



49TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE LIBERIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

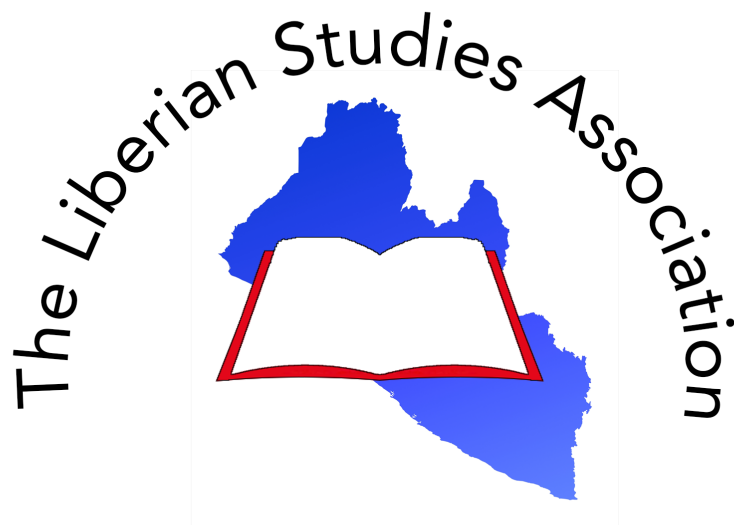
GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND ELECTIONS:

Prospects and Challenges for Inclusive Democratic State-building in Liberia

March 30 – April 1, 2017

Ramapo College of New Jersey



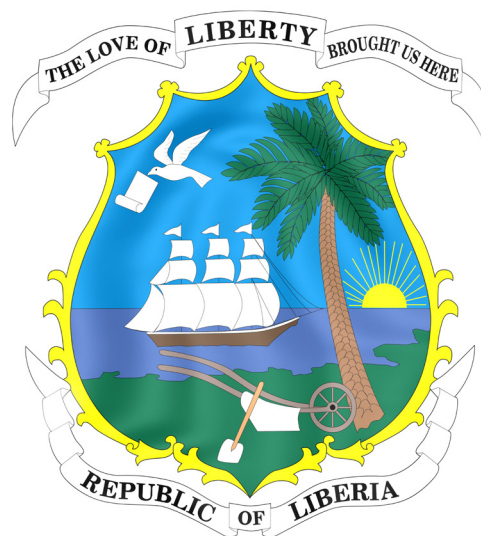


The Liberian Studies Association is a non-profit, scholarly organization created to provide a means for effective cooperation among persons interested in furthering research in all scholarly disciplines, including the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, on topics relevant to the Republic of Liberia and adjacent areas; to publish and otherwise disseminate the results of such research; to cooperate with scholarly organizations, and cultural, scientific, and educational institutions, nationally and internationally, having mutual interests in the exchange and presentation of information and ideas resulting from research in the subject field; to encourage interest in Liberian affairs; and to stimulate and facilitate academic contacts and educational exchanges between Liberia and the United States. The Liberian Studies Association produces the second oldest African studies journal published continuously in the United States. The organization publishes the Liberian Studies Journal, which is published bi-annually in June and December.

Conference Abstract

Liberia goes to national election (presidential and legislative) in 2017, the third election since the country marked an end to its second civil war in 2003. Since the end of the second civil war, the country has been seized with a development agenda focused on rebuilding state institutions that foster trust, reconciliation, inclusion, and social cohesion. Despite some significant gains, Liberia still faces major cultural, economic, security and other challenges due to a widespread feeling of exclusion from and distrust in the current state building process, suggesting a state building process that is laden with polarized identities and competing perceptions of governance among the population. In addition, the performance of its major institutions continues to exude weaknesses and ineffectiveness in delivering on the promises of the country's development agenda. This situation has implications for the country's ability to sustain a state building agenda that is inclusive and resilient in the wake of and beyond the 2017 election.

The Liberian Studies Association (LSA), the largest body of scholars working on Liberia, invites proposals for papers, panels and roundtables related to this subject for its 49th Annual Meeting scheduled to take place at the Ramapo College of New Jersey from March 30 – April 1, 2017. Theoretical and empirical papers, action research and case studies on the above theme using a range of scholarly approaches including qualitative, quantitative and critical methods with data-driven conclusions are welcomed. The 49th annual conference theme is: "Governance, Institutional Quality and Elections: Prospects and Challenges for Inclusive Democratic State-building in Liberia."



Welcome Statement from the LSA President

Fellow Colleagues and Participants,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I, on behalf of the leadership of the Liberian Studies Association (LSA), welcome you to the 49th Annual Conference of the association. May I also thank profusely Ramapo College of New Jersey for being our gracious host.

For the past 48 years, the Liberian Studies Association has been fostering the development of new knowledge and understanding about Liberia by encouraging the study of Liberia across academic disciplines, and the development of networks and collaboration among scholars of Liberia across the globe. We are convening at a time when the Liberian nation is ushering in a process of democratic transition since the end of its civil war. The outcome of this transition will test the strength of the country's achievement in its process of institution-building and democracy consolidation. We are therefore excited to convene a range of academics and policy-makers who have been studiously engaged or examining the various dimensions of this process.

It is hoped that this conference will not only aid the further advancement of this examination process, but also contribute to the development of practical frameworks for sustaining Liberia's reconstruction process and scholarship about Liberia.

Sincerely,

Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.

Welcome Remarks from President Peter P. Mercer



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to Ramapo College and thank you for joining us for the 49th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association.

As part of our comprehensive internationalization plan, Ramapo College is celebrating 2016-17 as the Year of Sub-Saharan Africa. Some highlights of our programming to commemorate the region include:

- a featured study abroad program in Ghana with a focus on Public Health
- a year-long Africana film festival
- an exchange program with student leaders from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and Ramapo College
- promotion of courses such as Introduction to African Studies, Hip Hop and Society, Africans in Contemporary Latin America, Africa and Cinema, and Voudoun and African Religion and the New World
- the issuance of 12 institutional grants for faculty to travel to Sub-Saharan Africa and a series of professional development seminars for faculty ranging in topics from sustainability to media in the region
- a book club featuring acclaimed works by authors Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Tsitsi Dangarembga

This conference and your attendance contribute to the rich programming Ramapo College has delivered as part of its celebration of Sub-Saharan Africa. Further, I am most pleased to recognize Professors George Gonpu, David Colman, Karl Johnson, Rosetta D'Angelo, and Niza Fabre, Dean Stephen Rice, and Director Ben Levy for their stewardship of the conference and for their thoughtful contributions to the academic and social vitality of Ramapo College.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter P. Mercer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Peter P. Mercer, L.L.M., Ph.D., J.D.
College President

Conference Committees

Ramapo College Committee

George Gonpu, Assistant Professor of Economics, Ramapo College of New Jersey
David Colman, Associate Professor of African-American History, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Karl Johnson, Associate Professor of African-American Studies, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rosetta D'Angelo, Professor of Italian, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Niza Fabre, Associate Professor of Spanish, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Stephen Rice, Dean, Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies,
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Ben Levy, Director of International Education, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Abstract Committee

Verlon Stone, Indiana University
George Klay Kieh, Jr. University of West Georgia
Emmanuel Oritsejafor, North Carolina Central University
Yukutiel Gershoni, Tel Aviv University
Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr., George Mason University

Liberian Studies Association Officers 2017

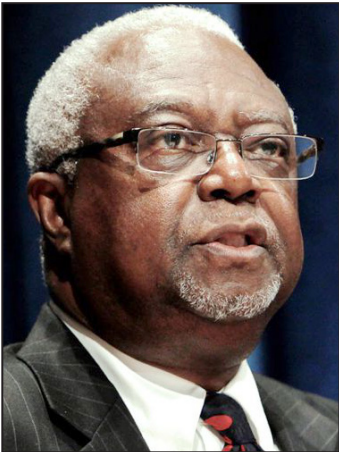
Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr., President, George Mason University
Jackie Sayegh, Secretary, Cornell University
Mary Moran, Treasurer, Colgate University
James S. Guseh, Parliamentarian, North Carolina Central University
Michael Wannah, Past President, Concordia University Chicago

Editorial Staff, Liberian Studies Journal

Editors: Emmanuel Oritsejafor, and James Guseh
Book Review Editor: Emmanuel Oritsejafor
Desk Editor: Omar Reyes
Copy Editor: Ellen Withworth

The College wishes to extend a special thanks to Professor D'Angelo's students, Alejandrina De La Cruz and Shana Henderson, for volunteering their time to assist with this conference.

Keynote Speaker



President Amos Claudius Sawyer

Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer served as President (1990-1994) of the Interim Government of Liberia following the assassination of its embattled leader, Samuel K. Doe. Dr. Sawyer was born in 1945 in Greenville, Sinoe County, Liberia. He obtained his early education in Greenville and matriculated to Liberia College (now the University of Liberia) where he graduated in 1966. Later he traveled to the United States for graduate work, earning an M.A. and Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Northwestern

University in Evanston, Illinois.

After his return to Liberia, Dr. Sawyer worked as an academic but also became an activist and politician. He ran for the position of Mayor of Monrovia, the capital, as an independent rather than within the True Whig Party. The latter had dominated the country for more than 100 years. After the 1980 coup d'état, Sawyer returned to academia for a time, taking a position as a professor of political science at the University of Liberia. In December 1980 he was appointed Dean of the College of Social Sciences and acting director of the University. He was a founding member of the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA) and in 1983 founded the Liberian People's Party. In the period after the abduction (and eventual murder) of president Samuel Doe, from 9 September 1990 until 22 November 1990, principal mutineer Prince Johnson and co-conspirator Charles Taylor both made claims on the presidency. In late August an emergency conference was held in The Gambia by a delegation of 35 Liberians representing seven political parties and eleven interest groups. They voted Sawyer as interim president and Bishop Roland Diggs as vice-president, to establish a government.

Such leaders extended Sawyer's one-year appointment for four years during the civil war fought against rebels led largely by Taylor, Johnson, and David Nimley. In 1994, Sawyer was forced to step down as a part of the peace process, and subsequently the role of official leader of Liberia was held not by the president, but by the Chairmen of the Council of State. Fighting sparked again in 1996, and continued during Charles Taylor's presidency from 1997 to 2003. Sawyer returned to the US for a period, invited to serve as Co-Director and Research Scholar, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Sawyer is Chairman of the Governance Reform Commission in Liberia, which has recently become the Governance Commission. He has several published peer reviewed articles and books, including "African Politics and the Future of Democracy" (2015), "African Development in the 21 st Century" (2014), "Challenges of Governance Reform in Liberia" (2013), and "Beyond Plunder: Toward Democratic Governance in Liberia" (2005), which explored the development of multi-party democracy in the country.

Program Overview

Thursday, March 30-Registration

		Alumni Lounges
6-8 p.m.	Opening Reception	Alumni Lounges
6-7:15 p.m.	Poster Session	Alumni Lounges

Friday, March 31

8-9:30 a.m.	Conference Registration and Light Breakfast	Alumni Lounges (SC-157)
10-11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	Alumni Lounges (SC-156-158)
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Lunch: Screening of "The Land Beneath Our Feet" (2016)	Friends Hall (SC-219)
1:45-3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	Alumni Lounges (SC-156-158)
3:30-5 p.m.	Tour of Haitian Art Collection	Rodman Gallery (B-Wing)
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks by President Peter P. Mercer, Ramapo College of New Jersey Dinner and keynote by President Amos Claudius Sawyer "Implementation Challenges and Governance Reform in Liberia"	Friends Hall (SC-219)

Saturday, April 1

8-9:30 a.m.	Light Breakfast	Alumni Lounges (SC-157)
10-11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions	Alumni Lounges (SC-156-158)
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Lunch: Panel Discussion	Friends Hall (SC-219)
1:45-3:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	Alumni Lounges (SC-156-158)
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Screening of "Out of My Hand"(2015)	H-Wing Auditorium
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Dinner and Musical Performance The Liberian Women's Chorus for Change	Friends Hall (SC-219)
	Closing Remarks by Provost Beth Barnett, Ramapo College of New Jersey	

Panels

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 6-7:15 P.M., ALUMNI LOUNGES

Poster Session

Transforming Higher Education in Liberia: A Case Study at College of Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Cuttington University

H. Rodolfo Juliani, Rutgers University

Operation Targeted Support: Community Engagement to Respond to EVD Crisis in Liberia

James E. Simon, Rutgers University

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 10 – 11:30 A.M., ALUMNI LOUNGES

I. Democracy and Constitution-Making (SC-156)

Chair: Aaron William Kuckewich Bonar, Indiana University

"Bushwhacking Democracy: Cutting a Path to Participatory Constitutional Design in Liberia"

Aaron William Kuckewich Bonar, Indiana University

Seeds of Change in Liberia: Democratic Reforms in the Aftermath of Political Crisis

Yekutiel Gershoni, Tel Aviv University

Civic and Voter Education, A Critical Tool for the success of 2017 General Election

Augustine Konneh, University of Liberia

II. Political Finance, Business Development and Governance (SC-158)

Chair: George P. Gonpu, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Regulating Political Finance "Political Finance" in Liberia's Elections

George Klay Kieh, Jr., University of West Georgia

Exploring the Political Contribution of Microfinance to Post-Conflict Governance in Liberia

Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr., George Mason University

Governance Quality, Institutional Credibility and the Flow of Remittances to Liberia

George P. Gonpu, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Business and Development

Donald L. Cassell, Jr., Sagamore Institute

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1:45 – 3:15 P.M.

III. Education, Arts and Development (SC-156)

Chair: Jackie Sayegh, Cornell University

Socially Accepted Unaccepted Equality of Opportunity in Education in Liberia: A Duality Reality

Steve Kaifa, County College of Morris

Public-Private Partnerships in Liberia: Case of Bridge International Academies and the Government of Liberia

Jackie Sayegh, Cornell University

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 10 – 11:30 A.M.

IV. Youth, Media, Public Health, and Crop Diseases (SC-158)

Chair: Welma Redd, Morgan State University

Youth Civic Practice: Interrogating Local, National and Global Engagements in the Midst of the Ebola Crisis
Jasmine L. Blank Jones, University of Pennsylvania

Ebola, Liberian Elections and the Media
Welma Redd, Morgan State University

Strengthening public health messaging using Liberian languages: the case of Vai and Ebola
Charles Riley, Yale University

Protecting Crop Plants from Important Diseases in Liberian Agriculture – the Basic Guidelines
Cyril E. Broderick, Sr., Delaware State University

V. The Diaspora, Institution-Building, and Reconstruction (SC-156)

Chair: Rosetta D'Angelo, Ramapo College of New Jersey

The Liberian Diaspora, Discourses of Reconciliation, and the Negotiation of Diaspora-Homeland Tensions in Online Radio
Yolanda Covington-Ward, University of Pittsburgh

De-Racialization of the Liberian Colonial Constitution: A Precondition for Post Conflict De-Colonizing of the Liberian Democracy Toward 2017 Elections
Amos M.D. Sirleaf, University of Liberia

Security Sector Reforms: Micro-level Blueprint and Recommendations for a Sustainable Peace and Democracy in Liberia and Haiti
S. Virginia Gonsalves-Domond, Ramapo College of New Jersey and Gersandre Gonsalves-Domond

VI. "The Land Beneath Our Feet" (SC-157)

Film Discussion:

Emmanuel K. Urey, University of Wisconsin-Madison

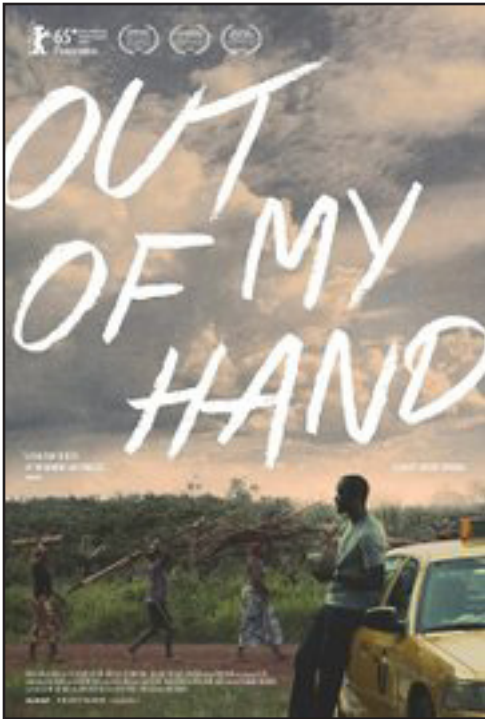
A Liberian Journey: History, Memory and the Making of a Nation
Gregg Mitman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

NOON-1:30 P.M.-LUNCH PANEL DISCUSSION

Critical Issues Affecting Governance, Economic Development and State-building in Liberia: Citizenship, Corruption, Education, Legal System, Macroeconomics

Chair: George K. Kieh, Jr., University of West Georgia

George K. Kieh, Jr., University of West Georgia
James Guseh, North Carolina Central University
Adam Kar, Newark Board of Education
George P. Gonpu, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Steve Kaifa, County College of Morris
Wilmot Kunney, Union of Liberian Associations of the Americas



Out of My Hand (2015)

A struggling Liberian rubber plantation worker risks everything to discover a new life as a Yellow Cab driver in New York City.

Director: Takeshi Fukunaga

Writers: Takeshi Fukunaga, Donari Braxton

Stars: Bishop Blay, Zenobia Taylor, Duke Murphy Dennis

Lead actor Bishop Blay will join us for the screening and take part in a discussion afterwards.



Selden Rodman Gallery of Popular Arts, B-Wing

The largest concentration of Haitian art collections in any academic institution in the United States is housed at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Initially donated in the early 1980s, the world-renowned Selden Rodman Collection has grown significantly with subsequent gifts from the Rodman family and an international roster of donors. While primarily Haitian, artists from many other geographies are also

Hector Hyppolite, *La Cuilleuses des Fleurs*, oil, gift of Jonathan Demme

represented, ranging from Brazilian painters to North American self-taught masters.

The National Anthem

By Daniel B. Warner

Liberia, hail (All hail!) (2x)
This glorious land of liberty,
Shall long be ours.
Though new her name,
Green be her fame,
And mighty be her powers, (2x)
In joy and gladness,
With our hearts united,
We'll shout the freedom,
Of a race benighted,
Long live Liberia, happy land!
A home of glorious liberty,
By God's command!
A home of glorious liberty,
By God's command!

All hail, Liberia, hail! (All hail!)
All hail, Liberia, hail! (All hail!)
In union strong success is sure.
We cannot fail!
With God above,
Our rights to prove,
We will o'er all prevail, (2x)
With heart and hand our
Country's cause defending,
We'll meet the foe with valour unpretending.
Long live Liberia, happy land!
A home of glorious liberty,
By God's command!
A home of glorious liberty,
By God's command!



"All Hail, Liberia, Hail!" is the national anthem of Liberia, lyrics written by President Daniel Bashiel Warner (1815-1880), third president of Liberia, in English, and music by Olmstead Luca (1826-1869). It became the official national anthem in 1847.

The Lone Star Forever

By Edwin J. Barclay

When freedom raised her glowing form
On Montserrado's verdant height
She set within the dome of night,
Midst low'ring skies and thunderstorms
The star of liberty!
And seizing from her waking morn,
Its burnished shield of golden flame
She lifted in her proud name,
And roused a nation long forlorn,
To nobler destiny!



REFRAIN

The Lone Star forever!
The Lone Star forever!
O long may it float o'er land and o'er seas
Desert it? No! Never!
Uphold it? For Ever!
O shout for the Lone Starred banner,
All hail!
Then speeding in her course, along
The broad Atlantic's golden strand,
She woke reverberant through the land
A nation's loud triumphant song,
The song of liberty!
And o'er Liberia's altar fires
She wide the lone-starred flag unfurled
Proclaimed to an expectant world
The birth of Africa's sons and sires
The birth of liberty!

REFRAIN

Edwin James Barclay, poet and composer, the nephew of Arthur Barclay, 15th President of Liberia, served as the 18th President of Liberia from 1930-1944. He composed Liberia's national hymn, "The Lone Star Forever," in 1901 at the age of 19.

List of Presenters/Panelists for LSA 2017

AARON WILLIAM KUCKEWICH BONAR

J.D./Ph.D. Candidate, Constitutional Design
Center for Constitutional Democracy, Indiana University Maurer School of Law Bloomington
Bushwhacking Democracy: Cutting a Path to Participatory Constitutional Design in Liberia

DR. CYRIL E. BRODERICK, SR.

Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Delaware State University

Protecting Crop Plants from Important Diseases in Liberian Agriculture – the Basic Guidelines

DONALD L. CASSELL, JR., AIA

Senior Fellow
Director, Liberian Initiatives, Sagamore Institute
Business and Development

DR. YOLANDA COVINGTON-WARD

Department of Africana Studies
University of Pittsburgh
The Liberian Diaspora, Discourses of Reconciliation, and the Negotiation of Diaspora-Homeland Tensions in Online Radio

S. VIRGINIA GONSALVES-DOMOND

Ramapo College of New Jersey

GERSANDRE GONSALVES-DOMOND

Security Sector Reforms: Micro-level Blueprint and Recommendations for a Sustainable Peace and Democracy in Liberia and Haiti

YEKUTIEL GERSHONI

Department of Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University, Israel
Seeds of Change in Liberia: Democratic Reforms in the Aftermath of Political Crisis

GEORGE P. GONPU

Ramapo College of New Jersey
Governance Quality, Institutional Credibility and the Flow of Remittances to Liberia

SAMUEL WAI JOHNSON, JR.

George Mason University
Exploring the Political Contribution of Microfinance to Post-Conflict Governance in Liberia

JASMINE L. BLANK JONES

Student, Education, Culture and Society and Africana Studies,
University of Pennsylvania
Youth Civic Practice: Interrogating Local, National and Global Engagements in the Midst of the Ebola Crisis

H. RODOLFO JULIANI

Rutgers University
Transforming Higher Education in Liberia: A Case Study at College of Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Cuttington University

STEVE KAIFA

County College of Morris

Socially Accepted Unaccepted Equality of Opportunity in Education in Liberia: A Duality Reality

GEORGE KLAY KIEH, JR.

University of West Georgia

Regulating Political Finance "Political Finance" in Liberia's Elections

PROF. AUGUSTINE KONNEH

Director General, Foreign Service Institute and Professor of International Relations IBB,
University of Liberia

Civic and Voter Education, A Critical Tool for the success of 2017 General Election

GREGG MITMAN

Vilas Research and William Coleman Professor of History of Science, Medical History, and Environmental Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

"A Liberian Journey: History, Memory and the Making of a Nation"

PROF. K-MOSES NAGBE, Ph.D.

Prince George's Community College

The Mind and Manner of Productive, Democratic Governance: How the Arts Fit in

WELMA REDD

Morgan State University

Ebola, Liberian Elections and the Media

CHARLES RILEY

Librarian for African Studies and Catalog Librarian for African Languages
Yale University Library

Strengthening public health messaging using Liberian languages: the case of Vai and Ebola

JACKIE SAYEGH

Program Manager

Institute for African Development

Cornell University

Public-Private Partnerships in Liberia: Case of Bridge International Academies and the Government of Liberia

JAMES E. SIMON

Rutgers University

Operation Targeted Support: Community Engagement to Respond to EVD Crisis in Liberia

PROFESSOR/DR. AMOS M.D. SIRLEAF Ph.D.

Blacology USA-Liberian Mission

Professor/IBB Graduate School of International Studies

University of Liberia

De-Racialization of the Liberian Colonial Constitution: A Precondition for Post Conflict De-Colonizing of the Liberian Democracy Toward 2017 Elections

EMMANUEL K. UREY

Ph.D. Candidate

University of Wisconsin-Madison

"The Land Beneath Our Feet"

About the Host Institution

Ramapo College of New Jersey

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of more than 6,200 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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 nursing and social work, and teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as two articulated programs with Rutgers, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and Rutgers School of Health Professions, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, SUNY State College of Optometry, Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy – Lake Erie College of Medicine (LECOM, a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts (Drawing and Painting/Art Therapy or Sculpture/Art Therapy concentration) – Caldwell University – Master of Arts in Counseling with Mental Health Counseling/Art Therapy Specialization, and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Ramapo College offers a Dual Enrollment Program with Seton Hall University's School of Law for qualified freshmen students wishing to pursue their Juris Doctorate (J.D.) and practice law after finishing their undergraduate coursework. Undergraduate students may choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 539 course offerings and 36 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and an average class size of 23; affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.

The College's mission is focused on the four "pillars" of a Ramapo education, international, intercultural, interdisciplinary and experiential (hands on), all of which are incorporated throughout the curricula and extracurricular programs and help students push intellectual, personal and professional boundaries. The international mission is further accomplished through a wide range of study abroad and student exchange links with institutions all over the world. Additional experiential programs include internships, co-op and service learning.

Construction projects completed in May 2015 include the Adler Center for Nursing Excellence and the renovation of the G-Wing building, with expanded classroom, research and simulation laboratory space, and a 36,000 square foot facility connected by an overhead walkway to the College's science/social science building. The campus also boasts the Sharp Sustainability Education Center, the Salameno Spiritual Center and the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts.

Newer projects scheduled include The George T. Potter Library renovation and Learning Commons, the Padovano Commons, a faculty-staff meeting place and a campus-wide solar panel installation.

This is the tenth consecutive year Ramapo College is listed in the February 2016 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* as among the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges." The John Templeton Foundation named the College to its Honor Roll for "Character-building Colleges," which recognizes institutions that emphasize character development as an integral aspect of the undergraduate experience.

Ramapo has been recognized as a "Military Friendly School" by Victory Media, in the *2017 Guide to Military Friendly Schools* and ranked as one of the nation's Best Bachelor's in Social Work by *College Choice*. And, Ramapo is featured on *CollegesofDistinction.com*, a website dedicated to honoring schools nationwide for their excellence in student-focused higher education.

Ramapo is also ranked 13th in the category "Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the Northeast" of the *2015 Washington Monthly College Guide and Rankings* and The 2015 Niche Rankings for Best Dorms in New Jersey, gives Ramapo a high ranking for its campus housing.

Ramapo College joins an elite group of institutions with less than five percent of business schools worldwide earning the accreditation distinction of its business degree program by the Board of Directors of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Additional accreditations include: the Social Work Program (Council on Social Work Education), the Chemistry Program (American Chemical Society), the Nursing Program (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing), the Teacher Education Program (Teacher Education Accreditation Council), and the Teacher Certification Program, approved by the State of New Jersey.

Dr. Peter P. Mercer became the College's fourth president on July 1, 2005. A Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor of the State governs the College. The chairman of the board is George C. Ruotolo, Jr.