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Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners Presents a Daughter's Portrait of the Late Gregory Bateson

(MAHWAH, NJ) - The Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners series, sponsored by Ramapo College's Masters of Arts in Sustainability Studies, presents Nora Bateson showing and discussing "An Ecology of Mind," a documentary film about Gregory Bateson on Thursday, March 29 at 6 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219) in the Robert A. Scott Student Center.

In directing the film about her late father, Nora Bateson creates a personal yet astute portrait of one of the most original thinkers of the twentieth century. Bateson (1904-1980) was an English anthropologist, social scientist, and cyberneticist who also pursued interdisciplinary themes across biology, psychology, anthropology and philosophy of science.

"Although his work was essential to many fields, the Ramapo showing gives special recognition to Bateson's core contributions to ecological thought even more vital today given the advanced sustainability crises we now must confront," said Professor Michael Edelstein, organizer of the series. "The film reminds us of important concepts at a time when we most need intellectual clarity if we are to act effectively."

The film succeeds on many levels, as noted by Hildred Geertz, professor emerita at Princeton University's Department of Anthropology, offering a "tender and poetic portrayal...of one of the most provocative thinkers of the last century, "but also a vivid relationship between a daughter and father."

Since the film's debut in New York City last spring, Nora Bateson has taken it on several world tours to critical and intellectual acclaim.

For more information about the Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners or "An Ecology of Mind" event, please contact Professor of Environmental Psychology and Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies Michael Edelstein via email at medelste@ramapo.edu.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College 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. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as 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.