School of Theoretical and Applied Science

TAS Student/Alumni Achievements

- Bio informatics student Haley Wight won first runner up prize for her summer research at Cornell University, NY. Her research involved working on assembling the genome and identifying genes of a beneficial fungus Glomus versiforme. The use of this fungus in agriculture can help reduce the use of phosphorus fertilizers.
- Bioinformatics student Mingzhao Liu worked on a high-end research project at Vanderbilt University using bioinformatics techniques to develop computational models of antibodies against a Marburg virus. Similar to the Ebola virus, Marburg virus causes hemorrhagic fever and has no known treatment at present.
- Bioinformatics alumnus Evan Clayton ’14 earned admission into the Ph.D. program at Virginia Tech. However, he was not satisfied with that accomplishment. He put his admission on hold and continued working at Pfizer pharmaceuticals. This year he has been accepted into a prestigious Ph.D. program in Bioinformatics at Georgia Tech. His research is likely to involve personalized medicine, utilizing genomic profiles and learning algorithms.
- In spring 2015, Math major, Nathaniel Kolo, won 3rd place (out of 97 competitors) in the New Jersey Undergraduate Mathematics Competition.
- Math alumnus, Brandon Armstrong ’15, earned admission into the M.S. program in Actuarial Sciences at Columbia University.
- Math alumna Brielle Ryan accepted a teaching assistantship at the University of Wyoming starting this fall. She has applied for admission into UW’s statistics program.
- Computer Science alumnus Dobromir Yordanov accepted a full-time position with Google in NYC.
- Environmental science alumnus Brian Wlodawski ’15 & Engineering Physics alumnus Mike Papilli ’15 won “best oral presentation” at the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists 2015 student meeting in April. Supervised by Professor Emma Rainforth, they demonstrated environmental data collected from Kameron Pond.

TAS Faculty News

- Professor of Biology Joost Moonen published an article in the journal PLOS One/Public Library of Science One titled “Separase Cleaves the N-Tail of the CENP-A Related Protein CPAR-1 at the Meiosis I Metaphase-Anaphase Transition in C. elegans”
- Professor Eric Wiener encourages folks to check out the native wildflower meadow that he and students planted and have been taking care of on a quarter acre surrounding the college’s bee hive behind the Sharp Sustainability Education Center. Now in its second growing season, they’ve identified over 20 native wildflower species, thousands of individual flowers overall and countless pollinators.

TAS Program News
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- Upward Bound Math Science is Celebrating its 20th Anniversary this November, the program began Nov. 1995, first directed by Dr. Carol Frishberg.

This summer Upward Bound teamed up with Angela Cristini and the Grants Office to host over 500 middle school students through hands-on science experiments in our newly renovated labs.

The Upward Bound students mentored the younger students and shared their expectations of going to college and majoring in STEM related fields. 7 of our class of 2015 are now enrolled in Ramapo, more than a third of our graduating class, 2 are enrolled in our nursing program.

Anisfield School of Business

ASB Program News

- This past spring, teams of second-year MBA students were assigned to area businesses for a ten-week consulting assignment as part of their Capstone Assignment. This year Ramapo partnered with five world-class companies: BMW, Becton Dickinson, dressbarn, Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) and Home Depot.

The assignments ranged from revising an inventory replenishment system to revamping a corporate wellness program in order to reduce stress-related healthcare costs. Their complexity and range speaks to the quality of our program as well as the advantages of having a business school embedded in a liberal arts college. Perhaps the best measure of Ramapo’s ability to impact the community is the fact that all five companies have indicated their willingness to participate again next spring.

ASB Student/Alumni Achievements

(Post Script) Professor Ray Rigoli shared that four of the “30 under 30” young accounting professionals recognized this year by the New Jersey Society of CPA’s (NJCPA) are Ramapo College graduates. Our graduates include: Daniel R. Arcuri ’08 of L’Oreal USA, Christine M. Bowers ’11 of CohnReznick LLP, David G. Calotta of ADP, and Alyssa P. Leach of Flack man, Goodman & Potter, PA. In addition to the list of 30 there were 11 Honorable Mentions, including Ramapo alumnus Takanari Tanahashi ‘12 of WithumSmith+Brown.

School of Social Science and Human Services

SSHS Student News

- SSHS student Jeremy Capati interned in The White House Office of Public Engagement and for the National Federation of the Blind this summer. For his senior thesis, he is working with advocacy organizations and legislators to draft federal legislation regarding accessibility for the disability community at all colleges.

SSHS Faculty News
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- Professor of Law and Society Jillian Weiss has been recognized as a national expert on issues of diversity and workplace discrimination and has been a consultant at the White House, Harvard University and international corporations. She is currently a Member of the Board of Directors of the national LGBT organization Lambda Legal. Professor Weiss has also coordinated a campus visit on September 18 at 3:30pm in Friends Hall with Ms. Cherno Biko, who will speak about her trans advocacy.

- Professor of Sociology Kristin Kenneavy, published The Influence of Social Norms on Advancement Through Bystander Stages for Preventing Interpersonal Violence, 2015.

- Professor of Sociology Henri Lustiger-Thaler published “Religious Revival in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945 – 1950”

- Professor of Sociology Behzad Yaghmaian published “Embracing the Infidel”, which has established him as a major voice in world dialogue on the Middle East. The paperback edition has been published in Iran and Italy. Professor Yaghmaian has been referred to and quoted in the New York Times, USA Today, interviewed on National Public Radio and a national radio station in the United Kingdom.

- Professor of Law and Society Mia Serban published “Rule of Law Indicators as a Technology of Power in Romania.”

- Professor of Social Work Stephanie Sarabia, has in press “Assessment and Treatment of Women with Substance Use Disorders.”

- Professor of Psychology Nicholas Salter, has in press “The role of sexual orientation and gender on leadership perceptions.”

- Professor of Teacher Education Michael Bitz, has in press “The Charter School Reader: Explorations of School Choice, Enterprise, and Community in US Education.”

- Professor of Psychology Shaziela Ishak published “Perception-action development from infants to adults: perceiving affordances for reaching through openings.”

SSHHS Program News
- Our new MSW program has exceeded all expectations in its first year. In year 1, the program received 113 applications and surpassed its enrollment goal by enrolling 39 MSW students.

Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies
SSHGS Faculty News
- Professor Iraida Lopez recently published “Impossible Returns: Narratives of the Cuban Diaspora”

SSHGS Program News
- Ramapo College nursing students were honored this spring by Jewish Family Service of North New Jersey for their participation in a senior leadership project that connected them with Holocaust survivors through the College’s Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The project gained considerable attention from the media and was lauded in the National League for Nursing’s summer Report and in the New Jersey Jewish Standard.
- The Gross Center is also collaborating with faculty and students on a student-faculty research project focused on the resettlement of Holocaust survivors in northern NJ; Further the Center exceeded the challenge grant by the Gross Foundation by over $14,000.

School of Contemporary Arts

CA Student/Alumni news

- Visual Arts major Joao Zago has a solo exhibition of new works at Gallery Aferro in Newark, September 5th-October 3rd
- Eight students from the Global Communication and Media concentration presented papers last spring at state, regional, and national conferences, including two students, Monica Coniglio and Danielle Corcione, who were among 40 students selected nationwide to present at the National Communication Association Honors Conference in Washington, D.C., as well as Faith Macer, who won the Top Student Paper award at the New Jersey Communication Association annual conference.
- Three Visual Communication Design students won awards in the design scholarship competition of the Art Directors Club of New Jersey. Amy Lando won the award for best package design, and Kyle Klitch and Corinne Walk both won awards for excellence in the portfolio competition.
- Journalism major Yovanna Garcia was selected as one of twelve students nationwide to participate in the National Association of Hispanic Journalists’ Student Project at the organization’s Excellence in Journalism Conference in Orlando, Florida later this month.
- Music alumnus Brandon Korn ‘13, recently co-produced the record “Hold You Down,” by DJ Khaled, which has gone Gold, selling over 500,000 copies. In addition to other producing credits, Brandon has been awarded a publishing contract with Sony/ATV, the world’s leading music publishing company.
- Brian Walters, a graduate of the Contemporary Arts Contract major, has been working as a rough layout artist for Sony Imageworks for the past five years, and was recently given the assignment of Lead Layout Artist on the company’s next Smurfs movie, to be produced in Vancouver over the next two years.

CA Faculty News

- Professor Renata Gangemi is co-director and editor of the film “Stories of Courage: Argentine Political Women,” which will be screened in New York City on September 18, with a discussion led by the Argentine Ambassador to the United Nations, Maria Cristina Perceval.
- Professor David Oh has published the book Viewing Identity: Second-generation Korean American Diaspora and Transnational Media, which will be released by Lexington Books.
- Professor Jackie Skrzynski is featured in a group exhibition of prints and drawings at the Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon, New York, September 12-October 4.
- Adjunct Professor Richard Sorce has received a lot of national attention and airplay for his album of original jazz music, “A Place I’ve Never Been,” which features vocalist Michele Encarcion’, a 2015 Music graduate.
- Professor Ben Neill’s new music theater piece, “The Demo,” which premiered at Stanford University in March, received national attention and critical acclaim from many important
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publications, including The New York Times. Prof. Neill composed and performed in the
piece, which dramatized the 1968 demonstration of interactive computing by computer
scientist Douglas Engelbart.

CA Program News
- The School of Contemporary Arts launched a new partnership with the New Jersey
Artist/Teacher Institute, hosting a week-long institute in July. Co-sponsored by the New
Jersey State Council on the Arts and Arts Horizons, the institute immerses teachers and
artists in hands-on workshops in the performing, visual, literary and digital arts led by
master teaching artists.

George T. Potter Library
- Librarian Christina Connor presented at the 2015 Annual COPLAC meeting titled "Digital
Spaces: Placed-based and Technology Enhanced Learning at a Public Liberal Arts College."
The presentation focused on Rikki Abzug's upper-level management course redesign and
the inclusion of an expanded information literacy component.

Advancement News
- Further our Promise Campaign: In Fiscal 2015 the Foundation was delighted to complete
its Further our Promise Comprehensive Capital Campaign. The campaign, which was
publicly announced in November 2011, was to raise $40 million, a goal that was later
increased to $50 million. The Foundation surpassed that revised goal bringing in over
$56 million to support capital growth, grant activity, scholarship and endowments as
well as unrestricted funds which allow the Foundation to provide additional support to
the College.
- Endowment Growth: At the end of Fiscal 2015, the endowment balance was over $16
million, a 167% increase since 2009. In Fiscal 2015 there were sixteen new endowments
created, including four set up by College members, bringing in more than $600
thousand in permanent funds. The growth in the endowment also beat the yearly goal
and is in line to meet the strategic goals set both by the Foundation and College. For
example, BD Corporation recently funded a $125,000 endowment for minority
scholarships.
- Pathways Expansion: The Foundation is pleased to report that three additional
Pathways Program Endowments will be planned and implemented this year in the
School of Contemporary Arts, Social Science and Human Services, and in Theoretical and
Applied Sciences as a result of a most generous $1 million commitment. The College’s
five schools now all have a dedicated, specifically designed by each dean and his faculty,
Pathways program whose focus is on student’s success beyond College, with careers,
graduate programs, service experiences and gap year opportunities.
- Scholarship Growth: There has also been a significant increase in student scholarships
issued, which includes both funding from the endowment as well as annual support
from donors. This increase resulted in $509 thousand awarded or 15% more in
scholarship support to students in FY15 as compared to $443 thousand in FY14. For
2015-2016, we are most fortunate that Dr. and Mrs. Demby set up a new need based 4-
year, renewable full scholarship for tuition, fees, room and board, as well as books. This is now the largest scholarship we award.

- Grants Success: We are pleased to report significant grant success as a result of the efforts of faculty, administration and staff. Funding from the U.S. Department of Education (TRIO SSS) was renewed in the amount of $1,300,000 for the next five years to support programs and staff in the Office of Specialized Services.

The National Historical Publications & Records Commission (a division of the National Archives) made a grant of $80,382 to the College for the Jane Addams Papers Project. The Project is based in SSHGS and is under the direction of alumna Dr. Cathy Hajo '85.

The Paterson Board of Education has provided a second year of funding for the "Middle School University (MSU)" project in the amount of $247,000. As noted earlier, the program worked closely with our Upward Bound students. The project provides science, technology, engineering, arts, and math education in two of Paterson's worst-performing middle schools. A similar initiative will be started in Little Ferry, NJ this year. This new project will also provide STEM education in the Little Ferry middle schools, through a $153,400 grant over two years.

The N.J. Department of Labor granted Ramapo College a $180,000 Skills4Jersey award, to provide skills training for corporate employees in our area. The grant is administered by the College's Center for Innovative and Professional Learning, and includes leadership and advanced training for employees of Dress Barn and Prestige Family of Dealerships.

Community Engagement
On September 12 we are assisting in the coordination of the NY NJ Trail Conference Grand Opening, and on August 13 we hosted a Cyber Security Conference in conjunction with the New Jersey Small Business Development Center.

Athletics
Our Fall Sports Teams are off to a great start to their seasons. Yesterday we learned that Four of our Athletes earned NJAC (our Athletic conference) honors this week including:
  - Senior women's soccer player Nicole Ninomiya earned the first NJAC Offensive Player of the Week honor
  - Rookie men's soccer player Ryan Campbell earns the first NJAC Rookie of the Week award and his first career conference award
  - Rookie women's tennis player Emily Biunno earns the first NJAC Rookie of the Week selection
  - Rookie men's cross country runner Matt Tuohy earns the first NJAC Rookie of the Week honor
  - In addition, the softball team is this year's NJAC champions. A ring ceremony is planned for the team as part of Family Day on October 3.

Other Student Achievements
- Hannah Kucks, Graduate Assistant in the Center for Student Success was awarded the NODA Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award at the Region VIII Conference in Towson, MD on March 7, 2015. NODA is the Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education.

- Uma Joshi and Nathalye Ribeiro, Orientation Program Coordinators in the Center for Student Success along with Hannah Kucks, Graduate Assistance for Student Success presented at the NODA Regional Conference for Region VIII in Towson, MD. They presented on the success and benefits of the Ramazing Race activity that is completed by all first year students during New Student Orientation.

- Uma Joshi was renewed as a NASPA undergraduate Fellow for the second year. Frank Albergo was selected to begin his first year as a NASPA undergraduate fellow.

#MyRamapo Videos
A new video campaign launched by students and supported by our Web Administration team will aim to showcase students and campus through student-generated content. The #MyRamapo video campaign is being led by Admissions' student and employee Zac Brower and by Marketing and Web's student and employee Stefanie Murphy. The kickoff video will feature alumnus Dennis DePrimo ‘13 giving a skateboard video of campus accompanied by music from alumnus Lenny Morales ‘13 and his band Pros and Icons.

Other videos will include students individually talking about topics such as athletics, Residence Life, Clubs, Study Abroad, Leaders in Service, Greek Life, the Women’s Center, and the newly renovated Atrium/Dining Services Area.