

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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AC Gateway Project Groundbreaking



Ground was broken April 20 at the Atlantic City Gateway Project site, which includes Stockton's new residential campus.

Pictured left, Stockton President Harvey Kesselman was joined by Sen. Stephen Sweeney, Gov. Chris Christie, AC Devco Chairman Jon Hanson

and South Jersey Industries CEO Michael Renna. Stay tuned for more in next week's edition of The Stockton Times.

Stockton Hosts Inaugural Sankofa Summit

Stockton hosted the inaugural SANKOFA Summit: Trials and Triumphs of College Men of Color on April 18 as part of the Sankofa Retention Initiative program, which recently received [Diversity Grant](#) funding.

The campus-wide symposium provided insight on critical issues impacting men of color and offered ideas to increase retention and academic success of traditionally underserved groups as they adapt to the collegiate environment. Topics covered nationally recognized issues, including educational equity, degree attainment, socio-political environmental issues and potential for career success.

Guest speakers included Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communications and Africana Studies, and Omar Simpson '09, a Stockton alumnus. The keynote address was given by Ricky L. Jones, professor and chair of the University of Louisville's Department of Pan-African Studies.

Presentations were also given by students in the Black Men in America course, taught by Jonathan Johnson, director of the Office of Community Wellness & Health Education and a leader in the Sankofa program.

"Each of the presentations provided insightful vision to move the experiences of our students from the margins to the center of an engaging discourse," Johnson said.

Continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

- AC Gateway Project Groundbreaking
- Stockton Hosts Inaugural Sankofa Summit
- Diversity Grant Offers Bouchet Conference Experience for Students
- Nancy Reddy, Alumna Nicole Rollender Receive Artist Fellowship
- D'Agostino Presents at OU Campus Conference, Wins Hackathon
- Mariana Smith Features Work in ARTeriors Pop-up Gallery in AC
- K9 Team Competes in USPCA
- DPT White Coat Ceremony
- Origami Showcase
- Veteran Coining Ceremony
- Save the Dates



Shabey Joseph, a student in the Black Men in America class taught by Jonathan Johnson, center, director of the Office of Community Wellness & Health Education, attends a presentation about the daily pressures faced by black athletes at the Sankofa Retention Initiative Summit on April 18. Stephen Davis, associate dean of Students, is also pictured.

Stockton Hosts Inaugural Sankofa Summit

Continued

The Sankofa program is one of the initiatives created under the Office of the Dean of Students as an attempt to reverse data trends and increase the retention rate of underserved students leading to more graduates.

“Stockton University, including its faculty, staff and students, have a deep commitment to student retention and achievement,” Johnson said. “Thank you to the entire campus community for helping to make this inaugural initiative such a success. Thank you to the Office of the Dean of Students, Service-Learning, Wellness Center, 2020 Committee for Learning, Africana Studies and Atlantic Cape Community College.”

Diversity Grant Offers Bouchet Conference Experience for Students

Editor’s Note: We will spotlight programs supported by diversity grants awarded by the Office of the Provost in future issues as information becomes available.

Elizabeth Pollock, associate professor of Chemistry; Manish Madan, assistant professor of Criminal Justice; John Gray, assistant dean of Education; and Valerie Hayes, chief officer for Institutional Diversity & Equity; and six students attended the Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education, held April 7-8.

The Stockton students had the opportunity to observe discussions on diversity in graduate education and meet scholars from across the nation, engaging in research.

The recent trip was part of the Diversity in Graduate Research Education program, a new Stockton initiative supported by a [Diversity Grant](#) from the Office of the Provost. The program’s goal is to mentor and encourage students from diverse backgrounds to engage in research at Stockton and consider a doctoral program after completing their undergraduate degree program.

Students who recently attended the Bouchet Conference will be encouraged to pursue research on campus next year and return to the conference to present their work the following year. Additional students will be invited to attend the conference as observers in year two of the project.

The Diversity in Graduate Research Education program is led by Pollock; Madan; Gray; Hayes; Luis Garcia, assistant professor of Health Science; and Peter Straub, dean of School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

Madan said the conference was a rewarding experience for the students. “Our students were excellent representatives and actively engaged with scholars from other premier institutions across the country,” he said. “It was particularly pleasing to see their growing interest in conducting research and for pursuing higher education including doctoral studies.

“It was clear from this conference that our students value the knowledge they receive here but they are also hungry for more and we must continue with our efforts in developing a systematic approach that encourages them for the graduate school and become next-generation researchers,” he continued.

Hayes, a founding member of the Bouchet Society, also invited Michelle Nearon of Yale University, to Stockton’s main campus on April 17. Nearon serves as associate dean for Graduate Student Development and Diversity, and director of the Office of Student Development and Diversity. She met with the Stockton group that attended the Bouchet Conference, and several faculty and staff members. Nearon’s visit was an opportunity to connect Stockton with Yale University for the benefit of students, explained Hayes.

“Yale is interested in supporting and nurturing women early on and throughout their academic journey. The society was established for the specific reason to seal the pipeline for women and other students of color to increase the diversity of students in graduate education and to increase the pool of diverse candidates of faculty members for the future,” she said.



Elizabeth Pollock (far left), Manish Madan (far right), and Valerie Hayes (back), accompanied students to the Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education, April 7-8.

Nancy Reddy, Alumna Nicole Rollender Receive Artist Fellowship



Nancy Reddy

[Nancy Reddy](#), assistant professor of Writing & First Year Studies Program, and [Nicole Rollender](#) '98 were recently recognized as recipients of the Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the New Jersey State Arts Council.

Both poets recently had a debut collection of poetry published. Reddy is the author of *Double Jinx* (milkweed editions) and Rollender penned *Louder Than Everything You Love* (Five Oaks Press).



Nicole Rollender

“Being named a 2017 poetry fellow by the New Jersey Council on the Arts was an honor, and so humbling. I’m grateful for the recognition of my poetry work, and I’m excited to be working on my second collection,” said Rollender, who received a B.A. in Literature. “While at Stockton, I was fortunate to study creative writing with Stephen Dunn and Mimi Schwartz, and can say that they helped shape my journey as a writer.”

The Stocktonians were among four poets chosen from the 96 who applied to the 2017 fellowship program. Reddy and Rollender plan to use the \$8,600 arts council grant to complete a second collection. The South Jersey poets were recognized in a recent article in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

D’Agostino Presents at OU Campus Conference, Wins Hackathon

Joe D’Agostino, associate director of Web Communications, presented at the 2017 OmniUpdate User Training Conference (OUTC17), held in San Diego, Calif. from April 2-6.

His presentation, “Surviving the Migration from Homegrown CMS to OU Campus,” showcased how Stockton University’s internal web team worked alongside OmniUpdate’s support team to migrate from the former homegrown content management system (EYOS) to the new OU Campus.

D’Agostino shared how Stockton’s team communicated with the OU team to develop checklists and training materials, all of which led to a very successful launch of the new system.

During the conference, D’Agostino also won the OUTC17 Hackathon competition, which tasked programmers, developers and designers to work in teams to create a gadget or tool that improves the OU Campus experience.



Joe D’Agostino (left) pictured with his teammates after winning the OUTC17 Hackathon competition at the 2017 OmniUpdate User Training Conference.

“My team created a competition entry that connected Google Charts API [application programming interface] to generate organizational charts,” he said. “The design was so successful, Stockton is now working to implement the Snippet to manage organizational charts on Stockton.edu.”

Mariana Smith Features Work in ARTeriors Pop-up Gallery in AC

Mariana Smith, assistant professor of Art/Printmaking, was among those exhibiting art installations and performing in the grand opening of “[ARTeriors – Ginsburg Bakery](#),” held April 7 in the former Ginsburg Bakery in Atlantic City. Regional artists crafted original installation pieces as part of the Atlantic City Arts Foundation’s third iteration of [ARTeriors](#), a pop-up art gallery turning unused spaces into a lively, creative and eclectic experience. The latest collaborative project featured a dozen artists, including Smith and Jacob Wolos, a graduating senior majoring in sculpting at Stockton.

Ginsburg Bakery was located in Atlantic City for 112 years, with 36 years spent at the 300 N. Tennessee Ave. location, currently occupied by the ARTeriors pop-up. The wholesale bakery merged with another company in 2015 and moved its operations to Bellmawr, N.J. as part of a New Jersey Economic Development Authority incentive.

K9 Team Competes in USPCA



Sgt. Tracy Stuart and K9 Hemi competed at the [United States Police Canine Association's](#) 2017 National Detector Dog Trials and Certifications, held in Raleigh, N.C. from April 2-5. Stuart and Hemi participated both as a single K9 team and as a combined regional team with Burlington County Sheriff K9 handler Jill Giannini. The Stockton team achieved the National Certification of Excellence for Hemi's detector work; a 5th place medal for vehicle searches; and a 2nd place medal for top regional detector team. "We did our best to represent Stockton PD, this institution and the state of New Jersey in a skilled and professional manner," Stuart said. "We were blessed enough to be successful; gaining the respect of fellow handlers and making many new contacts which may serve as invaluable resources in the future."

DPT White Coat Ceremony



Bess Kathrins, retiring program director and professor of Physical Therapy, was this year's keynote speaker at the Physical Therapy Program Commitment Ceremony on April 5. [View photos here.](#)

Thirty-one students in Stockton's Doctor of Physical Therapy program received their "white coats" during the event, which marks the end of the students' second year of graduate studies and the beginning of their first clinical education internships.

Lori Vermeulen, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, and Theresa Bartolotta, dean of Health Sciences spoke at the event. Tom Nolan, associate professor of Physical Therapy, served as the MC.

Origami Showcase



The annual Origami Showcase, held April 19, featured more than 125 board game-inspired creations. The art was created by 26 students in the Art & Math of Origami course, taught by Norma Boakes, associate professor of Education. Boakes uses origami as a teaching tool to make mathematics education hands-on and fun. It makes math concepts tangible and can help improve spatial reasoning skills, she said. [View photos here.](#)

Veteran Coining Ceremony



Stockton hosted the 2017 Veteran Coining Ceremony on April 18 to honor the veterans graduating this spring semester. In the military, active duty soldiers or veterans are presented coins for special achievement or as a token of gratitude. Pictured above are Dean of Students Pedro Santana; Salman Rafat, a graduating Health Sciences student and Army veteran; and Thomasa Gonzalez, vice president for Student Affairs. [View photos here.](#)

SAVE THE DATES

- April 22: [Scholarship Benefit Gala](#)
- May 9: [Gubernatorial Primary Debate](#)
- May 10: [Graduate Commencement](#)
- May 12: [Baccalaureate Commencement at Boardwalk Hall](#)

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@stockton.edu. News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu

