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Ramapo College Celebrates 50th Anniversary of "Silent Spring"

(MAHWAH, NJ)- Ramapo College will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" by holding Saving the Natural World: 50th Anniversary Symposium on Sunday, December 2 at 1 p.m. in ASB 135. The event is free and open to the public. Keynote Speaker Isaac Wirgin, associate professor of Environmental Medicine at NYU School of Medicine will present about the rapid evolutionary changes in fishes from chemically contaminated environments. Additional presentations will be made by Ramapo College professors and students. The event is co-sponsored by the School of Theoretical and Applied Science and the School of Social Science and Human Services.

The event will begin with a history of Carson's renowned career as a scientist and writer. The event will then discuss the impacts, followed by policy and the future and will end with the keynote presentation.

Wirgin received his Ph.D. in Biology from City University of New York. His research focuses on characterizing genetic population structure in aquatic organisms as a tool to aid in their management, and examining the molecular and early life-stage effects of contaminants on the fitness of natural populations of fishes. His research was published in the journal "Science."

For additional information please contact Professor Ximena Valderrama at xvalderr@ramapo.edu.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, 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 six 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.