

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu

October 21, 2009

**BEST SELLING, AWARD WINNING AUTHOR TO DISCUSS NEW BOOK ON
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Peter Balakian, an award-winning author and Bergen County native, will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey in November.

Balakian will discuss his new book, “Armenian Golgotha.” Recently published by Alfred A. Knopf, it is the translation, on which Balakian collaborated with Aris Sevag, of his great-uncle Rev. Grigoris Balakian’s first-person account of the Armenian Genocide.

Balakian was born in Teaneck and grew up there and in Tenafly. He attended Tenafly public schools and graduated from Englewood School for Boys (now Dwight-Englewood School) before earning his bachelor’s from Bucknell University, a master’s from New York University, and a doctorate from Brown University in American Civilization. He has taught at Colgate University since 1980 where he is currently Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English, and director of creative writing. He was the first director of Colgate’s Center For Ethics and World Societies.

The writer of five books of poems, most recently “June-tree: New and Selected Poems 1974-2000,” Balakian is the author of the memoir “Black Dog of Fate,” winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir and a New York Times Notable Book, and “The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response,” winner of the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and a New York Times Notable Book and New York Times and national best seller. He is also the author of “Theodore Roethke’s Far Fields” (LSU, 1989).

He is co-founder and co-editor with the poet Bruce Smith of the poetry magazine Graham House Review, which was published from 1976-1996, and is the co-translator (with Nevert Yaghlian) of the book of poems “Bloody News From My Friend” by the Armenian poet Siamanto.

Balakian will speak on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219) of the Robert A. Scott Student Center. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

###

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