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**Award-Winning Writer to Speak at Ramapo College Convocation**

*Jeffrey Zaslow, Co-Author, of The Last Lecture to Appear Sept. 16*

(Mahwah)- Award winning writer of the Wall Street Journal column “Moving On,” and co-author of the #1 New York Times Best-Seller *The Last Lecture*, Jeffrey Zaslow will be the guest speaker at Ramapo College’s Opening Convocation. The Convocation will be held on Wednesday September 16 at 1p.m. and is to be located in the Arena at the Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center on campus.

*The Last Lecture* is based on the final lecture of Randy Pausch which was given just after he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given only six months to live. The lecture, entitled “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams,” discussed the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, and of seizing every moment. Like Zaslow’s column, *The Last Lecture* draws on the idea of living and finding what matters most to you. He chose Pausch’s lecture as the subject because “he has created a beat unlike almost any other in journalism.” This book expands on the famous lecture and inspires its audience to live each day to its fullest potential.

Ramapo College’s incoming Class of 2012 is reading *The Last Lecture* this summer and will begin the Fall semester discussing the book in their First Year Seminar Course. This seminar is designed to prepare students for the college-level work that will be expected from them in subsequent courses.

Zaslow graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1980 with a degree in creative writing. He then began working for the Journal in 1983, but in 1987 entered a contest to get an angle on a cover story about the replacement of Anne Landers at the Chicago Sun-Times and won. After 14 years with the Sun-Times, Zaslow decided to return to the Journal.

In 2000, Zaslow received the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award for using his column as a means of running programs to benefit 47,000 disadvantaged college students. Then, in 2003, he was recognized as producing the best general-interest column in a newspaper with over 100,000 copies in circulation by the National Society of Columnists, and won the award again in 2005. As the popularity of the column “Moving On” continued increase, Zaslow received the Distinguished Column Writing Award from the New York Newspaper Publishers Association.

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