



Stockton Honors Eight Alumni with Professional Achievement Awards

For Immediate Release; with link to photos on [flickr](#)

Monday, October 13, 2014

Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ -Eight graduates of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey were honored with Professional Achievement Awards during ceremonies in the Campus Center on Sunday, part of the college's Homecoming Weekend.

Honorees are selected based on professional achievement in their fields, industry awards, special recognition they have received and service to Stockton College and the community. One alumnus/alumna was selected from each of the Stockton's eight schools. This is the sixth year of what is becoming a rich tradition at Stockton, said Sara Faurot, director of Alumni Relations.

The honorees are:

Tom Ballance, president and Chief Operation Officer of Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa. Ballance, a 1980 graduate of the School of Business, joined Borgata in 1998 as vice president of Development. Following the successful completion of the Borgata, the Borgata North Expansion, and Water Club Projects, he was appointed senior vice president of Development for Boyd Gaming Corporation where he oversaw all design and construction projects for the company. In January 2009, he returned to Borgata as senior vice president of Administration where he oversaw various administrative functions and was a member of the leadership team responsible for all strategic decision making for the property.

Prior to Borgata, Ballance spent 17 years with Harrah's Atlantic City in various operations and development positions. He holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Stockton College. He has been instrumental in the formation of the Atlantic City Alliance, a non-profit corporation focused on increasing tourism in Atlantic City. He is a resident of Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

Marjorie Barnes is an associate professor in the English Department at Union County College where she teaches writing and critical thinking.

A 1990 graduate of Stockton, Barnes' career as a performance poet spans the past 25 years, including the late 1980s as a poet with Afro-One Dance, Drama and Drum Theatre. She is now a New Jersey Poet-in-the-Schools with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

-more-

-continued from page 1-

Barnes has received grants from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) to conduct a series of hip-hop/poetry workshops for performance poets in Newark, and she was also instrumental in planning and organizing NJ PAC's first hip-hop festival where she acted as guest curator and host of the festival's poetry series, *Sacred Circle Café*. In 2006, she was honored as the Stockton College Council of Black Faculty and Staff Distinguished Alumna.

A recipient of artist grants from the Puffin Foundation and the Newark Arts Council, Barnes has a poetry CD titled, *My Blues Ain't Over Yet*. Barnes received her Bachelor's degree in Literature from Stockton College in 1990; her Master's degree in Linguistics from Temple University in 1993, and in 2007, she began work on her doctorate degree in English at Illinois State University. Barnes lives and writes in North Plainfield, NJ.

Alexa D'Amato Barrera is a proud graduate of Mainland Regional High School (1994), Stockton's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (1998) and the Rutgers School of Law (2001). She practices plaintiffs' personal injury law, representing those that have been injured in serious accidents, at the D'Amato Law Firm in Egg Harbor Township.

D'Amato Barrera has been selected to the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40 and in 2007 she received the New Jersey State Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year Award. She has been recognized as a top young lawyer by New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Stars from 2008 through 2013. Only up to 2.5 percent of the attorneys in the state are named Rising Stars. Locally she was recognized as one of the Top 40 Under 40 in Atlantic County and also received the Atlantic County Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

She has been a speaker and moderator on numerous occasions locally for NJAJ and on the national level for AAJ. Her writings have been published by the New Jersey State Bar Association, NJESQ Magazine and the American Associate for Justice. D'Amato Barrera lives in Linwood with her husband, Alexander J. Barrera, Esquire, and their three children.

Bruce Friedman is currently the chief of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring within the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards, where he oversees the operation of a state- and FDA-certified laboratory that includes wet chemistry, bacteriological and advance microbiological analysis. He also manages compliance with the National Sanitation Shellfish Program and oversees the classification on New Jersey's marine waters.

Friedman manages the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program which ensures water quality at New Jersey's recreational beaches, and the Clean Shores program that utilizes laborers from the Department of Corrections to clean New Jersey's beaches and back bays of floatable debris. The NJDEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring collected and analyzed the vast majority of the water samples for Gov. Chris Christie's Barnegat Bay Monitoring Initiative. He was extensively involved in NJDEP's Superstorm Sandy response and recovery efforts and managed the closure and re-opening of the State's shellfish beds in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Friedman graduated from Stockton College in 1989 with a bachelor of science in Environmental Studies from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He has been with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for 25 years. Friedman developed, implemented and managed USEPA's Phase II stormwater program in New Jersey, regulating the discharge of stormwater from municipal separate storm sewers. He has also been published in the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest, and was the recipient of the 2006 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award.

Friedman is a member of New Jersey's Water Monitoring Council, Barnegat Bay Science and Technical Advisory Committee, Interstate Environmental Commission, Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission, Wreck Pond Watershed Committee and the Shamong Township Environmental Commission.

-more-

-continued from page 2-

Sarah Griffith was born in Buffalo, NY and moved to southern New Jersey when she was 10. She graduated from Our Lady of Mercy Academy and went on to University of Delaware, transferring to Stockton's School of General Studies in 1979. She was employed as a stringer for The Press of Atlantic City's Ocean County bureau. Her love of journalism and desire to have a broad background to understand the world she was writing about drove her decision to pursue a Liberal B.A. that combined Political Science, Philosophy, History and Literature.

During her time at Stockton, she spent two semesters away from campus: a semester at the University of Copenhagen and a semester in the Washington Internship Program in Washington, D.C. where she interned at the National Journal. Both were incredible experiences, but so were the semesters spent on campus, she said, pointing out, among others, Political Science Professor Alan Arcuri, Roger Wood, professor emeritus of Zoology and William Daly, Distinguished Professor of Political Science.

Griffith went on to work mostly in the non-profit community in Atlantic County at AtlantiCare Behavioral Health, The Arc of Atlantic County and then as CEO at Gilda's Club South Jersey. Although not exactly a career in journalism, the Liberal B.A. has served her well, she said. Today she works for a small software company called BoardEffect in Manayunk, PA which has developed a product to help boards of directors communicate effectively.

Griffith and her husband, retired Dean of the School of General Studies Jan Colijn, live in the Fairmount neighborhood in Philadelphia. Their daughter, Cory, lives a few blocks away and works at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. James Herrington, a native of Ocean City, NJ, is a 1994 alumnus of Stockton's School of Health Sciences and a graduate of Ocean City High School. While at Stockton he majored in Public Health with a focus in Community Health Education, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He attended medical school at UMDNJ – New Jersey Medical School, graduating in 1998.

After medical school he completed his General Surgery residency at the Medical College of PA/Hahnemann Hospital and then served as Chief Resident at Drexel College of Medicine from 2002-2003. He completed his Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Temple University Hospital in 2005.

Upon completion of his formal medical training, he entered private surgical practice with Galler, Feinberg, and Herrington Surgical Associates in Somers Point, NJ. He is board-certified in General and Vascular Surgery and currently serves as Chief of General Surgery at Shore Medical Center.

Herrington also serves on several hospital committees including the medical executive, peer review, quality and safety, and credential committees. From 2008 – 2011 he served as the cancer liaison physician on the cancer committee.

Herrington and his family are active members of St. Peter's United Methodist Church of Ocean City, NJ and are engaged in several community outreach programs. The church supports a daily kitchen for the needy as well as providing clothing and support. There are also initiatives to support infrastructure development and affordable housing development both locally and in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

He resides in Ocean City with his wife, Victoria. and their three children.

-more-

-continued from page 3-

Lynne Kesselman of Mays Landing in Hamilton Township, NJ, is a U.S. Department of Education American Stars of Teaching award winner. She has been featured as a Great Educator on the University of Southern California's teach.com web site, has consulted with Adobe on its worldwide online course development, and has been an invited panelist for Washington, D.C. public schools.

Kesselman has been teaching web design, programming, financial literacy, workplace readiness and marketing at Egg Harbor Township High School since 2001. In addition, she maintains the high school web site, leading her web design students' into real-world application.

Last year, she successfully piloted the school district's Adobe Certified Associate certification program for her students, several of whom graduated from high school with industry-standard certification in Dreamweaver and/or Photoshop.

Kesselman has mastered thousands of hours of professional development in technology and provides ongoing formal and informal technical training for faculty and staff at the school. She regularly participates in conferences and courses throughout the state and online and was named a top 1 percent of Adobe Education Exchange members world-wide.

Kesselman was instrumental in founding the crew programs at Oakcrest and Absegami high schools, and provided support for other crew programs that followed at area schools. She has also guided Hamilton Township's Strategic Planning, Police Athletic League and other community organizations.

Kesselman is currently creating a Computer Science Teachers Association Southern New Jersey chapter, and has been invited to present robotics workshops at the New Jersey Education Association convention.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from the School of Education, both at Stockton. She is married to Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of Stockton.

Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt of Upper Township, NJ, is a business owner, college instructor and former candidate for political office.

She started as a radio news reporter and then joined Atlantic City, NJ's WMGM-TV 40, as a reporter and anchor. She served as public relations manager at Showboat Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ and as marketing director for the Great American Trolley Company, Cape May, NJ. In 2004, she joined Smith O'Keefe and Associates of Egg Harbor Township, NJ and bought the firm in 2007, which she rebranded as Suasion Communications Group.

Adelizzi-Schmidt has served as assistant director of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center of Cape, Atlantic & Cumberland Counties. She completed her M.B.A. degree at Stockton's School of Graduate and Continuing Studies and earned a dual B.A. degree in Communications and English from Arcadia University in Glenside, PA. Adelizzi-Schmidt enjoys sharing her knowledge and experiences with others and proudly serves as an adjunct professor Stockton, where she has taught M.B.A. Marketing Management and Capstone Business Policy & Strategies classes. She frequently is invited to lecture for schools, colleges, universities, associations, business and civic organizations.

-more-

-continued from page 4-

Adelizzi-Schmidt entered the political arena in 2013 and made history by becoming the first female to be nominated by either party for State Senate in New Jersey's First Legislative District (Cape/Cumberland/Atlantic).

She also serves in various capacities in several business and civic community organizations including: Cape May County Republican Committee, State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Land Use Law & Planning Certification/New Jersey Planning Officials (NJPO) member, Upper Township Zoning Board of Adjustment, Somers Point Business Association - executive board, Cape May County Status of Women Advisory Commission, and as a member of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic City Hotel/Lodging Association, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Wildwood Chamber of Commerce, Country Shore Women's Club, Upper Township/Ocean City Rotary Club, Upper Township People's Republican Organization, Vineland Chamber of Commerce, and State of New Jersey Notary Public.

Suasion is the winner of two 2013 Ragan's PR Daily Awards (Best Branding Agency and Best Green Initiative); 2011, 2010 & 2009 NJ Governor's Awards for Tourism Excellence; a 2011 HSMIA Silver Adrian Award; and a 2009 HSMIA Bronze Adrian Award.

#