

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton College to Confer Degrees at Annual Fall Commencement Ceremonies

Professor Emeritus Kenneth Tompkins to Deliver Keynote Address

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will conduct its annual fall Commencement ceremonies on **Sunday, December 19, 2010**.

There will be two separate ceremonies. A special Hooding Ceremony for master's degree candidates will take place from **10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** in the Stockton Performing Arts Center (M-Wing on the Galloway Twp. Campus.) The degree conferral ceremony for bachelor's degree candidates will be held at **1:00 p.m.** in the Sports Center of the Galloway Township Campus. The Sports Center is located adjacent to parking lot 4, just off College Drive.

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., will present diplomas to 858 degree candidates—total as of this morning—in the eight academic schools of the College: Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies, Graduate and Continuing Studies, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Included in that total are 62 advanced degree candidates—specifically, 1 Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies; 9 Master of Business Administration; 13 Master of Arts in Instructional Technology; 20 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, 6 Master of Arts in Education, 6 Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, 6 Doctor of Physical Therapy, and 1 Professional Science Master's in Environmental Science.

Dr. Kenneth Tompkins, professor emeritus of literature at Stockton, will deliver the Commencement address.

About Kenneth Tompkins: Kenneth Tompkins has been teaching for 46 years; though retired he continues to teach one course – Shakespeare – per term. He is also presently co-editing (with Dr. Robert Gregg, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities) a history of the College.

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Upon graduating from high school, Tompkins held a number of jobs – welder, farm hand, morgue attendant and medical photographer – before entering the University of Rochester in 1956. He entered Indiana University in 1960 seeking a Ph.D. in Medieval Literature, which was awarded in 1967.

His first full-time teaching position was at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois in 1965. It was there that he met Wes Tilley who later hired him as a founding dean of Stockton. He left Millikin University in 1968 to become chairman of the English department at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

In March of 1970, his former chairman, Wes Tilley, asked him to interview for a deanship at the yet-to-be-created Stockton State College. He was offered the position of dean of general studies and arrived here in June of 1970.

Kenan Kurt, a resident of Roebling, New Jersey, and president of Stockton's Student Senate, will deliver the student address.

About Kenan Kurt: Kenan Kurt is a 2008 graduate of Florence Township High School and has been a proud student of Stockton College since then. He is a political science major with minors in Holocaust and genocide studies and historical studies. Kurt is on track to graduate in December 2011.

Since enrolling at Stockton, Kurt has been involved in numerous clubs and organizations. He served as the student welfare chair of the 2012 Class Council and as vice-chair of the academic policies committee for Student Senate before becoming president. He has also been involved in intramural sports and Greek life.

Kurt is a proud brother of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, of which he is a spring 2009 initiate, and has served as the Greek Council representative for his chapter.

He has also attended the Stockton Orientation Adventure Retreat (SOAR) for three years, twice as a member of TALONS (The Activity Leaders of New Students) and is returning for his fourth year as the head TALONS mentor. Kurt has also been involved in many community service initiatives through Kappa Sigma, Day of Service and Alternative Spring Break. Kurt plans on attending law school after graduating from Stockton.

Frank Thatcher, a candidate for a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology (MAIT), will deliver the student speech during the Hooding Ceremony. Thatcher's wife, Cristine, is also a MAIT candidate and will participate in the December 19 Hooding Ceremony.

About Frank Thatcher: Frank Thatcher has taught for 30 years, currently in the Tabernacle School District where he teaches children with special needs. During the regular school year, Thatcher teaches children of middle school age, grades fifth through eighth, in a self-contained classroom where he prepares them both academically and socially for high school. When summer ends, Thatcher teaches pre-school special needs children in preparation for kindergarten. Currently, Thatcher holds two teaching certifications, elementary and teacher of the disabled, and last spring was awarded a Distinguished Research Fellowship from Stockton College. **-more-**

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The faculty Grand Marshal for the Commencement processional will be Professor of Physical Therapy Elaine Bukowski.

Banner carriers representing the schools of the College include: Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Harry Rhea representing the faculty; Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy Victoria Schindler representing Graduate and Continuing Studies; communication studies major and theatre minor Joe Heim representing Arts and Humanities; Assistant Professor of Business Studies Deborah Ballard representing Business; Associate Professor of Education Norma J. Boakes representing Education; Stockton Skills Center Assistant Christopher Moore representing General Studies; Assistant Director of Continuing Studies Ariane Newman representing Health Sciences; Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Tait Chirenje representing Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Richard Stockton College student Vikiana Alonso representing Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Director of Student Development Len Farber will carry the College Banner.

The vocalist for the national anthem will be Carrie Borkowski, a Richard Stockton College student and a member of Stockapella, the College's a capella group. Stockton student Marissa Moore will be the vocalist for the Alma Mater.

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