MLK Day of Service Draws Nearly 1,000

Nearly 1,000 volunteers from Stockton and the local community honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through community projects and social activism.

Stockton’s 11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service on Jan. 19 generated “the most community involvement ever,” said Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, director of Service-Learning, and co-chair of the event.

Service projects took place at the main Galloway campus, the Carnegie Center in Atlantic City, Kramer Hall, the Manahawkin Instructional Site, the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage and other community locations. For photos, click here.

Among the dozens of other projects were cleanups at The Arc of Atlantic County, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority’s greenhouse, the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton and the South Jersey Horse Rescue, as well as a WaterWatch campus cleanup. Students also helped build a playground at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Galloway, distribute clothing through the Eastern Service Workers Association and teach Stockton EMS CPR.

This year marks the 50th anniversaries of the signing of the Voters Rights Act and the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Brian Jackson, chief of staff and co-chair of the event, told students to “think about those people who were beaten and killed fighting for the right to vote.” When the next election rolls around, he said, “Get out and vote.”

During the ceremonies, Dr. Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music, motivated hundreds of volunteers in the room to stand up, join hands and sing “We Shall Overcome.”

Dr. Pedro Santana, dean of Students, and Dr. Rodger Jackson, professor of Philosophy, also spoke during the event honoring Dr. King.

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“All accolades go to Diana Strelczyk,” Fidalgo Tomé emphasized. “She spent countless hours contacting community partners, project leaders and the instructional sites, and hosting orientation meetings. Her leadership was what made this day possible from the very beginning.”

The greatest growth for the day were the Manahawkin, Hammonton and Woodbine locations, explained Strelczyk. “We had thousands of hours of service conducted by hundreds of volunteers in both educational and physical service projects across our area,” she said. “Along with the clean-ups, hundreds of volunteers participated in multiple educational or training services. As more volunteers work on these indirect service projects and trainings, we develop stronger citizens as a whole.”

Activist-in-Resident Rona Whitehead served as project leader for the Student Senate’s first Students Helping Students initiative. The group recruited more than 25 mentors to work with nearly 50 student mentees from Atlantic City High School.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is hosted by the Office of the President, the Office of Service-Learning and the Office of Student Development with campus-wide support.

Faculty and staff members on the planning committee also included: Peter Baratta, executive assistant to the Provost; Patricia Collins, secretarial assistant in the President’s Office; Michele Collins-Davies, operations manager, Manahawkin Instructional Site; Dr. Eileen Conran-Folks, director of the Hammonton and Manahawkin instructional sites; Denise Green, professional services specialist in the President’s Office; Laurie Griscom, director of Events Services and Campus Center Operations; Dr. Tom Grites, assistant provost, Academic Support Services; Alex Marino, assistant to the Provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites; Gail “Gem” McGinnis, education program assistant in the President’s Office; Dr. Denise O’Neill, director of Residential Life; Brandy Pavia, professional services specialist at Carnegie Library; Yubi Peña, secretarial assistant at Kramer Hall; Ginna Petrillo professional services specialist at Kramer Hall; Mark Pezzotta, program assistant at the Manahawkin Instructional Site; Brian Pluchino, professional services specialist in Housing; Dianne Stalling, assistant director of Student Development; Dr. Santana; Jane Stark, executive director of the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage; Gary Suhr, assistant supervisor of Building Repairs; and Jeff Wakemen, director of Student Development.

**Dr. Taneja, Stambaugh Receive Community Engagement Award**

Dr. Tom Grites, assistant provost, Academic Support Services, presented the Stockton Community Engagement Awards during the MLK Day of Service opening ceremonies on Jan. 19.

Dr. Aakash Taneja, associate professor of Computer Science and Information Systems, and Craig Stambaugh, associate dean of Students, received the faculty and staff awards, respectively.

Dr. Taneja is currently serving his fourth term as At-Large Senator on Stockton’s Faculty Senate. He is the faculty advisor of Stockton Computer Society, advisor of Stockton’s Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Chapter, and a CARE mentor. Dr. Taneja has offered various technology usage and cyber-security awareness workshops to middle school students and older adults.

Stambaugh is a co-founder and coordinator of the G. Larry James Legacy Fund Bike Ride which has raised over $100,000 for Stockton scholarships since 2009. He was also the founder and coordinator of the Calvary Baptist Church Miles for Missions Bike-A-Thon, raising over $25,000 for Youth Missions Teams. His nominator noted that he “regularly assists elderly residents in his community with his ‘Do the right thing’ philosophy.”
Coastal Research Center Publishes Article in Scholarly Journal

The Coastal Research Center’s Daniel Barone, director of research, Kimberly McKenna, coastal geologist, and Dr. Stewart Farrell, director of coastal research, recently published a peer-reviewed article titled “Hurricane Sandy: Beach-dune performance at New Jersey Beach Profile Network sites,” in the journal *Shore & Beach*.

Barone, McKenna and Dr. Farrell found that the highest and widest dunes with the greatest volume of sand were the best lifeguards in preserving New Jersey’s coastal communities from the forces of Hurricane Sandy.

The team analyzed 105 locations in the New Jersey Beach Profile Network (NJBPN), with at least one site located in each oceanfront municipality, to determine how beach dunes protected coastal communities against Hurricane Sandy. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Coastal Engineering sponsored the beach-dune performance research.

Within two weeks following Sandy, nearly all of the 105 NJBPN sites were surveyed to document changes in the shoreline and sand volume losses. All but 14 of the sites had been surveyed just prior to Sandy, so post-storm comparisons were made against either fall or spring 2012 pre-storm profiles.

“A review of the 105 sites found that three locations in Cape May City actually gained sand on the beach as a result of Sandy, while north of Long Beach Island, the beach retreat exceeded 100 feet frequently. Follow-up study has demonstrated 65 to 80 percent natural recovery in beach sand volume, but dunes had to be physically rebuilt because natural growth is too slow to be prepared for another storm. All U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorized shore protection projects have been restored as of 2014,” Dr. Farrell said.

The results of the research “clearly showed the benefits of beach-dune systems as shore protection features in reducing storm damages to adjacent oceanfront communities and present a valuable data set and analysis that can be utilized by coastal scientists nationally and abroad for many years to come,” said Barone.

To read the article published in the *Shore & Beach* journal, [click here](#).

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Dr. Manish Madan Receives New Scholar Award Recognition

Dr. Manish Madan, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, was selected to receive the Western Social Science Association’s New Scholar Award.

The award recognizes new social scientists, less than four years into their careers, who show early promise of a record of sustained scholarly research. The awardees are selected by the WSSA president, president-elect and immediate past president.

“Well, often the best things come to you when you are not even thinking about them. This recognition is one of those things and I am very humbled to be recognized as a budding criminologist by an esteemed national level body. I thank the WSSA for finding me worthy of this award, and I am also grateful to Stockton College for their support toward my research,” Dr. Madan said.

Dr. Madan will be presented the award at the Western Social Science Association annual conference in Portland, Ore., April 8-11.
Jim Gwathney’s Intramural Teams Celebrate Victories on the Road

Jim Gwathney, coordinator of Intramurals and Recreation, recently took three of his intramural teams on the road and added another trophy to Stockton’s growing intramural collection.

In December, Gwathney’s co-ed flag football team won the 2014 National Intramural-Recreational Council (NIRSA) Regional Flag Football Tournament at the University of Maryland.

By winning the championship, the Ospreys qualified for the NIRSA National Flag Football Tournament at the University of West Florida.

Gwathney also took two teams of Stockton students to compete in the Northeast Regional Dodgeball Tournament at Rowan University on December 6. Stockton competed in the men’s and co-ed brackets, with the men’s team winning the championship.

“Our student-athletes represented Stockton well,” Gwathney said. “People don’t realize how much time and effort is put into the tournaments. It’s very exciting to watch the teams develop, mature and win together. I’m very proud of our athletes.”

Stockton Welcomes Maggie Quinn as Director of Purchasing

Maggie Quinn joins Stockton as the director of Purchasing in the Division of Administration and Finance. Quinn has extensive experience with procurement in the public sector and formerly served as the assistant director of the State’s Division of Purchase & Property within the Department of the Treasury. Prior to procurement, she was engaged in the private practice of law specializing in commercial litigation, product liability and employment law. Quinn is a graduate of The American University where she earned a B.S. in Business Administration and Rutgers University School of Law in Camden where she earned her Juris Doctorate.

Construction Corner: Exterior Stair, Elevator Renovations Continue

The exterior stair renovations continue in B, C/D and F-wings and temporary stairs have been placed in those wings to provide access to floors during construction. N-wing elevator is also closed for renovations. Only the stairs will be available during that time. The next available elevator is near the Performing Arts Center.

The Stockton Times will give reminders about construction projects. Any questions can be directed to Glenn Brown, associate director of Facilities Planning and Construction, at Glenn.Brown@stockton.edu or ext. 4888.