsored by Ramapo College's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and The History Club.

#

For media inquiries, contact Anna Farneski, assistant vice president, Marketing and Communications, 201.684.6844.