Perhaps it would be more accurate to say “the rewriting they have accomplished”; his students along the trail of revision, shined through clearly as 26 of Ramapo’s creative writers read from original poetry and fiction. The sizable audience sat in the pavilion’s gathering warmth and tranquil light, forgetful of the cold and damp outside.

Happy surprise on his face, “I think this was actually really good.” I think all in attendance were in agreement: it was a good day for reading and writing, for writers and readers, at Ramapo College.

American Studies Club Goes to D.C. for the American Studies Association Conference
By Andrew Guglielmo

From November 22-24, 2013, three members of the American Studies Club attended the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. They included two senior American Studies majors, Andrew Guglielmo and George Brudermann, and one senior Political Science major, Christopher Chapman. The theme of the conference was “Beyond the Logic of Debt, Toward an Ethics of Collective Dissent.” The students attended several panels on a variety of topics: Visual Culture, Hip-Hop Education, Humor Studies, and Video Game Culture and History. The three students representing Ramapo College were among some of the only undergraduate attendees. The students reported that being able to attend the conference was a great experience and that it allowed them to meet professionals in the field of American Studies. All of the students enjoyed learning about what is being written and talked about in the American Studies community today through the panels and the expansive selection of new books for sale at the conference. The students found that being able to travel to Washington, D.C. was a great experience in itself, as they were all to visit all of the National Monuments and a few museums that provided for an enjoyable and educational trip.

The saline school name change comes in the midst of the renovations that are underway in the A and B wings of the main academic buildings, thanks to the generous gift from Lawrence and Theresa Salameno. Work on the second floor of the A wing was completed this past summer; with our new classrooms and office space now being fully utilized. Also renovated—with new paving, benches, and plantings—was the area outside the entrance to the B wing. Next summer, the second floor of the B wing will be redecorated, so that by the start of the fall 2014 semester we will have a newly-renovated school to go with our new name.

Meanwhile, our students continue to distinguish themselves for their scholarly accomplishments in all kinds of ways. Two, for instance, presented their research at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (CPLIC) Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference in North Adams, Massachusetts in late October. Laura Sancic, a senior Liberal Arts major, presented a paper titled “Assimilation and Acculturation Among Ghanaians in Urban Areas,” which was based on a paper she wrote for Professor Susan Hangen. Also presenting was Emily Moore, a senior American Studies major whose paper “The Great Depression Visual Expression” was based on a paper she wrote in an independent study she completed with me last spring.

The newsletter of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies

Letter from the Dean by Stephen Rice

Greetings from the end of a very busy fall semester. There is much that is exciting to report, starting with the change of the school’s name. At its December 9 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution changing the name of the Salameno School of American and International Studies to the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. This resolution was the culmination of a discussion among the school’s faculty who were concerned that “American and International Studies”—designated as the school’s name in 1979—failed to express our full range of programs.

With the new name, Ramapo will now have a clear school of humanities, one that is distinctive in its commitment to the growing field of global studies. This is an important development for us, because the new name is much clearer about the kind of work we do across all our programs, and about the direction in which we see ourselves heading. We’re grateful to the President and Provost, and to the members of the Board of Trustees, for supporting the change. At the start of the spring semester I will be convening a committee that will begin planning a range of activities to help inaugurate the newly-named school over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year.

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(continued on page 2)
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Congressman Scott Garrett (R-NJ) visited the College on September 24 this semester; it was his first official visit. He took questions and spoke about the federal government shutdown and the Affordable Care Act. He’s photographed here (right) with the College Republicans President Christopher Gabbett, President Peter P. Mercer and College Republicans President Christopher Gabbett, President Peter P. Mercer and College Republicans President Christopher Gabbett, President Peter P. Mercer.

Finally, I want to note that we have an active and engaged Alumni Advisory Board, now under the leadership of Carla Pastore (a 2007 graduate in Literature). Members of the board have been wonderfully supportive of our current and future students, and together we are planning a new mentoring program that will help students make the transition from college to work or graduate school. I expect to have more to say about that in the spring.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about all the activities we’ve been engaged in over the last months. If you are a graduate of one of our programs and would like to reconnect with Ramapo, please send me an e-mail at srice@ramapo.edu.

Professor Iraida Lopez’s “Foundations of Spanish II” students sing villancicos.

Photo: Catalina Kane

On Saturday, 23 November, Professors Yvette Kisor, Tae Kwak, and Michael Unger accompanied their First-Year Seminar class to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. For more than half of their students, this was their first trip to the museum. Along with exploring the museum on their own, they were able to take a guided tour of the new Islamic wing of the museum, and compare the Islamic art they saw with the Oriental art they viewed in class as part of their consideration of Edward Said’s concept of Orientalism. The theme of the course is “Encounters with the Other,” and this class trip allowed them to understand the theme in a deeper way, both through the art they saw and the experience they had.

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From Che to Fukushima: Challenging National Identities

By Natalia Santamaria-Laorden

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Activist and Scholar Provides Update on Genocide in Sudan
By Michael Riff

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Adam focused on how the regime of Omar al-Bashir, in the face of eroding support at home, has lashed out at supposed internal enemies, most recently against the Nuba Mountain people of Sudan’s South Kordofan State. At the same time, Adam pointed out, attacks against the people of Darfur have gone on unabated, and Bashir has supported opposition elements in South Sudan. In part, according to Adam, indifference, if not support, on the part of diverse segments of the international community, including the Islamic Republic of Iran and the African Union, has encouraged Bashir to pursue such destructive and reckless behavior. The unfolding insurgency in South Sudan bears out Adam’s dire warnings.

Ahmed H. Adam studied law in Khartoum in 1996 and subsequently received an LLM in International law in 1999 from the Westminster University in London. Mr. Adam represents the people of Darfur in peace negotiations with the government of Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir. Mr. Adam is also the official spokesperson of Darfur’s armed and political group, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), for whom he manages public relations and media outreach.


Professor Todd Barnes finished work on his essay, “The Temple’s ‘Standing Water’: Recycling Early Modern Cosmographies in Lost,” his contribution to Shakespearean Echoes, edited by Kevin Weilmore, Jr. [Loyola Marymount University] and Adam Hansen [Northumbria University], the volume, which looks at Shakespearean adaptation, and ecological criticism, is forthcoming by Palgrave Macmillan. Also he shared his essay, “Obama’s ‘Hamlet-like Indecision’” with other scholars in the Shakespearean Performance Research Group Seminar at the American Society for Theatre Research Conference in Dallas.

Remembering John Robert (“Bob”) Cassidy

The Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies fondly remembers Professor Emeritus John Robert (“Bob”) Cassidy, who passed away in October. In addition to his service as a Professor of Philosophy, Bob was Ramapo’s first Vice President for Academic Affairs. His original vision of a public liberal arts college that served all of New Jersey’s citizens informs who we are as an institution today. Associate Professor of Philosophy Lisa Cassidy (no relation) recalls: “He was such a gentle person and gifted teacher. At least once or twice a year I hear from one of his former students, who say Bob changed their lives.” Professor of Literature Anthony Padesano remembers: “Bob had the challenge of creating a department of philosophy and teaching regularly in it. He also assumed the demanding task of keeping Ramapo College from being excessively ambiguous in its identity and curriculum. Furthermore, he kept the College from becoming so conventional and rigid that it would lose its creative potential.” A full obituary can be found online at http://tinyurl.com/67xzsku

In the fall of 2013, Professor Stacie Taranto (History) continued working on her book manuscript project, Kitchen Table Politics: Conservative Women and Family Values in the Seventies, which is forthcoming in 2015 from the University of Pennsylvania Press (Politics and Culture in Modern America Series). She also completed work on two articles that will appear in forthcoming anthologies: “Defending ‘Women Who Stand by the Sink’: Suburban Hememakers and Anti-ERA Activism in New York State, 1974–1975” will appear in Making Suburbia (University of Minnesota Press) and “Goodbye to the Party of Rockefeller: How a Decidedly ‘Un-Silent Minority’ Pushed the GOP to Embrace Anti-Feminism” will appear in <The Silent Majority: A Transatlantic Perspective (Cambridge University Press). The latter article is an expanded version of a paper that she wrote for the Organization of American Historians’ annual conference in the spring of 2013; she was thrilled to workshop the article version at Princeton University’s Modern America Workshop in December of 2013, which was sponsored by their History department. In November, Taranto also chaired a panel called “Troubling Bodies: Identity, National (Un)Belonging and Regulatory Campaigns” at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Professor Lisa Williams (Literature) had her poem “Blue Years” published in the Pinecone Fountain Poetry Journal, November 2013 (online). Her poem, “At Fourteen,” will be published in the Dargyle Poetry Journal, Summer 2014. She was a Quarter Finalist for the Mary Ballard Poetry Chapbook Prize.

Faculty Updates
Hollywood’s Relationship with Nazi Germany Deconstructed
By Michael Riff

As Doherty pointed out, the studios’ treatment of the Spanish Civil War and of fascist Italy was no less timid. At least until the outbreak of war in 1939, as Doherty pointed out, with the exception of Warner Brothers, the predominant attitude in Hollywood towards fascism was essentially one of denial and pragmatism. There was a belief that movie-going audiences would be turned off by politics. As Joseph I. Breen, the industry’s all-powerful lead censor put it: “the purpose of the screen is to entertain and not to propagandize.” The studios had to contend, as well, with the German consul in Los Angeles, Georg Gyssling, the U.S. State Department and Breen, who instilled the fear that offending the Third Reich would lead to exclusion from the hitherto lucrative German market.

Doherty emphasized that at the same time the movie capital was also home to the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League (HANL). One of the only organizations in the U.S. to confront the fascist threat, it included among its members such A-list actors, directors and screen writers as Dorothy Parker, Dashiell Hammett, Ernst Lubitsch, Mervyn LeRoy, Sylvia Sidney, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Chico Marx, Benny Goodman, Fred MacMurray, Frederic March, Oscar Hammerstein II, and Eddie Cantor. The HANL alarmed studio heads to the point that they threatened to insert “political clauses” into their contracts forbidding such activity.

A cultural historian with a special interest in Hollywood cinema, Thomas Doherty is a professor of American Studies and chair of the American Studies Program at Brandeis University. He is an associate editor for the film magazine Cineaste and film review editor for the Journal of American History. He completed his undergraduate education at Gonzaga University and has M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Iowa.

On November 21, 2013, Professor Todd Barnes [literature] gave a public talk entitled “The Tempest and Its Discontents.” This talk, sponsored by the Salameno Center for British Studies, was scheduled to coincide with the current campus production of The Tempest. In his talk, Professor Barnes discussed the history of the play’s reception. He discussed, in particular, the play’s role in larger debates concerning early modern and contemporary ways of thinking about colonialism, patriarchy, globalization, geography, and of course, theatre and performance studies. The talk was well attended by students and faculty from across the campus, and it was followed by a lively discussion.

Professor Barnes discusses “The Tempest and Its Discontents.”

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SSHGS Colloquium Series

This fall, the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies was proud to offer a series of engaging readings and lectures by faculty in Literature and History. On September 26, Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature and award-winning fiction writer Hugh Sheehy and poet Suzanne Parker, author of Viral, poems responding to the death of Tyfar Clementi, read from their work in the Salameno Spiritual Center, which was packed with students and faculty. The event was co-sponsored by the Readings at Ramapo Visiting Writers Series. On October 9, Mark Newell, Instructor of History, gave a talk on “A Brief History of Newark’s Forest Hill District.” On October 30, Emily Marlowe, Instructor of History, delivered her paper “A Fast Ride into the Depths of the Earth: Integrating Natural and Technological Wonders at Carlsbad Caverns Natural Park.” As the final colloquium event of the semester, on November 13, Alan Baxter, Instructor of Critical Reading and Writing and NYC director and playwright, talked to students and faculty about “Religious Existentialism in the Later Plays of Tennessee Williams.”

SSHGS Fall Colloquium Series

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Salameno Center for British Studies Events

O n October 16, 2013 Martin Francis, Henry R. Winkler Professor of Modern History at the University of Cincinnati, gave a public talk to the College Community. The talk was provocatively titled “Poets or Killers?: Royal Air Force Flyers and British Culture During WWII,” and concerned the complex public identity of the pilots; they were indeed national heroes but the death rate among them was forty percent! The talk was sponsored by the British Studies Center, a campus organization established to foster the study and discussion of all things British, as well as by the History Club.

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Photo: Carolyn Herring

Spanish Capstone students and faculty. From left to right, first row: Catalina Kane, Dianne Sotol, Collene Moran, Emily Gang, Professor Santamaria-Laorden, Victoria Grej, Andrew Arau, Professor Striale Costa, Professor Lopez. Second row: Abigail Smith, Martin Salcedo, Jesse Castillo. photo: Carolyn Herring
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New Jersey’s Public Liberal Arts College

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SALAMENO SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES

Letter from the Dean by Stephen Rice

G reetings from the end of a very busy fall semester. There is much that is exciting to report, starting with the change of the school’s name. At its December 9 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution changing the name of the Salameno School of American and International Studies to the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies. This resolution was the culmination of a discussion among the school’s faculty who were concerned that “American and International Studies”—designated as the school’s name in 1979—failed to express our full range of programs.

With the new name, Ramapo will now have a clear school of humanities, one that is distinctive in its commitment to the growing field of global studies. This is an important development for us, because the new name is much clearer about the kind of work we do across all our programs, and about the direction in which we see ourselves heading. We’re grateful to the President and Provost, and to the members of the Board of Trustees, for supporting the change. At the start of the spring semester I will be convening a committee that will begin planning a range of activities to help inaugurate the newly named school over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year.

The school name change comes in the midst of the renovations that are underway in the A and B wings of the main academic buildings, thanks to the generous gift from Lawrence and Theresa Salameno. Work on the second floor of the A wing was completed this past summer; with our new classrooms and office space now being fully utilized. Also renovated—with new paving, benches, and plantings—was the area outside the entrance to the B wing. Next summer, the second floor of the B wing will be redone, so that by the start of the fall 2014 semester we will have a newly-renovated school to go with our new name.

Meanwhile, our students continue to distinguish themselves for their scholarly accomplishments in all kinds of ways. Two, for instance, presented their research at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (CPLAC) Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference in North Adams, Massachusetts in late October. Laura Sancir, a senior Liberal Studies major, presented a paper titled “Assimilation and Acculturation Among Ghanaians in Urban Areas,” which was based on a paper she wrote for Professor Susan Hangen. Also presenting was Emily Moore, a senior American Studies major whose paper “The Great Depression Visual Expression” was based on a paper she wrote in an independent study she completed with me last spring.

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