



Stockton Confers 140 Master's and Doctoral Degrees in College Growing Program

United Way's John G. Emge Urges Graduates to Serve Communities

For Immediate Release; link to photos and grad list at end

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Galloway, NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Friday conferred Master's and Doctoral degrees on 140 graduates in the college's growing graduate studies program.

Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp told the gathering of graduates, family and friends that this was only the second graduate commencement ceremony in the college's history.

"We have come a long way, and the growth and prestige of our graduate programs have come a long way since their beginning," President Saatkamp said.

"Graduate education at Stockton began when the State of New Jersey approved our first master's degree program, the Master of Physical Therapy, in 1994," he said. "In 1999, we awarded our first master's degrees in Business Administration, Physical Therapy and Nursing."

"In May of 2000, we graduated students in the nation's first Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program," he said.

"Since then, our graduate degree programs have flourished, and in April of 2006, our first doctoral program was approved, the Doctor of Physical Therapy," President Saatkamp continued.

"We now have 14 graduate degree programs, serving over 800 students," President ***-more-***

-continued from page 1-

Saatkamp said. "Our graduate programs include a new Master of Arts in American Studies; the first-in-the-region Professional Science Master's degree (in Environmental Science); a fully accredited Master of Social Work; and Master's degrees in Occupational Therapy, Communications Disorders, Criminal Justice and Education."

Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of the college, welcomed the graduates and introduced Johana Rosas Delgado, the student speaker for the event.

Rosas Delgado was born in Lima, Peru, and moved to the United States at the age of 12 after losing her mother, Silvana Delgado, to breast cancer. Her older sister, Jessica Licalzi, of Brick in Ocean County, raised her and encouraged her to follow her professional dreams. Licalzi was at the ceremony Friday with her daughters, Johana's goddaughters, to help her celebrate her achievement.

Rosas Delgado's transition was very difficult at first, because Spanish was her only spoken language, but she soon learned English so well that she was placed in English, History and Physics Honors courses in high school.

Rosas Delgado, who received her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at the master's and doctoral commencement, told her fellow graduates, family and friends that "believe me, it wasn't easy" to get to this point.

"In summarizing my thoughts, I found that Booker T. Washington says it best: 'I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.' I look back at my life, as most of us are, and the journey that it took for me to get to where I am today," Rosas Delgado said.

"At a young age, I learned that life doesn't always seem fair and that some things happen but you can't find a reason for them," Rosas Delgado said. "I learned that you never know how strong you are, until being strong is the only choice you have. This strength has empowered me to always strive for the next best thing. I believe everyone here has encountered obstacles but I am proud of each one of us because we never gave up, we stood up and fought through, never losing sight of our goals."

"Today is the day to congratulate you, for you have worked diligently throughout this journey. All of your hard work is finally paying off," she told her classmates.

She quoted Eleanor Roosevelt as saying, " 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,' " and told her fellow graduates to "thank those who've made an impact in your life."

"While following your dreams, keep in mind that you have the opportunity to make a difference in the world and in other people's lives," Rosas Delgado said. "Take advantage of that opportunity and be the best you can be!"

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-continued from page 2-

Stockton was Johana's first choice of colleges because of Stockton's accelerated and competitive dual-degree program in Criminal Justice. She hopes someday to work for the FBI or Drug Enforcement Agency but to get experience, she is "looking into police departments, prosecutor's offices or crime scene units."

The national anthem and the college's alma mater, "Our Stockton," were both sung by Stockton student Joseph Sramaty. The alma mater's words were written by Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing Stephen Dunn, who won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2001; the music is by Ellen Grolman.

John G. Emge, executive director of the Atlantic and Cape May Counties United Way of Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey, was the keynote speaker on Friday.

President Saatkamp introduced Emge by noting that "under his leadership, the United Way has raised over \$33.5 million in support of local programs."

Emge also serves on advisory boards of the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) and the Stockton Center for Community Engagement, President Saatkamp said.

Emge told the graduates that his message could be expressed in two words: "Get engaged." He quickly pointed out that he didn't mean in the romantic sense, but "in your community, to help others improve the quality of life for all."

He said a big inspiration in his life was his father, who was "courteous, considerate and almost chivalrous" to everyone he met. "He was engaged" in trying to help others, he said.

Emge said his education at Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia provided the motto: "Let Your Light Shine," which is what Stockton students were doing this spring, he said, when they helped a record 413 members of the community with their income taxes under a SCOSA program.

He added that the United Way, where he is starting his 30th year of service, has developed its own motto for its engagement strategy: "Live United."

He told the gathering that "there's a debt to repay in your life," and the way to do it combines the influences he cited from the Jesuits and United Way: "Give of yourself. Live United. Let your light shine!"

Stockton Trustee Madeleine Deininger, Class of 1980, awarded Emge the college's Distinguished Service Award.

Link to Photos and captions:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/stockton_edu/sets/72157633450701489/

List of Graduates for all 3 Ceremonies: [Click here](#) for Excel file. **Friday's graduates are on top with GR designation**