

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Anna Farneski; [afarnesk@ramapo.edu](mailto:afarnesk@ramapo.edu) or Cynthia Burns: [cyburns@ramapo.edu](mailto:cyburns@ramapo.edu)

April 22, 2009

**Undergraduate Students Presented Research  
Findings at Annual Symposium at Ramapo College**

MAHWAH – More than 30 students presented posters and talks describing their undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities in the sciences at an annual Student Research Symposium held April 8 at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

The research topics included how the artificial sweetener aspartame inhibits tail regeneration in the mud worm, the implications for dinosaur speed estimates, the simulation and visualization of forest dynamics and the recycling of aluminum by utilizing the metal as an electrode in a fuel cell, among others.

The symposium provided a research conference atmosphere during which students presented their results. Sponsored by the College's School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Reedy International of Keyport, New Jersey and LeCroy Corporation of Chestnut Ridge, New York, the symposium was a full-day event that highlighted faculty-student collaborative research in the sciences.

These students gave oral presentations about their research findings:

(more)

**Bergen County**

Michael Chiorazzo of Rutherford, New Jersey, “*3-Mercapto-5,6-diphenyl-1,2,4-triazine: A Potential Reagent for Pegylation of Peptides and Proteins*”

Matthew Diamond of Ramsey, New Jersey, “*Aspartame Inhibits Tail Regeneration in Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm)*”

Melanie Klein of Glen Rock, New Jersey, “*Tree Selection by Foraging, Male Red-Eyed Vireos (Vireo olivaceus) in a New Jersey Highlands Forest*”

Jeffrey Ludwig of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, “*SimOrg: Simulated Qualitative Organic Analysis*”

Alyssa Winter of Glen Rock, New Jersey, “*The Synthesis of Transition Metal Complexes That Contain ‘Umbrella’ Ligands*”

**Cumberland County**

Tiffany Simons of Vineland, New Jersey, “*Hydrogenations Without Hydrogen: The Use of Hydrogen-Transfer Catalysts in Organic Synthesis*”

**Middlesex County**

Tinisha Ricks of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, “*Inhibitory Effect of Acetaminophen on Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm) Tail Regeneration*”

**Monmouth County**

Tara Drake of Howell, New Jersey, “*Expression and Purification of E. coli RecR and It's N-Terminal Interlocking Mutant*”

**Ocean County**

Daniel Fumosa of Forked River, New Jersey, “*Forest Dynamics Simulation and Visualization*”

**Passaic County**

Dean Bobo of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, “*Growth in the Dinosaur Coelophysis: Implications for Dinosaur Speed Estimates from Trackways*”

Sandralynn Veech of Hawthorne, New Jersey, “*Pegylation of Growth Hormone-Releasing Factors*”

Mercedes Perez of Paterson, New Jersey, “*Recycling Aluminum by Utilizing the Metal as an Electrode in a Fuel Cell*” and “*Alkaline pH Prevents Voltage Reversal in Yeast Fermentation of Banana*”

(more)

**Sussex County**

Ashley Halstead of Wantage, New Jersey, "*Mixed Monomolecular Films of Poly (n-decylacrylate) and Protein Solutions*"

Kimberly Rodgers of Stillwater, New Jersey, "*Computer Simulation of Forest Dynamics: Developing a Fine-Scale Model*"

**International**

Daniela Georgieva of Varna, Bulgaria, "*Development of an Invertebrate Cell Culture Method for Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm)*"

Monique Simpson of Santa Cruz, Trinidad and Tobago, "*Prostaglandins and Osteoblast Differentiation*"

The following students presented posters about their research:

**Bergen County**

Randy Astaiza of Garfield, New Jersey, "*Characterization of a Novel Gene Potentially Involved in the Regulation of Bone Mass*"

Manan Dalal of Roselle Park, New Jersey, Melissa Giusti of Old Bridge, New Jersey; Matthew Howard of Union Beach, New Jersey; and Kate Brown of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, "*Tree Architecture and Niche of Seven Hardwood Tree Species*"

Veronica Cavera of Dumont, New Jersey, "*The Most Horrifying Read of the Year: The Nutritional Facts on Your Food or a Comparative Study Concerning Nutritional Knowledge in Students of Business and Nursing Majors at Ramapo College of New Jersey*"

Michael Chiorazzo of Rutherford, New Jersey, "*3-Mercapto-5, 6-diphenyl-1, 2, 4-triazine: A Potential Reagent for Pegylation of Peptides and Proteins*"

Matthew Diamond of Ramsey, New Jersey, "*Aspartame Inhibits Tail Regeneration in Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm)*"

Kevin Kania of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, "*Is Cis-3-Hexen-1-ol a Plant Growth Regulator?*"

Melanie Klein of Glen Rock, New Jersey, "*Tree Selection by Foraging, Male Red-Eyed Vireos (Vireo olivaceus) in a New Jersey Highlands Forest*"

Jeffrey Ludwig of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, "*SimOrg: Simulated Qualitative Organic Analysis*"

(more)

Rajesh Ramnanan of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, "*Catalog of Plasmodium Falciparum Proteins for Studying Active Sites Using PERL Scripts*"

Alyssa Winter of Glen Rock, New Jersey, "*The Synthesis of Transition Metal Complexes That Contain 'Umbrella' Ligands*"

### **Camden County**

Michele Jastrzembki of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, "*Zigs-In-The-Plane Problem*"

### **Cumberland County**

Tiffany Simons of Vineland, New Jersey, "*Hydrogenations Without Hydrogen: The Use of Hydrogen-Transfer Catalysts in Organic Synthesis*"

### **Middlesex County**

Manan Dalal of Roselle Park, New Jersey, Melissa Giusti of Old Bridge, New Jersey; Matthew Howard of Union Beach, New Jersey; and Kate Brown of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, "*Tree Architecture and Niche of Seven Hardwood Tree Species*"

Katelyn Lukshis of East Brunswick, New Jersey and Graeme Gardner of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, "*Microsatellite Ploidy Analysis of 3 Sphagnum Species*"

Tinisha Ricks of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, "*Inhibitory Effect of Acetaminophen on Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm) Tail Regeneration*"

### **Monmouth County**

Manan Dalal of Roselle Park, New Jersey, Melissa Giusti of Old Bridge, New Jersey; Matthew Howard of Union Beach, New Jersey; and Kate Brown of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, "*Tree Architecture and Niche of Seven Hardwood Tree Species*"

Tara Drake of Howell, New Jersey, "*Expression and Purification of E. coli RecR and Its N-Terminal Interlocking Mutant*"

Matthew Howard of Union Beach, New Jersey, "*Dendrochronological Analysis of Tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera) Growth and Distance From Point Source Pollution*"

### **Morris County**

Lorraine Brenner of Montville, New Jersey, "*Diagnosis and Treatment of Dentofacial Abnormalities*"

Rebecca Lake of Budd Lake, New Jersey and Melissa Giusti of Old Bridge, New Jersey, "*Microsatellite Analysis of Three Sphagnum Species of the Eastern U.S.*"

### **Ocean County**

Daniel Fumosa of Forked River, New Jersey, "*Forest Dynamics Simulation and Visualization*"

(more)

**Orange County, New York**

Kim Camargo of Sloatsburg, New York, Andrew Collins of Kinnelon, New Jersey, Steven Libert of Wayne, New Jersey, Vincent Napolitano of Middletown, New York and Kimberly Rodgers of Stillwater, New Jersey, *“Trends in Tree Species Composition Across Vertical Strata in a Mixed Hardwood Forest in the New Jersey Highlands”*

**Passaic County**

Dean Bobo of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, *“Growth in the Dinosaur Coelophysis: Implications for Dinosaur Speed Estimates From Trackways”*

Kim Camargo of Sloatsburg, New York, Andrew Collins of Kinnelon, New Jersey, Steven Libert of Wayne, New Jersey, Vincent Napolitano of Middletown, New York and Kimberly Rodgers of Stillwater, New Jersey, *“Trends in Tree Species Composition Across Vertical Strata in a Mixed Hardwood Forest in the New Jersey Highlands”*

Steve Libert of Wayne, New Jersey, *“Tree Swallow (Tachycineta bicolor) Reproductive Success at Nine Breeding Restoration Sites in the New Jersey Meadowlands”*

Mercedes Perez of Paterson, New Jersey, *“Alkaline pH Prevents Voltage Reversal in Yeast Fermentation of Banana”* and *“Recycling Aluminum by Utilizing the Metal as an Electrode in a Fuel Cell”*

Sandralynn Veech of Hawthorne, New Jersey, *“Pegylation of Growth Hormone-Releasing Factors”*

Bethany Walton, Ringwood, New Jersey, *“Curve-Fitting Analysis of Adsorbed Polymers”*

**Rockland County, New York**

Kim Camargo of Sloatsburg, New York, Andrew Collins of Kinnelon, New Jersey, Steven Libert of Wayne, New Jersey, Vincent Napolitano of Middletown, New York and Kimberly Rodgers of Stillwater, New Jersey, *“Trends in Tree Species Composition Across Vertical Strata in a Mixed Hardwood Forest in the New Jersey Highlands”*

**Sussex County**

Kim Camargo of Sloatsburg, New York, Andrew Collins of Kinnelon, New Jersey, Steven Libert of Wayne, New Jersey, Vincent Napolitano of Middletown, New York and Kimberly Rodgers of Stillwater, New Jersey, *“Trends in Tree Species Composition Across Vertical Strata in a Mixed Hardwood Forest in the New Jersey Highlands”*

**Union County**

Manan Dalal of Roselle Park, New Jersey, Melissa Giusti of Old Bridge, New Jersey; Matthew Howard of Union Beach, New Jersey; and Kate Brown of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, *“Tree Architecture and Niche of Seven Hardwood Tree Species”*

(more)

**International**

Daniela Georgieva of Varna, Bulgaria, “*Development of an Invertebrate Cell Culture Method for Lumbriculus variegatus (Mud Worm)*”

Monique Simpson of Santa Cruz, Trinidad and Tobago, “*Prostaglandins and Osteoblast Differentiation*”

###

For media inquiries, Anna Farneski, assistant vice president, Marketing and Communications, 201.684.6844 or 201.697.3022 (cell).