

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Telling Tales With Professor Judy Copeland

Volume 1, Issue 8
August 4, 2011

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“The facts are not interesting. What’s interesting is living that moment of history in the mind of the writer,” says Professor Judy Copeland.

Stockton’s Associate Professor of Writing, Copeland is the ideal person to teach *Telling True Tales: A Creative Non-Fiction Workshop*, a memoir-writing class designed for older members of our community who are ready to share their personal stories with an audience.

A program created through SCOSA’s Older Adult and Scholarly Education Series, SCOSA’s mission encourages older residents to “age successfully” through vital involvements and engagement in their community, and the memoir-writing process allows these residents to interact as a group during the workshop as well as leave a written legacy of their journeys in life.

“To teach good memoir writing, I assume the goal is to write beyond one’s own family,” said Copeland.

She explained that a number of the 18 students in her class are writing for a larger audience, while some are writing their memoirs for just their families or themselves to read.

“Either way, keeping in mind that you are writing for a wider audience will make the product artistically better and satisfying to yourself,” Copeland explained.

Copeland is well-acquainted with recording personal life events, and she has many to record. She grew up in Fukuoka, Japan where she was a child of missionaries. She used to “run away from home every few days, just for the thrill of getting lost in a big city,” Copeland said.



Judy Copeland, Associate Professor of Writing at Stockton and travel writer, is teaching a memoir-writing workshop at the Noyes

Adulthood found her as a California attorney, but she left the law to backpack around Oceania, Asia, and Africa, staying with families she met along the way. Her travel stories have won prizes from the *Malahat Review*, the *Florida Review*, *Water~Stone Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, and

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other journals and have been shortlisted in the Pushcart anthology and in Best American Essays and Best American Travel Writing. Copeland's travels aren't geographically limited, though. Students who have taken her classes at Stockton have described her workshops as personal journeys and shared adventures.

Stockton senior, Jenna McCoy, recalls taking Copeland's Creative Non-Fiction workshop in the fall of 2010. It was the first time McCoy had enrolled in a writing course.

"I had always been too intimidated to take a writing class," McCoy said, "but Professor Copeland's ability to find the significance and, more importantly, the story, in my memories is what makes her an especially effective and wonderful teacher."

McCoy also enrolled in Copeland's Writing the Travel Story class in the spring of 2011. And after submitting a story she had workshopped in the Creative Non-Fiction class, McCoy's piece was recently published in *Polaris*, the arts and literature journal of Ohio Northern University.

"Professor Copeland made my memories into something worth reading," McCoy said.

Copeland does not take the credit for McCoy's success, though. The professor believes that part of her job as a teacher is to help the student to transform their writing into a gift to the audience."

"My job is to help [students] to tell the inner story that moves beyond facts that happened to the inner emotional facts that, often, the writer doesn't discover until they start writing," Copeland explains. "The key to making it a gift is finding the story."

And sometimes, that story can be a painful one to tell. But Copeland explains that "memoir writing can be about personal healing," and that it's an opportunity to take the "bad things from life, and to shape and craft and transform them into a work of art, creating beauty out of ugliness and pain."

Copeland earned her MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of Iowa and joined the Stockton faculty in 2005. In Fall 2008, she served as the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at the Kerouac House in Orlando, Florida.

The *Telling Tales* workshop is taking place inside the Creation Station, located on Lily Lake Rd. at the Noyes Museum in Oceanville.

"Hemi" Returns to Stockton After Earning His Badge



Officer Tracy Stuart and Hemi on their graduation day.

No cap and gown were needed for the newest graduate on Stockton's campus. After 14 weeks of training, Stockton's very own "Hemi" is officially a NJ police dog.

Officer Tracy Stuart, a resident of Toms River and veteran of the Stockton Police Department, participated in the training and the two are as "close a team as you'll see in any policing," said Chief Glenn Miller. They are part of New Jersey's Detect and Render Safe Task Force, a state, county and local collaboration which involves the state's 10 bomb squads, as well as more than two-dozen newly purchased explosive-detecting dogs working together to detect and respond to potential bomb incidents.

As part of this task force, Hemi and Officer Stuart may be called to a number of area locations in the event of a bomb threat or a similar occasion where Hemi's skills may be needed to detect the presence of explosives.

Named in a College-wide contest in which more than 2,000 community members voted, Hemi, a two-year old chocolate Labrador Retriever, was the overwhelming choice, garnering over 1,000 votes. The name was nominated for its linguistic ease in communication between dog and officer.

Officer Stuart and Hemi can be seen around campus interacting with students at orientation, children at Free-To-Be, and off campus with members of the community to teach people about police dogs and their role in assisting in emergencies.

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In addition to patrols with Officer Stuart, Hemi will take part in community programs to help the Police maintain close contact with students, faculty and staff.

“We see him more as an opportunity for our police department and the community to work together,” said Chief Miller.

Chief Miller hopes that the Stockton community will utilize Hemi’s by introducing him into classrooms and other settings where his skills can demonstrate the value and benefit of having a K-9 presence in the community.

Hemi and his equipment were obtained through a competitive homeland security grant. Stockton was one of only seven departments statewide to receive the grant, and the only college police department, Miller said. The \$50,000 grant covered Hemi’s cost, which consisted of a rigorous 14-week training program and equipment, including a special K-9 Police vehicle.

When off-duty, Hemi resides with Officer Stuart at her home, living as a family dog. Stuart has kept Hemi on a strictly organic diet, so “no Milk-Bones for him,” Chief Miller joked. The American Kennel Club describes the Labrador as “kindly, outgoing...eager to please and non-aggressive,” making Hemi not only the ideal breed to train in a law-enforcement capacity, but the perfect addition to an active college campus.

Chief Miller summed it up best when he described Hemi: “He’s a rock star.”



Hemi, with his newly-earned police badge, can be seen around Stockton and the community.

First Ever Advising Award Goes to Two Faculty Members



Peter Hagen, Director of the Center for Academic Advising

Stockton recently awarded the first ever “Provost’s Research and Professional Development Award in Academic Advising.” Peter Hagen, Director of the Center for Academic Advising, announced that two awards were given out to faculty members who have included advising research and professional development in their agendas.

Keith Williams, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was awarded for his “comparative perceptions of academic and social support, faculty mentoring experiences, and advising needs of honors level and non-honors level psychology majors,” and Mark Berg, Assistant Professor of Psychology, for his “web-based syllabus with embedded introductory video development program for 10 faculty participants.”

Similar to the R & PD awards, this new award is unprecedented in the nation. While many colleges give out awards for good advising, Stockton is the only college to award money for research and professional development in academic advising.

The award was created this year as a joint effort among the Provost’s Office, the Center for Academic Advising, the Stockton Advising Council, the Faculty Senate, and the Stockton Federation of Teachers. The selection committee was made up of members from all of these groups.

Information for faculty members interested in pursuing an award next year will be circulated sometime in the Fall 2011 semester and will be made available on the Grants Office website.



Stockton Milestones

Weddings

Congratulations go out to Stockton's own Brooke Shreaves and Christopher Rollins who tied the knot on July 9. Shreaves is Stockton's Assistant Athletic Director and Rollins is the Sports Information Director. They honeymooned on the Hawaiian Islands of Maui and Kauai. Congratulations, and Welcome back!



Brooke Shreaves, Assistant Athletic Director, and Christopher Rollman, Sports Information Director, at their wedding reception.



Construction Updates

Portions of Parking Lot 4 will be closed for construction of the Unified Science Center and will remain closed until the completion of the project in spring 2013.

The area between the Sports Center (Big Blue) and the chain link fence which border the Unified Science Project will be required to be free of all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The track at G. Larry James Stadium is currently offline and will be closed for approximately four weeks for resurfacing and repainting.

Ongoing summer grounds work continues along Vera King Farris Drive.

As always, community members are asked to be cautious when driving or walking in these areas throughout the duration of these projects.

Please Help Us Improve Your Stockton Times

Now that Stockton Times has been around for a while, we could really use your help. We hope that we're doing a good job of bringing you up to date on people and things at the College. If we are, there is always room for improvement.

Please take a moment or two and let us know what we're doing well, not so well and how we might do better in serving our readership: the Stockton Community.

Thanks so much in advance!

Please click [here](#) to access the survey .



Please send us your news!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. If your fellow employees should hear about it, we want to know about it to help spread the word.

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.

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