Lori A. Vermeulen Selected as Provost

Lori A. Vermeulen has been selected to serve as Stockton University’s incoming provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, beginning on or before July 5, 2016.

Vermeulen brings over 20 years of experience in the field of higher education and has held many leadership roles, including the last nine years as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and tenured professor of Chemistry at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and interim dean and chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (SIUC).

Vermeulen received a Ph.D. and master’s degree in Chemistry from Princeton University, and her bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from the University of Scranton. Among her academic credentials include 16 authored and co-authored scholarly publications, over 80 authored and co-authored papers, three patents, $1.8 million in grants, and many presentations at regional and national conferences.

She was also a recipient of the SIUC Outstanding Teacher of the Year in the Sciences award. As a graduate of the AASCU Becoming a Provost Academy, Vermeulen has stated she is “committed to a higher education environment which focuses on teaching and learning as the core.”

As dean of the largest college at West Chester University, Vermeulen has led a tenure-track faculty of 280, 13 departments, a half dozen interdisciplinary programs, and an annual budget of $30 million, which stretched from the natural and social sciences to the humanities and liberal arts. Throughout her professional and academic career, Vermeulen successfully advocated the interests of faculty and students through her collaborative, collegial and transparent approach to shared governance.

The Provost Search Committee was led by co-chairs Theresa Bartolotta, dean of the School of Health Sciences, and Louise Sowers, associate professor of Chemistry. Committee members included: Wendel White, Distinguished Professor of Art; Sonia Gonalsves, professor of Psychology and director of Academic Assessment; Michael Busler, professor of Business Studies, Finance; Doug Harvey, associate professor of Instructional Technology; Frank Cerreto, professor of Mathematics and First-Year Studies program coordinator; Anne Pomeroy, associate professor of Philosophy and president of the Stockton Federation of Teachers; Brian Tyrrell, associate professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management and president of Faculty Senate; Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communications & Africana Studies; Peter Straub, associate professor of Instructional Technology; Cindy L. Norman, technical assistant in Student Records & Registration and vice president of the CWA; Charles Ingram, vice president for Administration & Finance; Thomasa Gonzalez, vice president of Student Affairs; Brian K. Jackson, chief of staff; Peter Baratta, chief planning officer; Patricia W. Collins, secretarial assistant and president of the Council of Black Faculty and Staff; and Carl Archut Jr., Student Senate president.
Stockton Receives $300,000 Gift from Estate of Gerald Clemens

Gerald Clemens’ estate is still being settled, but Stockton University science students will benefit from the Pleasantville, N.J. man’s generous legacy for many years to come.

“Jerry” Clemens, who was born in Atlantic City and worked as a manager in the State of New Jersey Employment Office in Atlantic City for decades, died at age 81 in December 2014.

Among his bequests is a directive that a scholarship be established to “provide scholarship monies to eligible college students who demonstrate a desire and/or capacity to study engineering or any of the physical sciences, including, but not limited to, physics, chemistry and computer sciences.”

Clemens’ family generously decided to establish the Gerald Clemens Endowed Scholarship at Stockton. The University recently received $300,000, with final distribution expected to come in late spring or early summer when the estate settlement is complete. To read more about the Clemens’ estate donation, click here.

New Health Advisory Board to Develop Employee Wellness Program

The Stockton Health Advisory Board was recently established to assist the Office of Human Resources in the development of an Employee Wellness Program. The advisory board will coordinate current initiatives, set priorities and develop action plans.

In the fall semester, Human Resources worked with students from the “Issues in Wellness” Service-Learning course, taught by Laurie Dutton, director of the Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Center.

Dutton and her class developed a survey that was sent to all faculty and staff in November 2015. The group received responses from 249 faculty and staff members, with 21 employees participating in one of four focus groups. Feedback from the survey and focus group found that most employees’ primary concern is physical health, specifically eating habits, weight and exercise. The second most common concern is financial wellness, specifically financial stability, debt and retirement stability.

In response to the survey, the committee was formed, and had its first meeting on March 3 to discuss current wellness initiatives and ideas for future events. The board brainstormed about ways to create greater awareness within the campus community regarding programs, events and workshops that are already in place, but are not well known.

Human Resources recently launched a central employee wellness website to inform the community of “Stockton Healthy” initiatives.

The following members of the faculty, staff and administration serve on the advisory board: Rob Gregg, dean of the School of General Studies; Mary Lou Galantino, Distinguished Professor of Physical Therapy; Luanne Anton, health educator; Jon Heck, director of Athletic Operations; Ron Caplan, associate professor of Public Health; Laurie Shanderson, associate dean of the School of Health Sciences; Matt Sfarra, resident district manager, Chartwell’s; Tom Chester, director of Human Resources; Jonathan Johnson, director of Community Wellness & Health Education; Christian Allen, Fitness Program coordinator; and Karen Tierney, associate director of Human Resources Operations.

Institute for Faculty Development Hosts Keynote on Science of Learning

About 45 faculty members attended a keynote address by Todd Zakrjasek, co-author of “The New Science of Learning,” as part of the Institute for Faculty Development’s annual speaker event on Feb. 29.

Zakrjasek presented “Teaching for Learning: Motivating and Engaging Students in the Classroom.” He discussed how to present information so that students most effectively encode it into long-term memory. He is an associate research professor and associate director of Fellowship Programs in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and serves as the executive director of the Academy of Educators.

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Donnetrice Allison Edits Book on Black Women Portrayals on Reality TV


The book is a collection of chapters written by various contributors who analyze the portrayals of black women in current reality television programs.

The first chapter gives a history of black women on TV. For example, the character Sapphire Stevens on the 1950s sitcom, “Amos ‘n’ Andy” introduced the angry black woman stereotypes that we commonly see today on reality TV, explained Allison. Audiences are presented with images of black women fighting, arguing and cursing at each other on reality shows, such as, “The Real Housewives of Atlanta” and “Love & Hip Hop.”

The book’s contributors, including Allison, who also wrote three chapters, describe how these negative racial and gender stereotypes influence U.S. and global audience perceptions and disrupt the process in which people are able to appreciate cultural and gender differences.

Allison’s distaste for reality shows inspired the idea for the book.

“I can’t stand reality shows,” she said. “Folks look at reality shows for entertainment, but the book’s message is it’s not innocent fun. It’s really affecting how people perceive black women.”

Allison shared excerpts from her new book during the School of Arts & Humanities’ Communication Spotlight Series Presentation on March 3.

How to Submit News or Subscribe to the Stockton Student Digest

In an effort to reduce the number of emails sent to students, the Student Electronic Communications Committee recently established the Stockton Student Digest, a compilation of student-related announcements and information emailed to students on weekdays. To submit a news item or announcement, click here. University faculty and staff may subscribe to receive The Digest by addressing an email to STUDENTDIGEST-L-subscribe-request@stockton.edu.

The Stockton Student Digest was the result of recommendations of the work of the committee as a strategy to replace the widespread use of the larger distribution lists.

Committee members included: Bob Heinrich, chief information officer; Laurie Griscom, director of Event Services and Campus Center Operations; Jeff Wakemen, director of Student Development; Patricia Kelly, assistant director of Residential Life; Dennis Fotia, assistant director of E-Learning; Joseph Loefflad, director of Telecommunications & Network Services; and Kim McCabe, director of Student Affairs Communications, who manages the Stockton Student Digest.

The committee also consulted the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology & Media Services for perspective and concerns regarding dissemination of email communication to students. The committee also consulted with University Relations & Marketing.
Stockton Welcomes Staff Members in Various Roles, Departments

Editor’s note: We will feature new faculty and staff members as more information becomes available. Welcome!

Sarah Albertson (née Stout) joins Stockton as a program assistant for the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. Albertson graduated from Stockton with a B.A. in Historical Studies in 2013 and M.A. in Holocaust & Genocide Studies in 2015. As a graduate student, Albertson worked as a resident assistant for the Office of Residential Life and as a graduate coordinator for the Office of Event Services & Campus Center Operations.

She also worked as a graduate assistant for various faculty members in the Master of Arts in Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program (MAHG) and continues this work in her new position, as part of her duties include the organization and development of MAHG projects. Albertson was recently married and enjoys spending time with her husband.

Samantha Cary joins the Office of University Relations & Marketing as a professional services specialist. Cary started in the department as an intern during her senior year and most recently served as a TES marketing assistant as well as a TES assistant to the news and media relations director.

Originally from a small town in North Jersey, Cary graduated from Stockton in 2013 with a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations. Outside of the office she enjoys weekly trivia nights, attempting new recipes and spending time with friends and family.

Tara Marsh recently joined the School of Business as the Hospitality & Tourism Internship Coordinator for the HTMS Program. Prior to her full-time role with the University, she worked as an adjunct instructor in the HTMS Program, was a catering sales manager for the Events Management Department at Columbia University in New York City, and served as the catering sales manager for the Sheraton in Atlantic City for a number of years.

Marsh graduated from Stockton with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management with a concentration in Hospitality Management in 2003 and a Master of Business Administration in 2009. She also holds an associate degree in Culinary Arts from Atlantic Cape Community College. In her spare time, Marsh enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking for fun, and visiting local wineries.

Construction Update: Lactation Room Closed, Lot 0 Construction

The lower EE-Wing lactation room is closed due to the F-wing restroom renovations. The upper EE lactation room is open and available for use. All EE-Wing restrooms will continue to be out of order until water service is restored. Please use the D-Wing or F-Wing restrooms.

Construction will be done on Vera King Farris Drive in front of the Arts & Sciences Building and Lot 0 on March 17-18. Please use caution when driving in these areas.

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. Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 (ext. 5521) or via email at 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 by emailing distinctive@stockton.edu.