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Opening Convocation Welcomes "American Nerd" Benjamin Nugent

(MAHWAH, NJ)—This year's Opening Convocation will feature Guest Speaker Benjamin Nugent, author of "American Nerd: The Story of My People" (Scribner, 2008), on September 12 in the Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center at 1 p.m. The book is a cultural history of the nerd that encompasses memoir.

In addition to "American Nerd," Nugent is the author of "Good Kids," a novel to be released by Scriber in 2013. His essays have been published in The New York Times Op/Ed page, The New York Times Magazine among others. Born in Massachusetts and educated at Reed College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Nugent is currently the Director of Creative Writing at Southern New Hampshire University, where he also teaches its MFA and undergraduate programs.

Open Convocation is an all-campus event held annually at the beginning of each new academic year. As a formal academic ceremony, Convocation highlights the summer reading selection and provides an experiential learning opportunity for students. The Guest Speaker is associated with the First-Year Seminar's summer reading and provides students with a hands-on opportunity to connect with the summer reading selection.

For more information about Opening Convocation, please visit <http://www.ramapo.edu/convocation/>.

For a photo, please click on this link: <http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/ben-nugent.tif>

For cutlines, please click on this link: <http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/Ben-cutline.doc>

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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.