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**LEGACY OF ITALIAN-JEWISH WRITER AND SURVIVOR PRIMO LEVI TO  
BE DISCUSSED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian & Italian American Studies at Hofstra University Stanislao Pugliese will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on October 26 at 3 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219) under the auspices of the Italian Club and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Ramapo College.

Pugliese will discuss “Answering Auschwitz: Primo Levi's Science and Humanism after the Fall.”

A debate surfaced as to whether Levi’s death was an accident or a suicide immediately after his 1987 death as a result falling down a stairwell. His death as a possible suicide marks a reinterpretation his legacy as a writer and survivor.

Professor Pugliese, a specialist on the Italian anti-Fascist resistance and Italian Jews, will speak about his book on the Italian-Jewish survivor and writer. The volume’s essays deal directly with Levi and his work; others use Levi's writings or ideas to explore issues in Holocaust studies, philosophy and theology.

Pugliese graduated from Hofstra University (B.A. 1987) and the City College of New York (M.A. 1990), and earned his Ph.D. from the City University of New York in 1995, after which he joined the Faculty of Hofstra University. He has been Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian & Italian American Studies since 2009.

Pugliese has spoken at Ramapo College on several occasions, the last time about his book, “Bitter Spring: A Life of Ignazio Silone,” which was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2009.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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For media inquiries, contact Anna Farneski, assistant vice president, Marketing and Communications, 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, as well as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five 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.