

# The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Stockton University President to Resign

Stockton University President Herman Saatkamp on April 22 announced his intention to resign after 12 years as the leader of an institution of higher learning that has metamorphosed from the “college in the Pines” to a highly ranked university during his tenure.

Dean Pappas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, “Dr. Saatkamp has been visionary and an impassioned advocate for Stockton on a local, regional, state and national level. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we accept his resignation and we respect his decision. President Saatkamp has earned the right to return to



President Herman Saatkamp

his scholarship as well as enjoy time with his wife, Dot, and family, and we respect that. At the same time, we will be losing his visionary and transformational leadership, and we will miss that.”

According to President Saatkamp, at 72 years of age he had been working with the Board of Trustees to plan for a smooth and transitional resignation and return to his scholarship for some time.

“I had agreed to remain as President this past year in large part to build the Island Campus and to complete the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park (SARTP) agreements, said Saatkamp. “I leave the University well-positioned, with an excellent director of SARTP who can complete the agreements and launch the research park. I remain optimistic for the success of the Island Campus in spite of the challenges faced.” [Click here to read more.](#)

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## SRI&ETTC Hosts Civics Education Conference for Teachers

Nearly 100 local social studies educators attended the inaugural “Conference for Middle and High School Social Studies Teachers” hosted by the Southern Regional Institute & Education Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC) at the SRI&ETTC on April 16. This year’s conference theme, “Fulfilling Our Civic Mission,” discussed the role of public schools as cornerstones of democracy and the idea that the future of the democracy depends on informed, engaged and responsible students.

“The primary reason for this conference is to provide professional development opportunities in our region for social studies teachers,” said Patricia Weeks, director of the SRI&ETTC. “There are numerous programs available in literacy and mathematics since students are assessed in these areas each year, but teachers often have to travel beyond South Jersey to attend workshops in social studies and civics education.”

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## SRI&ETTC Hosts Civics Education Conference for Teachers

James Giaquinto, associate director of the SRI&ETTC and adjunct instructor, organized the conference so that teachers could learn, network and participate in discussions relevant to their curriculum.

“In this era of high-stakes testing, social studies can often be overlooked, however we should never lose focus on the importance of social studies instruction in preparing students to become informed, engaged and responsible citizens,” he said.

Ambassador William J. Hughes, who served as U.S. ambassador to Panama and as a U.S. congressman for 20 years, gave the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of knowledge and participation in the political process.

“Democracy is not a spectator’s sport,” Ambassador Hughes said. “It’s become one, unfortunately, because ‘politics’ has become a dirty word... We’ve got to work on ways to get people back involved in public discourse, politics. Civics in education is where I believe we need to start.”

Linda J. Wharton, associate professor of Political Science, presented findings from her latest research, **“Understanding the United States Constitution and the Supreme Court: A Survey of New Jerseyans,”** published by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy last week. Wharton, in collaboration with Dr. James Avery, associate professor of Political Science, concluded that many adults in New Jersey do not know basic facts about the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Constitution, based on a statewide survey by the Stockton Polling Institute.

“Interestingly, while our respondents did not do well on some basic information questions, they did quite well on some of the process questions, which I think is encouraging,” Wharton said. “It is more important to know and understand the political processes. It’s about engagement as a citizen in our democracy.”

Following the presentation, educators dispersed into 11 breakout sessions covering global citizenship, teaching advanced placement history, student engagement in the social studies, and more.

Philip Polsinelli, assistant director of the SRI&ETTC, presented, “Rhythm, Blues and the African American Experience,” which utilized audio, video, web and text resources to enhance history instruction from the post-Civil War era through the emergence of Black Pride. “It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas about history and its relationship with the arts,” he said about his presentation.

Jeanne DelColle, instructional development and strategic partnerships specialist at Stockton University, presented, “Global Citizenship: Preparing Our Students for an Interconnected World.” “Looking at the standards as they are, social studies, the red-headed stepchild of the universe, gets shortchanged all the time... Science and social studies do not coexist anymore. Unfortunately, they have been pushed out of the way for language arts, literacy and math because those are the tested subject areas,” DelColle said.



Linda J. Wharton spoke at the inaugural conference for social studies teachers at the SRI&ETTC on April 16.

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## Stockton Faculty Discuss Research on Various Radio Programs

Dr. Deborah Figart, professor of Education and Economics, and Dr. Ellen Mutari, professor of Economics, appeared on WHYY Radio Times, the NPR affiliate in Philadelphia, on April 21. The professors discussed their new book, *Just One More Hand: Life in the Casino Economy*. To listen to the interview, [click here](#).

Linda J. Wharton, associate professor of Political Science, appeared on three news radio shows the week of April 13 to discuss the findings of a Stockton Polling Institute survey released by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (see link in the article above). She was interviewed on 101.5 News Radio by Joe Cutter, on WOND 1400 by Longport Media news director David Spatz and on KYW News Radio 1060 by David Madden.

## Dr. Allison Brings Hip Hop Summit to Campus, Local Community

Dr. Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communications and Africana Studies, organized Stockton University's third "Hip Hop Summit," which discussed and reflected on all aspects of hip hop culture, on April 14. Dr. Allison worked with students in her *GAH: 2184 Hip Hop Culture* class to organize a scholars and artists panel, student panel, keynote address, open mic and special performances for the daylong event.

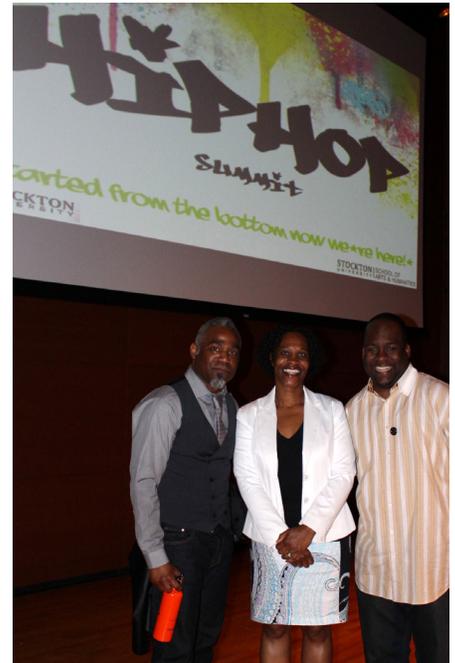
"I love to talk about all aspects of hip hop, the good the bad, the ugly - and bring that to the campus and wider community. I grew up with it, I remember life before it hit the radio, and I remember life after," Dr. Allison said.

Abiodun Oyewole, an original member of The Last Poets, a revolutionary group of poets borne by the Black Arts Movement, gave the keynote address.

"One of the topics I always discuss in the *Hip Hop Culture* class is The Last Poets because there's not a lot of debate in the hip hop community that The Last Poets are considered the forefathers of hip hop. What they spoke about in the 1960s and 1970s is part of what is considered the Black Arts Movement. It was a resurgence of poetry that addressed what was happening in society, the culture and the injustices as they relate to the civil rights movement," Dr. Allison said.

Oyewole inspired faculty, staff, students and the community with his pledge, chanting together with the crowd several times throughout his address:

"I want to be/what I can be/to be proud, healthy and free/I want to say/what I know/to help my brothers and sisters grow/I want to feel/good about me/and blame no one for my misery/'Cause I'll be strong/ to turn it around/I want to go up/I'm not goin' down/I want to do/what I can do/to make all my dreams come true/Remember my past/the good and bad/how I made it art even when it was sad/I want to share/whatever my gift/and when you're feeling low/I'll give you a lift/I want to live/without fear/and know that I'm blessed for bein' here/And know that you're blessed for bein' here/And know that we're blessed for bein' here."



Ewuare X. Osayande, author and activist; Dr. Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communications and Africana Studies; and Jeffrey Widgeon, CEO of Untouchable Entertainment Group.

## Faculty Members Across Disciplines Participate in Shark Week

The Marine Science program hosted Shark Week on campus from April 6-9, 2015 to give the Stockton and greater community the chance to see and learn about what they study. Dr. Elizabeth Lacey, assistant professor of Marine Science, asked her students what topics they'd be interested in learning more about. "Sharks were at the top of their list," she said, so together she and her students planned a week of presentations.

The Marine Science Club, led by adviser Dr. Lacey, educated peers and the community while addressing misconceptions about the top-tier predators that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance as well as the conservation efforts to protect them.

"Sharks attack people often. That's actually fiction. There were seven shark-related deaths worldwide in 2014," Lacey explained.

Dr. Peter Straub, professor of Biology, and Steve Nagiewicz, a Stockton alumnus and chairman of The Shark Research Institute based in Princeton, N.J., offered a shark conservation awareness program. The presentation prepared attendees who are divers for a Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) shark conservation specialty certification.

Shark Week also offered an interdisciplinary twist with a presentation on emergency preparedness by Dr. Jess Bonnan-White, assistant professor of Criminal Justice and volunteer lead for Individual and Community Preparedness for the American Red Cross South Jersey Region. The presentation was tailored to the Stockton student community to help them become Red Cross ready. "The more the students prepare, the more they become resources for the community," said Dr. Bonnan-White.

## SOBL, Psychology Program Dedicate Lending Library to Dr. Lester



Photo from L-R: Dr. Dave Burdick, Dr. Justin Ostrofsky, Dr. Connie Tang, Dr. Rob Foels, Dr. John Bulevich, Dr. Christine Ferri, Dr. David Lester, Dr. Elizabeth Shobe, Dr. John White and Dr. Jessica Fleck.

The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Psychology program recently unveiled the David Lester Lending Library in honor of Distinguished Professor of Psychology Dr. David Lester.

“As the founding member of the Psychology and Criminology programs at Stockton, David has touched the lives of every faculty member that has passed through the program and has provided wonderful mentorship and guidance for thousands of faculty, staff and students,” said Dr. Elizabeth Shobe, associate professor of Psychology.

Faculty, staff and students are welcome to borrow, return, or add to the library located in Upper G-Wing.

“While we had the idea, it was the dedicated folks in Social and Behavioral Sciences that actually brought the concept to reality. Specifically, this happened because of the support

and efforts of Dean Cheryl Kaus [of SOBL] and Cynthia McClure [supervisor of Accounts in SOBL]. It’s this cooperative spirit that captures what it means to be part of the Stockton community, and so a lending library dedicated to a founding member seemed apropos,” Dr. Shobe said.

## Stockton University Welcomes Staff Members in Various Departments

**Julie Fulton** was named evening library assistant in the Richard E. Bjork Library. She helps students locate materials, checks materials in and out and assists with general stack maintenance. Fulton previously served as a library assistant in circulation and outreach services for homebound patrons at Cape May County Library. She graduated from Stockton with a degree in Literature in 2011.

**Patrice Jacuk** was named night hours library assistant for the information desk in the Richard E. Bjork Library. She answers patron inquiries about library services, the location and availability of specific resources and instructs patrons on the use of the library’s online catalogue. Jacuk previously worked at Atlantic Cape Community College, Worthington Campus in a similar capacity at the college’s Learning Commons. She has a bachelor’s degree in Hospitality Management. Jacuk loves spending time with her two rescue pups, Cleo and Nellie.

**Greg Rutler** was named head men’s soccer coach in the Athletics Department. Rutler previously served as an assistant head coach at Stockton, his alma mater, for nine seasons. He is a 2001 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Third Team All-American and member of the Stockton Athletics Hall of Fame (2013). Rutler graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice in 2003. As a student, he was a three-time New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) All-Conference First Team honoree and the leading scorer on Stockton’s 2001 NCAA championship team. He played in two NCAA Final Fours in his career at Stockton (1999, 2001).

### 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*. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email [StocktonTimes@stockton.edu](mailto: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](mailto:distinctive@stockton.edu).

