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## Arch Connections - May Newsletter

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## A Word From Your Board

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the Spring semester has drawn to a close. The Undergraduate Commencement was held on May 15 and the Graduate Commencement on May 22. We congratulate all graduates and wish them well on their next steps. I also hope that all the Friends who audited classes this semester had a positive learning experience and that you are looking forward to your next auditing opportunity!

I want to thank all the Friends who participated in the April Arch Connections *Where's Rocky?* contest. I am pleased to announce that our winner was Claire Mingalone. Congratulations Claire and we hope you are enjoying the Ramapo merchandise that you won! Please look for additional contests in future Arch Connections.

The Friends Membership Committee recently held its first focus group session on campus to engage current members about the Friends of Ramapo membership benefits and brainstorm potential additional offerings or benefits to consider. Please see the article in this edition for more about the event.

**Save the Date** - There are a few upcoming events you might find of interest and further information is included in this newsletter. In particular, please mark your calendars for:

**Date for Auditing Registration** - the dates to register for the Summer semesters are May 28 and July 10. For additional information, please also [visit the website](#).

**Summer Concerts** - the TD Bank Summer concerts kick off on Thursday, June 26. If you do attend a concert, please plan on stopping by the Friends table to say hello!

This edition of Arch Connections will be the last until August. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions about the Friends, please contact us at [alumni@ramapo.edu](mailto:alumni@ramapo.edu). On behalf of your Friends of Ramapo Board, let me take the opportunity to wish all of you a safe and relaxing summer and as always, I look forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Peggy Capomaggi

President of Friends of Ramapo

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## News Updates

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### Among Friends

The Friends Membership Committee led by Stan Richmond and Ellen Singer held its first focus group, Among Friends, on campus on Saturday, March 15. The goals were to better understand how current members think about Friends, to collect feedback on current membership benefits, and to brainstorm potential additional offerings or benefits to consider. A key intended outcome for these groups is to refine how and where to reach out for new members, and how to best craft our messages. The meeting provided a variety of insights and a lot of new questions, exactly the outcomes that were hoped for! The Friends intend to continue these conversations throughout the next year, so stay tuned for further details. We hope you will consider joining us to share your time and thoughts to continue to improve the Friends of Ramapo activities.



## Finally Celebrated: Class of 2025 Gets Graduation Day

More than 1,160 newly-minted Ramapo College of New Jersey graduates accepted their undergraduate degrees Thursday, May 15, during a vibrant commencement ceremony at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ – where speakers stressed the value of being bold, being kind, and being good teammates. [Click here for the full story.](#)



## Five Undergraduate Students Awarded the Gilman Scholarship

This year, Ramapo has an astounding five students who have won Gilman Scholarships for the 2025 Summer. This is a record number of students to be awarded the Gilman in one year at Ramapo College. [Click here for the full story.](#)



## Renowned Chemist Benny Chan Joins Ramapo College as Dean

Dr. Benny Chan, Ph.D., a distinguished teacher-scholar in inorganic chemistry, has been appointed dean of the School of Theoretical and Applied Science at Ramapo College of New Jersey, effective July 1, 2025. [Click here for the full story.](#)



## Partnership with Sussex County Community College Provides Affordable Pathways for Earning Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees

New transfer articulation agreements establish three new 2+2+1 pathways, allowing ambitious students to start their education at SCCC and earn a bachelor's degree from Ramapo College. [Click here for the full story.](#)



## Upcoming Events



### Among Friends Conversation

We're interested in learning what you're seeking from Ramapo College, which benefits you're enjoying most as a member of Friends of Ramapo, and what more we could be offering. Please join us on campus for coffee and a chat about your observations, interests and suggestions for how we might further develop our membership program.

We'll be holding a discussion next week on **Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**

To RSVP, please email [alumni@ramapo.edu](mailto:alumni@ramapo.edu).

### Summer Course Audit Registration

Summer I Registration - May 28th

Summer II Registration - July 10th

Registration will be held remotely and please note that auditors are able to take one class over the entirety of the summer semester.

[Click here for additional information](#)

## MJ The Musical



Wednesday, June 4, 2025  
1:00 p.m. Matinee

Location: Neil Simon Theatre – [250 West 52nd Street, New York City](#)

Cost: \$350 per ticket

Includes:

- Orchestra Center Seating
- Pre-Show Brunch in the York Room/Mansion 9:15-11:00 a.m.
- Roundtrip Bus from Ramapo College - Bus departs 11:15 a.m.

Join us for Brunch and a Show!



## 2025 TD Bank Summer Concert Series

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. @ the Bandshell

[505 Ramapo Valley Rd](#)  
[Mahwah, NJ 07430](#)

***Bring a Chair***

***\*Rain or Shine***

***Parking donation \$5 per car***

June 26th - Captain Jack, a Billy Joel Tribute Band

July 10th - An Infernos Salute to America, *Fireworks at dusk*

July 17th - Super Trans Am, 70's Music

July 24th - The Nerds

[Click here for additional information](#)



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Ramapo College Foundation

[505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, NJ 07430](#)