Welcome
We do not get to choose the times in which we live. The late Justice Ginsburg, one of my heroes, faced remarkable challenges throughout her life and she surmounted them. She surmounted them, in part, because of her education and her fortitude. She taught us that overcoming challenge can make you a stronger, more accomplished person and this is, in large part, why we are here as educators. An educated mind asks, “What can I do to make this world a better place?” Well, the menu of opportunities to better our communities is long and I do hope you, like Justice Ginsburg so aptly did, take advantage of them.

I believe the State of the College is strong. We have not been fatally wounded by this pandemic, but we are certainly suffering. In this address I will share with you updates on our enrollment and our budget, as well as news about how the College has grown into virtual platforms. I will recognize the efforts of the Pandemic Assessment Team and the Return to Campus Task Force, share some grants and capital updates, and also highlight a few good news stories from across campus. There will be time for question and answer at the end.

Two New Rankings
Two new rankings lauding our residence halls and our campus have recently been bestowed upon the College. While grateful for this positive attention, the praise does feel a bit like salt in the wound at a time when our campus has such depleted physical activity on it.

Niche, a college ranking and review website, has again declared Ramapo College as having the #1 residence halls among public and private colleges in NJ and in the top 2% nationwide. Nationwide, the College’s residence halls rank as #34 out of 1,376 colleges.
Ramapo College has been name by Condé Nast Traveler as one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America! Condé Nast stated, “Firmly planted between the switchbacks of the Ramapo Mountains in New Jersey, Ramapo has many amenities packed into a relatively small state school. Founded in 1969, the school’s dorms and buildings may not be cast in stone from the 19th century, but that can mean massive improvements when it comes to students’ actual lives. Many dorms are air conditioned, and buildings include the kind of accessibility and modern technologies that some of the older schools on this list have yet to upgrade to. Plus, students have plenty of options for outdoor activities here, whether it be skiing at nearby Camp Gaw or hiking through the Ramapo reservation.”

Test-Optional
Effective this Fall 2021 recruitment season, Ramapo College will be Test-Optional in its admissions process. This institutional decision was not made quickly, but instead was data-driven and mindful of the environment that we find ourselves in as a result of COVID-19 as well as the competitive environment associated with declining high school graduates.

Professor Jeremy Teigen of Political Science serves as the Faculty Fellow For Enrollment Data and, together with Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Chris Romano, has been reviewing data over the last four years to determine the relationship between SAT scores and Student Success (as measured by both Student GPA and Student First Year Retention) as well as the relationship between High School GPA and Student Success. The analysis, which converted ACT scores into SAT scores to measure standardized testing as a whole, revealed the following:

- When looking at the 9 cohorts of incoming students (approx., 9000 students), the SAT is not even statistically significant in predicting retention when controlling for high school grades.
- In predicting retention, HS GPA has almost eightfold better predictive power than SAT
- In predicting 1st Year GPA, HS GPA has more than threefold better predictive power than SAT

I know that Professor Teigen and VP Romano have made their rounds in presenting the data to Cabinet, the Deans Council, FAEC and Faculty Assembly. I am excited for this move for the College and look forward to a successful Fall 2021 recruitment cycle which is already in swing. But, now let’s talk about the Class of 2024.
Class of 2024
I am proud to report that, unlike many of our sister institutions, our enrollment remains strong despite these uncertain times.

We froze our file last Thursday and we finished this semester at 97% of our enrollment target. While schools experienced significant melt this year, meaning students who initially committed that changed their mind, our melt remained rather flat at approximately 6%.

We enrolled close to 1000 incoming first year students and have over 50 students that deferred their admissions to begin in either spring 2021 or fall 2021. 42.8% of our incoming first year students report being non-white.

Additionally, we enrolled 365 new graduate students between this summer and fall semester. In total, we now have 629 graduate students enrolled at Ramapo, representing 12% of our overall enrollment.

A special congratulations and good work to the members of the enrollment management, admissions, student success, financial aid, registrar and student accounts teams that worked tirelessly this summer to mitigate student melt, orient new students and their families, and to enroll this year’s classes. We are fortunate to be in a positon where enrollment is not handily exacerbating the financial challenges posed by COVID.

Our new student move in went smoothly as well which you can see from the pictures.
EOF
To our 102 new EOF Scholars, my wife Jackie and I missed greeting you at our home. But we remain thrilled that you have joined Ramapo and we congratulate you on completing the rigorous online Summer Program. One of our professors in the online program shared how community and transformation occurred in the remote format: “This was a great EOF class, and a wonderful experience. I had doubts at the outset: how could we possibly match the usual in-person delivery of the EOF program? Well, from everything the students report, and from my own observation, it went better than we could have ever imagined. We all created that community, even if in virtual format.”

At the conclusion of the EOF Summer Program, 23 of you chose to continue your learning throughout August by participating in our remotely delivered Reclaim My Math Program, which provides a math review and the opportunity to advance course placement through re-testing. Alumni Eneuri Acosta provided a generous gift of $1,500 to the College covering the $65 cost per student. Reclaim My Math was started in the summer of 2013 by Joe Connell to improve math course placement and success in initial math courses for students. Over its 8 years, it has assisted over 400 students, almost 50 students per summer, in making a successful transition into their first math course, which in most cases was a higher level course than their initial placement.

I’d also like to congratulate Dr. Andre Turner on the successful defense of his dissertation with St. Peter’s University. Dr. Turner’s research focused on Students’ Perception of the Effectiveness of College Opportunity Programs. Also, a warm farewell to Barbara Harmon Francis who recently accepted the role of Vice President for Student Success and Retention at Kean University.

RCNJ Growth with Virtual Platforms
Like the Online Summer EOF Program, we have all in some way contributed to the reimagination and redesign of how we deliver the Ramapo College experience. From recruitment to field placements, we have participated in tremendous growth in how we virtually deliver on our mission during this pandemic. For example:

New Student Programs launched a Virtual Orientation Program through which they hosted over 30 live events for new students and their families. They also facilitated smaller peer connections in groups of 25 for every new student at least three times during the period of new student transition. This work to welcome new students culminated with the official entrance of the Class of 2024 into Ramapo College with our New Student Assembly and Arching Ceremony on Saturday, September 12.

That day, students visited campus in three groups of 225 students each to ensure a safe and socially distanced Assembly followed by the procession up Mansion Road and through the Arch where they used Foam Fingers for the traditional handshake with me and other members of the Administration.

The New Student Assembly and Arching Ceremony were organized by First Year Seminar section. The Peer Facilitators of each section came to welcome their students in person. This continued their engagement with the students that began with virtual hangouts in July as part of our Virtual Orientations.
“Tuesday Topics” Virtual Admissions Series
This summer, the college also launched its Tuesday Topic Virtual Admissions presentation series. Live presentations were held on key resources across campus for first-year students, transfer students, and families. Topics have included affordability, academic success strategies, and the Parent Perspective, to name a few.

Just last week, the Office of Admissions hosted its first Tuesday Topics presentation in Spanish. Admissions staff provided an overview on the basics of the College Admissions Process. Students and families had the opportunity to learn more about various topics, such as different methods of applying, reviewing various "myths" and "truths" about college, financial aid options, and more. A Ramapo student also provided the student perspective during the presentation. The presentation was recorded and will be posted on the Admissions website as a resource for our Spanish-speaking prospective students and families.
This pandemic is teaching us how to reach and serve our students differently. For example:

In Psychology, the faculty worked closely with students to hold the 2020 Virtual Psychology Student Symposium in lieu of an in-person symposium. The success of that venture resulted not just from the faculty’s collaborative efforts to construct the virtual platform in a short time, but, most importantly, students’ unwavering enthusiasm to showcase their work. The students presented national conference-ready posters and gave skilled oral presentations despite being in the midst of the early peak of the pandemic.

In Special Education, under the leadership of Professor Julie Good, our graduate Special Education students collaborated with the NJ Council of Exceptional Children, the NJ Department of Education, and other prominent organizations/individuals to design, administer and deliver weekly professional development webinars to thousands of educational professionals across the state.

Teacher Education also responded to the necessary shift to remote clinical placements. 60 clinical interns successfully completed all clinical practice requirements in Spring 2020, and 80 interns are initiating their NJDOE-mandated clinical practice this Fall 2020 semester. 100 Teacher Education students will engage in virtually-delivered clinical experiences in the Paterson School District this fall. Additionally, through a long standing partnership with the iLearn Schools leadership, Teacher Education staff and faculty designed and implemented an initial virtually-delivered clinical experience for 100 newly enrolled students.
In Social Work, in order to adjust for many cancelled field internships that are necessary for MSW students’ graduation requirements, the MSW program partnered with existing and developing programs at the College provide required field placements. For example, MSW partnered with the Center for Student Involvement and placed interns to advance the We Care Program.

The WeCare Program, which includes the Food Pantry, also managed operational shifts during the pandemic. The Food Pantry continued to operate throughout the remote learning period of instruction and the summer months. Jack Nesmith opened the pantry two days per week. By establishing a cleaning schedule, social distancing measures, and an operational protocol, the Center for Student Involvement, with Jack’s dedication, was able to keep the pantry open for the needs of on campus residents. The Pantry had 312 student contacts (includes repeat visitors) between March and September 10.

Student Affairs established the Ramapo Cares Task Force. Chaired by Rick Brown, the Task Force is comprised of leadership from the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, Roukema Center for International Education, Institutional Advancement, and Office of Financial Aid. The Task Force, supported by Karen Booth and her team with the We Care program, reviewed and assessed the merits of student applications for financial relief. Through coordinating the variety of financial accounts, the group determined a fair and equitable way to apply relief to the applicants in as timely a way as possible. The group also used funding from the newly established COVID-19 Student Relief Fund. Almost 100 students have benefited from the funding and the good will from our We Care program is not just felt internally.

The Civic and Community Engagement Center has been recognized by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey with a Companies That Care Award. Through the work of Rick, Karen, and Jack, the College is being recognized for its community engagement projects. Specifically, the We Care Program, which establishes resources for students with food insecurity, day-to-day- incidentals, and housing insecurity, has been highlighted as a signature
program. A virtual event is planned for September 30 during which time Karen will accept the award on behalf of Ramapo College.

The School of Contemporary Arts, in particular The Berrie Center, launched its new virtual program series, Bringing Home Berrie, which features conversations and performances with Ramapo College faculty, students, alumni, and guest artists. The series can be viewed on the Center’s YouTube Channel. The Berrie Center is also presenting Leaning into the Unknown: An Artist Response to COVID-19. Earlier this year, a call was sent out to NJ based artists to submit new work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Six artists were selected to develop their pieces for this project and they will be livestreamed on two evenings on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 8pm and Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 8pm. Following the livestream, a live Q&A will take place with the artists.

The Roukema Center worked in collaboration with the Dean of Students and Office of Residence Life in support of international students who remained in the United States as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. This support included on-campus housing, meal delivery, and health support.
The Roukema Team also repatriated over 20 students who were abroad for the Spring semester very quickly once it became clear the pandemic was not contained with a specific country or region. The health and safety of the students was and is paramount, and their academic continuity was guaranteed through either continued enrollment virtually with our overseas partners or through enrollment in courses back at Ramapo College. Further, in partnership with the Roukema Center’s global network, the College now offers various virtual study abroad and internship opportunities which is an important step in supporting students with degrees that require international experience.

During the height of the COVID-19 crisis in Bergen County, the Small Business Development Center at our College leveraged its position to initiate the Bergen County NJSBDC Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative. Vince Vicari and his staff, including alumnus Ryan Greff, worked to create and coordinate eight Economic Recovery Task Forces to provide the small business community with help in navigating through the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic. 22 Ramapo students served on these task forces and were, thereby, able to participate in summer internships. With over 40,000 small businesses in Bergen County, the eight task forces provided much needed support during the period of great crisis. To date, the task forces have devoted over 2,400 hours of service in support of the small business community with each student contributing 110 hours. A tip of my hat to Vince, Ryan, and all of the students involved in this most impactful initiative.

**PCCC Partnership**
The College also kicked off its 3 plus 1 agreements with Passaic County Community College this fall. Despite not having any on-campus recruitment presence at PCCC due to Covid, we have 27 students who entered the 3 plus 1 agreements at PCCC this fall. 7 students are enrolled in the Psychology program.
14 in the social science program
6 in the global studies & business program

We are also working to start our 2+2 BSW program with PCCC this January. The numbers are overwhelmingly positive with over 50 prospects for the program and 25 students, right now, enrolled in a pre-requisite course at PCCC.

Our 3+1 program is also gaining media attention. Northjersey.com highlighted a $600K Title IV grant awarded recently to PCCC to support institutions in creating new infrastructure and pathways for the area’s Hispanic population. Ramapo and PCCC worked together on the grant which centered, in large part, on the 3+1 partnership, and Ramapo will receive $1,026,800 over 5 years to support the 3+1 program.

Class of 2020 Celebrations
Since we announced the cancelation of Commencement in the Spring, our primary goal and promise to our graduates and their families has been to deliver an in-person event for the Class of 2020 that is safe, inclusive, and meaningful. While the video and social media tributes the College curated for the Class of 2020 in the spring were well-received, they were never meant to replace an on-campus send off.

Last week we announced that we will be delivering Class of 2020 Celebrations on-campus in mid-October. The Celebrations will be delivered over the course of a Fri-Sat-Sun and will include a modified Arching Ceremony and a Conferral Ceremony. Due to outdoor gathering limits and contract tracing responsibilities, we are seeking to deliver two roughly 120-minute Celebrations each day. Further, each Celebration will have a fixed number of graduates and each graduate will be permitted to bring two guests.
I am looking forward to these events for our Class of 2020 graduate and their families which will be live streamed for faculty, staff, and others to enjoy from home.

**Restart Planning and Implementation**
Many of us have been doing quite a bit from home lately and I want to take some time in this address to recognize the groups and persons across campus that, throughout this pandemic, have worked on our frontlines to ensure that Ramapo, sometimes our home away from home, is safe and welcoming.

**Pandemic Assessment Team**
As part of the College’s Emergency Preparedness Plan, and since early in the Spring semester, the College’s Pandemic Assessment Team has been working tirelessly.

The efforts of the Team have both ensured the continuity of services during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in the implementation of policies and procedures for the protection of our students, faculty, and staff.

As of September 11, the Team has met 77 times and advanced initiatives related to isolation and quarantine, how to manage a sick student/employee, face covering policies, travel registry, mandatory COVID training for employees and students, the disclosure of COVID-19 cases impacting Ramapo and much, much more.

On a daily basis, team members monitor local, state, and national resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, NJ Department of Health, Governor Murphy and Presidential Trump updates, and U.S. Department of State.

During the past several months, the Team has advanced countless recommendations to Cabinet and has collaborated to implement a remarkable amount of health and safety measures.

Let us all pause to extend our thanks to our colleagues on the Pandemic Assessment Team, all of whom need sleep and a vacation.

**Return to Campus Task Force and Subcommittees**
Let me also take this time to recognize and thank the members of the Return to Campus Task Force and its multiple subcommittees. In lock step with the hard work and vigilance of the Pandemic Assessment Team, the Task Force embarked on a mammoth task to plan for our safe return and in so doing authored our 35-page plan which was submitted to the Secretary of Higher education on July 14 and, to this day, has not been subject to any revisions or amendments by the State.

The Plan details our protocols as they pertain primarily to Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Human Resources. Much of what you see on campus is the product of the Task Force (reconfigured spaces, sanitation signage, wayfinding, WebEx tutorials, etc.) But also, much of what you don’t see is also the product of the Task Force (the behind the scenes work that went into procuring technology, providing food service, launching classes, preparing residence halls, etc). The Plan is not a final product, however, and as circumstances change in the State and on our campus, we will advance revisions of the Plan to the State and update our website.
Getting to this point in our operations has come at a significant cost. The emotional cost of these past few months for many of us has been unprecedented. We are finding our way though. Similarly, the financial cost of the past few months to the College have also been unprecedented, and while we are also finding our way on that front, it continues to be a hard rowt.

**Budget**

Tomorrow the Governor’s budget is being presented for vote, and we are hoping that it will include the restoration of $102M for higher education. This will be positive news for our sector, and I am pleased to share that our legislative representatives, many of whom I was able to visit with, are supportive of this restoration.

Typically, the budget is approved in June and begins July 1st, but the State extended its fiscal year by three months this year as a result of the uncertainties of COVID-19, to end September 30.
As a result, Ramapo is also experiencing an abnormal budget calendar this year. Vice President Loewrigkeit and her team have prepared the FY21 Budget based on several key assumptions. Among the assumptions are a blended tuition and fee increase of 1.9%, a student fees discount of 30%, fringe benefit rate at 50%, targeted cuts in non-salary expenditures, slightly lower enrollment as compared to FY20, and significant declines in room and board revenues.

On this latter point, we have made an assumption of a modest uptick in room and board in the spring, but, if the College was forced to move back to entirely remote Stage 1 Operations the Fall Auxiliary loss is estimated to be $15,000 per day (or up to $1.7M) and if Spring were to be fully in Stage 1, the Auxiliary loss is estimated to be $58,000 per day or up to $6.6M.

For the first time in my history with Ramapo, the College is not in a position to present a balanced budget. Even after strong enrollment, furloughs, much regretted but necessary managerial layoffs, non-salary cuts, and the zeroing out of our deferred maintenance funds, our planned expenditures exceed our expected revenues. As such, the proposed FY21 budget includes a release from Reserves of approximately $5.8M. If the State’s final budget includes additional funding for Ramapo, this number could be much lower.
I believe we will continue to operate in this very lean manner for some time, even after the pandemic has passed. Although we are incurring losses, our fiscal stewardship over the past decade, with the Board’s support, has enabled us to have operating reserves set aside for a rainy day, and I think we all agree that it is pouring lately. Our losses will be made up if we continue our fiscal prudence into the coming years, however, new revenue streams must be pursued (ex. 3+1, Graduate Program growth) and costs must continue to be contained.

**Capital Updates**

As we look to build new revenue streams and offset our expenses, we are also focusing our attention on grants and fundraising.
Over $550,000 is available in endowed scholarships for students this academic year. Of note, Lindsay and Eric Koskinen increased their endowment and re-named it the Black Lives Matter scholarship for students from inner city high schools. In addition, the Bernie Milano/KPMG endowed scholarship was increased and designated for black students entering our master’s program in accounting. These are just two of the many examples of how our campus has rallied together in support of our peers, friends, and colleagues who identify as black or indigenous people of color. Programming, instruction, and resources on racial injustice and the lived experiences of others have been made possible through the collaborative efforts of so many groups across campus including but not limited to SGA, BSU, CSI, Counseling, EDIC, CA, ASB, SSHS, HGS, TAS, Academic Affairs, Advancement, and many others. Thank you.

Shifting to the grants world, our TRiO grant for Specialized Services was funded again. Ramapo has been a recipient of the TRiO grant since 1976. The 2020-2021 award amount is slightly over $315,000 and is designed to provide academic achievement support services for students with disabilities. Some support services include peer tutoring, professional writing tutors, computer instruction, career development, graduate school counseling, and assistance with independent living. Of the over 500 students affiliated with OSS, 185 are enrolled as receiving TRiO related grant support.

Grants supporting the Jane Addams Project, and the Spanish for Health Care and Human Services Professionals certificate program were also renewed. The Jane Addams Papers Project has received a $200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will support preparation of an open access digital edition Jane Addams’s writings and correspondence from 1901 to 1935. Congratulations to Professor Cathy Hajo.

In the last two years, Professor Natalia Santamaria Laorden received two federal Undergraduate and International Studies Foreign Language Grants from the department of education to support and enhance the Certificate for Spanish in Health Care and Human Services. The second grant will support the creation of two new courses for the Spanish for Healthcare and Human Services Professionals Certificate, a study abroad program in Spain in the summer of 2022, as well as an internship with the organization Aphasia Access. Professor Santamaria Laorden is also now the chair of the interprofessional program (focused on psychology, social work, and speech pathologies) of the Medical Spanish Taskforce. This Taskforce will be able to provide feedback
on the Certificate program and assist with publication development. Congratulations to Professor Santamaria Laorden.

The Foundation continues to hold events to generate funds for Ramapo. In fact, their largest Golf Outing ever took place last week. Over 150 golfers participated and contributed to the Foundation.

In addition, the Learning Commons is progressing on schedule. The building is now approximately 50% complete and on schedule for a Fall 2021 opening. The College is at nearly $13 Million of its $15M fundraising goal and we look forward to announcing some exciting naming opportunities in the coming months. Earlier this month, I did a hard hat tour of the building and even in its unfinished state, it breathes inspiration (views, spaces, location, etc.).
The Lodge Court renovations were also completed this summer. The exterior Lodge area has been transformed into a student-focused multisport half-court activity area with benches, tables, game areas and solar charging stations.
Other capital and major ITS projects have also been recently completed. Electrical transformers in the Phase II College Park Apartments, which include Tamarack, Butternut, Sycamore, Cypress and Mulberry, have been fully replaced. And, elevator replacements in Bischoff Hall have been completed.
ITS just finished the installation of the College’s redundant internet circuits that, when coupled with the redundant power circuits Facilities Management installed earlier, will make the College much more resilient to power outages.

ITS also completed upgrades to the Web Helpdesk Ticketing System so that remote troubleshooting is more seamless and responsive. ITS also built systems through which lab computers and study spaces on campus can be reserved and, of significant note, ITS has now made it possible for our students to connect to campus lab computers from their personal computer. This remote access allows students to access software that they cannot easily install themselves, such as SPSS, Visio, Mathematica, and many others. All students now have VPN access and can connect to either open labs, or course specific labs if they are enrolled in certain courses. Well done, ITS and Facilities Management.

**Good News/Kudos**
In addition to the breadth of information I have shared with you today, there are many other achievements at the College that merit attention. Some of these are captured in the slides that follow which highlight our new academic programs, Title IX Trainings, Student Athletes, Campus App, the Office of Student Accounts, Student Health Insurance, our Philosophy Students, the Instructional Design Center, the Faculty Resource Center, School of Contemporary Arts, Anisfield School of Business, and others. These slides will be available at Ramapo.edu/president.

Other News and Kudos

- Academic Affairs obtained external approvals for its two newest graduate programs (the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Music Technology and the Doctorate of Nursing Practice), submitted substantive change requests that will enable us to launch the 2+2 Ramapo @ PCCC BSW program, revised a number of academic policies, and supported preparation for three program reaccreditations in AY 2020-2021 (i.e., AACSB, ACEN & CAEP).
Other News and Kudos

Summer 2020 Title IX Training

This summer, 13 faculty and staff members completed a total of 12 hours each (156 hours total) of virtual Title IX training to gain ATIXA (Association of Title IX Administrators) Hearing Officer certification. Kat McGee and Liz Fuselli completed a total of 13 hours each (26 hours total) of ‘Virtual Certified Adjudicator Training’ from Institutional Compliance Solutions.

Additionally, EDIC staff participated in a number of online training and workshops hosted by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, NJ Office of the Attorney General, NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and other organizations related to sexual violence prevention and response.

In June, 5 staff members attended the virtual Eventbrite “Campus Prevention Network Summit” which brings together leaders in higher education from campuses and organizations around the country to share insights and best practices and to activate changemakers in the important work of addressing critical issues related to campus health and safety.

Other News and Kudos

➢ Student Health Insurance

Over the summer, the College implemented the new Student Health Plan. This was a combined effort by many on campus but the heavy lift fell to Office of Student Accounts and IT to get the implementation done and work with students on the front line. Over 100 students are now covered under this program.

➢ Office of Student Accounts

The Office of Student Accounts issued and managed refunds of over $5.2M in COVID refunds. In addition, OSA worked closely with Financial Aid to develop the processes to award, disburse and track over $1.3M in HEERF (formerly CARES) grants.

Other News and Kudos

Archway Campus App

➢ Archway is the new campus app available on both your mobile device and your computer.

➢ What’s going on at campus, whether in person or virtual? Check Archway.

➢ Want to see what’s going on with your club, or join a new one? Check Archway.

➢ Get in touch with my advisor or look up something in Connect? Check Archway.

➢ Where am I supposed to be next? Check Archway!

➢ Search the Apple App store or Google Play store for “Ramapo Archway”.

➢ On the web, go to: https://archway.ramapo.edu/home_login and use your Ramapo credentials to sign in.
Other News and Kudos

Student Athletes Sign Professional Contracts

➤ Ramapo College senior men’s soccer player from last year, and two-time All American, Joseph Fala signed a USL Championship contract with the New York Red Bulls II.

➤ Ramapo College baseball standout Vincent Timpanelli has signed a professional contract with the Cincinnati Reds Organization. Timpanelli becomes the fourth Roadrunner to sign with the club.

Other News and Kudos

Philosophy Student Paper Presentations

➤ Three Philosophy students were invited to submit papers for presentation at the 25th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference to be held this past April at SUNY Oneonta: Eric Cook, Phillip Piilari, and Megan Rose. When plans for the in-person conference changed, their work was presented in the current volume of the Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of SUNY Oneonta online Archipelago.

➤ Student papers in the Current Volume include: Eric Cook, Class of 2021, Philosophy Minor, Mystery and Mysticism; Phillip Pillari, Class of 2021, Philosophy Major, Notch, Rawls, and the Innocent Bystander Problem: An Analysis of Reparations; Megan Rose, Class of 2021, The Phenomenological Approach to Transgender Erasure in the United States.

Other News and Kudos

Publications and Awards


➤ Professor Anurath N. Kamar was named as the most prolific author in the first 25 years of the ITICSE, Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education at the 2020 at the conference usually held in Norway, but was virtual this year. This is a peer-reviewed international conference with an acceptance rate of submissions of approximately 30%. This is one of the two most prestigious conferences in Computer Science education and ranked A-level by conference ranking sites.
Other News and Kudos

The School of Contemporary Arts is holding a colloquium entitled “Black Lives Matter at Ramapo: A College Colloquium on Race, Social Justice, and Representation.”

- The series aims to begin a conversation in the Liberal Arts tradition around current political events, the national protests this summer, and the national elections this fall.
- The events will feature 30-minute presentations by faculty across diverse fields of study who work with issues of race, representation, and social justice in their research, followed by extensive discussion for the second half.
- Each session will combine presentations on research with a discussion of strategies to teach and learn about the Black experience and advocate for structural change.
- Faculty and staff can participate in the Web-streamed Colloquium presentations by filling out the registration form. It begins tonight, Wednesday, September 23 at 6pm, so register now.

Other News and Kudos

- ASB has launched the new "FLEX 4+1" MBA program structure. The new format allows undergraduate business majors to complete the program in 12 months (full-time). The program also now allows for start in the fall, spring, or summer. Initial response has been favorable, with 40+ students enrolled this fall.
- In late July, ASB submitted a 50-page Continuous Improvement Review report (with 23 appendices and 42 faculty data sheets) in preparation for our AACSB Accreditation Peer Review Virtual Visit October 4-7th.
- An ASB Black Lives Matter Graduate Program Scholarship, for our MBA and M.S. in Accounting programs is under development. Final details and fundraising will be underway this semester, and we hope to award the first scholarship(s) in Spring 2021.

Other News and Kudos

IDC and FRC Engagement

- The Instructional Design Center, directed by Professor Michael Bizzi, has hosted a wide-range of workshops, a faculty institute, and a Canvas Camp in support of the shift to virtual coursework. More than 300 faculty members participated in these offerings since March, as well as the IDC’s drop-in office hours and scheduled appointments. The IDC continues this semester with a faculty workshop series focused on student engagement and academic achievement in order to provide students with the best possible virtual learning experiences.
- 224 full-time and part-time faculty and staff participated in sessions during the Fabulous Faculty Creating Active and Effective Teaching and Learning Experiences conference held virtually on May 18 and 19. This event was organized by Ramapo Professors Lysandra Perez-Strumolo, Tannmi Rodd (Director of the Faculty Resource Center), and Michael Bizzi (Director of the Instructional Design Center).