



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Ramapo College to Host 49th Liberian Studies Conference ***Former Liberian President Amos Claudius Sawyer is Keynote Speaker***

MAWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey is hosting the 49th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association <I will link to this <https://www.ramapo.edu/international/lisa-2017>> from March 30 through April 1. This year's topic is *"Governance, Institutional Quality and Elections: Prospects and Challenges for Inclusive Democratic Statebuilding in Liberia."* Educators from across the country, community leaders and students are expected to attend the event.

Former Liberian President Amos Claudius Sawyer is one of the keynote speakers for the event, which opens with a reception on March 30 from 6-8 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges, Student Center.

The schedule includes panel sessions over the two-day conference and a screening of the film "Out of My Hand," the story of a struggling Liberian rubber plantation worker who risks everything to discover a new life as a Yellow Cab driver in New York City, with the film's lead actor Bishop Blay, hosting a Q&A session following the screening. Guests will also have an opportunity to tour the Haitian Art Collection in the College's Rodman Gallery, the largest collection of Haitian art in any academic institution in the United States. The Liberian Women's Chorus for Change will perform during the closing dinner in Friends Hall on April 1.

This is the first time Ramapo College is hosting the international conference. The College also has designated the 2016-17 academic year as the Year of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Liberian Studies Association is a non-profit, scholarly organization created to provide a means for effective cooperation among persons interested in furthering research in all scholarly disciplines, including the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, on topics relevant to the Republic of Liberia and adjacent areas; to publish and otherwise disseminate the results of such research; to cooperate with scholarly organizations, and cultural, scientific, and educational institutions, nationally and internationally, having mutual interests in the exchange and presentation of information and ideas resulting from research in the subject field; to encourage

interest in Liberian affairs; and to stimulate and facilitate academic contacts and educational exchanges between Liberia and the United States.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 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 eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.