Dr. Susan Davenport Named Interim Provost

Dr. Susan Davenport has been named interim provost effective June 6. Dr. Davenport will replace Dr. Harvey Kesselman, who accepted the position of president at the University of Southern Maine beginning July 1, 2015.

As interim provost, Dr. Davenport’s responsibilities will include providing the vision, leadership and strategic planning for the University’s academic program. She will provide direction and support for the recruitment, appointment and advancement of faculty, assembling and allocating resources necessary to support the academic program. Dr. Davenport will represent Stockton University externally with regard to community, governmental and alumni relations, fundraising and staffing the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

At Stockton, Dr. Davenport established the Office of E-Learning, developing its mission statement and website, and provided support for the Stockton community. Her work with faculty has resulted in a 13 percent increase in the number of hybrid and online courses offered at the University. Dr. Davenport also serves as Stockton’s Middle States Accreditation liaison officer and as chief negotiator between the University and Stockton Federation of Teachers union.

Dr. Davenport, who currently serves as vice provost for E-Learning, is a graduate of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Becoming a Provost Academy. She earned a Ph.D. in Educational Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, a Master of Science degree in Psychological Services from University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychobiology from Drew University.

Dr. Davenport served as liaison for the State of New Jersey to incorporate aspects of AASCU’s Global Challenges initiative into the curriculum. At Stockton and her previous institution, she has been instrumental in developing and implementing strategies for measuring student learning outcomes.

“I am honored to lead the Division of Academic Affairs during this period of transition. Dr. Kesselman has been a transformative leader for Stockton, and I am fortunate to have had the opportunity over the past two years to work with him and learn from him,” Dr. Davenport said. “The division will continue to focus on Stockton’s core academic values, including a commitment to a high quality, liberal arts, sciences and professional studies’ education, interdisciplinarity, and building a community of diverse faculty, staff and students.”

A college-wide committee will conduct a national search for the provost position.
Dr. Peter Straub Appointed Interim Dean of School of NAMS

Dr. Peter Straub has been named the interim dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS) effective July 1. Dr. Straub, professor of Biology, has served as the biology program coordinator, on program review committees, as a faculty mentor and as associated faculty in the Marine Science and Biochemistry-Molecular Biology programs.

In NAMS, Dr. Straub has served on the NAMS Bio-safety, Arboretum, Lab Users, and Buildings Programming committees. He has served as the GNM convener, on the Faculty Review Committee and the Post-Tenure Review Committee. He has also served as chair of the Faculty Assembly General Studies and Steering committees.

His research involves genetics and adaptation of organisms to their environments and mapping of underwater habitats using remote sensing and scuba diving. During a recent sabbatical, Dr. Straub served as a National Academy of Sciences Senior Fellow at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Fisheries laboratory in Sandy Hook, working on fisheries genetics and environmental contamination.

Dr. Straub is a member of the Mt. Desert Island Biological Laboratory Corporation where he was a summer visiting scientist. He has served on the board of several regional and national scientific societies, including the Botanical Society of America, the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation and the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society. He has received external support for many projects from the National Science Foundation, NOAA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New Jersey Sea Grant and other local and regional sources. He has also published and presented his work in many national and international venues.

“I am honored to lead the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics (NAMS) at Stockton University as the interim dean,” Dr. Straub said. “As an alum (1980) and as member of the faculty since 1994, I have seen the positive growth of NAMS in size, facilities and reputation, in no small part due to our retiring dean, Dr. Dennis Weiss. I am certain that this trajectory will continue in the future given the dedication of the faculty and staff in NAMS to excellence in teaching and research and I hope to contribute to enhancing the environment for teaching and learning for all the students we serve.”

Hughes Center Hosts Legislator-in-Residence, Lecture at Kramer Hall

On April 7 and 8, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy welcomed Assemblywoman DiAnne C. Gove, R-9, as part of the center’s Legislator-in-Residence program.

Gove, a Republican who has served in the General Assembly since 2009, met with Stockton University students, faculty, staff members while on campus.

She met with student veterans and members of the Student Senate, took part in a Civic Engagement class and toured the University’s Coastal Research Center in Port Republic.

Gove also met with students at the Stockton Polling Institute, and participated in classes on public policy and methods for teaching mathematics.
Radwanski Receives Outstanding Orientation Professional Award

Jennifer Radwanski, associate director of Event Services and New Student Programs, recently received the National Orientation Directors Association’s (NODA) region VIII award for Outstanding Orientation Professional.

NODA, an international association comprised of professional administrators, students, faculty and related organizations, aims to provide education, leadership and professional development in the fields of college student orientation, transition and retention (OTR).

Radwanski was recognized by NODA for her outstanding work in OTR in higher education. She accepted the award at the regional conference held at Towson University in Maryland.

“I am honored to have been selected to receive this award. It has been a pleasure helping to build new student programs here at Stockton over the last decade and it has also been an honor to serve in leadership positions for NODA over the years,” Radwanski said.
Stockton University Receives MonArc Corporate Citizenship Award

Stockton University received the MonArc Corporate Citizenship Award at The Arc of Atlantic County’s 2015 MonArc Awards on April 10.

In the tribute video shown during the event, Pat Jones, Chief Operations Officer at The Arc of Atlantic County, said Stockton has provided the Arc with an array of services.

Mary Kientz, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, and Dr. Shelly Meyers, associate professor of Education, also shared their testimonials in the video.

As a clinician, Kientz has provided occupational therapy services to individuals receiving services from the Arc for many years. Through Stockton’s Get FIT program, Kientz, her colleagues and students collaborate with Arc staff to provide fitness and nutrition programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Shelly Meyers’ affiliation with the Arc began six years ago when she was awarded a Provost Opportunity Grant from Stockton to begin a partnership at the Arc. She teaches one of her graduate level special education classes at the Arc. Her student work directly with adult clients who have developmental disabilities.

“It is an honor to be selected by Arc for their Corporate Citizenship Award. It has been a pleasure working with the staff and consumers of the Arc over the past couple of years and it is kind of them to recognize Stockton’s contributions to their agency,” Kientz said.

Dr. Meyers’ affiliation with the Arc began six years ago when she was awarded a Provost Opportunity Grant from Stockton to begin a partnership at the Arc. She teaches one of her graduate level special education classes at the Arc. Her student work directly with adult clients who have developmental disabilities.

“We teach life skills which include social language and social skills, nutrition, hygiene, cooking, basic functional reading and math and some technology,” Dr. Meyers explained.

The Stockton Faculty Band - SFBminor members Dr. Peter Hagen, associate dean of General Studies and director of the Center for Academic Advising; David Lechner, assistant professor in the Library; Warren Ogden (spouse of Dr. Kate Nearpass Ogden, professor of Art History); and David Pinto, university archivist, also performed.

To see the tribute video, click here. To see photos from the event, click here.

Christina Butterfield Named Program Assistant in External Affairs

Christina Butterfield was named a program assistant in the Office of External Affairs. Most recently, she served as a TES assistant to the manager of publications and special projects in External Affairs. Previously, Butterfield served as a TES assistant to the news and media director at Stockton, a director of live newscasts at NBC40 and an advertising sales associate at The Daily Journal. She is currently also a marketing assistant for Nelson Johnson, New York Times bestselling author of Boardwalk Empire, and a practitioner and teacher of yoga asana and pranayama. Butterfield graduated from Stockton with a B.A. in Communications, minor in Political Science and concentration in Pre-Law Studies in 2009. As a student, she played libero for the women’s volleyball team and served as a student athletic trainer in the Athletic Training Room.

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