

## Sabrin Center for Business Excellence Opens

By **KERI ANN FLACCOMIO**  
Staff Writer

Dr. Murray Sabrin, a professor of finance at Ramapo College of New Jersey, was honored as a guest speaker at the inaugural address for the Sabrin Center for Business Excellence on the evening of Oct. 21.

At the sixth annual Sebastian J. Raciti Memorial Lecture and Reception, Sabrin discussed the culture of excellence in American business.

"In some circles business is a four-letter word and business excellence is an oxymoron."

The lecture opened with an analysis of the first Thanksgiving and the collectivized crop system at Plymouth Rock, which was ended by William Bradford, who introduced the "miracle" of commerce.

Throughout his lecture, Sabrin referenced many business entrepreneurs in American history, including John Jacob Astor, Matthias Baldwin, James Jerome Hill, James Cash Penney, Sam Walton, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, John S. Barry, Bernie Marcus, Arthur Blank, Henry Taub, David Packard and Willis Carrier.

What these men had in common, according to Sabrin, was great intelligence, the drive to complete an honest day's work for



photo by Keri Ann Flaccomio

**Dr. Murray Sabrin leads a lecture about excellence in American business.**

an honest day's pay, and a strong code of ethics.

"A hand shake sealed the deal," Sabrin said of their business transactions.

Of Baldwin, Sabrin said that he "had to be incredibly persistent to succeed," putting him on the cutting edge of revolution, focusing on the principles of quality, accuracy and creativity in business.

He also mentioned how Penney used conscience and Christian principles as his guide, operating by the Golden Rule: treat customers as you want to be treated.

During this economic time, Sabrin says that businesses need to be super-efficient, listen to their customers and work closely with suppliers to take advantage of good deals. He also emphasizes that businesses need to beat quarterly profit estimates, and should avoid dishonesty and cutting corners.

"Although we have problems," Sabrin said, "the future is bright because of the great institutions out there that are able to provide high quality, low price products."

Sabrin and his wife Florence provided a \$250,000 gift to Ramapo College for the creation of the Sabrin Center for Business Excellence, increasing their original gift to provide for construction needs and future

growth. It is their hope that the Center, located on the third floor of the Anisfield School of Business, will give students the tools they need to become creative, responsible and ethical business leaders of the future.

Sebastian Raciti, known to colleagues as Sib, who the lecture was held in memory of, was one of the founding faculty members of Ramapo College, arriving in its second year.

At the end of the presentation, the couple was awarded with gifts of appreciation, including a unique bowl and articles of clothing.

Sabrin's advice to business students looking to make themselves more marketable is to learn as much as they can, to show potential employers that they know their discipline and have expertise in their field, and to work hard in order to bring value to a company.

It is Sabrin's hope that audience members took away an understanding that there are no shortcuts in successful business.

"In the long run, excellence trumps everywhere."

## Culture Club Sponsors Exhibit, Invites Students to Explore

By **DIANA STANCZAK**  
Staff Writer

Students got a chance to learn about foreign lifestyles through displays of various crafts, artifacts, and ethnic foods at the annual Cultural Exhibit in Friends Hall on Monday.

Sponsored by the Culture Club, 16 different countries were featured at the exhibit, among them Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, China, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Iraq, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Russia, Spain, Vietnam, and the



photo by Stefanie Mauro

**The Culture Club sponsored a cultural exhibit in Friends Hall on Monday.**

United States.

"The exhibit is meant to attract students of all backgrounds, and is an opportunity to learn about cultures different from your own," said Dean Bobo, Culture Club president.

About 40 students and faculty members attended the exhibit, crowding around the colorful tables full of foreign treasures.

"I'm not from America, so I like looking at items from different cultures, especially things that represent the arts, religions, and customs," said junior Jenvee Gangan, who is originally from India.

Gangan admired the West African display: a collection of intricate wooden figurines carved in the shape of animals, mainly giraffes and hippos.

Other unique displays included Ecuador, which featured native handmade jewelry; Spain, which showcased an assortment of delicate hand fans; and the United States, which displayed a baseball and a large M&M dispenser.

However, China's table contained perhaps the most culturally enticing items at the exhibit. A small, ancient looking box held four small battered terracotta figures. The Chinese description on the box read: "All the terracottas here are great works of art. They reflect both the exquisite workmanship of sculpture and the advanced metallurgical technique of the ancient Chinese people who lived 2000 years ago."

"I think it's very important for students to have exposure to cultures other than their

own," said Jeremy Geller, executive director of International Education. Geller also said he encourages students to study abroad.

Dr. Niza Fabre, advisor to the Culture Club, agreed with Gellar. "We welcome everybody and embrace all cultures."

The Culture Club sponsors other events throughout the school year, such as United Nations Day and holds lectures by various speakers who discuss cultural issues, such as English influence on Spanish language. The club also publishes an annual Cultural Journal, which contains literary works pertaining to cultures from all over the world.



photo by Stefanie Mauro

**Tables featured items from countries around the globe.**



photo by Stefanie Mauro

**The club aims to expose students to diverse cultures.**