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Ambassador of San Marino to Speak at Ramapo College

H.E. Damiano Beleffi will discuss history and cultural influence of world's oldest republic

MAHWAH, N.J. – The Italian Club of the School of Humanities and Global Studies at Ramapo College will be welcoming H.E. Damiano Beleffi, ambassador of the Republic of San Marino on Thursday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion on the Ramapo College campus.

Beleffi, who serves as ambassador to the United States and Canada and as vice president of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, will present "Sovereignty of the Oldest Republic in the World: A Background History of San Marino." The event is free and open to the public.

San Marino is a 24-square mile mountainous, enclaved microstate situated on the Italian Peninsula on the northeastern side of the Apennine Mountains. With a population of 33,562, it is the smallest of all members of the Council of Europe. Among the world's oldest republics, San Marino is considered to have the earliest written governing documents still in effect. Specific ties to the U.S. include the government of San Marino naming Abraham Lincoln an honorary citizen.

Beleffi served as ambassador of San Marino to Germany from 2008 to 2011, and as deputy permanent representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2008. He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Genoa-Italy.

For information or for disability-related accommodations, email rdangelo@ramapo.edu

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report, Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best

campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.