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**James Lepowsky\*** ([lepowsky@math.rutgers.edu](mailto:lepowsky@math.rutgers.edu)), Department of Mathematics, Rutgers University, 110 Frelinghuysen Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854-8019. *Generalized Rogers-Ramanujan identities and vertex operator algebra theory.*

We briefly sketch how an early goal of trying to "understand" the Rogers-Ramanujan identities and generalizations in some representation-theoretic way has led to many developments in vertex operator algebra theory. This program, which began in the late 1970s, remains extremely active today, as the respective theories have dramatically advanced. (Received July 16, 2014)