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Holocaust Program, Centers Receive Diversity Legacy Award

The Diversity Legacy Award from the American Conference on Diversity Atlantic County Chapter was awarded to Stockton's Holocaust and Genocide Studies program, The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage and The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

President Herman Saatkamp accepted the award at a ceremony on Dec. 5 at the Atlantic City Country Club. President Saatkamp acknowledged the efforts of faculty and staff, including: Jane Stark, executive director of The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage; Oranit Dror-Caplan, program director of the museum; Gail Rosenthal, director of The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center; Dr. Maryann McLoughlin-O'Donnell, assistant director of the center; Dr. Harvey Keselman, provost and executive vice president; Dean Lew Leitner, School of Graduate and Continuing Studies; Dean Rob Gregg, School of General Studies; Dr. Jan Colijn, former dean of General Studies; Interim Dean Lisa Honaker, School of Arts and Humanities; Distinguished Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Dr. Carol Rittner; Dr. Michael Hayse, associate professor, Historical Studies and director of the MA program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies; and Assistant Dean Laurie Shanderson, School of Health Sciences and co-chair of the American Conference on Diversity Dinner.

The American Conference on Diversity has been serving schools, organizations, workplaces, and communities in New Jersey since 1948.
Professor Honored for Decades of Dedication to Community

Rabbi Dr. Murray Kohn, professor of Holocaust Studies, was honored for his years of service to his community by the Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester Counties at the Beth Israel Congregation Hanukkah Celebration on Dec. 4 in Vineland.

At age 12, Rabbi Kohn was a prisoner at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp from 1942 until he was freed in 1945. Rabbi Kohn came to the United States at the end of 1950.

In 1981, Dr. Kohn initiated the Holocaust Studies Program at Stockton, where he still teaches in the undergraduate and master's programs, captivating students with his understanding of the Holocaust and the recounting of his own experiences as a survivor.

In Spring 2014, Dr. Kohn will be teaching a new GSS course, “The Holocaust.” The class will be taught at the Anne Azeez Hall on Tuesday afternoons in Woodbine.


Rabbi Kohn served in the pulpit for over 40 years, mostly at the Beth Israel Congregation in Vineland. His many years of community service include the annual Cumberland County Hunger Appeal, shelters for the homeless and the Annual Brotherhood and Sisterhood Service through the Vineland Ministerium.

“I am honored to have this bestowed upon me. I do not do it for the honors… But for my community, my people, for everyone, so that we can live in a happier, more meaningful, more brotherly community,” Rabbi Kohn said.

Osprey Coaches Have Successful Fall Season Full of Highlights

The head coaches of Stockton's intercollegiate teams enjoyed much success and numerous highlights this semester. Championships were won, accolades were earned and milestones were achieved as the latest chapter in the proud history of Stockton Athletics was written over the last three-and-a-half months.

Head Coach Allison Walker led the Osprey volleyball team to victory once again, winning its sixth consecutive New Jersey Athletic Conference championship and reaching the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year. Along the way, Walker amassed a 26-match winning streak and finished with 31 wins, which is the second-highest victory total in program history and just one short of the school record.

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Coaches Have Successful Fall Season Full of Highlights continued

Walker earned her 200th career victory on Oct. 17 and later was named NJAC Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her eight seasons.

Head Coach Michelle Andre led the Stockton field hockey team to its best season yet as the Ospreys set a school record with 12 victories and reached both the NJAC playoffs and ECAC tournament for the first time ever. Andre was rewarded with the NJAC Coach of the Year honor for guiding her squad, including a nucleus of seven seniors who comprised her first recruiting class when she was hired at Stockton five years ago.

Head Coach Jeff Haines and the Osprey men’s soccer team finished on a high note by winning the program’s third ECAC Metro championship. With 15 victories, Stockton compiled its highest win total since 2008 and helped Haines move within one triumph of the 250-win plateau.

Head Coach Nick Juengert and the Stockton women’s soccer team manufactured another strong campaign, winning 17 games for the second year in a row. Juengert collected his 150th career win on Sept. 11.

Second-year Head Coach Jayson Resch and the Stockton cross country teams performed well throughout the season. Resch led the Osprey women to their best finish at the NCAA Regionals since 2006 (17th out of 42 teams) and also guided a young men’s squad that featured seven freshmen and just two seniors to a solid campaign.

Head Coach Phil Birnbaum and the Osprey women’s tennis team continued their run of success with an 8-3 record and christened their new home courts at the North Athletic Complex with a victory on Oct. 2 in the first match at the new site.

International Education Week Featured Many Campus Events

International Education Week featured dozens of events, including student work, faculty panels and speakers from the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State, said India Karavackas, director of the Office of International Services.

Members of the Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera at Binghamton University - State University of New York gave a performance of “Amazing China” in the Campus Center Theater. The production featured different elements of Chinese drama such as acrobatics, martial arts, instrumental music, opera and vocals.

International Education Week, Nov. 17-21, 2013 is celebrated by colleges across the globe and is a dual enterprise of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State.

“The faculty panels were informative, dynamic and well-attended,” Karavackas said. “The faculty commented that they really enjoyed participating on the panels and that they learned from each other.”

Claudia Diaz, a human rights officer with the U.N. Office of Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect spoke about preventing genocide. Patricia Guy, diplomat-in-residence, talked about careers in the State Department to a “riveted audience,” Karavackas said.

She said posters done by returning Study Abroad students to illustrate their classroom work and foreign experiences “will be a key component from here on out” of International Education Week.

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International Education Week Featured Many Events  

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Two international students produced notable artworks. So Jung Lee’s “K-Pop,” a display of Korean pop culture, and Haruka Anai’s collection of special kimonos were highlights, Karavackas said.

Members of the public were drawn to events that included readings by Lili Mendoza, international writer-in-residence; and movie screenings such as “Finding Home” by Stockton grad Frank Wise, part of the “glocal” event. The “glocal” event creates awareness of problems and challenges that are universal in nature. “Perhaps next year we will focus on the water shortage,” Karavackas said.

Several foreign dignitaries visited the campus that same week.

Two representatives of China’s Dalian University of Foreign Languages met with President Saatkamp, Provost Dr. Harvey Kesselman and faculty and staff to explore possible future partnerships.

Dr. Andrea Mehrlaender, executive director of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation of Berlin also came to Stockton that week to discuss a partnership that could lead to internships in Germany.

“It was a very heavy week internationally for the college,” Karavackas noted. “We received good feedback that the substance was informative, engaging and intriguing.”

Board of Trustees Votes Not to Increase Summer Tuition, Fees

Tuition and fees will not increase for 2014 summer courses, which include a 20 percent discount.

The Board of Trustees voted Wednesday, Dec. 11 not to increase educational costs for the four summer sessions in May, June and July 2014.

More than 287 courses – 70 of them online – will be offered at the Galloway main campus and the Manahawkin and Hammon-ton instructional sites.

College Welcomes New Staff Members in Various Departments

Editor’s note: We will feature short bios of new staff or faculty members in the Times as the information becomes available. Welcome!

Gail Barr Tracy enthusiastically joins the team in Institutional Research as a program assistant. A graduate of University of Delaware, Gail was a self-employed, stay-at-home parent before re-entering the workforce in 2012 to work at Atlantic Cape Community College. She enjoys opera, reading, biking, and family.

Christy Goodnight joins the Richard E. Bjork Library as outreach librarian, instructor in the library. Goodnight earned an M.S. in Library and Information Science at Drexel University, an M.B.A. at Philadelphia University, and a B.A. in Russian at Michigan State University. Prior to her appointment at Stockton, Christy worked as media librarian at Utah Valley University and as library instruction coordinator at Montana State University. She enjoys traveling and served as assistant librarian on an around-the-world voyage with Semester-at-Sea in Spring 2012.

Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen joined the Stockton Social Work Program as an assistant professor of Social Work in September 2013. She is the newest faculty addition to the Child Welfare Education Institute (CWEI) here at Stockton. Dr. Hernandez-Mekonnen has 20 years of direct practice experience and has been engaged in research and policy work for the past decade. With an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, Dr. Hernandez-Mekonnen has worked on a number of influential projects and reform efforts on the behalf of children and families in the Delaware Valley and nationally. Dr. Hernandez-Mekonnen also plays soccer in several amateur women’s leagues in Philadelphia.

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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