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THREE SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT RAMAPO COLLEGE IN HONOR OF DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

(MAHWAH, NJ) - In celebration of Disability Awareness Month, Ramapo College's Office of Specialized Services invites an honored guest to campus each year. This year, Ramapo has expanded its invitation to three guests, Activist Jane Jarrow, Artist Alex Masket and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Jerry White.

On October 1, Jane Jarrow, disability activist and an authority on disability at the postsecondary level will be giving a lecture titled, "The Changing Face of Disability on the College Campus." Jarrow is the president of Disability Access Information and Support, which provides resources on a variety of services for those concerned with disability and access in higher education. She is also the executive director of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. She will discuss her experience with the change in disability in higher education over the years, with strategies to continue to mold to the changing needs of the future. The lecture will take place in the Student Center, Rooms 137-138 from 10 a.m. to 11:30, followed by a round-table discussion at 2 p.m.

A film screening and discussion, followed by a reception, will be held in collaboration with the "Alex Masket: View with a Room" exhibition in the Pascal Art Gallery on October 6. Alex Masket, autistic artist and disability advocate, is a self-taught artist, using mixed media and bold color to create his work. The documentary film "Breaking Boundaries: the Art of Alex Masket" will be shown, and filmmaker Dennis Connors and the artist's mother, Elaine Masket, will hold a discussion, followed by a gallery reception. The film screening will be held in the Sharp Theater at 5 p.m., with the talk and reception held in the Pascal Art Gallery from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Co-Founder of Survivor Corps (formerly Landmine Survivors Network) and winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Jerry White will be speaking on October 19. His lecture, "Redefining Disability" will discuss the issues with the common perception of the disabled. Since a landmine incident took his leg, and nearly his life more than 25 years ago, White has led efforts to draft and enact human rights and humanitarian laws that promote and protect the rights of 650 million people with disabilities. Through Survivor Corps White is building a global movement to address the root causes of armed conflicts in 39 countries. The lecture will be held in the Student Center, rooms 137-138 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The events are free and there are a limited number of seats available for the public. To reserve a seat for an event and for additional information on Disability Awareness Month events, please contact Cheryl Schwartz in the Office of Specialized Services at (201) 684-7693 or <u>cschwart@ramapo.edu</u>.