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Stockton Faculty Band CD Release Party Slated; Proceeds to Benefit Scholarships

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SOMERS POINT, NJ – What began as a fun project for a few professors has evolved into a source of goodwill for the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, fundraising events to benefit student scholarships and organizations, and many entertaining evenings for music lovers.

The Stockton Faculty Band, a group of professors joined by two administrators and a faculty spouse, cover a wide range of musical selections from classic rock to rhythm and blues to funk and jazz. They have appeared at a number of local venues and will soon celebrate the release of “Pop Quiz,” their first CD.

The Band will perform at a special CD Release Party on Sunday, June 24 at Stumpo’s Restaurant in Somers Point, from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. In addition to the live music and dancing, copies of the disc will be available with all proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund of the Stockton Federation of Teachers.

Together with varying members since the 1980’s, The Stockton Faculty Band has been performing in a growing number of venues in recent years. Its current incarnation began with a few small gatherings on campus, grew to include major college functions and blossomed in 2005 with a featured performance on the Atlantic City boardwalk as part of the “Stockton Goes to the Beach” Summer Concert Series.

“Our aspirations were quite modest at first, but with practice we really improved as a group,” said Professor Paul Lyons, who plays saxophone, clarinet and performs vocally with the band. “We’ve had great support from students, our fellow faculty members and the college community in general. “It’s still mostly about fun, but we’ve been fortunate to play in front of larger groups of people and to help raise funds on behalf of the College.”

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The Band recently performed a benefit for the Community of Scholars program and has been a part of the entertainment at the Scholarship Benefit Gala for the past three years.

The current group members include Professor of Mathematics Frank Cerreto on vocals and guitar; Director of the Center for Academic Advising and Planning Peter Hagen on vocals and bass; Associate Professor of Marine Science Rich Hager on guitar and vocals; Associate Professor of Philosophy Rodger Jackson on lead guitar and vocals; Librarian and Instructor in the Library David Lechner on sax and trumpet; Lyons, a Professor of Social Work, on sax, clarinet and vocals; Professor of Art Mike McGarvey on saxophone and vocals; Warren Ogden, the spouse of Associate Professor of Art History Kate Nearpass Ogden on keyboards; Director of the Library David Pinto on drums, mandolin and vocals, and Associate Professor of Philosophy Anne Pomeroy on vocals, flute and congas.

McGarvey designed the CD cover artwork, featuring a pop art treatment of the band mates' portraits and inside art with pictures of the members from their younger days and an actual "Pop Quiz" of trivia questions about members. For example: "Which guitarist/vocalist was in a band that got into a physical altercation with Janis Joplin?" Answer: Associate Professor of Marine Science Rich Hager.

The disc includes many highlights from the band's typical two-hour live set, such as covers of Thelonious Monk's "Straight, No Chaser," Wilson Pickett's "Mustang Sally," Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman," and the Boxtops' "the Letter" among many others.

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