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Ramapo College to Host Symposium April 4 on Immigration in the 21st Century

(MAHWAH, NJ) – On Monday, April 4 from 9:45 a.m. – 7 p.m., the School of American and International Studies at Ramapo College will host a symposium on immigration, “Inventing a Home” Immigration in the 21st Century” in the Trustees Pavilion.

The event will include a series of discussions following opening remarks at 9:45 a.m. by Dean Hassan Nejad of the School of American and International Studies. The panel discussion, “Multiple Perspectives on Immigration: Key Issues for Attorneys, Activists, and Scholars/Teachers” will follow and feature Amy Gottlieb, executive director of the American Friends Service Committee, Valeria Treves, executive director of New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), and Assistant Professor of American Studies John Gronbeck-Tedesco. The discussion will be moderated by Associate Professor of Spanish Language and Literature Iraidia H. Lopez.

From 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. a book discussion on “Brother, I’m Dying,” by Edwidge Danticat will be held. The novel is a recounting of the author’s family in Haiti and America, as well as the tragic tale of her uncle’s encounter with the U.S. immigration policy. The discussion will be moderated by Associate Professor of Comparative World Literature Monika Giacompe.

There will be a lunch break from 1:15-2 p.m., during which “International Migration and Human Rights: Building on Migration Narratives” with Professor of Economics Behzad Yaghmaian will be held and moderated by Professor of Communication Arts Patricia Keeton.

The Face of Immigration: First Person Accounts presentation will be from 2-3:30 p.m. Members of the Grupo Cajola based out of Morristown, New Jersey, Luciano Jimenez and Regina Perez along with members of Adhikaar based out of Woodsie, New York will speak. This presentation will be moderated by Associate Professor of Anthropology Susan Hangen.

A screening of clips from the film “AbUSed: The Postville Raid” (2010) will follow in the segment Criminalizing Immigration from 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. Afterward, Director Luis Argueta will discuss the film, moderated by Assistant Professor of International Studies and Political Science Rebecca Root. Concluding remarks and a reception will follow.

The events are all free and open to the public.

Members of the media may contact Anna Farneski at 201-684-6844.

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.